By SAAD EHTISHAM

When asked to describe a hero, many words come to mind. Adventurer, daredevil, conqueror, even an idol. However, when asked to describe an everyday hero, different words come to mind. Brave, selfless, caring, knowledgeable.

Anyone who has ever had to dial 9-1-1 or be rushed to the emergency room with a life-threatening problem has firsthand knowledge of the skill and expertise our Emergency Medical Services team provides. In honor of the selfless work our EMS professionals give to all of us in Wilson County, on behalf of University Medical Center, we want to thank them for their service and dedication.

There couldn't be a better time to celebrate these everyday heroes. I am in awe of these unique individuals who thrive in stressful situations, all while staying calm and performing life-saving procedures in the process. EMS professionals are used to being on call and working holidays all in the name of serving our community. They are true public servants, which is why they deserve special recognition.

The week of May 20-26 has been designated National EMS Week. The annual event is focused on bringing together local communities and medical personnel to publicize safety and honor the dedication of those who are truly on medicine's "front line."

We can't thank our partners in EMS enough for their commitment and ask that you join University Medical Center in celebrating and thanking our EMS team during this time.

Editor's Note: Saad Ehtisham is the chief executive officer of University Medical Center in Lebanon.