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# YVORRA LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION



[WWW.YLD.ORG](http://WWW.YLD.ORG)

# YVORRA LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION

## About YLD

Yvorra Leadership Development (YLD) is a non-profit private foundation designed to promote leadership development among members of the fire and emergency medical service communities. The Foundation was created to continue the efforts of James G. Yvorra who dedicated his life's work to the fire and emergency medical services.

Jim Yvorra was a Deputy Chief with the Berwyn Heights (Maryland) Volunteer Fire Department and a nationally known author and editor in the fields of fire, hazardous materials, and emergency medical services. He died in the line of duty when he was accidentally struck by a car at an accident scene on Interstate 95 near Washington, D.C., in January 1988.

## YLD's Goals and Objectives

The primary goal of YLD is to promote the importance of leadership as a key element in developing and improving emergency services in the United States. The Foundation works toward this goal by pursuing two basic objectives.

The first objective is to provide limited financial support to qualified applicants to pursue advanced leadership development training and education. YLD achieves this objective primarily through its scholarship program. The Foundation has awarded over \$89,000 in scholarships to members of the emergency response community. Recipients represent a wide range of emergency service organizations, including volunteer, part-paid, and career personnel from fire departments, rescue squads, and emergency medical services.

The second objective of the Foundation is to promote a general awareness of the need for leadership development and training programs in the fire and emergency medical communities. YLD achieves these objectives through its press releases and by promoting and supporting special studies and projects which improve leadership development.

## How YLD Operates

Yvorra Leadership Development Foundation is a non-profit, tax exempt organization. The Foundation operates under section 501(a) of the Internal Revenue Code and as an organization described in section 501(c)(3) and 509(a) of the Code. In compliance with Federal requirements, YLD prepares annual financial reports and submits them to the IRS. All financial reports are submitted to a certified public accountant for third party review and are a matter of public record.

The Foundation's Board of Directors is primarily responsible for the administration and management of the organization. All members of the Board of Directors and the Scholarship and Awards Committee serve without compensation or remuneration.

The Scholarship and Awards Committee is established under the Board as a free-standing and impartial group for the sole purpose of evaluating applications and selecting suitable candidates. No member of the Board serves on the Awards Committee; however, the Committee Chairperson serves as a non-voting member of the Board.

The Scholarship and Awards Committee reviews qualified applicants in September of each year and selects award recipients by letter ballot.

*Through effective management and leadership, the individual  
can make a difference in the fire and emergency medical services.*



Applicants are selected based on five broad criteria. These include:

- Potential to have a positive impact upon the future of his or her organization and the emergency response community.
- Formal education and previous training, particularly in the areas of management and administration.
- Commitment to professionalism in the emergency response community.
- Documented personal and financial support of the applicant's organization.
- Analysis of three written recommendations submitted with the application.

## About Jim Yvorra



Jim Yvorra dedicated his life's work to the fire and emergency medical services. After graduating from Indiana University of Pennsylvania (IUP) with a degree in English and journalism, he began his career in 1974 as the EMS training coordinator for Lycoming, Tigoa, and Sullivan counties, in Pennsylvania. In 1976 he moved on to the Maryland Fire and Rescue Institute where he was a Senior EMS Instructor. His leadership style and personal commitment to his profession helped many young men and

women begin successful careers as EMT's and paramedics at a time when the profession was really just developing.

In 1978, Jim combined his talents in journalism and emergency services by joining the Robert J. Brady Company as editor of fire and EMS publications. While there, he was responsible for producing an impressive list of publications, including *Emergency Care* (third edition), *First Responder*, *Trench Rescue*, and *Investigating the Fire Scene*.

After six successful years with the Brady Company, he formed Peake Productions in 1983 to focus on specialty topics. In just five years, his company produced Alan Brunacini's *Fireground Command*, for the National Fire Protection Association, and Fire Protection Publication's *Hazardous Materials: Managing the Incident* which he coauthored.

Despite his academic background, Jim Yvorra was a "hands-on" kind of guy. He served as an active volunteer with the Berwyn Heights (Maryland) Fire Department and Rescue Squad for 11 years, holding every rank through deputy chief and president. He was also a founding member of the Prince George's County (Maryland) Hazardous Materials Response Team and held the position of shift officer.

Jim was a serious student of management and leadership, and believed the individual could make a difference. His personal accomplishments set an example for others to follow.

### DONALD E. SELLERS ENDOWMENT FOR EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

Since 1995, YLD has been honored to provide scholarship assistance for leadership development in the emergency medical field. This special award is made possible by a generous endowment from the estate of the late Donald E. Sellers.

Don Sellers and Jim Yvorra were friends and business partners for over fifteen years. During their careers, they collaborated on numerous emergency response projects and co-founded Peake Productions. After Jim's death, Don became one of the original YLD founders. He donated many hours serving on YLD's Scholarship Committee.

Don had a special place in his heart for EMT's and paramedics. As a practitioner, he began his career as a U.S. Navy Corpsman seeing action in the Dominican Republic Campaign. After military service, Don maintained his EMS skills as an active Emergency Medical Technician with the Glenndale Volunteer Fire Department in Prince George's County, Maryland.

### CHIEF JOHN EVERSOLE ENDOWMENT FOR HAZARDOUS MATERIALS RESPONDERS

In 2007, YLD created the John M. Eversole endowment with the generous support of family, friends, and hazardous materials professional associations and conferences from across the United States. The Endowment supports awards and scholarships designated specifically for members of the hazardous materials response community.

Chief Eversole served his entire career with the Chicago Fire Department, rising through the ranks from firefighter to Chief of Special Operations. He was the founder of the department's Hazardous Materials Response Unit and was widely respected as a leader, innovator, and proponent of firefighter and hazmat responder safety issues. As Chairman of the International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC) Hazardous Materials Committee, he frequently testified before Congress on Homeland Security and firefighter safety issues. He was an original member of NFPA-472 (HazMat / WMD Response Technical Committee) and served as Chairman for over 10 years.

## How You Can Help YLD

The Yvorra Leadership Development Foundation welcomes contributions from individuals, groups, and corporations who share YLD's goals and objectives. All contributions are tax exempt.

The Foundation also accepts special financial contributions to support the long term needs of the organization. Examples include royalties through publications, grants, and endowments.

To make a contribution, obtain a Scholarship and Awards Application, or to obtain additional information about YLD, please visit [www.yld.org](http://www.yld.org) or write to:

Mr. Michael S. Hildebrand  
*President*

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