

## 12/02/2004 Moran Recognizes Otis Emergency Medical Service Personnel

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Congressman Moran to Present Volunteers in Otis with "Building Better Communities" Award

OTIS - Congressman Jerry Moran today announced that he will recognize the Otis Emergency Medical Service (EMS) volunteers with his "Building Better Communities" award. The recognition will be presented in response to the Otis community's efforts to ensure that their EMS service continues.

Otis was facing the possibility of losing their EMS service due to a lack of emergency medical technicians (EMT). Currently, the response time for a medical call is five to eight minutes; without a local service, the response time would have been extended to over 20 minutes, with the nearest ambulance located 15 miles away. Facing this outcome, six individuals stepped forward and agreed to take EMT training courses and volunteer their time to keep their EMS service running. Following the announcement of these six volunteers, two former volunteers agreed to return to the EMS, and two new volunteers, a registered nurse and an EMT, have made themselves available to go on ambulance runs when needed.

"In rural Kansas, having access to a local ambulance service can literally mean the difference between life and death," Moran said. "The dedication of this community and of these caring individuals represents the very best in our state. Kansas has always been a place where neighbors help their neighbors, not because they have to, but because it is the right thing to do. In a time when we hear so many troubling stories from around the world, a town like Otis is there to give us all hope for the promise of a better tomorrow. I am honored to recognize the efforts of these hardworking Kansans."

The "Building Better Communities" award was established as a way to recognize and share the good things that are happening in the First Congressional District of Kansas. Beyond providing recognition, this program will provide examples of how creative thinking and teamwork make a positive difference in rural America. Any project, activity or community that enhances the quality of life in the First District is eligible for recognition. Award recipients must demonstrate a spirit of partnership and collaboration and must serve as a role model for other Kansas communities.

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