

PHOTOS FROM THE FRONT LINES

A YEAR ON THE STREETS OF ALAMEDA COUNTY



WRITTEN AND PHOTOGRAPHED BY DEREK O. HANLEY

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Thank you for supporting independent documentary photography and historical preservation.

Photos From the Front Lines was created while embedded with paramedic crews during the COVID-19 pandemic. What began as an effort to document a rapidly unfolding public health crisis has evolved into a visual archive of one of the most consequential periods in modern healthcare.

The images contained in this collection were created from inside ambulances, emergency departments, training environments, and frontline healthcare settings. They document not only the pandemic itself, but also the people who continued to answer calls for help despite uncertainty, risk, exhaustion, and unprecedented challenges.

My background as a military medic, paramedic, educator, and documentary photographer provided access to environments and moments that are rarely witnessed by the public. Through this work, I sought to preserve an honest visual record of what frontline healthcare workers experienced during this period.

Several photographs from this archive were later featured in the documentary [Honorable But Broken: EMS In Crisis](#) and appear in the companion volume [Photos From the Film](#).

As time passes, my hope is that this collection becomes more than a photography book. I hope it serves as a historical document for future generations seeking to understand what occurred, who responded, and what was required of them.

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Thank you for supporting veteran-owned independent publishing and documentary storytelling.

— Derek O. Hanley