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News Release

IAEM-USA Announces the 2021 IAEM-USA Emergency Management Volunteer of the Year Award

Oct. 14, 2021 (Falls Church, Va.) – The IAEM-USA Awards & Recognition Committee of the International Association of Emergency Managers (IAEM) is pleased to announce the winner of the IAEM-USA 2021 Emergency Management Volunteer of the Year Award. The award will be presented at the Monday Networking Luncheon and Awards Ceremony on Oct. 18, 2021, at the 69th IAEM Annual Conference & EMEX, in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

The winner of the IAEM-USA Emergency Management Volunteer of the Year Award is Dr. Robert L. Ditch, CEM.

During 2020, "Dr. Bob," as his students and many others know him, personified the essence in emergency management volunteerism as a member of Civil Air Patrol (CAP). Dr. Bob was actively engaged in supporting both FEMA and CAP by teaching more than 80 emergency management classes across the nation and virtually. He was the primary agent towards the employment of a 10-person teaching team that rotated between assignments of just-in-time Emergency Operations Center courses for FEMA to emergency managers across the nation. All classes were taught pro bono, keeping the FEMA/EMI programs alive and saving the organizations more than \$300,000 in instructional and material costs.

Additionally, Dr. Bob supported the response to one earthquake, a major hurricane, and the worldwide COVID-19 pandemic. His efforts have accounted for the set up and operations of more than 80 Blood Donor Centers in seven states which collected over 3,800 units of blood and saved an estimated 11,400 lives. Finally, he supported the on-going grid/infrastructure assessment and airborne reporting and photography of electrical grid reconstitution efforts in Puerto Rico following Hurricane Maria. This led to him being able to support Incident Command duties during and following the 2020 earthquake.

The **Emergency Management Volunteer of the Year Award** is presented to an individual in recognition of their exceptional emergency management services and contributions to the community throughout the prior year.

IAEM-USA, the nation's largest emergency management professional association, is a non-profit professional organization representing more than 5,000 emergency management and homeland security professionals for local communities, state and federal disaster officials, private sector, non-governmental organizations, and others involved in preparing for, responding to, and recovering from all types of disasters including acts of terrorism. IAEM provides access to the largest network of emergency management experts who can provide advice and assistance; the Certified Emergency Manager program; annual scholarships; a comprehensive monthly newsletter; and more.

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