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**October 21, 2022**

**For Immediate Release**

## **PeaceHealth St. Joseph trauma specialist to headline Northwest Washington Medical Society event**

**BELLINGHAM, Wash.** – Jonathan Hendricks, PA-C, physician assistant at PeaceHealth St. Joseph Medical Center in Bellingham and recipient of a Federal Civilian Service Medal, will be the keynote speaker at the Northwest Washington Medical Society’s annual [New Physician Reception](#) on Nov. 1, 2022. Hendricks, a physician assistant at PeaceHealth St. Joseph since 2019, recently received the COVID-19 Pandemic Civilian Service Medal for exemplary service in the federal medical response.

Hendricks has served on the [National Disaster Medical Assistance Team](#) since 2011. Based in Florida, he helped stage equipment and supplies, triage patients and provide emergency care during national disasters, including two major hurricanes—Harvey in Texas and Maria in Puerto Rico, both in 2018.

Hendricks was one of the first to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic in February 2020. The mission was to set up an isolation and quarantine facility on Travis Air Force Base in northern California to repatriate U.S. citizens who were exposed and potentially exposed to the virus on the Diamond Princess cruise ship in Japan. Since that initial mission, he has deployed to El Paso, Texas to provide Intensive Care Unit (ICU) support during the height of the pandemic prior to the ability of vaccinations. He was the sole night shift intensivist for a 26-bed ICU at St. Francis Hospital in Compton, California. Later he worked in the ICU at Jackson-Madison County General Hospital in Jackson, Tenn.

Hendricks previously worked as an emergency medicine PA in multiple locations, including Florida, Maryland, New York and in the United Kingdom. He also is a volunteer firefighter and emergency medical technician at Whatcom County District 17. He earned a Bachelor of Science in physician assisting from D’Youville College in Buffalo, New York.

The National Disaster Medical System is a federal program that can support communities with medical care, veterinary care, and mortuary assistance during disasters or public health emergencies at the request of states; NDMS is among the resources made available by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Administration for Strategic Preparedness and Response.

Hendricks received the medal during the recent National Disaster Medical System (NDMS) training summit in Indianapolis, Indiana. The medal was awarded to approximately 1,400 NDMS responders under the authority of the U.S. Surgeon General. Criteria include deployment for 30 consecutive or 60 cumulative days. Since the start of the pandemic, NDMS has conducted more than 1,800 support missions and deployed thousands of medical, logistical, and command and control personnel from NDMS to help nearly 50 states, territories, and jurisdictions respond. Today, NDMS teams stand ready to provide medical surge support should a resurgence of COVID-19 occur this fall or winter. NDMS teams also remain on call to deploy after a natural disaster, such as the recent hurricanes in Puerto Rico and Florida, or a tornado, or wildfire.