



Honoring 37 Years of Service: The Remarkable Career of Thomas Krueger, NRP/CP, CCEMT-P

EMS is a demanding profession that calls for critical thinking, focus, compassion, and unwavering dedication. Thomas Krueger exemplifies these qualities, having devoted 37 years to the field of emergency medical services.

Tom's journey began in 1987 when he became an Emergency Medical Technician, serving his hometown until 1990. During this time, he also worked as an active-duty police officer with the Ripon Police Department. In 1991, Tom advanced his career by becoming a paramedic, and from the mid-1990s to 2008, he served with the Cicero EMS and Fire Department. Alongside his EMS work, Tom shared his knowledge by teaching intubation, IV skills, and AHA/CPR courses to nursing students at Loyola University's Stritch School of Nursing.

In 2008, Tom moved to Crosby, Minnesota, where he worked as a paramedic and American Heart Association (AHA) instructor. By 2009, he joined Astera Health (Tri-County Health Care at the time) as a paramedic and educator, specializing in CPR, ACLS, and PALS training for healthcare providers. From 2008 to 2010, Tom also served as a tactical paramedic for the Crow Wing County SWAT team, and his passion for teaching extended to becoming an instructor for the CALS program. In 2015, Tom embarked on a new chapter as Director of Thomas County EMS in Colby, Kansas. Over the next three years, he managed daily operations, taught classes, and served as Deputy Coroner for District 9. By late 2017, Tom returned to Minnesota and rejoined Astera as a paramedic and instructor for AHA, CALS, PALS, and ACLS.

Currently, as Education Coordinator, Tom oversees EMR and EMT classes, as well as refresher courses for two ambulance services, seven first responder agencies, three fire departments, and one police department. In his role in Emergency Preparedness, he acts as a central point of information during critical situations, coordinating resources with hospitals and county services, and participating as an Incident Commander in the Hospital Incident Command System.



Outside of his professional life, Tom has a diverse array of interests. He competed in the Highland Games for several years and participated in a knowledge bowl team, where he and his teammates prepared for trivia competitions by reading encyclopedias. Known for his vast knowledge of history, science, music, medicine, and military expertise. Tom has earned the respect and admiration of his colleagues by dedicating himself to educating and inspiring thousands of EMS professionals. Through his leadership and commitment, he has played a vital role in saving countless lives, empowering others to strive for excellence in their field.

Tom now resides in east-central Minnesota with his girlfriend and three dogs, continuing to inspire and lead in the EMS field while enjoying a rich and fulfilling personal life.