



Paramedic Chuck Benedict received the Paramedic of the Year Award at the annual Acadian Ambulance Service Paramedic Luncheon held at the Lafayette Convention Center. NFL Quarterback and three-time MVP Peyton Manning was the featured guest speaker. Pictured from left are Acadian Ambulance Chairman & CEO Richard Zuschlag, Executive Vice President & Chief Medical Officer Dr. Ross Judice, Benedict, Manning and President & COO David Pierce.

- New Orleans Native & NFL Great Peyton Manning was featured speaker at annual Acadian Paramedic Luncheon
- Laplace Paramedic Chuck Benedict named Paramedic of the Year

CONTACT: W. Keith Simon, VP, PR, 1.800.259.3333 or 337.278.0114

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE, May 21, 2009

LAFAYETTE – Acadian Ambulance Service honored Chuck Benedict as their “Paramedic of the Year” at the company’s annual Paramedic Luncheon. Benedict is a critical care paramedic stationed in LaPlace.

Peyton Manning, Indianapolis Colts’ quarterback and three-time NFL Most Valuable Player, was the featured speaker at the event held at Lafayette’s Cajundome Convention Center. The NFL great praised Acadian Ambulance Service for the challenges they face and the passion that the company’s employees bring to their work. “Challenges create opportunities, so expand the way you lead,” Manning said.

Manning was introduced by his father, another NFL great, Archie Manning, through a video. New Orleans resident Archie Manning was an All-American quarterback, an All-Star athlete and the second player chosen in the NFL draft - the number one draft choice of the New Orleans Saints. He set Saints passing records, played in two Pro Bowls and was named the NFL Most Valuable Player in 1978. He was the first player in Saints history to be inducted into the Louisiana Superdome Wall of Fame. He concluded his 15-year career in 1985. The older Manning allowed himself to “brag on his son.” He was most proud of his son’s student records in high school and at the University of Tennessee where he claimed 43 records and graduated with Phi Beta Kappa honors. Peyton graduated in three years and has since become a Super Bowl-winning quarterback and three-time NFL MVP. Peyton is extremely involved in youth charitable causes, and because of his generous support, St. Vincent Children’s Hospital in Indianapolis was renamed the Peyton Manning Children’s Hospital at St. Vincent.

Peyton Manning shared leadership principles that have guided him over the years to success. “Learn your lessons and quickly move on,” Manning said. “Don’t spend too much time celebrating or licking your

wounds.” He cautioned the audience of 1400 to value and review the fundamentals—that will get you through your biggest challenges, he said. He encouraged the audience to find the opportunities that will make a difference in their life and the lives of others.

After Manning’s inspiring speech, Acadian’s executive vice president and chief medical director, Ross Judice, MD, introduced Benedict as the company’s Medic of the Year. “This week is National EMS Week,” said Judice, “and a perfect time for us to honor our elite EMS group, the Acadian Ambulance medical team, and our partners in the EMS field—the first responders, fire fighters, law enforcement and ER team.

“Our paramedics are a critical asset in every community, taking care of you in your hour of need before you even get to the emergency department. It is the mission of every medic here to protect your life,” Judice said.

Judice described Benedict, an eight-year Acadian veteran, as one who sees people on their worst days and feels that it is his opportunity to make their day better. Benedict was presented with a plaque, Medic of the Year pin and a check for \$1000.

In accepting the award, Benedict attributed his strength and power to handle the tasks of his job to God, and thanked his wife and family for their support. Benedict also thanked the entire Acadian Ambulance administration and his fellow employees. “We have the best fleet and the best equipment, but it is our attitude that makes this company number one,” he said.

Master of ceremonies for the meeting was Louisiana Representative Fred Mills. Mills is also a board member for Acadian Ambulance Service. Mills introduced those at the head table. They were David Pierce, Acadian president and chief operating officer, Father Louis Richard, pastor of Sacred Heart of Jesus Church and Acadian Chaplain; Richard Zuschlag, Acadian chairman of the board and chief operating officer; Manning, Louisiana State Senator Mike Michot and Judice.

Michot welcomed guests and participants on behalf of the city and the state of Louisiana, and led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance, after which Paramedic William Seaux led the crowd in singing the National Anthem. The invocation was offered by Fr. Richard.

In a surprise presentation, Michot presented Zuschlag with a Resolution passed by the House and the Senate which commended Zuschlag on being the CEO of the company which was named Large Business of the Year for 2009, and for bringing pride and honor to Acadian Ambulance and to the state of Louisiana.

In his closing comments, Zuschlag thanked Manning and all the other participants in the program, including the Medic of the Year. He saluted the community leaders present for the event, the sponsors of the program, and members of the Acadian Ambulance team.

Zuschlag said that the continuing growth of the company, especially the rapid expansion of facilities and services in the state of Texas, is made possible by the positive attitudes of Acadian’s employee owners.

For those who wish to watch the video, visit Acadian’s website at www.acadian.com and click on “What’s New” to see the entire event.

-end-