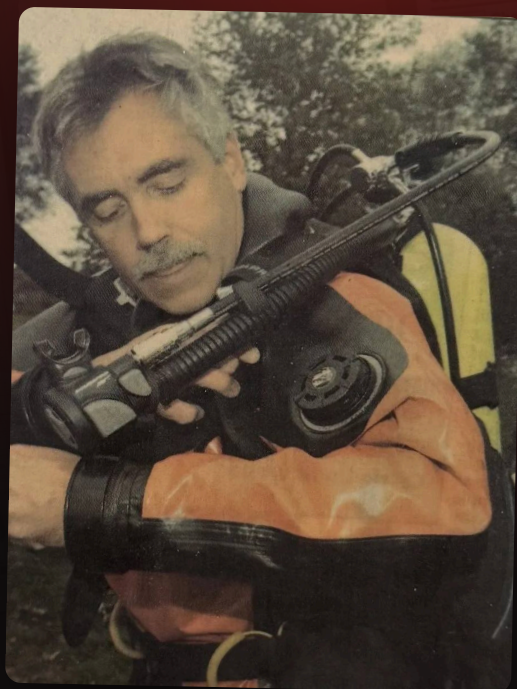


ELKHART, INDIANA • 1984 TO 2012

Vito Palumbo

Firefighter. Paramedic. Captain. Teacher.

Twenty-eight years answering the call for the people of Elkhart. Seven state paramedic championships. A generation of medics trained. The Elkhart Truth printed his name 178 times, and every page is here.



Vito Palumbo of the Elkhart Fire Department dive team, 2007. Truth photo by Fred Flury.

28

years with the Elkhart Fire Department

7

Indiana Governor's Cup titles

178

pages in The Elkhart Truth

3

the station he called home

Twenty-eight years, in his own paper

- | | | |
|----|--------------------|-------------------|
| 01 | A life in service | THE CAREER |
| 02 | What he earned | HONORS |
| 03 | What people said | VOICES |
| 04 | The pictures | PHOTOGRAPHS |
| 05 | The clippings | THE ELKHART TRUTH |
| 06 | Digital intubation | HOW HE TAUGHT IT |

For Dad, who spent twenty-eight years running toward other people's worst days, and never stopped teaching the rest of us how.

1984

hired by the Elkhart
Fire Department

1993

first Governor's Cup

2008

seventh Governor's
Cup

2012

retired after 28 years

Hostetler, Goshen	54:12	43. Patrick Connor, Elkhart	38:23	150. Robert Burden, Elkhart
ng, Elkhart	54:14	44. Jon Myers, Elkhart	38:41	151. Allen Klein, Mishawaka
averson, Toledo, OH	54:24	45. Steve Carter, Union, MI	38:42	44:03 — 4
field, Elkhart	54:30	46. Richard Fairfield, Elkhart	38:43	152. Brian Leist, Elkhart
ino, Elkhart	54:30	47. Mark Nenow, Lexington, KY	38:44	153. Ron Shepherd, Elkhart
s, Osceola	54:48	48. Stephen Simons, South Bend	38:51	154. Jacob Elias, Elkhart
, South Bend	55:00	49. Terry Polley, Wabash	38:53	155. Ron Wilson, Peru
itt, Elkhart	55:01	50. Bob Ducharme, Goshen	38:54	156. Jeremy Fair, Elkhart
er, N. Manchester	55:02	39:04 — 40:15		157. Mark Mikel, Mishawaka
, N. Manchester	55:09	51. Rick Clark, Goshen	39:04	158. Joe Shrock, Goshen
essling, South Bend	55:17	52. Dan Cripe, Goshen	39:07	159. Barry Hart, Elkhart
per, South Bend	55:56	53. Kent Stucky, Elkhart	39:10	160. Myron Diener, Goshen
llo, Indianapolis	56:05	54. Paul Hasse, Syracuse	39:11	161. Dan Schwab, Milford
eyhouse, Union, MI	56:44	55. Dave Padgett, Mishawaka	39:14	162. Oreste Lantero, Goshen
ntz, Topeka	56:49	56. Steve Hasse, Syracuse	39:15	163. Edward Hill, Goshen
57:10 — 65:05		57. Andre Pepper, Goshen	39:18	164. Andy Waugaman, Goshen
erson, Elkhart	57:10	58. Michael Sheehan, Plymouth	39:20	165. Chris Horne, Indianapolis
lds, Elkhart	57:25	59. Bradley Yoder, Broadway, VA	39:25	166. John Zinn, Elkhart
s, South Bend	57:33	60. Vito Palumbo, Elkhart	39:26	167. Bob Sites, Jr., Bristol
gh, Elkhart	57:45	61. Ot Neal, Elkhart	39:27	168. James Brotherson, Elkhart
t, Elkhart	57:56	62. Mark Cleghorn, Edwardsburg	39:33	169. Richard Rhodes, Goshen
ins, Middlebury	57:58	63. Kenneth Leinbach, Goshen	39:36	170. Raymond Barna, Oshtemo
k, Middlebury	57:58	64. John Hostetler, Elkhart	39:38	171. Mike Dubois, Rochester
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es, Elkhart	59:19	66. Gerry MacDonald, South Bend	39:42	173. Thomas Lechner, Goshen
a, Elkhart	59:27	67. Tom Lovasko, Bristol	39:52	174. Larry Kantz, Elkhart
quiller, Goshen	60:08	68. Glen Lavy, Wakarusa	39:53	175. Gary Haney, Goshen
r, Elkhart	60:09	69. Kurt Heuermann, Elkhart	40:01	45:14 — 4
ett, East Moline, IL	60:12	70. Brian Popma, Elkhart	40:03	176. John Powers, Elkhart
re, Elkhart	60:13	71. Rod Cart, Goshen	40:05	177. DNF
ing, Elkhart	60:18	72. Dan Post, Bristol	40:06	178. Bob Sites, Bristol
fmann, Goshen	60:28	73. Jeff Culbertson, South Bend	40:07	179. Terry Wilcox, Portage
amood, Elkhart	60:28	74. Jeff Cors, Goshen	40:12	180. Mike Gingerich, Goshen
				181. Thomas Sherran, Goshen

MAY 1984

Before the badge, he ran

The first time The Elkhart Truth printed his name, he was 23 and finishing the Great Race 10K. The paper would print it 177 more times over the next 29 years.

GREAT RACE 10K

60TH OF 530 RUNNERS

39:26

Great Race 10K results, The Elkhart Truth, May 29, 1984.



Two Joining Fire Department

Mark Tucker (left) and Vito Palumbo stand outside the Municipal Building, home of their new employer, the City of Elkhart. The board of public works and safety Tuesday approved hiring Tucker and Palumbo as the newest members of the Elkhart Fire Department. Officials had some difficulty determining the seniority of the new firefighters, as both were hired on the same day. It was decided that their dates of birth should be used for seniority purposes, but Tucker and Palumbo were born on the same day — June 17, 1960. Officials decided Palumbo has seniority because he submitted his application first. (Truth Photo by Fred Flury)

OCTOBER 16, 1984

Two joining Fire Department

The Board of Public Works and Safety approves two new firefighters, Mark Tucker and Vito Palumbo, and the Truth photographs them outside the Municipal Building. Both men were born on June 17, 1960, which made seniority a puzzle. The city decided it the simple way: Vito had turned his application in first.

HIRED OCT. 16, 1984

BORN JUNE 17, 1960

SENIORITY: APPLIED FIRST

The Elkhart Truth, October 17, 1984. Truth photo by Fred Flury.

1992

CPR, ACLS, PALS

1992

Becomes an EMS instructor

He starts teaching CPR, Advanced Cardiac Life Support and Pediatric Advanced Life Support, and begins training young adults for careers in emergency medicine. He never stops. One favorite lesson, digital intubation, is drawn out on its own page.

CPR

ACLS

PALS

moved 450 boxes from 10 states ter, based at 510 S. Main St., of its \$1 million budget, on trash



Giant Could it, so

By Associated

WEST LAFAYETTE, Ind. — A mushroom that was going to be sold at Western Michigan University as a delicacy is now being fried in a fryer instead.

The mushroom was found by a woman's dryer used by the Western Michigan University.

"It's edible," said the professors up here and eat it," P

The polypore mushroom is commonly known as a head of a fallen maple tree's back yard.

She carefully decided to harvest the mushroom in heat and humidity.

The mushroom stumps, some 6 inches across, weighed 2 pounds.

Hennen said to dry the specimen was too large

AUGUST 1993

First Governor's Cup

Lt. Vito Palumbo and paramedic Grant Roberts, partners for a year, go to Indianapolis for the state Governor's Cup Ambulance Competition. Teams are judged on simulated emergencies. In the final a driver has a severe allergic reaction to a bee sting. On August 28 the traveling trophy comes home to Elkhart for the first time, beating 43 other teams, and the Truth puts the three of them on the front page. Station 3 is home for both partners for most of their careers.

TITLE 1 OF 7

BEAT 43 TEAMS

LT. VITO PALUMBO

Paramedics Vito Palumbo and Grant Roberts have worked together since 1991, and together they are one of Indiana's most skilled life-saving teams



Truth Photo By Jennifer Shephard

Success at saving lives: Elkhart Fire Department Station 3 paramedics Capt. Vito Palumbo (left) and Lt. Grant Roberts hold the president's cup traveling trophy after winning the state competition at the paramedic level, defeating more than 20 teams.

Six-time champs

Elkhart tandem takes home top honors at Indiana State Governor's Cup competition once again

By AMELIA JEFFIRS
Truth Staff

ELKHART — Two Elkhart paramedics recently won the Indiana State Governor's Cup competition at the paramedic level, defeating more than 20 team participants.

Vito Palumbo and Grant Roberts, paramedics at Elkhart Fire Department Station 3, have participated in the statewide competition since 1993, and this year's victory was their sixth as a team.

"You've got two very, very quality paramedics. This shows their level of commitment," Elkhart Fire Chief Richard Snell said. "They really do represent the City of Elkhart and the Elkhart City Fire Department very well."

Snell said Palumbo and Roberts have worked together since early in their careers, with Palumbo, who was hired at the Elkhart Fire Department in 1984, working on the ambulance as Roberts' first officer when he was hired in 1991.

The overall competition consists

mediate EMTs, Advanced EMTs and paramedics in which two-person teams compete using the state minimum required equipment for that level, Roberts said. Teams are evaluated based on their response to medical and traumatic simulated scenarios. A preliminary round on Sept. 5 reduced the competition to three teams for the final round Sept. 13.

Roberts said during the preliminary round scenario, he and Palumbo had to respond to a lawn mower accident in which the driver lost control of a riding mower and hit a tree, flipping the mower on top of him. The final round involved a man choking at a restaurant, which led to a stroke.

"It shows the level of education we receive from Elkhart General Hospital and the Elkhart Fire Department," Roberts said.

Roberts said they keep the score sheets to learn from and continually evaluate themselves outside the competitive atmosphere.

"I think (the competition) helps

prove," Roberts said.

Palumbo said their performance at the state competition is a direct reflection of how they serve residents in Elkhart.

He said he hopes the city will send the team to a national competition.

"It's still exciting to compete and win," Palumbo said.

"They have been so successful, it's amazing," Snell said. "They put a lot of pressure between themselves to succeed."

Snell said he hopes more teams from Elkhart will be inspired to go in the future, to encourage a little healthy competition among Elkhart teams.

"They're just outstanding in what they've done. We're proud the first time they won, but when you won it the sixth time, there is a new standard being set," Snell said. "I hope they go ahead and challenge newer firefighters and paramedics to compete."

Contact Amelia Jeffirs at

SEPTEMBER 27, 2007

Six-time champs

Now a captain, Vito and Lt. Grant Roberts win the Governor's Cup for the sixth time as a team, beating more than 20 teams. The preliminary scenario is a riding mower flipped onto its driver; the final is a man choking in a restaurant who then has a stroke. Fire Chief Richard Snell: "You've got two very, very quality paramedics. This shows their level of commitment."

TITLE 6 OF 7

BEAT 20+ TEAMS

STATION 3

The Elkhart Truth, September 27, 2007. Truth photo by Jennifer Shephard.

Life in a Firehouse
A monthly look at the job of a firefighter

Taking the plunge

Divers are trained to
make quick recoveries

By Fred Flury
Truth Photographer

The Elkhart city fire department's diving team has training exercises to keep them ready for action. Recently, the training took place at a pond on the city's south side. The exercise was to swim out to one buoy and then navigate to another by compass — all the time under water.

The diver's suit and all the gear weigh 95 to 100 pounds, depending on the diver's weight and the type of water they'll be in. One of the items is a full face mask with a sonar type of radio that allows the diver to talk to someone on the surface or to another diver.

The divers are rated into several levels and the goal is to have all the divers trained in all levels. Some of the levels are diving into still water such as a pond or small lake, or diving into a current such as they would find in a river or stream.

The goal in all cases is to get into the water and make a recovery as quickly as possible.



Masks: Divers can talk and receive instructions from the surface when they wear these facemasks.



Gearing up: Elkhart firefighter and diving instructor Mark Vilmore (right) helps diver Vito Palumbo into his dry suit.



Diver talk: Elkhart firefighter and diving trainer Mark Vilmore talks to divers while they are under water.



Dry suit: A Hart City SCUBA owner Greg Stone helps Vito Palumbo into his dry suit during a training exercise.



Training: Hart City SCUBA owner and instructor Greg Stone stands by as Vito Palumbo enters the water during a training exercise.

■ Truth Photos By Fred Flury

OCTOBER 27, 2007

Taking the plunge

The Truth's "Life in a Firehouse" series spends a day with the department's dive team at a pond on the south side of the city. Vito, in a 95-pound dry suit and a full-face mask with a radio, swims a compass course between buoys. The goal, the paper notes, is always the same: get in the water and make the recovery as fast as possible.

DIVE TEAM

95 TO 100 LB OF GEAR

FULL-FACE RADIO MASK

The Elkhart Truth LIFE, October 27, 2007. Truth photos by Fred Flury.

ELKHART

Locals win competition

Vito Palumbo and Grant Roberts were winners of the Governor's Cup Ambulance Service Provider Competition on Sept. 18.

The pair have been competing for the last 15 years and this is their seventh win.

SEPTEMBER 18, 2008

Seven

"We know we're not perfect and that's why we keep trying," Capt. Vito Palumbo tells the Truth the week of the finals, 24 years on the job and 41 years of experience between him and Grant. On September 18 they win the Governor's Cup for the seventh time. Nobody else in the state has a run like it.

TITLE 7 OF 7

15 YEARS COMPETING

41 YEARS COMBINED

The Elkhart Truth, October 1, 2008.

28

YEARS OF SERVICE, 1984 TO 2012

2012

Twenty-eight years

Vito retires from the Elkhart Fire Department in 2012 after 28 years: firefighter, paramedic, lieutenant, captain, union representative, and seven-time state champion. He never stops teaching, as an EMS instructor and as a substitute teacher for Elkhart Community Schools.

1984 TO 2012

LIEUTENANT BY 1993

CAPTAIN BY 2007

mpetition training

m Elkhart Fire Department
ently perform well at the state level.

LARGE
truth.com

ART — Vito Palumbo and Grant Roberts have
worked well together. This week, the Elkhart
partment veterans are hoping to keep a good
ing.

Palumbo and Roberts have been partic-
ipating in the Governor's Cup Ambu-
lance Service Provider Competition for
the last 15 years. They consistently place
in the top three during the preliminary
round, sending them to the finals in In-
dianapolis. On Thursday they'll once
again participate in the finals and try for
their seventh win.

Governor's Cup gives Emergency Medical Ser-
ersonnel a chance to further hone their skills
different settings. Palumbo, a captain and 24-
veteran posted at Fire Station 3, and Roberts, a
nant and 17-year veteran also posted at Station
i compete at the paramedic level.
e preliminary round was Tuesday and Palumbo
Roberts went up against 10 other teams in their
ion. The pair had 20 minutes to work through a
ulation in which a victim had been shot during
estic disturbance while judges critiqued their
onse. On Thursday they learned they were once
n a top-three team headed for Indianapolis.
nals will involve a secret scenario at the Marriott
hotel. The three teams will be sequestered, not
wed to see the simulation they'll work until their
Palumbo said previous scenarios have included
rything from stroke victims to someone with a
y and arrow injury to the neck.

Palumbo and Roberts were partners for five
Roberts said after ambulance runs the pair would
ique and learn from each other. That, he said, is
t of why they've been so successful.
Palumbo said he likes tasks that test the pair men-
y and physically. Nothing is black and white in
IS — there may be 20 different ways to treat a pa-
nt, all of which work. More demanding simula-
ns will inevitably draw on responders' skill sets.
The pair also use the event as a chance to learn. In
dition to practicing their skills first hand, Palumbo
id he likes getting to pick the brains of other EMS
orkers. For him it's the perfect blend of busi-
ness and pleasure.

"We like doing it," he said. "We know we're not
ect and that's why we keep trying."

41

Combined years of experience for both
firefighters Vito Palumbo and Grant Roberts

ELKHART

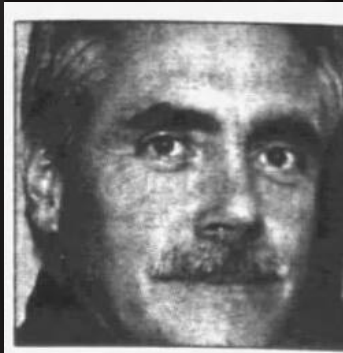
Woman held in knifing case

Truth Staff

ELKHART — A 29-year-old woman was arrested
in connection with a late Saturday assault at a home
in the 1000 block of West Hubbard Avenue, accord-
ing to WNDU-TV. The Elkhart Truth's newsgathering
partner.

The incident was reported shortly after 9 p.m. Sat-
urday. Elkhart police said the victim, a 53-year-old
man, was hospitalized with wounds to his back.

Police said a person was taken to the police for



"We know we're not
perfect and that's
why we keep trying."

Elkhart Fire Capt. Vito
Palumbo

"We know we're not
perfect and that's
why we keep trying."

CAPT. VITO PALUMBO, THE ELKHART TRUTH, SEPTEMBER 15, 2008

And second — a contemporary po-
litical novel about the struggle for
a wrong way to do it. Cogan said.
What was done in Guam was right,"
Cogan said. And she's emphatic that
how the United States has handled the
Middle East and Iraq is wrong.

Little did she realize back in 1946
when she began working as a writer and
editor of publications for the non-profit
Institute of Ethnic Affairs in Washington
that she would not only be a witness to
history, but play a major part in it.

Cogan wrote the "Guam Echo" for the
institute from 1946 to 1950. It was her
first job after graduate school at Colum-
bia University.

"It didn't seem that exciting at the
time. I was just doing my job," Cogan
said. "It was such a small office."

She and a colleague would read The
New York Times, Washington Post and
Congressional Record each day. And
she had contacts in the State and In-
terior departments and in Congress.
Cogan reported on the legislation go-
ing through Congress that would give
Guam independence. They were called
"organic acts."

"At that time, people were interested
in more self-determination for people
all over the world," Cogan said.

lished in all.
"I was a witness to history. I didn't
know it at the time," Cogan said. "I
Cogan said. "I couldn't have
Echo as something really special."

Cogan said the book reads like a mys-
tery novel about the see-saw history of
the time, particularly how John Col-
lier, her boss at the institute, and Har-
old Ickes led the fight by Guamanians
against the Navy and Secretary James
Forrestal to end naval rule of the coun-
try, which had lasted almost 50 years.
She said the press also played an im-
portant role.

The move toward freedom in Guam
"was initiated and supported by the
people to be governed," Cogan said.
"They had studied it for 50 years under
the Navy and knew what democracy
was."

That's different from Iraq today, she
said. "The Iraqis have never had that
basic education. You don't impose de-
mocracy from the outside on people
who don't understand," Cogan said.

Today the people of Guam are
governed completely by Guamanians,
she said, and has had an indigenous
Legislature since 1951. Cogan said there
is a separate judiciary, with appeals
though the Justice Department instead
of the Navy. As many as 70 percent of

The fair will be from 7 a.m. to 4 p.m.
9:45 a.m. Thursday at the EMH
field house, 2008 California Road,
Elkhart. Parents of those juniors
and seniors are encouraged to
attend.

GOSHEN

Program helps seniors with driving

GOSHEN — The Goshen
Public Library will host an AARP
driver safety program for seniors
Tuesday and Thursday.

The two-part workshop starts
at 10:30 a.m. and ends at 2:30 p.m.
each day and will teach defensive
driving techniques, assessing
age-related changes and how to
adjust driving in relationship to
those changes.

The course costs \$10.
Participants should pack a lunch.
Drinks will be provided.

Call the library at
334-1111 for the circulation

ty topic of workshop

Area emergency
responders and grain
handlers are invited to a grain
safety workshop at the Elkhart
H. Fairgrounds

The workshop is designed to
help responders understand grain
storage in an attempt to pre-
vent deaths and injuries.
The workshop is being presented
by Jeff Burbrink,
Indiana State Extension Service, several farmers
in the state are killed each year by
grain-bin entrapment.

The extension office and
Purdue University are putting on the
workshop which will run from
10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. For
information or to register call Jim
Cody at 334-0972.

maker to explore mind, body

GOSHEN — The
relationship between
the mind and body
has been explored
for centuries. The
address of
the lecture is Roy H.
Umble Master Class
at Goshen College.

Performance artist
Sander will present "The
Body of Knowledge. The Art of
the Thinking Body" at 7 p.m.
Wednesday at Goshen College's
Umble Center theater. The lecture
is free and open to the public. A
reception will follow.

Sander will be on campus
from Wednesday to Saturday
presenting lectures and
workshops.

Rabbit Club members take three top spots

GOSHEN — Three of the five
Elkhart County 4-H Rabbit Club
members who competed in the
rabbit ambassador contest at
the Indiana State Fair in August
placed in the top five.

Chloe Wall placed fifth in the
novice division, Brandon Claar
placed fourth in the senior
division and Mara Scott placed
fourth in the master division.
Nolan McBride competed in
the junior division and Sean
Hochstetler in the intermediate
division.

The contestants submitted a

What he earned



1st

1993



2nd



3rd



4th



5th



6th

2007



7th

2008

Seven Indiana Governor's Cup titles with partner Grant Roberts. The first came in August 1993, the sixth in September 2007, the seventh in September 2008. The second through fifth fell between 1994 and 2006.



7×

Indiana Governor's Cup

Seven-time champion of the state paramedic competition with partner Grant Roberts, 1993 to 2008.



Captain

Lieutenant from 1993, captain by 2007, union representative for IAFF Local 338, and a licensed paramedic for the whole run.



EMS instructor since 1992

CPR, Advanced Cardiac Life Support and Pediatric Advanced Life Support. Decades of medics learned from him. See how he taught digital intubation.



Hazardous Materials Technician

Certified for the calls most people never hear about.



Dive team

Certified diver on the department's rescue and recovery dive team.



Teacher

Substitute teacher for Elkhart Community Schools after retiring from the department in 2012.

What people said

“

We work well together.

GRANT ROBERTS, HIS PARTNER, BEFORE
THEIR FIRST GOVERNOR'S CUP. THE
ELKHART TRUTH, AUGUST 1993

“

He worked with me as
my driver at Station 3.

VITO, REMEMBERING PATRICK BLEILER,
2026

“

It's still exciting to
compete and win.

VITO, AFTER THE SIXTH GOVERNOR'S CUP,
THE ELKHART TRUTH, SEPTEMBER 2007

“

They're just outstanding in
what they've done. We're
proud the first time they
won, but when you won
it the sixth time, there is
a new standard being set.

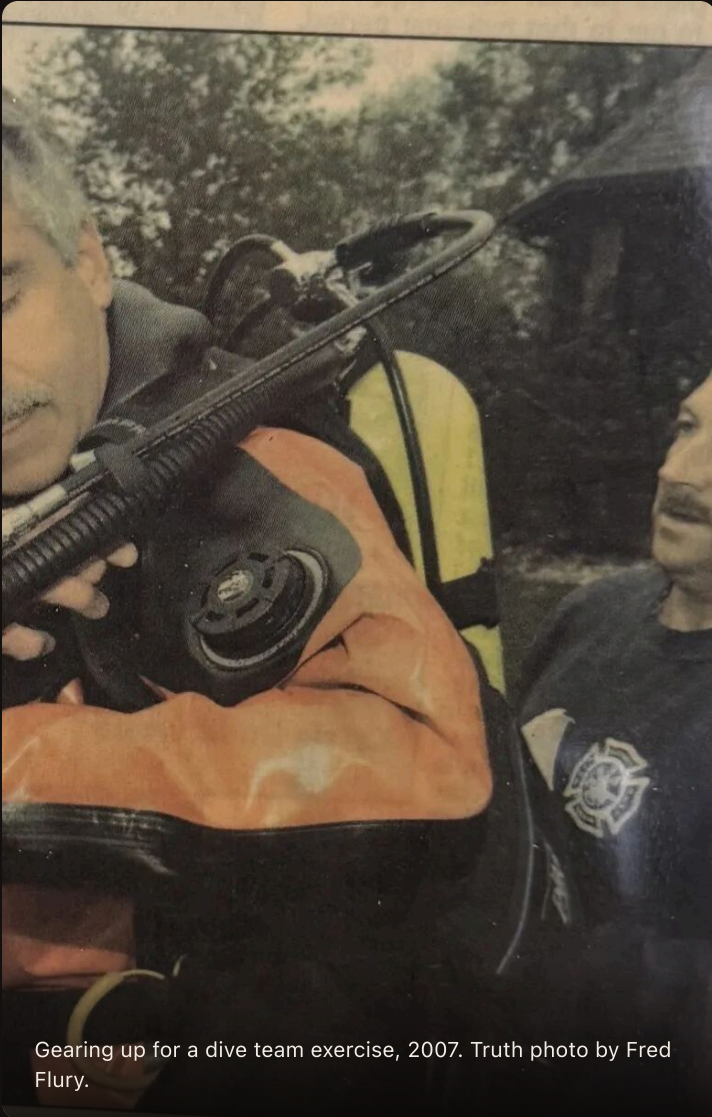
ELKHART FIRE CHIEF RICHARD SNELL, THE
ELKHART TRUTH, SEPTEMBER 2007

“

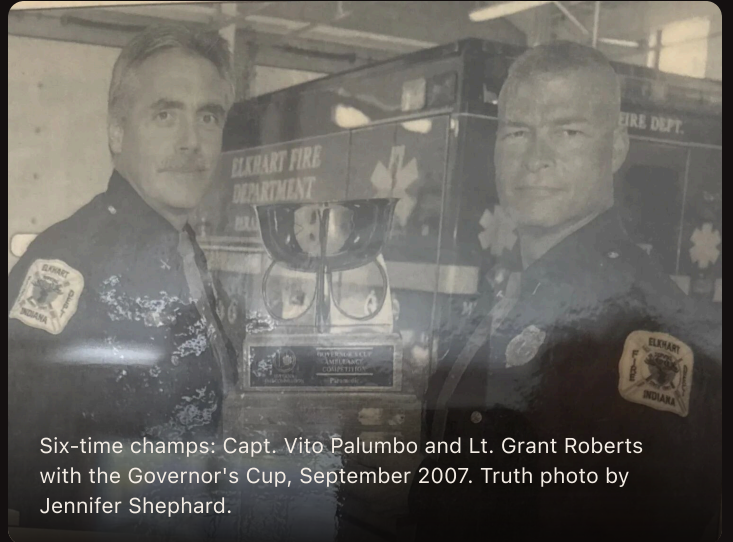
Their performance at the state
competition is a direct reflection of
how they serve residents in Elkhart.

VITO, PARAPHRASED BY THE ELKHART TRUTH

The pictures



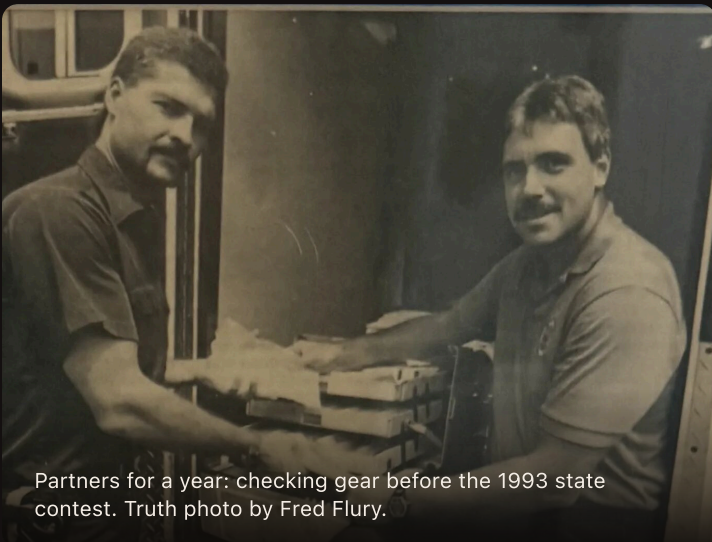
Gearing up for a dive team exercise, 2007. Truth photo by Fred Flury.



Six-time champs: Capt. Vito Palumbo and Lt. Grant Roberts with the Governor's Cup, September 2007. Truth photo by Jennifer Shephard.



Top paramedics show their trophy: the first Governor's Cup, August 1993. Truth photo by Fred Flury.



Partners for a year: checking gear before the 1993 state contest. Truth photo by Fred Flury.



Into the dry suit with Greg Stone of Hart City SCUBA, 2007. Truth photo by Fred Flury.



THE ELKHART TRUTH

The clippings

The articles worth framing, each on its own page. The paper printed his name on 178 pages between 1984 and 2013; every one of them is in the archive volume.

11

articles in this section

178

pages that name him

29

years of coverage



Two Joining Fire Department

Mark Tucker (left) and Vito Palumbo stand outside the Municipal Building, home of their new employer, the City of Elkhart. The board of public works and safety Tuesday approved hiring Tucker and Palumbo as the newest members of the Elkhart Fire Department. Officials had some difficulty determining the seniority of the new firefighters, as both were hired on the same day. It was decided that their dates of birth should be used for seniority purposes, but Tucker and Palumbo were born on the same day — June 17, 1960. Officials decided Palumbo has seniority because he submitted his application first. (Truth Photo by Fred Flury)

OCTOBER 17, 1984, PAGE 10

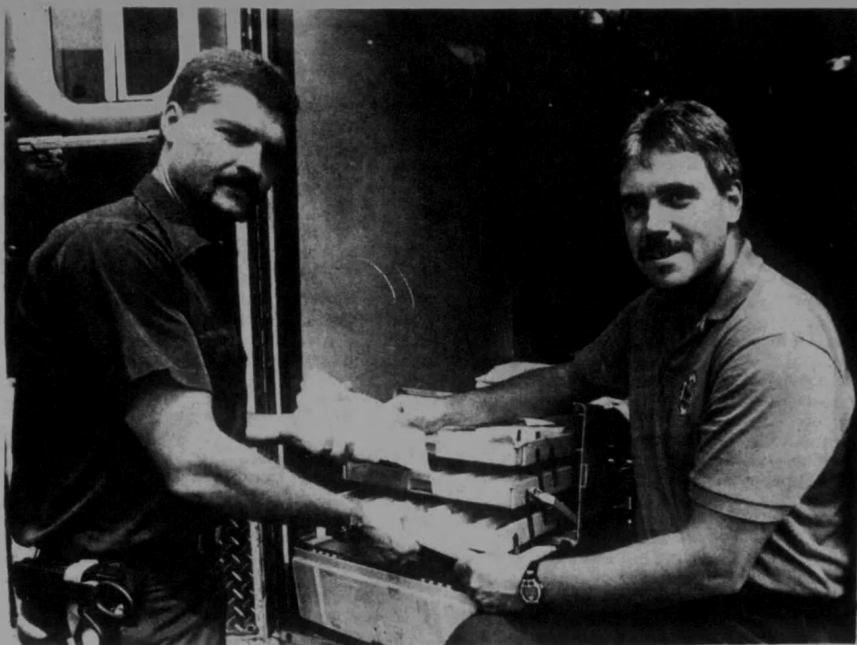
Two Joining Fire Department

Mark Tucker and Vito Palumbo outside the Municipal Building, home of their new employer, the City of Elkhart.

The Board of Public Works and Safety approved both hires on Tuesday, October 16, 1984. Both men were born June 17, 1960, so the city gave seniority to the one who applied first: Vito.

Truth photo by Fred Flury.

<https://elkharttruth.newspapers.com/image/1295547331/>



GRANT ROBERTS (left) and Vito Palumbo, medics with the Elkhart Fire Department, look over some of the equipment they will use this week during

state EMS competition in Indianapolis. The pair will represent EFD and hopes to come home with the Governor's Cup. (Truth photo by Fred Flury)

EFD paramedics, partners for a year, in state contest

By MATT STOKELY
Truth Staff

ELKHART — Two Elkhart Fire Department paramedics headed downstate today to compete in a statewide emergency medical service contest sponsored by Indiana State Emergency Management agencies.

Lt. Vito Palumbo and Paramedic Grant Roberts, partners for a year, are confident they can bring home the traveling Governor's Cup to fire department headquarters.

Preliminary competition starts Tuesday at the Pike Township training tower area and continues through Wednesday. After a rest on Thursday, final compe-

tition will be on Friday at the Indianapolis Convention Center.

Several paramedic, advanced life support and basic life support units from across the state will take part. The Elkhart team is the first paramedic service started in the state.

In addition, the team will spend Saturday and Sunday attending seminars.

Mock scenarios will be set up with "patients" painted or otherwise marked for the teams to care for. For example, "Some people will have sausages on them to look like bowels," said Palumbo.

Judges will look for protocols, quality of care, time spent at the

scene and appearance of the medics.

"It's very important to have a good attitude," said Roberts.

One judge will be assigned to each team with another person there to answer questions that the medics may ask about the patients, such as skin color, consciousness and injuries.

"We work well together. This will be the first time for us. We really don't know what we're getting into," Roberts said.

Two years ago the Goshen Fire Department won the competition; last year Goshen was runner-up.

Friday's competition is open to the public.

AUGUST 23, 1993, PAGE 11

EFD paramedics, partners for a year, in state contest

Lt. Vito Palumbo and paramedic Grant Roberts head to Indianapolis for the Governor's Cup.

"We work well together. This will be the first time for us. We really don't know what we're getting into," Roberts said.

By Matt Stokely, Truth Staff.
Truth photo by Fred Flury.
<https://elkharttruth.newspapers.com/image/1297348046/>

While Jackson was on tour in Thailand last week, the molestation story grew legs, as Hollywood likes to say.
See JACKSON, Page A8

Elkhart paramedics judged best in state

INDIANAPOLIS — Two Elkhart Fire Department paramedics took first place in the Governors Cup Ambulance Service Provider Competition on Saturday.

Lt. Vito Palumbo and Paramedic Grant Roberts received the 18-inch traveling trophy Saturday night at an awards banquet conducted by the Indiana Emergency Response Conference at Westin Hotel.

The pair beat out 43 other teams which entered the competition.

Preliminary rounds were conducted Tuesday and Wednesday at Pike Township training tower. The final round was Friday at the Indianapolis Convention Center; the winners were announced Saturday night.

The competition revolved around different scenarios which paramedics might face in the field. Each team was judged on how well they responded to the emergency, including how they drove to the scene, how they assessed the injuries and how they treated the patients.

In the finals, teams had to cope with an automobile accident caused by a driver's severe allergic reaction to a bee sting.

Palumbo said the final scenario was very difficult for all the competitors. He said he and Roberts will learn later what their overall score was.

Palumbo said he and Roberts are "going to do our best to compete next year" and keep the trophy in Elkhart.

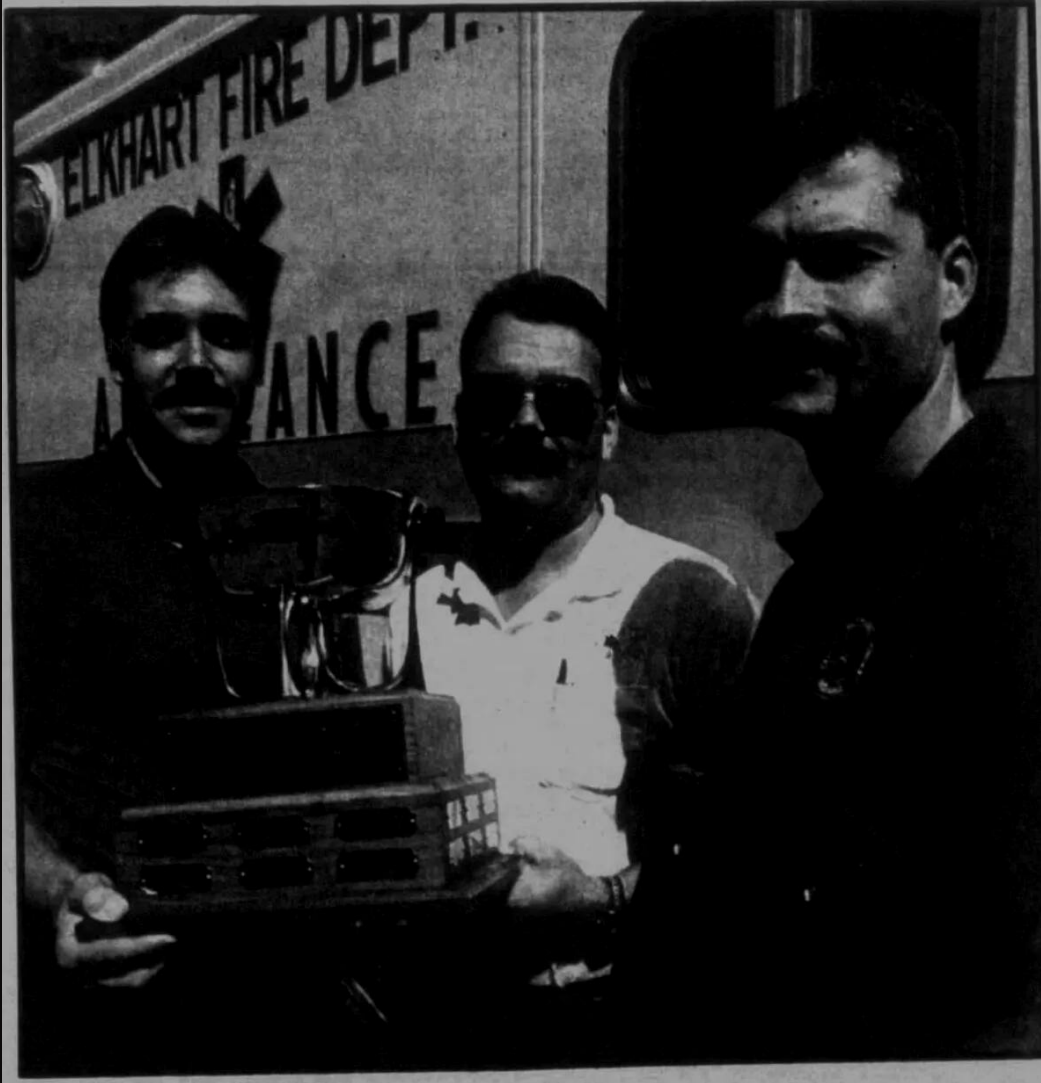
AUGUST 29, 1993, PAGE 1

Elkhart paramedics judged best in state

Two Elkhart Fire Department paramedics took first place in the Governor's Cup Ambulance Service Provider Competition on Saturday.

The pair beat out 43 other teams. The final scenario: an automobile accident caused by a driver's severe allergic reaction to a bee sting.

moved 450 boxes from 10 states ter, based at 510 S. Main St., of its \$1 million budget, on trash



Giant Could it, so

By Associated

WEST LAFAYETTE, Ind. — A mushroom that was going to be sold at the University as a delicacy is now being fried in restaurants instead.

The mushroom was found by a Point woman's friend who used by the University.

"It's edible," said the professors up here and eat it," P

The polypore mushroom is commonly known as a head of a fallen maple tree's back yard.

She carefully decided to harvest the heat and humidity.

The mushroom stumps, some 10 inches across, weight and 2

Hennen said to dry the specimen was too large

SEPTEMBER 2, 1993, PAGE 1

Top paramedics show their trophy

Lt. Vito Palumbo, Chief Paramedic Jay Michael and Grant Roberts with the traveling trophy.

The first Governor's Cup, on the front page of The Elkhart Truth.

Truth photo by Fred Flury.

<https://elkharttruth.newspapers.com/image/1297253845/>

Paramedics Vito Palumbo and Grant Roberts have worked together since 1991, and together they are one of Indiana's most skilled life-saving teams



Truth Photo By Jennifer Shephard

Success at saving lives: Elkhart Fire Department Station 3 paramedics Capt. Vito Palumbo (left) and Lt. Grant Roberts hold the president's cup traveling trophy after winning the state competition at the paramedic level, defeating more than 20 teams.

Six-time champs

Elkhart tandem takes home top honors at Indiana State Governor's Cup competition once again

By AMELIA JEFFIRS
Truth Staff

ELKHART — Two Elkhart paramedics recently won the Indiana State Governor's Cup competition at the paramedic level, defeating more than 20 team participants.

Vito Palumbo and Grant Roberts, paramedics at Elkhart Fire Department Station 3, have participated in the statewide competition since 1993, and this year's victory was their sixth as a team.

"You've got two very, very quality paramedics. This shows their level of commitment," Elkhart Fire Chief Richard Snell said. "They really do represent the City of Elkhart and the Elkhart City Fire Department very well."

Snell said Palumbo and Roberts have worked together since early in their careers, with Palumbo, who was hired at the Elkhart Fire Department in 1984, working on the ambulance as Roberts' first officer when he was hired in 1991.

The overall competition consists

mediate EMTs, Advanced EMTs and paramedics in which two-person teams compete using the state minimum required equipment for that level, Roberts said. Teams are evaluated based on their response to medical and traumatic simulated scenarios. A preliminary round on Sept. 5 reduced the competition to three teams for the final round Sept. 13.

Roberts said during the preliminary round scenario, he and Palumbo had to respond to a lawn mower accident in which the driver lost control of a riding mower and hit a tree, flipping the mower on top of him. The final round involved a man choking at a restaurant, which led to a stroke.

"It shows the level of education we receive from Elkhart General Hospital and the Elkhart Fire Department," Roberts said.

Roberts said they keep the score sheets to learn from and continually evaluate themselves outside the competitive atmosphere.

"I think (the competition) helps

prove," Roberts said.

Palumbo said their performance at the state competition is a direct reflection of how they serve residents in Elkhart.

He said he hopes the city will send the team to a national competition.

"It's still exciting to compete and win," Palumbo said.

"They have been so successful, it's amazing," Snell said. "They put a lot of pressure between themselves to succeed."

Snell said he hopes more teams from Elkhart will be inspired to go in the future, to encourage a little healthy competition among Elkhart teams.

"They're just outstanding in what they've done. We're proud the first time they won, but when you win it the sixth time, there is a new standard being set," Snell said. "I hope they go ahead and challenge newer firefighters and paramedics to compete."

Contact Amelia Jeffirs at

SEPTEMBER 27, 2007,
PAGE 3

Six-time champs

Elkhart tandem takes home top honors at Indiana State Governor's Cup competition once again

Capt. Vito Palumbo and Lt. Grant Roberts of Station 3 with the traveling trophy after their sixth state title as a team.

By Amelia Jeffirs, Truth Staff.
Truth photo by Jennifer Shephard.

<https://elkharttruth.newspapers.com/image/1298521008/>

Life in a Firehouse
A monthly look at the job of a firefighter

Taking the plunge

Divers are trained to make quick recoveries

By Fred Flury
Truth Photographer

The Elkhart city fire department's diving team has training exercises to keep them ready for action. Recently, the training took place at a pond on the city's south side. The exercise was to swim out to one buoy and then navigate to another by compass — all the time under water.

The diver's suit and all the gear weigh 95 to 100 pounds, depending on the diver's weight and the type of water they'll be in. One of the items is a full face mask with a sonar type of radio that allows the diver to talk to someone on the surface or to another diver.

The divers are rated into several levels and the goal is to have all the divers trained in all levels. Some of the levels are diving into still water such as a pond or small lake, or diving into a current such as they would find in a river or stream.

The goal in all cases is to get into the water and make a recovery as quickly as possible.



Masks: Divers can talk and receive instructions from the surface when they wear these facemasks.



Gearing up: Elkhart firefighter and diving instructor Mark Vilmure (right) helps diver Vito Palumbo into his dry suit.



Diver talk: Elkhart firefighter and diving trainer Mark Vilmure talks to divers while they are under water.



Dry suit: A Hart City SCUBA owner Greg Stone helps Vito Palumbo into his dry suit during a training exercise.



Training: Hart City SCUBA owner and instructor Greg Stone stands by as Vito Palumbo enters the water during a training exercise.

■ Truth Photos By Fred Flury

OCTOBER 27, 2007, PAGE 39

Taking the plunge

Divers are trained to make quick recoveries. Life in a Firehouse: a monthly look at the job of a firefighter.

The department dive team trains at a pond on the city's south side. Vito in his dry suit with instructors Mark Vilmure and Greg Stone.

Story and photos by Fred Flury, Truth Photographer.
<https://elkharttruth.newspapers.com/image/1298626519/>

Medics see competition as training

Duo from Elkhart Fire Department consistently perform well at the state level.

"We know we're not perfect and that's why we keep trying," Capt. Vito Palumbo said, going into the finals for a seventh win. Forty-one combined years of experience between the partners.

By Tom Lange.

<https://elkharttruth.newspapers.com/image/1298722980/>

SEPTEMBER 15, 2008



perfect and that's
why we keep trying."

**Elkhart Fire Capt. Vito
Palumbo**

Medics see competition as training

Duo from Elkhart Fire Department
consistently perform well at the state level.

BY TOM LANGE
tlange@etruth.com

ELKHART — Vito Palumbo and Grant Roberts have always worked well together. This week, the Elkhart Fire Department veterans are hoping to keep a good thing going.



Roberts

Palumbo and Roberts have been participating in the Governor's Cup Ambulance Service Provider Competition for the last 15 years. They consistently place in the top three during the preliminary round, sending them to the finals in Indianapolis. On Thursday they'll once again participate in the finals and try for their seventh win.

The Governor's Cup gives Emergency Medical Service personnel a chance to further hone their skills under different settings. Palumbo, a captain and 24-year veteran posted at Fire Station 3, and Roberts, a lieutenant and 17-year veteran also posted at Station

3, will compete at the paramedic level.

The preliminary round was Tuesday and Palumbo and Roberts went up against 10 other teams in their division. The pair had 20 minutes to work through a simulation in which a victim had been shot during a domestic disturbance while judges critiqued their response. On Thursday they learned they were once again a top-three team headed for Indianapolis.

Finals will involve a secret scenario at the Marriott East hotel. The three teams will be sequestered, not allowed to see the simulation they'll work until their turn. Palumbo said previous scenarios have included everything from stroke victims to someone with a bow and arrow injury to the neck.

Palumbo and Roberts were partners for five years and Roberts said after ambulance runs the pair would critique and learn from each other. That, he said, is part of why they've been so successful.

Palumbo said he likes tasks that test the pair mentally and physically. Nothing is black and white in EMS — there may be 20 different ways to treat a patient, all of which work. More demanding simulations will inevitably draw on responders' skill sets.

The pair also use the event as a chance to learn. In addition to practicing their skills first hand, Palumbo said he likes getting to pick the brains of other EMS workers. For him it's the perfect blend of business and pleasure.

"We like doing it," he said. "We know we're not perfect and that's why we keep trying."

41

Combined years of experience for Elkhart
firefighters Vito Palumbo and Grant Roberts

ELKHART

Woman held in

ELKHART

Locals win competition

Vito Palumbo and Grant Roberts were winners of the Governor's Cup Ambulance Service Provider Competition on Sept. 18.

The pair have been competing for the last 15 years and this is their seventh win.

OCTOBER 1, 2008, PAGE 3

Locals win competition

Vito Palumbo and Grant Roberts were winners of the Governor's Cup Ambulance Service Provider Competition on Sept. 18.

"The pair have been competing for the last 15 years and this is their seventh win."

The Elkhart Truth, Local Digest.

<https://elkharttruth.newspapers.com/image/1298719442/>

Man, 51, 'critical' after SUV hits him

Palumbo is a captain with the Elkhart Fire Dept.

A captain and union rep of Local 338, with the department more than 25 years. Struck at Navarre and Michigan near Memorial Hospital on Thursday afternoon.

By Amelia Jeffirs.

<https://elkharttruth.newspapers.com/image/1298880324/>

AUGUST 27, 2011

Man, 51, 'critical' after SUV hits him

Palumbo is a captain with the Elkhart Fire Dept.

BY AMELIA JEFFIRS
ajeffirs@etruth.com

SOUTH BEND — An Elkhart firefighter is in critical condition at Memorial Hospital in South Bend after he was struck by an SUV near the hospital Thursday afternoon.



Palumbo

Officers responded to a report of a pedestrian-vehicle injury

Palumbo was struck by a Ford Excursion driven by a 53-year-old woman from Niles, Mich., turning south onto Michigan Street from Navarre. Palumbo remains in critical condition. South Bend police are reconstructing the accident to determine pre-accident actions of both people involved. Police have specified that this was not a hit-and-run situation and alcohol was not a factor.

Palumbo is a captain with the Elkhart Fire Department and union rep of the Local 338. He has been with the fire department more than 25 years. He has competed in the Governor's Cup Ambulance Provider Competition for many years and won the competition in 2009 with Grant Roberts. He works part-time for Memorial Hospital.

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Palumbo working to return to work

Firefighter gets disability retirement though he's still recovering from injuries suffered in accident.

After 28 years of service. Chief Mike Compton: "He's out running every day. He's in good shape." Sue Palumbo: "He's back to cooking, he's back to doing the yard work. His goal is to get stronger and sharper mentally so he can do his job."

By Sharon Hernandez.

<https://elkharttruth.newspapers.com/image/1298449681/>

MAY 14, 2012

Palumbo working to return to work

Firefighter gets disability retirement though he's still recovering from injuries suffered in accident.

SHARON HERNANDEZ
shernandez@etruth.com

ELKHART — After 28 years of service to the Elkhart Fire Department and the community, Vito Palumbo has been granted a disability retirement.

Elkhart Fire Chief Mike Compton made the announcement Wednesday morning at the board of public safety meeting, adding Palumbo can petition to the state to come back to service any time if he's fully recovered.

The former fire department captain is still recovering from brain injuries after he was struck by an SUV near Memorial Hospital in South Bend on Aug. 25, 2011.

Compton reported on Palumbo's status, saying he is well, after seeing him May 5.

"He's working on other skill sets and he's going through physical therapy at a rigorous level," Compton told members of the board.

"He's out running every day. He's in good shape."

Andy Jones, vice chairman of the board of public works, said during the meeting he hoped for Palumbo's return.

"I wouldn't be a bit surprised if we see Vito back on the fire service," he said.

Palumbo's wife, Sue, said after eight months of rehabilitation, Vito is working to go back to the life he was used to.

"He's happy, he really wants to get back to work and he has therapy to go through but he is doing great," she said.

Palumbo will have a surgery on his shoulder in the next few weeks to enhance his arm function. Palumbo is finishing with patient rehabilitation and will proceed with occupational and vocational rehabilitation.

"Every day he gets better and, just like the doctor said, it just takes time," Sue Palumbo said. "He's eight months out and he has done terrific."

Sue said Vito's goal is to go back to work in the fire department. Vito has gone back to doing some of the activities he was used to doing.

"He's back to cooking, he's back to doing the yard work," she said. "His goal is to get stronger and sharper mentally so he can do his job."

The Elkhart fire department is going through the process of appointing a new captain for Station Three, located on West Mishawaka.

PLEASE SEE **WORK, A2**



Truth Photo By Larry Tebo
Elkhart Fire Department Capt. Vito Palumbo and his wife, Sue, have been training with their dog, Buddy, for the Sunburst 5K race in June. Palumbo continues to recover from injuries he suffered in an accident last year.

MAY 14, 2012, PAGE 1

Training for the Sunburst 5K

Capt. Vito Palumbo and his wife, Sue, with their dog, Buddy.

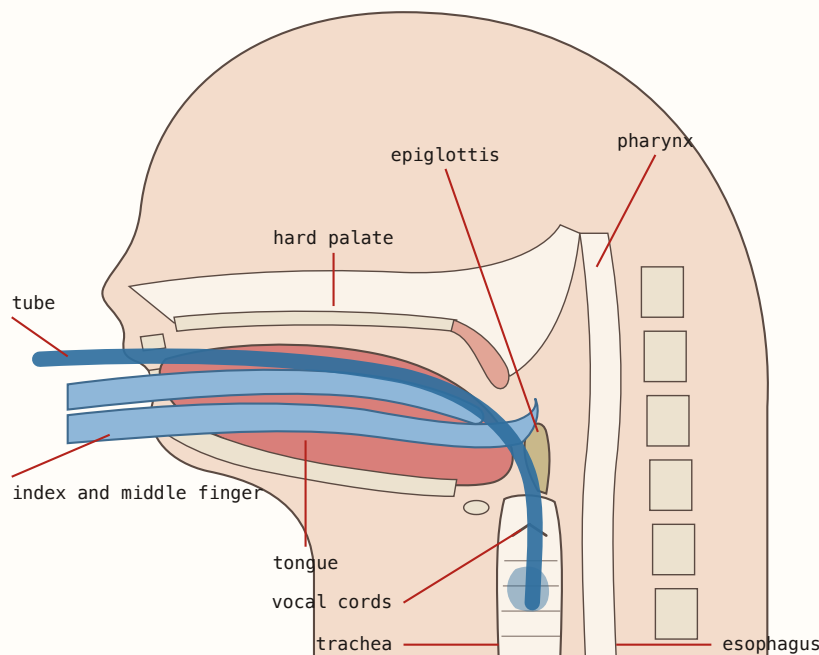
Nine months after the accident, training for a June road race.

Truth photo by Larry Tebo.
<https://elkharttruth.newspapers.com/image/1298449681/>

Digital intubation

No laryngoscope. No light. A patient pinned in a car, or face down in a ditch, or with a mouth full of blood. The paramedic kneels at the patient's side, slides two fingers down the tongue, feels for the epiglottis, and guides the tube in by touch. Vito taught this technique to a generation of Elkhart medics, and he could explain it to anyone with a pen and a napkin. This is that napkin, drawn out.

A teaching illustration, not medical instruction. Digital intubation is an advanced airway skill for trained providers, used only on a deeply unresponsive patient with no gag reflex.



Patient supine, viewed from the left side. The fingers lift the epiglottis forward and form a ramp. The tube rides the ramp into the trachea instead of sliding back into the esophagus.

When he reached for it

Blood, vomit, or no light

A laryngoscope needs a view. Fingers do not. When the airway is full or the scene is dark, touch still works.

The patient you cannot move

Trapped in a vehicle, face down, or sitting up. The head does not need to be tilted, which also matters when the neck may be broken.

Gear failure

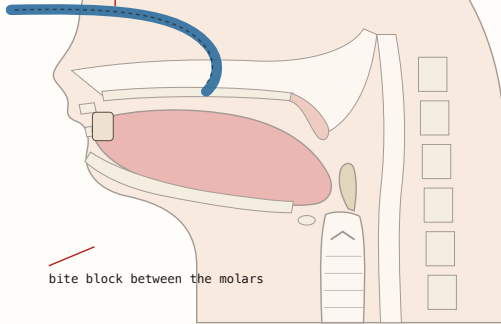
A dead bulb, a dropped blade, or a broken scope. A gloved hand and a tube are enough.

Never on a patient who can bite

The patient must be deeply unresponsive with no gag reflex. A bite block or an oral airway goes between the molars first.

Step by step

7.5 tube, stylet in, bent to an open J

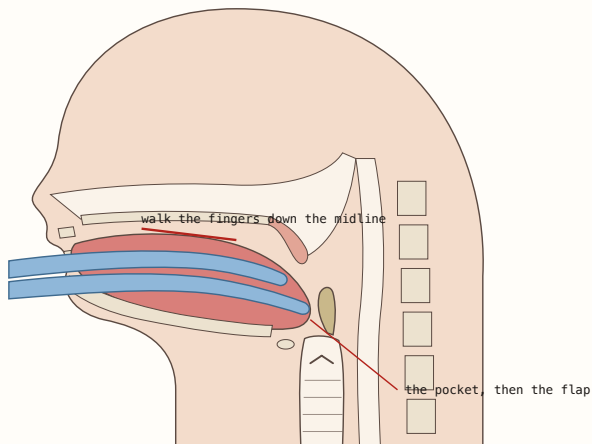


bite block between the molars

1

Set up

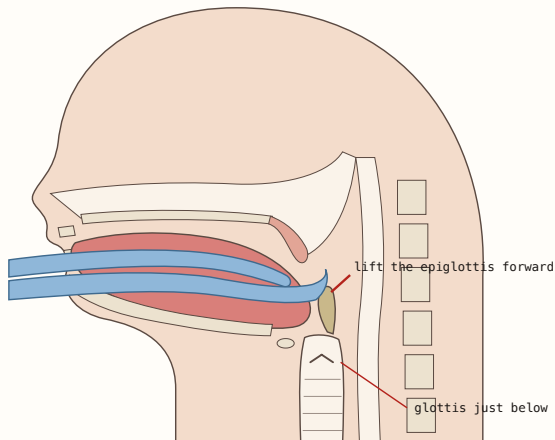
Lubricate a 7.5 or 8.0 tube with a stylet inside and bend it into an open J, a hockey stick. Glove up. Put a bite block between the molars. Kneel at the patient's left side, facing the head, or at the head if the scene allows. An assistant holds the bag and the suction.



2

Walk the tongue

Index and middle fingers of the left hand go in along the middle of the tongue, palm up, and walk back. Stay on the midline. The tongue drops away, the fingertips fall into the vallecula, and just behind it the middle finger touches the epiglottis. Vito's line: it feels like the tip of your nose.

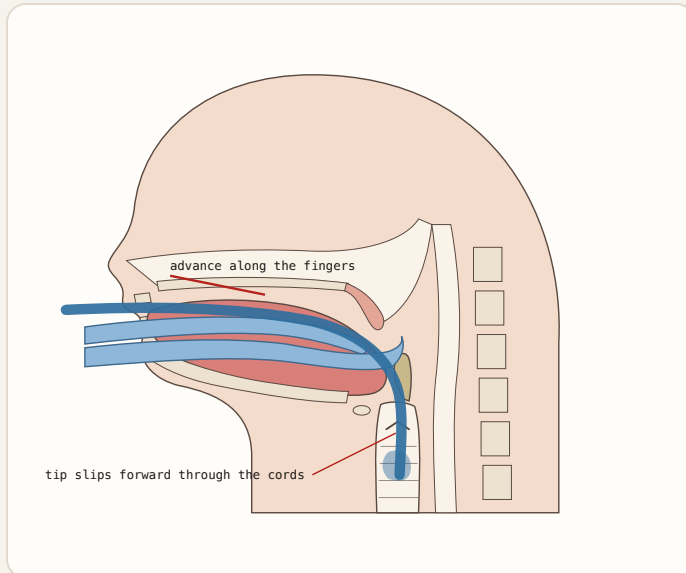


3

Hook and lift

The middle finger hooks the epiglottis and lifts it up and away from the back wall. The index finger stays beside it. The two fingers are now a ramp pointing at the glottic opening, and the esophagus is behind the knuckles where the tube cannot reach it.

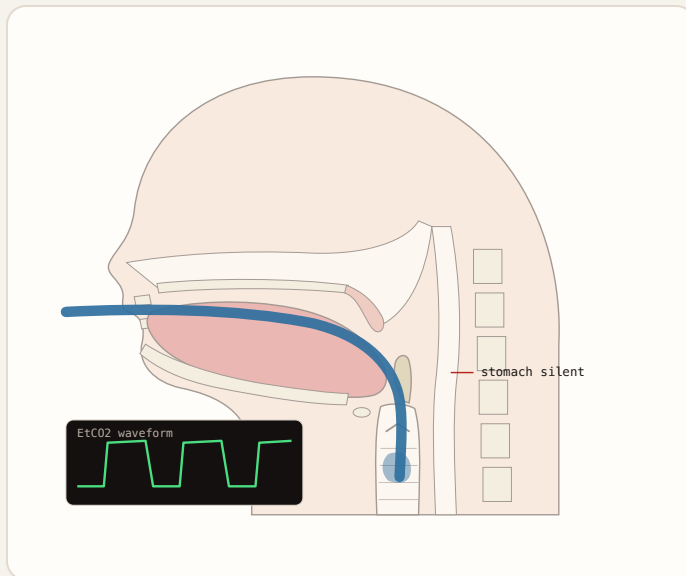
Step by step, continued



4

Guide the tube

The right hand feeds the tube in along the palm side of the fingers. The index fingertip steers the tip of the tube forward, past the epiglottis, into the opening. You feel it go, a small give as it passes the cords. Advance to about 21 to 23 centimeters at the teeth, hold the tube, pull the stylet, inflate the cuff.



5

Prove it

Bag the patient and watch the chest rise. Listen over the stomach first, then both lungs. Put the capnography on and look for the waveform. If the tube is in the esophagus, the fingers were not forward enough: pull it, bag, and go again. Secure the tube and note the depth.

What the fingers tell you

Soft and dropping away

The tongue. Keep walking back along the middle.

A pocket

The vallecula. The epiglottis is one fingertip behind it.

A firm flap

The epiglottis. Hook it with the middle finger and lift.

A small give

The tube passing the cords. Hold it there and confirm.

Digital intubation was described for emergency use by Stewart in 1984 and taught in paramedic programs through the 1990s and 2000s as a backup to the laryngoscope. Vito learned it, used it, and taught it as an EMS instructor from 1992 on.



Made with love by his son.

Newspaper pages and clippings from The Elkhart Truth archive.
Photographs by Fred Flury and Jennifer Shephard of The Elkhart
Truth. Every fact in this book is listed with its source on the website.

vito.mrpalumbo.com