Dear Mr. Kelch,
Thank you for coming to our school to teach us how important it is to keep cool in all emergencies.
From the Chairman of the Board (2001 - 2004)

Medic 28 reached a milestone in September 2004, as it celebrated 20 years of service to Gettysburg and the surrounding communities.

Medic 28 began with the vision of Dr. Leah Maitland and the funding of the Gettysburg Hospital Auxiliary. It was literally a vehicle to take healthcare into the community, provide better outcomes and save innumerable lives in those first precious moments.

At the time we were among the first to take such a progressive step. Thanks to the dedication of doctors like Dr. Maitland, Dr. Bill Steinour, Dr. Greg Codori, and medics like Harry Meals and all those who have answered the calls, the Medic 28’s capabilities have grown and saved many lives over the years.

We are also grateful to all those working in the Emergency Department, who have received the patients brought in. Thank you to Rose Tripi and Zenaida Krablin for their leadership, in seeing that this was a beneficial way for the Auxiliary to support both the Hospital and the community. The Auxiliary, through its initial donation of $100,000, and its generous donations over the years, has purchased every new Medic and much of its equipment and will continue to support it into the future.

Today as the Medic continues to evolve, Gettysburg Hospital not only continues the “Tradition of Care” it started, but is also there for each of us “Through the Journey that is Life.”

Congratulations and continued success and THANK YOU to everyone involved.

DEDICATED TO

DR. LEAH MAITLAND

AND

TO THE GETTYSBURG HOSPITAL AUXILIARY
The field of emergency medicine was still somewhat new when I began working in the Emergency Room at Gettysburg in the 1970’s. But, I knew early on that there was a piece of the emergency medicine puzzle that was missing in our work in Adams County, particularly in cases that involved life threatening traumas and heart attacks.

We’ve long had basic life support (BLS) or ambulance crews that were on the scene in a matter of minutes thanks to a coordinated system of volunteer emergency medical services (EMS) technicians. Their work remains a critical part of our pre-hospital delivery system. But still I knew that we could do better.

What if we could bring vital equipment and personnel to the scene of an accident or to the home of someone suffering chest pains? What if we could begin advanced life saving measures in the first few minutes?

By the early 1980s, some communities and hospitals were already using paramedics and nurses who worked as a team along with the emergency room physician to initiate extensive measures in the field to help save lives even before the patient was transported to a nearby hospital. To me, it was clear. Adams County and adjacent areas of Northern Maryland needed an advanced life support unit to more quickly respond in the event of a serious accident or onset of cardio-pulmonary arrest. It was the next logical step in enhancing our ability to provide comprehensive emergency care.

Though this was more easily envisioned, the concept of advanced life support (ALS) needed to be integrated within the already functioning BLS teams working out of fire and rescue units in and around Gettysburg.

We also had to find a way to fund this service.

Bringing in the areas BLS providers and making them a part of the planning process helped pave the way for a successful ALS program. I’ll always be grateful to our volunteer EMS people for their support and willingness to make this work. Building support among the local medical community wasn’t as difficult a challenge as finding the means to purchase an ALS vehicle and equipment and staffing the program.
In late 1983 and early 1984 the Gettysburg Hospital Auxiliary stepped forward and pledged $100,000 to put Medic 28 on the road in our community. I honestly don’t believe it would have happened without their assistance and commitment. They truly are the ones responsible for making it possible! Ever since then, the Auxiliary has stepped forward with the needed funds to replace the Medic 28 vehicles as time and miles took their toll.

To this day, I am immensely proud of our efforts to put Medic 28 on the road in our community. And, I will always be grateful to all who served and aided our advanced life support program at Gettysburg Hospital over these past 20 years. It was surely a crowning achievement to those who made it possible.

If you wonder if Medic 28 has truly made a difference in our community, ask those who have worked with the program, or better yet, ask those whose lives have been touched or even saved! For them, and for me, there’s no question.

Dr. Maitland

Dr. Maitland with Paramedic Coordinator Harry Meals
Prior to 1956, the Annie M. Warner Hospital operated its own ambulance, shown in this 1949 photo. It was manned by volunteers living near the hospital, a paid orderly, and operated under the supervision of a physician. The hospital donated its ambulance, a red 1955 Pontiac to the Gettysburg Fire Department in 1959.

Hospital ambulance at the scene of a 1954 accident at South Washington and South Streets. Shown is ambulance attendant Luther Topper.
Spurred by a sense of community need, the Gettysburg Fire Department started a volunteer ambulance corps in 1957. The original corps was nearly 120 strong and deployed in six teams.

Gary Mauston and Gill Sheffer of Gettysburg Fire Department with Barry Schuhart of Medic 28.

David Hutchison, Gettysburg Fire Department Ambulance Captain and Betty Johnson, PHRN circa 1985.
Original planning for Adams County’s ALSU began in January of 1983. Tentative plans were drawn up and in November 1983 the Gettysburg Hospital Planning Committee endorsed the idea of Advanced Life Support for Adams County. After more planning and clarification, the Hospital Board of Directors voted unanimously to approve ALS as a service offered through the Emergency Department.

Excerpts from the planning committee’s proposal to initiate Advanced Life Support in Adams County.

I. Introduction

Recent advances in the pre-hospital care of the sick and injured have resulted in greater availability of medical expertise on the highway and in the home and workplace. To date, there are Advanced Life Support (ALS) services available in most counties in south central Pennsylvania. With the exception of the extreme eastern part of the county, there is currently no ALS service available in Adams County.

Although the Emergency Medical Technicians in Adams County are well trained and do a very good job, there is a need to build on the services they provide.

This is a proposal for the implementation of an Advanced Life Support Squad which will complement the services offered by the existing ambulance companies servicing Adams County and the Northern parts of Frederick and Carroll Counties in the state of Maryland. This plan clearly demonstrates the need for ALS services in the proposed district to better serve the citizens of Adams County and Northern Maryland.
The Gettysburg Ambulance transfers a patient to the Pennsylvania State Police Helicopter

Dear Sirs:

This letter is to endorse the need for a proposed new ALS unit now being formed at G. burg hospital. I feel this unit is vitally necessary to all Adams Co residents in providing the best possible pre-hospital care.

I am glad about the new ALS unit. I feel this unit is long overdue in Adams Co., and I am glad to know that G. burg hospital also feels this way.

I will fully support the need which I know I am speaking for my entire Ambulance Corp in saying we are looking forward to serving the people of Adams Co. in conjunction with the ALS unit in providing the best emergency care possible.

Respectfully,

W.K.

A. Capt.

A handwritten draft of letter from the Littlestown’s Ambulance Captain Walt Kelch, to the planning commission endorsing the concept of ALS. Kelch later went on to become Medic 28’s third Paramedic Coordinator.
F. Communications

The purpose of the ALS system is to provide immediate medical aid at all times. This requires a coordinated effort with the Emergency Operation Centers of the counties involved.

Adams County Control will dispatch the ALS vehicle simultaneously with the BLS crew for the following problems:

- Severe or uncontrolled hemorrhage
- Breathing Difficulty
- Smoke or Toxic Inhalation
- Severe Burns
- Chest pain
- Diabetes: insulin shock, diabetic coma
- Severe allergic reactions
- Severe Trauma involving more than 1 body functions
- Substance abuse, poisoning, overdose
- Spinal Cord injuries, paralysis
- Seizures
- Unconsciousness
- Attempted suicide regardless of method used
- Drowning
- Multiple victim incident
- Entrapment: building, cave-in, etc.
- Vehicle accidents with possible or reported entrapment
- Vehicle accidents involving motorcycle, bicycle or pedestrian
- Vehicle accidents involving roll over, head-on crash or over embankment
- Gunshot wounds, stab wounds
- Fall from height, two stories or higher
- Explosions-structural, vehicle, construction or others
- Structural Fire with entrapment
- Agricultural Accidents
- Industrial Accidents
- Any Disaster situation

Original dispatch criteria as proposed in 1983 is essentially unchanged in 2004.
The Adams County Planning Committee included Chairman Dr. William Steinour, Jim Fox and Tom Adair of the EOC, Jean Anthony, RN, Mike Leas of Hampton Fire Company, Tom Lush of Biglerville Fire Company, and Carl Linbaugh, EMT Volunteer. Steinour would later become Medic 28's first Medical Commander.

Advisers to the Committee included Dr. Leah Maitland, Harry Meals, Jr., and Jeffrey Greenawalt of the EHS Federation.

By the late 1970’s Paramedics were stationed at York Memorial Hospital as Medic 102, and at York Hospital as Medic 97, merging later to form Medic 98 stationed in Dover. By the early 1980’s Hanover Hospital was operating "Coronary 46" which responded to cardiac emergencies staffed by a CCU nurse and an EMT from the Hanover Fire Department. Harry Meals was Senior Paramedic at York Medic 97, when in March of 1984, he was hired by the Gettysburg Hospital to direct the development and operation of the ALSU. Meals would staff the medic unit with a combination of two Paramedics, or a Registered Nurse and Paramedic. Mr. Meals served four years as Medic 28’s first Paramedic Coordinator.

HARRY MEALS: PARAMEDIC COORDINATOR 1984-1988

There’s only one way to describe Harry Meals, Jr. and that way is . . . cool . . . very cool. And in his job, being cool is a necessity.
From Harry Meals file: The 6 month plan for implementing ALS in Adams County. Note Sept. 1 target date for initial field response.
From Harry Meals files: Hand drawn sketch of the light control console, as it would appear in the 1984 Suburban.

From Harry Meals files: Paramedic Schedule for the final week of training.

**PARAMEDIC SCHEDULE**

**Tues. 8/28**
- 0830 - 1130 Rush  $\star$ - I.V. team
- 0800 - 1200 Steckert - O.R.
- 1200 - 1600 Codori/Shack - E.D.
- 1600 - 0000 Rader - E.D.

**Wed. 8/29**
- 0830 - 1130 Steckert - I.V. team
- 0800 - 1200 Codori - O.R.
- 1200 - 1600 Shank/Shack/Rader - Driver Training
- 1600 - 0000 Codori/Steckert/Shack - E.D.

**Thurs. 8/30**
- 0830 - 1130 Steckert - I.V. team
- 0800 - 1200 Shank - O.R.
- 1200 - 1600 Codori/Shack/Rader - Driver Training
- 1600 - 0000 Codori/Steckert/Shack - E.D.

**Fri. 8/31**
- 0800 - 1200 Codori + All Medic's - O.R.
- 1200 - 1600 Shank - E.D.
- 1600 - 2200 All Medic's - E.D.
From Harry Meals Files:
Equipment list of personnel protection and patient access gear. Note under optional equipment:
rotating tourniquets, Hurst tool, portable infant incubator.
HOSPITAL AUXILIARY PLEDGES $100,000

The challenge of financing an Advanced Life Support Unit was taken up by the Hospital Auxiliary who pledged $100,000 towards the purchase of a new vehicle.

Under the guidance of Rose Tripi, Zenaida Krablin and countless other volunteers, the Auxiliary has supported Medic 28 since its inception and by 2004 had purchased a total of seven Medic Units.

Rose Tripi (center), President of the Gettysburg Hospital Auxiliary, presents a $25,000 donation to Hospital President John Barrett (right). The donation represented the first installment of the auxiliary’s $100,000 pledge. Harry Meals is pictured far left.

Rose Tripi presents a check for $30,000 to Hospital Vice President Joseph Edgar. The donation marked the second installment within 10 months of the auxiliary’s original pledge.
Hospital Auxiliary will have a Ball

Its largest fundraiser set for Dec. 7 at the Sheraton

in alternate years the Miscellaneous Fair at the Gettysburg Recreation Park. This year, the Hospital Ball will precede the first谣a new Auxiliary project. "This is a transition year," said Kathy Tulisiewicz, chairperson of this year's Hospital Ball, which will be held at the Sheraton Inn on the evening of Dec. 7. With the Auxiliary's pledge toward Medic 2, the group has to settle on another goal to strive for. Since the Auxiliary cannot accumulate funds, it has in the past pledged toward any fund raising events. The Hospital Ball is the main source of money. Although the Auxiliary projects are unable to pay any money back to the Hospital; the Auxiliary does what they can to pay for any fund raising events.

While hospital auxiliaries give something of a Christmas party for their staff, none have a Hospital Ball of this magnitude, open to the public. Other women connected with hospital auxiliaries were amazed at the size and scope of our Hospital Ball. The staff must have a Hospital Ball of this magnitude open to the public. This will be the 18th year for the annual event. "Other women connected with hospital auxiliaries were amazed at the size and scope of our Hospital Ball," Tulisiewicz said proudly.

In the ballroom of the Sheraton Inn, which is in excess of 6,000 square feet, auxiliary ladies and their staffs were entertained by the Medics Band and Evergreen. "We need to keep the ballroom in the hotel to benefit the Hospital," Tulisiewicz said. In the main source of money. Although the Auxiliary projects are unable to pay any money back to the Hospital; the Auxiliary does what they can to pay for any fund raising events.

The Auxiliary projects are unable to pay any money back to the Hospital; the Auxiliary does what they can to pay for any fund raising events.

Mrs. Bea Swoyer presents a check for $3,188 to then President Jennifer Railing

Members of the Fashion Show Committee from left to right: Dottie Bloom, Dottie Phelan, Greg Wolf and Jane Morningstar with Harry Meals.

KATHY TULISIEWICZ
Ball chairperson

ON THE ROAD — Hospital projects are at the heart of the Gettysburg Hospital Auxiliary's existence and the most recent recipient of its
efforts was Medic 2 (above). The money raised includes $18,000 from the Auxiliary (IT) by Bill Schwartz.
Original invoice from Zentz Chevrolet Buick for the 1984 Chevrolet Suburban, date 3/27/84 and signed by Harry Meals. Note purchase price after discount of $17,444.60.

The '84 Suburban was a 6.2 liter diesel. The truck was taken to Interstate Truck (IT) in Chambersburg, where it was outfitted with all wood cabinetry, emergency lighting and electronic packages. Paramedic Rob Baughman and his family owned and operated IT, as they do to this day.
The 1984 Chevrolet Suburban pictured at the entrance to the Gettysburg Hospital Emergency Room.

The new truck appeared at the Fireman’s Association parade in Abbottstown. From left: Pat Leinbach, R.N., Harry Meals, and Paramedic Rob Rush. Leinbach would go on to become Adams County Coroner.
ALS goes on the road

ON THE ROAD — Dr. Leah Maitland, director of the Emergency Service at Gettysburg Hospital, goes through a last minute equipment check on the hospital’s new Advanced Life Support vehicle. Referred to as “Medic 28,” the Advanced Life Support vehicle was put into operation at midnight Friday. It will provide trauma and cardiac treatment and an expected 60 percent of the patients brought to Gettysburg’s emergency room each year will benefit from ALS services. (Times photo by Bob Whitlock)

Dr. Maitland during final "rig check."

Hospital unveils advance life support vehicle

GETTYSBURG — The Gettysburg Hospital’s advanced life support (ALS) vehicle was delivered last week. The blue and white, four-wheel drive emergency unit is identified as “Medic 28.”

The hospital-based ALS vehicle is currently undergoing modifications for the special cabinetry to hold equipment needed by the advanced life support team. The ALS team will consist of paramedics and registered nurses. The vehicle has already been equipped with a radio and telemetry system that will link the squad with the physician in the emergency department.

The ALS unit will respond to treat seriously injured or ill patients at the scene of an emergency before the patient is transported to a hospital by the area ambulance corps. The ALS unit is not a transport vehicle, but rather a means of taking sophisticated advanced life-saving care to the patient before the patient is taken to the hospital.

The ALS squad was given a boost earlier this year when the Gettysburg Hospital Auxiliary pledged $100,000 for the project. The auxiliary, which has assisted in the numerous hospital building and equipment fund drives over the years, raises money through the Thrift Shop, hospital Gift Shop, annual Holiday Ball, a fashion show, the biannual Hospital Fair, and other activities. Auxiliary efforts have raised more than $300,000 for the hospital in the last 15 years.

WITH THE ALS — Dr. Leah Maitland (left), emergency department director at Gettysburg Hospital; Harry Meals, hospital paramedic coordinator; and hospital auxiliary officers Zenaida Krablin (first vice president) and Rose Tripi (president) stand by the new advanced life support unit, Medic 28, at the hospital Monday. (Photo by John Eline)
Adams Unit Now In Service

Adams County became the third in the region to have complete ALS coverage when Gettysburg Hospital put its new ALS unit, Medic 28, into service September 1, 1984. Because of the county’s size, population and other characteristics, its ALS planning committee decided that one ALS unit, centrally located in Gettysburg and operating as a squad in conjunction with the county’s 11 BLS units, would be able to provide appropriate coverage for the entire county. It also services the northern part of two Maryland counties.

This is how the ALS system is described in the county ALS plan which was submitted, along with Gettysburg Hospital’s Application for Designation, to the Federation for approval. It was endorsed by the county commissioners, EHS council, municipalities and BLS units. The Federation’s prehospital systems committee reviewed the proposals July 30 and recommended approval, and the Executive Committee gave its OK August 15.

Medic 28 is a blue and white, 1984 Chevrolet Suburban with four wheel drive stocked with all essential ALS equipment and supplies. It is staffed 24 hours a day by hospital-employed paramedics and registered nurses who work in the emergency department between calls. In its first month of operation, Medic 28 has already responded to an estimated 135 ALS calls.

According to set ALS dispatch criteria, Medic 28 is dispatched at the same time as the BLS unit for the territory in which the emergency occurred. The BLS crew begins emergency care procedures in the critical first minutes as well as later providing transport for the patient, ALS crew and ALS equipment. Medic 28’s ALS crew receives medical command from specially trained physicians at Gettysburg Hospital which has been named an associate resource center by the York/Adams EMRC and the Federation.
List of original Medic 28 providers written in George Steckert's hand. Greg Codori's number 28-4 will later be permanently retired.

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<tr>
<th>Provider</th>
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<td>Henry Meeks</td>
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<td>Barry Schreiber</td>
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<td>George Steckert</td>
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<td>Chuck Erwin</td>
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<td>Thelma Shank</td>
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<td>Ron Russ</td>
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<td>Steve Ferry</td>
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<td>Ken Baker</td>
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<td>John Anthony</td>
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<td>Pat Clandinin</td>
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<td>Beth (S Seconds) Hurley</td>
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<td>Georgia Hefson</td>
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<td>Romo Rose</td>
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<td>Tim Holland</td>
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Original medical command radio console.