

COMMUNITY


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Harris County ESD 11 Paramedic Cori Rocha Honored for Life-Saving Response in Cy-

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For families across Cypress, Cy-Fair and north Harris County, the work of emergency medical crews often happens during some of life's most frightening moments – behind closed doors, inside ambulances and in the critical minutes before a patient reaches a hospital.

One of those moments recently led to special recognition for **Harris County Emergency Services District No. 11** Field Training Officer and Paramedic Cori Rocha, whose response to a patient suffering severe bleeding following a miscarriage was credited with helping save the woman's life.

Rocha was recognized as the First Responder Honoree during the **Cy-Fair Houston Chamber of Commerce** General Membership Luncheon on Tuesday, July 7, 2026, at the **Cypress-Fairbanks ISD Visual and Performing Arts Center** in Cypress. The Chamber presented her with a certificate of appreciation, while the Texas Society Sons of the American Revolution Robert Rankin Chapter honored her with two additional commendations.

The recognition puts a local face on something residents may rarely see firsthand: how advanced emergency medical care – including blood transfusions before a patient ever reaches the hospital – can change the outcome of a medical emergency.

A Pregnancy Complication Became a Life-Threatening Emergency

According to a commendation read during the luncheon by Harris County ESD 11 Chief Operating Officer Nick Smith, Rocha was dispatched to assist a patient experiencing complications after a miscarriage.

The patient had recently been discharged from a hospital but was experiencing severe bleeding when Rocha arrived.

"Miscarriages are unfortunately a common issue with pregnancy, but usually, most do not have a lot of complications. On this day, Cori found a patient who was experiencing life-threatening bleeding," the commendation stated.

Rocha recognized that the amount of blood loss posed an immediate danger and determined that the patient could benefit from blood product administration.

That assessment was especially significant because **Harris County ESD 11 has added prehospital blood products** to its emergency medical capabilities for patients experiencing life-threatening hemorrhage. The program allows specially equipped responders to begin replacing lost blood in the field instead of waiting until a critically ill or injured patient arrives at an emergency room.

As part of that system, ESD 11 identifies categories of emergency calls where blood products could be needed and can dispatch a field supervisor carrying those products.

Rocha knew a supervisor was already responding to the call and began preparing the patient so treatment could begin as quickly as possible.

"Cori quickly identified the critical nature of this bleeding and knew that this patient would benefit from Blood Product Administration," the commendation stated. "Cori was aware that a Field Supervisor had been added to this call already, so she moved quickly to prepare the patient so that Blood Products could be administered quickly once the Field Supervisor arrived."

When the field supervisor reached the scene, the team was able to begin administering blood products without unnecessary delay.

The patient's response was noticeable almost immediately.

"Once the Field Supervisor arrived, Cori was able to quickly get Blood Products administered to this patient. The patient experienced improvements almost immediately. The patient had improvements in her vital signs, her overall appearance, and most importantly, she reported that she felt much better."

The woman was then transported to the hospital, where her condition continued to improve.

The commendation concluded: "Thanks to Cori's quick actions and clinical knowledge, she was able to save this patient's life from a truly life-threatening condition."

Harris County ESD 11 later publicly recognized Rocha as a "Community Lifesaver," confirming the Chamber recognition and describing the emergency response that led to the honor.

Years of Service Behind a Split-Second Decision

While the emergency unfolded in minutes, the experience behind Rocha's decisions was built over years.

Rocha has served the north Harris County area for 14 years and has worked as a paramedic for eight years, according to the commendation presented at the luncheon.

As a Harris County ESD 11 Field Training Officer, or FTO, she is also responsible for helping prepare the next generation of emergency medical professionals. Her work includes training new employees and mentoring paramedics as they develop their skills and pursue advancement within the organization and the community.

"Cori does this job with great pride and continues to contribute to the betterment of both ESD11 and the community she serves," the commendation stated.

That part of Rocha's role gives the recognition a broader community significance. The clinical judgment used during one critical call can also become experience passed along to other paramedics who will respond to emergencies throughout the ESD 11 service area.

Cy-Fair Chamber Recognition Highlights Local First Responders

The July 7 General Membership Luncheon brought local business and community leaders together at the CFISD Visual and Performing Arts Center at 11420 Matzke Road in Cypress. Chamber materials listed Harris County ESD 11 as the luncheon's featured first responder agency, with **Harris County Precinct 4** Commissioner Lesley Briones scheduled as the featured speaker.

During the program, Rocha received a Cy-Fair Houston Chamber of Commerce certificate of appreciation.

Tom Jackson, representing the **Texas Society Sons of the American Revolution Robert Rankin Chapter**, also presented Rocha with the SAR Life Saving Commendation Medal and Certificate.

The Life Saving Medal recognizes individuals who have acted to save a human life without necessarily placing themselves in imminent danger.

Rocha additionally received the SAR Emergency Medical Services Commendation Medal and Certificate, an award honoring accomplishments or outstanding contributions in emergency medical services. The National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution lists the EMS Commendation Medal among its official public-service awards.

Jackson used his opening remarks to place Rocha's recognition in the broader context of service and civic responsibility, drawing a connection between the ideals associated with the nation's founding and the work first responders continue to carry out in their communities today.

He referenced language from the Declaration of Independence, including the pledge of "our lives, our fortunes, and our sacred honor," before turning the focus directly to Harris County ESD 11.

"It is in this spirit that members of Harris County ESD11 carry out their duties. On this most auspicious month we honor Field Training Officer Paramedic Cori Rocha."

The connection was especially fitting for a recognition centered on Rocha's willingness to act decisively in a moment when a patient's life was at risk. Her quick assessment, preparation for blood product administration and coordination with the responding field supervisor reflected the kind of service Jackson was highlighting – trained professionals stepping forward when their community needs them most.

Why Prehospital Blood Products Matter in Harris County

For residents, Rocha's story also offers a window into how emergency medical care is evolving.

Severe hemorrhage can quickly become life-threatening because the body is losing not only fluid but the blood components responsible for carrying oxygen and supporting normal clotting. In emergencies involving significant blood loss, every minute between recognition, treatment and hospital care can matter.

Traditionally, blood transfusions were primarily associated with hospital emergency departments, trauma centers and operating rooms. EMS systems capable of carrying and administering blood products can begin that treatment earlier for certain critically ill patients.

In Rocha's case, ESD 11's system meant a field supervisor carrying blood products was already headed toward the scene while she assessed and prepared the patient.

That coordination turned what could have been additional waiting time into treatment time.

For communities throughout Cypress, Spring and north Harris County served by Harris County ESD 11 Mobile Healthcare, it is an example of the advanced medical capabilities increasingly available before an ambulance ever reaches the hospital.

A Community Honor for Work Usually Done Out of Sight

While the ceremony lasted only a small part of the luncheon, the reason behind it began somewhere very different – with one patient experiencing a frightening medical emergency and a paramedic recognizing that there was no time to waste.

For Rocha, the awards recognize one response. For the broader Cy-Fair and north Harris County community, the story provides a reminder of the training, technology and judgment that local EMS professionals bring through the door when someone calls 911.

And sometimes, those few minutes of preparation and decisive action can make all the difference.

Stay tuned to My Neighborhood News for more stories highlighting local first responders, community leaders and the people making a difference throughout Cypress, Cy-Fair and northwest Harris County.

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Tiffany Krenek has been on the *My Neighborhood News* team since August 2021. She is passionate about curating and sharing content that enriches the lives of our readers in a personal, meaningful way. A loving mother and wife, Tiffany and her family live in the West Houston/Cypress region.