



PRESS RELEASE

Contact: Caitlin Stibitz
Business: Cetronia Ambulance Corps
Address: 7355 William Ave.
Suite 700
Allentown, Pa 18106
www.cetronia.org

Phone: 610-398-0239 Ext 511
610-751-1495 (Mobile)
Fax: 610-395-2465
Email: stibitzc@cetronia.org

CONGRESSMAN CHARLIE DENT, STATE REPRESENTATIVE MIKE SCHLOSSBERG, STATE REPRESENTATIVE RYAN MACKENZIE JOIN CETRONIA AMBULANCE CORPS FOR NATIONAL EMS WEEK ACTIVITIES

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE, ALLENTOWN, PA – During National EMS Week (May 19th – 24th) Cetronia Ambulance Corps hosted elected officials as a way to bring together governmental officials and healthcare providers in an effort to create increased awareness around public health and safety, as well as honor the dedication of those who save lives, provide medical services and transport citizens daily as medicines “front line” of healthcare.

On Thursday, May 22nd, State Representative Mike Schlossberg (D-132 Legislative District/Lehigh County) participated in an ambulance ride-along with the emergency response crew of Paramedic Troy Barlet and Emergency Medical Technician Matt Diffenderfer to experience firsthand the critical role that EMS providers play in emergency and pre-hospital care, as well as disaster and emergency preparedness. “This ride-along was important for me as a member of the House Committee on Health. I was able to see the critical and life-saving responsibilities that paramedics and EMT’s have in our communities. I have tremendous appreciation for the EMS personnel serving our community. There is no doubt that their dedication saves lives,” said Representative Schlossberg.

Congressman Charlie Dent and Representative Ryan Mackenzie joined Cetronia Ambulance CEO Larry Wiersch for a special preview of Cetronia Ambulance Corps new Joint Operations, Community Education and Lehigh County Medico-Legal Forensics facility located at 4300 Broadway in South Whitehall Township. As part of a unique collaboration with Lehigh County, the new facility will provide enhanced rapid response and expanded capabilities for response to emergencies; offer community public health and training programs, as well as provide new and expanded opportunities for medical training for EMS, healthcare and public safety personnel. The new facility will allow for the expansion of Cetronia’s Command Center to assist regional emergency operations, support Community Health expansion, and support various alternative revenue streams to continue to raise funds for Cetronia’s emergency medical services and medical transportation teams.

Congressman Dent toured the new Cetronia facility at 4300 Broadway as a “sneak preview” of the

-more-

systems, capacity, and opportunities the new facility will provide to the Lehigh Valley Community. As a resident of the local community served by Cetronia, Congressman Dent was offered an inside look at the opportunities for the community that the new center offers as well as the enhanced security and systems present throughout the facility to improve performance and emergency preparedness capabilities. “I greatly appreciated the opportunity to get a preview of Cetronia Ambulance Corps new facility. This expansion is going to prove to be a great benefit to providing for the safety of our community. It will provide additional capabilities to First Responders when they’re dealing with large scale emergency situations,” said Dent.

Representative Mackenzie sat down with Wiersch to discuss the role of EMS and the regions emergency services system for an upcoming episode of his cable show, “The Legislative Report” (to air late summer), as a way for residents, community leaders and business leaders to recognize what EMS professionals do every day and to educate the public on how, when and why they need to utilize as well as support emergency medical services like Cetronia. “The Cetronia Ambulance Corps has been growing since its inception, and so has the demand for its services,” said Mackenzie. “As one who has lived in this area my entire life, I appreciate the outstanding work that Cetronia does, and I thank them for being such a great partner in the effort to serve and protect our community.”

The purpose of welcoming elected officials into Cetronia’s facility and to participate in a ride-along is to educate community leaders on the emergency preparedness and response needs of the community, as well as discuss how local legislative efforts can impact the stability of the EMS system. It is also designed to demonstrate how a wisely executed system can efficiently utilize Medicare and homeland security funding for ambulance services to drive improvements and advancement in pre-hospital care that positively impacts patient outcomes. “It is essential for our legislators to support community-based ambulance services, such as Cetronia, so that they have the capacity to respond to not only public health and safety threats but to individual medical emergencies and serve the medical transportation needs of the communities we serve,” said Larry Wiersch, CEO of Cetronia Ambulance Corps.

Cetronia Ambulance Corps, founded in 1955, is a non-profit, 501(c)3 community-based emergency medical services provider prominently located in the Lehigh Valley. Cetronia Ambulance Corps is one of the largest providers of ambulance and medical transportation services in Eastern Pennsylvania; employing 125 full and part time career associates, 20 active volunteers and boasting a total fleet of 33 vehicles, including 18 ambulances, 11 para-transit vehicles, a supervisor’s vehicle, two medi-car’s and a special operations unit. Cetronia provides basic and advanced life support ambulance, para-transit, wheelchair, stretcher van, educational, medical alarm, dispatch and medical billing services to meet the communities’ emergency medical service, medical transportation and population health needs in collaboration with other local healthcare agencies. Cetronia Ambulance Corps is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Ambulance Services (CAAS) for its superior care, rapid response and performance excellence; and is the only nationally accredited EMS agency in Eastern Pennsylvania, one of only seven in the state and one of only 144 in the nation to achieve this level of distinction. As the regional leader in High Performance EMS, Cetronia Ambulance Corps receives over 44,000 requests for service annually, covering an emergency service area that spans across 108 square miles and a non-emergency coverage area that encompasses seven counties. Cetronia Ambulance Corps provides Health on Wheels™ and is dedicated to saving lives and partnering with community every day.

###