



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CALSTAR Celebrates 25 Years of Life-Saving Flights

McClellan, CA – California Shock Trauma Air Rescue (CALSTAR) is proud to celebrate its 25th year of air ambulance operations this month. A program that began with a single helicopter base serving the San Francisco Bay area now serves most of California and western Nevada with ten rotor wing bases and a fixed wing program. CALSTAR is headquartered at McClellan Business Park in Sacramento.

While many helicopter EMS programs were in existence by the early 1980s, the concept of a nonprofit, community-based regional service was unique. Dr. Donald Trunkey, former director of trauma services at San Francisco General Hospital and one of CALSTAR's founders, envisioned a "helicopter rescue system for the patient, not for the hospitals or physicians." Despite many early struggles, CALSTAR's Board of Directors held firm to their belief that a stand-alone air ambulance program could not only survive, but actually thrive.

CALSTAR began operations in September 1984, conducting nine transports during its first month and a total of 235 patients in the first year. Since then, CALSTAR flight crews have treated and transported more than 40,000 patients. "What started out as 17 employees and one aircraft has grown to over 225 employees, 16 helicopters and 4 airplanes equally dedicated to the highest standards of safety and patient care," said President & CEO Joseph Cook. CALSTAR's pilots have flown more than 50,000 accident-free hours since the program's inception.

CALSTAR would not have reached this important company milestone without the unwavering support of the McKesson Corporation and other early financial contributors, our EMS partner agencies, member and affiliate hospitals and countless individual supporters throughout our service region. CALSTAR will commemorate its 25th anniversary with a private dinner for CALSTAR's employees, industry partners and community supporters. The dinner, sponsored by Bank of America and Rolls-Royce, will be held on Saturday, September 26 at the USS Hornet Museum in Alameda, CA.

CALSTAR's Mission: To save lives, reduce disability and speed recovery for victims of trauma and illness through rapid transport, quality medical care and education.

CALSTAR is a nonprofit regional air ambulance service that provides emergency transport for victims of trauma and severe illness. CALSTAR has helicopter bases located throughout Northern and Central California, including Auburn, South Lake Tahoe, Jackson, Ukiah, Concord, Vacaville, Gilroy, Salinas, and Santa Maria. CALSTAR's fixed wing program performs long-range interfacility flights throughout California and neighboring states. As a nonprofit community service, CALSTAR flies anyone in need regardless of insurance coverage. The CALSTAR Membership Program offers annual memberships for \$40 per individual and \$45 per family. If flown by CALSTAR or one of its reciprocal partners, members do not pay any portion of the billed charges. For more information, contact CALSTAR's Membership Office at 1-888-207-LIFE (5433) or visit www.calstar.org.

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