



Freedom House Ambulance

Celebrating the Legacy of the
First Paramedics, 1967-1975

MAY 15, 2024

OMNI WILLIAM PENN HOTEL, PITTSBURGH, PA



National Association *of*
State EMS Officials

THE COLLECTIVE VOICE OF THE NATION'S EMS SYSTEMS

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*Pictured on the cover—Freedom House, Day 1,
L-R: Tom Streams, Raymond Davis (instructor), Robert Zepfel
(manager), Ron Ragin, David Clemons, Addie Johnson, James
McCoy (FH Enterprises), Gerald Esposito, Dr. Don Benson
(medical director), William Draper, Curtis Scott*



**National Association of
State EMS Officials**
THE COLLECTIVE VOICE OF THE NATION'S EMS SYSTEMS

*Compiled and edited by Mary Hedges, National Association
of State Emergency Medical Services Officials*

Honoring Freedom House Ambulance: The First Paramedics

The National Association of State Emergency Medical Services Officials (NASEMSO) is privileged to commemorate the veterans of Freedom House Ambulance at the NASEMSO Annual Meeting, May 15, 2024, in Pittsburgh.

In 1967, 24 Black men quietly began the transformation of prehospital emergency medicine in Pittsburgh. Recruited from and serving the predominantly Black neighborhood known as the Hill District, these individuals demonstrated that ordinary people could be trained in life-saving care and improve the chances of survival in patients transported by ambulance. The idea was the brainchild of Dr. Peter Safar, the father of CPR, under whose tutelage these unlikely individuals became the nation's first paramedics. Over the next eight years a total of 82 men and women would serve as medics, dispatchers or support staff for this groundbreaking organization until its last day of operation on October 15, 1975.

Dr. Safar's vision of highly trained EMS personnel performing advanced lifesaving care was brought to a new level after he convinced Dr. Nancy Caroline to accept the medical director role. There had been other medical directors, but none as driven to ensuring Freedom House crews were performing the life-saving skills originally envisioned by Safar and performing them with unparalleled skill. Dr. Caroline's dedication to Freedom House Ambulance contributed to a host of advanced medical procedures now routinely performed by paramedics, including what is believed to be the first endotracheal intubation performed in the field by EMS. Despite its integral role in EMS history, Freedom House Ambulance has been mostly forgotten over time.

The story of one of the nation's first advanced level ambulance service has seen a resurgence in interest with the 2022 publication of *American Sirens*, a book by former paramedic and author Kevin Hazzard that documents this vital but overlooked part of history. Recently, Pittsburgh's EMS Chief Amera Gilchrist, the City's first Black and first female chief, launched the *Freedom House EMT Academy*, where city residents may apply for paid positions to undergo the required training and become certified as an EMT to work as a member of the City's ambulance service. Chief Gilchrist, along with local, state, and national dignitaries, are pleased to share in celebrating the legacy of Freedom House Ambulance.

Today, NASEMSO and many partners, friends and dignitaries dedicate this event to these pioneers of EMS. The people whose biographical sketches are featured in these pages are those who were able to join us for recognition. While many more of these individuals are no longer with us or were otherwise unable to participate in the celebration, their contributions to the evolution of emergency medical services deserve to be honored and remembered.



*Freedom House,
L-R: David Clemons,
Kenny Williams,
Ray Davis, Phil Hallen,
Jerry Esposito,
Addie Johnson,
Curtis Scott,
David Rayzer, and
Gene Key.*



“By 1972, Freedom House employed 35 crew members and was running seven thousand calls a year. The world began to take note of what was happening in Pittsburgh. The National Research Council liked the training course so much they suggested every EMS service adopt it. Meanwhile Safar, along with Jerry Esposito and Freedom House medical Director Don Benson, started the National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians to help formalize the field and left it in the stewardship of the American Medical Association in Columbus, Ohio.”

AMERICAN SIRENS, KEVIN HAZZARD, P. 128



*James Kyte and
Mitch Brown carrying
student; Freedom House.*

Members of Freedom House Ambulance Service

- | | |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------|
| Michael Blackman* | Ruth Johnson (dispatcher) |
| Nancy Brandon (dispatcher) | Eugene Key* |
| Harold Brown* | James Kyte* |
| Jules Brown | Vernon Lane |
| Mitchell Brown* | Shelly Lewis (secretary) |
| Walter Brown* | David Lindell |
| Barbara Bryant (dispatcher) | Toni Long (secretary) |
| John Bucci | Jean Madosky (dispatcher) |
| John Burnett | Eugene Marks |
| Gary Burnworth | Frank Mascaro |
| Issac Camp | George McCary* |
| Glenn Cannon | William McDoodle |
| Barbara Carter (dispatcher) | George Mitchell |
| David Clemens* | Thomas Mitchell* |
| Tom Clowney | John Moon |
| Arthur Davis* | Wilma Mosely (dispatcher) |
| Irv Davis | Kerry Muckier |
| Ray Davis* | Daniel Nickens* |
| Rhonda Davis (secretary) | Rick Orange |
| Dianne Denning (secretary) | Deborah Owens (dispatcher) |
| Dennis Ditley | Doris Owens (dispatcher) |
| William Draper | Tim Payer |
| Virgil Duckett | Pearl Porter (dispatcher) |
| Clyde Dunson* | William Porter* |
| John Franklin* | Tom Preston |
| Harvey Gandy* | Raymond Pridgen* |
| Paul Garnes | Ron Ragin* |
| Tom Geier | William Raynovich |
| Tom Grace* | David Rayzer* |
| Lonnie Green III | Calvin Richardson |
| Donna Griffith (dispatcher) | Lorraine Saffer (dispatcher) |
| Darlene Griggs (dispatcher) | Curtis Scott* |
| Harry Harrison | Craig Simmons |
| Joe Hirsch | Ernest Simpson* |
| Gary Hitchings | Carl Staten* |
| Harold Holland* | Wallace Sullivan* |
| Will Holland | David Thomas* |
| Pat Hollyfield (dispatcher) | Larry Underwood* |
| Marshall Hornstein | Thomas Wade* |
| Charles James* | Kenneth Williams* |
| Addie Johnson* | Damella Wilson (dispatcher) |

** indicates member of the first two training classes, 1967-1968*

Honorees

Mitchell Brown

A LIFETIME OF PUBLIC SERVICE

Mitchell Brown grew up in the Hill District of Pittsburgh. Shortly after graduation from high school in 1965, he experienced first-hand the abysmal police-run ambulance response when they refused to carry his mother down the stairs after she suffered a stroke (she later died). After a stint in college, Mitch enlisted and served as a medic in the Air Force and returned home to Pittsburgh soon after Freedom House had gotten its start. He promptly approached Dr. Safar, and after demonstrating his skills in the emergency room, was hired on the spot. It was only a matter of time before Brown worked his way from medic to crew chief to director of operations, a position he held until Freedom House was dissolved in 1975.



Mitchell Brown took that same passion and commitment to public service to Cleveland, Ohio, where he served as the Commissioner for Emergency Medical Services in the Department of Public Safety. There, Brown developed and implemented the Paramedic Training Institute and created the Advanced Life Support Program. Brown became the City of Cleveland's Director of the Department of Public Safety in 1986.

Public service was ingrained in Brown, from leading St. Vincent Charity Hospital Health Center department of Surgery Division of Trauma as the Administrative Director to becoming Registrar for the Ohio Bureau of Motor Vehicles and then the Director of the Ohio Department of Public Safety.

Brown was appointed Director of the City of Columbus Department of Public Safety in April 2000 where he oversaw the operation of the Division of Police, Division of Fire and Division of Support Services. Under his direction, Public Safety thrived. The Division of Fire obtained accreditation status, the training academy was built, seven fire stations were constructed and emergency medical delivery to residents was redesigned.

Mitchell Brown continued his public service as member of the Columbus City Council for six years until his retirement in 2021, only to be asked to fill an unexpired term during 2023. Brown resides Columbus, with his wife Rebecca. The two have one daughter, Lindsay and granddaughter Zora Lily.

John Moon

PIONEER IN PREHOSPITAL
AIRWAY MANAGEMENT

John Moon began his EMS career in 1972 with Freedom House Ambulance, after seeing the impressive crews in action while he was working as an orderly in a local hospital. After completing the necessary training on his own, he was hired by Freedom House and changed the course of his life. Mr. Moon demonstrated his competence and determination at his new-found calling and was selected by Dr. Peter Safar to be the first medic to perform endotracheal intubation on patients in surgery. After succeeding on his first attempt in the operating room, Moon went on to perform what is believed to be the nation's first intubation in the field by a paramedic. When the City of Pittsburgh ended its contract with Freedom House in 1975 and instituted its own ambulance service, Moon was one of the few Freedom House paramedics who successfully made (and endured) the transition. Despite their experience and demonstrated success, the Freedom House paramedics were required to undergo periodic written testing and ride as the third person on a crew with less experienced EMS clinicians during their transition to the newly formed city ambulance service. During his time at Pittsburgh EMS, Moon became a certified master scuba diver, the first and only African American in Pittsburgh Public Safety to acquire this certification. He progressed through the ranks and developed Pittsburgh EMS's first diversity recruitment program. One of Moon's hires was Amera Gilchrist who in 2023 became Pittsburgh's first African American EMS Chief and first woman in that role. John Moon retired as Assistant Chief of Pittsburgh EMS in 2009 after 34 years of service.



John Moon spent his early life in Atlanta, relocating to Pittsburgh during his high school years to live with family members following his parents' deaths. He continues to reside in Pittsburgh with his wife with whom he shares five adult children. Moon now dedicates much of his time in retirement to ensuring the history of Freedom House Ambulance is not forgotten. He travels the country speaking at Black history events and EMS conferences, as well as book signing tours with author Kevin Hazzard who featured Moon in his 2022 book *American Sirens*. Most recently, he was an invited guest at President Biden's State of the Union address in 2024.



John Moon gives the keynote address at NAEMSP, 2024.

Philip Hallen

CO-FOUNDER OF
FREEDOM HOUSE
AMBULANCE

Phil Hallen was President of the Falk Foundation, a Pittsburgh based grant making foundation operating locally, nationally and internationally in the human rights and social justice field from 1963 until 2001.

He led the foundation's grantmaking in medical education, psychiatry and mental health, community development, urban planning, public education, early childhood development, expressive arts therapies and architecture. He also directed the foundation's film and publication program which funded over 60 independent documentary films and over 100 academic books and scholarly publications.

The foundation was one of only several U.S. foundations devoting their entire grant making focus to human rights, social justice, equity and inclusiveness in health care. At his retirement in 2001, he had been one of the nation's longest serving foundation heads. He holds degrees from Syracuse University and an MPH from Yale.

In 1965, as part of the Falk Foundation's civil rights grantmaking, he co-founded Freedom House Ambulance with Dr. Peter Safar, known as the father of CPR. Hallen's interest in emergency care began during his graduate student days in Syracuse where

he had a part time job as ambulance driver at Crouse Irving Hospital. After coming to Pittsburgh to head the Falk Foundation, he saw that the city's police wagons were not meeting the need for ambulance care.



Co-founders Phil Hallen and Dr. Peter Safar.



Phil Hallen, Chief Amera Gilchrist, and John Moon, 2024.

In 1967, he contacted James McCoy, Jr., a veteran of the Civil Rights movement, who had created Freedom House Enterprises, to promote Black-owned businesses in the Hill District of Pittsburgh. He and McCoy approached Dr. Peter Safar with the idea of establishing ambulance service staffed by and serving residents of the Hill District and the concept of Freedom House Ambulance was born. The proposal was met with enthusiasm by Dr. Safar who had been trying to modernize ambulance care for some time. Hallen's vision of providing health care opportunities for residents of the Hill District through comprehensive training, employment and enterprise was revolutionary.

Hallen continues to reside in Pittsburgh. At the young age of 93, he continues his community involvement, frequently collaborating with John Moon, to ensure the legacy of Freedom House Ambulance is not forgotten.

George McCary III

FREEDOM HOUSE MEDIC FROM THE
BEGINNING TO THE END

George McCary was one of the original recruits of Freedom House Ambulance in 1967 who continued as a dedicated team member until the ambulance service's closure on October 15, 1975. Beginning his EMS journey shortly after graduating high school, George credits his grandmother for encouraging him to take advantage of this unique opportunity offered to mostly under-employed young men in the Hill District. An affable person, George worked with many of the Freedom House medics over the years and had a special gift for putting the patients at ease, according to his partners. Following his experience at Freedom House Ambulance, George spent 33 years driving a taxicab in the Pittsburgh area, where he would occasionally share stories with customers about his time with the nation's first paramedic level ambulance service.

While George did not continue his career in EMS, he initiated a process of unending self-education, which has distinguished him as a community leader and Freedom House historian. In 2007, George entered the public speaking arena on a part-time basis and toured the country providing motivational speeches, workshops, and personal / professional development programs aimed at individuals and organizations. He



delivered a message which encouraged others in EMS to provide the best care possible to live up to their full potential, and to refuse to accept disparities without active efforts toward resolution within the EMS community. After all, he was speaking from his own experience some 50 years later. McCary, now retired, is a father of four and continues to reside in the Pittsburgh area.

William Raynovich

FROM MARINE CORPS FIELD MEDIC TO
FREEDOM HOUSE MEDIC

William “Bill” Raynovich began his pre-EMS career in 1967 as a U.S. Navy Hospital Corpsman and U.S. Marine Corps Field Medic. After discharge from the military, he found his way to Dr. Safar and Freedom House Ambulance. He was hired in November 1970 and served through the final closing on October 15, 1975. Bill was the first white person who was a successful member of the previously all-Black crew. Bill’s experience working in a predominantly minority – and racially troubled - Black, Native and Hispanic unit (3rd Platoon, E Company, 2nd Battalion, 28th Marines, 5th Marine Division – the precise unit that raised the flag in the Iwo Jima Memorial photo) – helped to convince the managers at Freedom House that Bill might be a suitable fit for the all-Black crew that primarily served the racially segregated Hill District. After Freedom House was defunded, he transitioned to the City of Pittsburgh EMS and remained there from 1975 through 1983, first, as a paramedic, then crew chief, and in 1978-1981, as liaison to Pitt Health Sciences Center’s Center for Emergency Medicine as EMS Education Coordinator. Bill earned a BS in Biochemistry and Master of Public Health at Pitt, in 1976 and 1984 respectively, and his Doctorate in Education at University



of New Mexico, in 2006. After serving with Freedom House and the Center for Emergency Medicine, Bill developed and directed paramedic education programs at McKeesport Hospital (1983-1986), the Reading Hospital and Medical Center (now Tower



Freedom House medics Bill Raynovich and James Kyte evaluate a patient.

Health), in Reading, Pennsylvania (1986-1996), as Senior Program Director of the EMS Academy, University of New Mexico (1996-2004), and as Associate Professor and EMS Education Director for Creighton University (2004-2014). In 2012, the National Association of EMS Educators (NAEMSE) honored Bill with its Lifetime Achievement Award. Bill retired in 2017 as Director of the MPH Program at Creighton University.



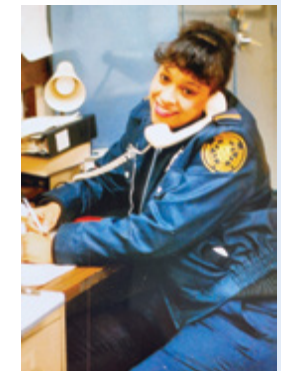
“...being part of an all-Black organization had special meaning. Few had envisioned that something like it was even possible, and the pride they got from going into Black communities, their own communities, and bringing hope would stand as the crowning achievement of their careers. Freedom House wasn’t just a job for them; it was a passion, an organization to which they owed a great debt.”

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Darnella Wilson

FIRST BLACK FEMALE PARAMEDIC WITH THE
CITY OF PITTSBURGH

Darnella Wilson was recruited by Freedom House paramedic supervisor Walt Brown to be a dispatcher shortly after she graduated from high school in 1975. Only 17 when she started, Darnella had no idea EMS would become her career. Among her first memories of Freedom House was Dr. Nancy Caroline sleeping at the base station during the nights waiting for ambulance calls. She also recalls going on her on first ride-along and being awestruck with the compassion the medics demonstrated with patients.



Wilson transitioned to the City of Pittsburgh following the closure of Freedom House in October of 1975. Instead of working in dispatch, she was assigned to work in the jail as she was not yet an EMT. (Dr. Caroline had agreed to serve as Pittsburgh EMS’s medical director upon the condition they hire the Freedom House crew.) Ms. Wilson went to school to become an EMT and eventually a paramedic.

Wilson worked for more than 35 years as a paramedic with the city. During that time, she graduated from community college and became a registered nurse. For several years she worked two jobs — a day shift at the hospital and a night shift on the ambulance. But she preferred working as a medic and eventually went back to that full-time. Wilson was the first Black female paramedic in the city of Pittsburgh — according to an April 17, 2012 article by Fire Rescue 1 — but also the youngest, having started at only 18 years old. Along the way, she raised a daughter and her brother's three children. She used her singing talent to entertain at a local restaurant and was also involved in her dad's famous Wilson's Barbeque for a few years. She had more work to do and graduated from culinary school in 2015. She says she is not done yet!

Larry Underwood

FROM ARMY MEDIC TO FREEDOM HOUSE MEDIC

Larry Underwood grew up in Duquesne, Pennsylvania, and served as a medic in the U.S. Army. He was a non-commissioned officer who ran the Army's outpatient clinic at Dugway Proving Ground, Utah. After his military service, he returned home and heard about Freedom House Ambulance. After passing their test, he was hired by then-supervisor Harold Holland and worked for Freedom House as medic from 1971–74, leaving shortly before Dr. Nancy Caroline became medical director. He recalls responding to many trauma calls, including shootings and stabbings. He continued his career in the medical field, working as a psychiatric nursing assistant at the Veterans Administration Hospital for 25 years and later as a medical nursing assistant at the UPMC Montefiore Hospital (now part of UPMC Presbyterian). He retired in 2008 and lives in Homestead, a suburb of Pittsburgh. He has two sons, Tawon and Larry Underwood, Jr., and two daughters, Asia and Shamira Underwood.



Mayor Ed Gainey, Larry Underwood, and Chief Amera Gilchrist, 2024.

Harold Holland

FIRST ASSISTANT MANAGER OF FREEDOM HOUSE AMBULANCE

Harold Holland was in the original class of Freedom House trainees in 1967 and became the first assistant manager of Freedom House Ambulance, serving from 1967- 1972. He grew up on the Northside of Pittsburgh and was a community organizer at the time

this unique opportunity came along. Prior to that, Harold served in the Air Force from 1962-66 and was deployed to Vietnam 1965-66, stationed at Tan Son Nhut Air Base. He recalled there being few job opportunities after returning to his hometown and the chance to be a part of this new experiment was all he needed to sign up. Harold attended college part-time during his time at Freedom House (as did some of his colleagues, he recalls). Eventually Harold earned a master's degree in social work from the University of Pittsburgh and later a Master's in Education from Wayne State University.

After relocating to Pontiac, Michigan, Harold was employed as a social worker for the school system and eventually as a high school principal. He retired from the Pontiac School District after 28 years. During his time in Michigan, he worked toward a doctorate in education and completed all but his dissertation. Mr. Holland served in the Air Force Reserves and retired as a Major after 36 years of combined active duty and reserve service. No stranger to serving overseas, Major Holland was deployed to Iraq as part of the 785th Combat Support Unit, a hospital unit, which became his area of military service after his experience at Freedom House.

Harold Holland resides in Pontiac, Michigan, and enjoys golf and collecting stamps and coins. He has vivid memories of the people from the early days of Freedom House Ambulance. He credits Raymond Davis, an inhalation therapist who was one of their instructors, as one of the unsung heroes of Freedom House Ambulance. Harold's brother, Will Holland, was also a Freedom House medic who went on to serve as a medic with Pittsburgh EMS.

Thomas Wade

FREEDOM HOUSE ORIGINAL

Thomas Wade was one of the original Freedom House Ambulance medics. A Pittsburgh native, Wade served in the Army from 1963-65 as a clerk in a medical battalion stationed at Fort Bragg, North Carolina. Upon returning to Pittsburgh, he worked as a machine operator and then for the H.J. Heinz company before learning about the opportunity to be trained for ambulance work at a new program at Presbyterian Hospital. He trained under Dr. Peter Safar in the second class of Freedom House recruits and worked for the groundbreaking ambulance service from 1968 to 1973. Mr. Wade relocated to Washington, DC, in 1973, and while trying to get EMS work in Virginia, Maryland and the District of Columbia, he was often told he was over-qualified. Mr. Wade transitioned his career to the U.S. Postal Service where he worked until his retirement in 2009. He continues to reside in Washington, D.C., and has a daughter and son who make their homes in Pittsburgh.

Freedom House group photo, 1975.



1st row, L-R: James Kyte, Wilma Mosley, Nancy

Caroline, M.D., Doris Owens, Ruth Johnson

2nd row, L-R: Peter Safar, M.D., Marshall

Hornstein, Addie Johnson, John Moon, William Draper, Frank Mascaro, Antonia Long, Curtis Scott

3rd row, L-R: Paul Williams, Pearl Porter, John Burnett, John Bucci, David Clemmons, Joseph Hirsch, Paul Ganes, Thomas Preston, Mitchell Brown

4th row, L-R: Robert Zepfel, William Raynovich, Ronald Ragin, John Franklin, Craig Simmons, Timothy Payer, Kerry Muckler, Walter Brown, William Holland.



“At the time, Pittsburgh was in the midst of a ballooning heroin epidemic and a corresponding surge in overdoses... people noticed heroin-related deaths were climbing in the white neighborhoods even as they were dropping in the Black ones. The reason was simple. Safar had taken a drug then used only to reverse anesthesia in operating rooms – Narcan – and issued it to his medics.”

AMERICAN SIRENS, KEVIN HAZZARD, P. 130



L-R: Peter Safar, Eugene Key, Harold Brown in Freedom House ambulance.



Curtis Scott at Freedom House base station; dispatcher Pearl Porter in background.



Walt Brown at Freedom House base station.



“The base station at Presby was full of big personalities, but the largest of all was night shift supervisor Walt Brown...There was Curtis Scott, ...in his mid-sixties, who joined Freedom House because he didn’t have Social Security and wanted to pass on something to his kids. Harvey Gandy was a former cab driver. Ron Ragin was there, quiet and understated, with the air of an accountant, and so was Pearl Porter, a dispatcher who talked as much off the phone as on. It was an eccentric group, something that felt like family, with everyone coming together for the same vital purpose...Arthur Davis... became obsessed with the job. After just a year, it was his life. Dave Thomas turned 21 on an ambulance and had already helped deliver five babies. Ushering young lives into this world had turned his own life around.”

AMERICAN SIRENS, KEVIN HAZZARD, P. 118-119

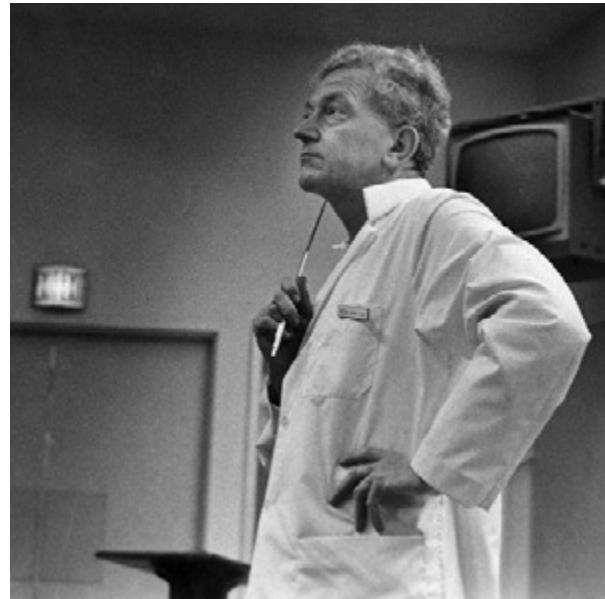
In Memoriam

Many individuals contributed to the place in EMS history that Freedom House Ambulance has earned, but no discussion would be complete without some mention of two pioneering physicians who were essential to the groundbreaking accomplishments in the world of prehospital medicine.

Dr. Peter Safar (1924 – 2003)

The concept of bringing critical care medicine to the streets was the brainchild of Dr. Peter Safar, the Austrian-born anesthesiologist who had been recruited to Pittsburgh's Presbyterian Hospital in 1961 after developing modern cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) while at Baltimore City Hospital (later Johns Hopkins). He believed the 1960s model of rushing a patient to the hospital in a hearse or police wagon with little to no medical care was backward and needed to be overhauled. He had been pushing for an EMS system composed of trained EMS personnel, a communication system and appropriately equipped ambulances, but could get no backers. When approached by Phillip Hallen of the Falk Medical Fund and James McCoy of the non-profit Freedom House Enterprises about establishing an emergency medical transportation system to serve the people from the Hill District, Safar insisted on establishing an advanced EMS system instead. He was certain he could train ordinary people to perform lifesaving medical interventions just as he had done earlier when he developed modern CPR.

In 1967 the first cohort of 44 Black men recruited from the Hill District began the 32-week training designed by Safar. In 1968, the 24 recruits who successfully completed the demanding course and on the job training began delivering service to the people of the Hill District. With funding from President Johnson's War of Poverty and the local Falk Medical Fund, Freedom House Ambulance began a revolution in EMS, and helped set the standard for prehospital care for years to come.



A three-time nominee for the Nobel Prize in medicine, Safar had a host of accomplishments. In 1958 he developed what is believed to be the first intensive care unit in the United States. In 1961 he launched the University of Pittsburgh's anesthesiology department and in 1976 he helped found the World Association for Disaster and Emergency Medicine. In 1979 he founded the International Resuscitation Research Center at the University of Pittsburgh—renamed the Safar Center after his retirement in 1994.¹

Safar, of Jewish ancestry, was born in Austria. He evaded the Nazis through a combination of subterfuge and assistance from an understanding official who ignored Safar's lineage when filling out his papers for medical school. Safar's experiences during the Nazi years had a profound effect on his world view. He worked tirelessly for nuclear disarmament, international law, and world peace through organizations such as International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War and the World Federalist Association (WFA).²

Safar died at age 79 of cancer in August of 2003, leaving his wife Eva and two sons, Philip and Paul.

Dr. Nancy Caroline (1944 – 2002)

As medical director for Freedom House EMS during its last two years, Dr. Nancy Caroline was responsible for taking it to a new level of success. Working with Dr. Safar, Dr. Caroline devoted herself to improving the standard of medical care, riding along with the medics to provide the hands-on direction that previous medical directors did not have the time or energy to perform. She became the Freedom House paramedics' strongest advocate and beloved friend. It was under Dr. Caroline's medical direction that John Moon intubated the first patient in the field. When asked to serve as medical director for the City of Pittsburgh's new EMS



¹ Lenzer J. Peter Josef Safar. BMJ. 2003 Sep 13;327(7415):624. PMID: PMC194106
² Ibid

agency, she conditioned her acceptance on the City's agreement to hire the Freedom House team.

In 1974, the University of Pittsburgh received grant funding from the U.S. Department of Transportation to create a curriculum for nationwide emergency medical services. Dr. Safar oversaw this project but recruited Dr. Caroline to complete the first official paramedic curriculum which would soon be taught in over 40 states. She was a prolific writer of EMS articles. In 1979, she wrote the first textbook for EMS, *Emergency Care in the Streets*. It was the only resource for paramedic care for nearly a decade and several editions of this book have been published.

In 1977, she immigrated to Israel, becoming the first medical director of Magen David Adom, Israel's national emergency medical, disaster, ambulance and blood bank service. The program created by her was one focused on emergency medical responses to terrorist attacks, focusing on enabling the providers to respond to emergencies within minutes. She also translated her EMS textbook into Hebrew. She continued to work internationally in EMS, including time in East Africa.

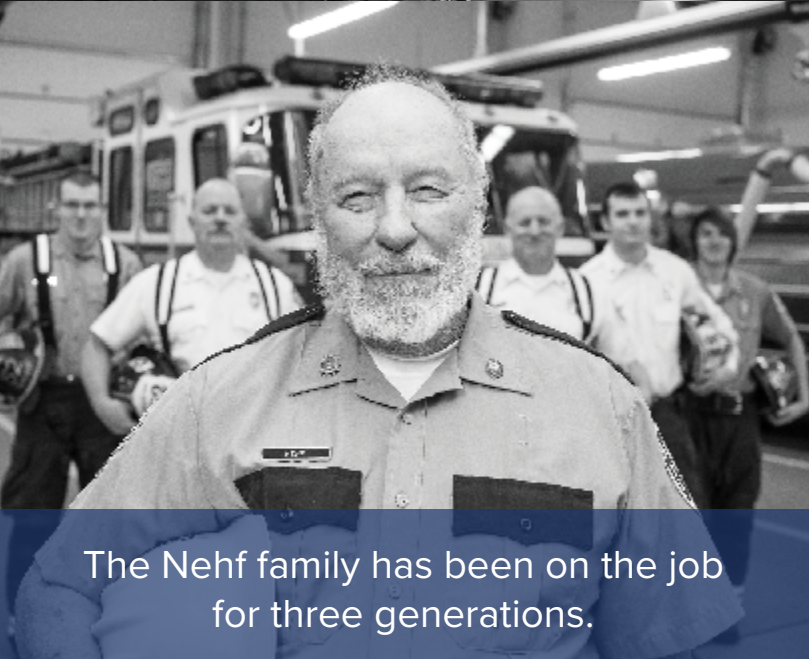
For the last fifteen years of her life, she dedicated her work to cancer treatment and hospice care in Israel. She died in 2002, at the age of 58, from cancer and spent her remaining days in the hospice she founded.

Wikipedia contributors. (2023, November 17). Nancy Caroline. In *Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia*. Retrieved 16:34, February 19, 2024, from https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Nancy_Caroline&oldid=1185533150



“Beyond training and transportation, they were also on the cutting edge of the type of gear medics used in the field. Freedom House field-tested early versions of the air cast (for quick and easy splinting of fractures) and the stair chair (an easy-to-carry stretcher that could be folded to negotiate tight corners). In 1967, Miami's Dr. Eugene Nagel introduced... telemetry that allowed medics to EKG's obtained on their ambulances back to the hospital...of course Freedom House jumped on it right away.”

AMERICAN SIRENS, KEVIN HAZZARD, P. 129



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