



## PRESS RELEASE

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### **CETRONIA AMBULANCE CORPS AWARDED WITH NATIONAL REACCREDITATION CERTIFICATION BY THE COMMISSION ON THE ACCREDITATION OF AMBULANCE SERVICES**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE, ALLENTOWN, PA – Cetronia Ambulance Corps is pleased to announce that it has been granted national re-accreditation from the Commission on Accreditation of Ambulance Services (CAAS) for its compliance in meeting national standards of both organizational and clinical excellence within the ambulance service industry. Cetronia Ambulance is one of six agencies to achieve this very distinct and coveted level of excellence in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania; a level of excellence that less than 1% of more than 17,000 EMS agencies across the country have achieved.

In 2008, Cetronia Ambulance Corps became the only provider in Eastern Pennsylvania to achieve this national recognition and has since gone through two re-accreditation processes (in 2011 and 2014) to continually maintain the highest standards within the ambulance service industry in the country. Cetronia's national accreditation represents a commitment to continued quality improvement, our passion for saving lives, dedication to education and outreach for our communities, excellence in customer service and integrity in the delivery its services. "We are proud of our commitment and dedication to regional emergency preparedness, collaboration and especially our recent re-accreditation" said Larry Wiersch, Chief Executive Officer of Cetronia Ambulance Corps.

The focus is not only patient care, but organizational policies and procedures, operational and administrative functionalities, as well as Cetronia's relationship with other emergency service agencies, the medical community and the general public. "Our life saving teams and our people is what defines the substance of who we are. They are your friends, your family, and your neighbors who are dedicated to serving in times of crisis and when you need someone who cares for you like their own family" Wiersch said.

The accreditation process is designed to help EMS agencies increase organizational performance and efficiency; improve upon clinical quality; and decrease risk and liability. As part of the process, agencies must demonstrate that they adhere to a comprehensive set of standards in their daily operations. Compliance of standards is validated by an independent review of the agencies documentation package and an on-site review by a team of EMS experts from across the country, including a board certified

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physician. The on-site review team spends a minimum of two days at the agency to review all operational aspects of the service and submits a report to an independent Panel of Commissioners comprised of individuals from EMS law, business and healthcare, for consideration of the final accreditation determination.

CAAS was established in 1990 as a not-for-profit organization to encourage and promote quality patient care in America's medical transportation system. Based initially on the efforts of the American Ambulance Association, the independent Commission established a comprehensive series of standards for the ambulance service industry. Accreditation signifies that a service has met the "Gold Standard of Excellence" determine by the ambulance industry, which often exceed those established by state or local regulation. Accreditation is a voluntary process in which all types of services are eligible for the three-year accreditation including private, public, fire department and hospital based systems. To learn more about the Commission and its accreditation, please visit [www.caas.org](http://www.caas.org)

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 140 full and part time career associates, and 20 active volunteers. Cetronia's boasts a fleet of 41 vehicles consisting of 19 ambulances, 18 para-transit vehicles, a quick response supervisor's vehicle, three medi-cars 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 believes in regional partnerships with others to better and more efficiently serve the emergency and non emergency needs of our community. With Cetronia's recent move into their new Joint Operations and Lehigh County Medical Forensics Center located at 4300 Broadway in Allentown, South Whitehall Township, Cetronia has expanded its capabilities to further meet the needs of the growing Lehigh Valley Community. Our people are representative of the fabric of our community and 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.

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