

Christopher J. Prescott Medal

*January 16, 2004, 1827 hours
East 11th Street/First Avenue, Manhattan*



EMT Ronald J. Johnson

Ronald J. Johnson was appointed to EMS on February 20, 1990. Assigned to Station 8, Bellevue. He resides in New Jersey, with his wife, Nilda, who also is an EMT, assigned to Station 4.

As many veteran EMTs and Paramedics can vouch, sometimes the way a person calls into the Emergency 9-1-1 system what he *thinks* happened, versus the way an emergency assignment is *presented* to the responding EMTs, versus what those EMTs *actually find* at the location of the emergency assignment can be quite different. And so it was on the bitterly cold evening of January 16, 2004, at 1827 hours in Manhattan.

Among the many calls to follow to 9-1-1, one caller said that an unconscious woman had been bitten by a dog. Another said an unconscious female had been shot. And so it went, one confusing 9-1-1 phone call after another, for the

same patient, at the same location.

One thing, though, was certain. An unconscious woman at East 11th Street and First Avenue needed emergency medical care immediately.

EMT Ronald Johnson carefully and safely made his way through the icy streets of New York City on that winter evening. When he arrived on the scene, he encountered an unconscious female who was in cardiac arrest. EMT Johnson knew this was no ordinary call. He quickly questioned bystanders to see if anyone had witnessed the incident.

He learned that the patient had been walking her dog. She was tying the dog's leash to the parking meter when she was electrocuted, causing her to

collapse. The EMT discovered that the patient still was in contact with a man-hole cover, an area of conductivity.

EMT Johnson quickly assessed the situation. He used his long board to remove the patient, thus avoiding contact with the electrical source. He immediately began CPR and transported the patient to the nearest hospital.

In spite of his quick and valiant efforts, the victim expired at the hospital a short time later.

For his unselfish and meritorious action, the Christopher J. Prescott Medal for 2004 is proudly awarded to EMT Ronald J. Johnson.--TDM