

# ZACHARY J. POLVINO

*“AN ACTION-DRIVEN LEADER INSPIRING GROWTH  
THROUGH BOLD VISION.”*

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## **About Me – Zach Polvino**

As an EMT and firefighter, I have responded to a vast array of emergencies, providing critical care and support to individuals from all walks of life. These experiences have reinforced my deep sense of empathy, as I have worked with people in their most vulnerable moments—whether treating a child with a severe allergic reaction, assisting an elderly person experiencing a medical crisis, or helping a family displaced by a fire.

Serving in diverse communities, I have developed the ability to communicate effectively with individuals of all backgrounds, including those from underrepresented populations who may face additional barriers to healthcare and emergency services. I recognize that trust is built through compassion, cultural awareness, and a commitment to treating every person with dignity and respect, regardless of socioeconomic status, language barriers, or other challenges.

Beyond providing emergency care, I am also a strong advocate for mental health awareness among first responders. I understand the emotional and psychological toll that emergency work can take, and I have actively supported my colleagues in navigating these challenges. Through peer advocacy, I have encouraged open conversations about mental health, promoted access to resources, and worked to reduce the stigma surrounding stress, PTSD, and burnout in emergency services. By fostering a culture of support, I have helped create a more resilient and mentally healthy workforce, ensuring that those who serve others also receive the care they need.

This work has strengthened my ability to remain calm under pressure, make critical decisions quickly, and advocate for those in need. More than just providing medical assistance, I have acted as a source of reassurance and support, ensuring that every individual I serve feels seen, heard, and cared for in their time of need.

As a Captain in the Snyder Fire Department and an EMS Program Agency Coordinator with UB|MD Emergency Medicine, EMS Division, I have developed strong leadership skills rooted in accountability, strategic decision-making, and team development. In both roles, I have been responsible for guiding teams through high-pressure situations, ensuring operational efficiency, and fostering a culture of professionalism and resilience. Leading firefighters and EMS personnel, I have provided mentorship, facilitated training programs, and implemented protocols to enhance emergency response effectiveness. My ability to coordinate multi-agency efforts, manage complex projects, and advocate for both my team and the communities we serve demonstrates my commitment to excellence in leadership. I excel in making decisive, informed choices while maintaining a focus on safety, efficiency, and the well-being of both responders and those in need.