

THURSTON COUNTY

Proclamation

National Blood Donor Month

WHEREAS, in 1937 the first blood bank in the United States opened and in 1969 President Richard Nixon proclaimed the first National Blood Donor Month praising the generosity of the American people declaring "No manifestation of this generosity of spirit is more expressive, and no gift more priceless in time of personal crisis, than the donation of one's blood. The voluntary blood donor truly gives life itself"; and

WHEREAS, since 1970, National Blood Donor Month has been observed in the month of January with the goal of increasing blood and platelet donations during winter, which is one of the most difficult times of year to collect enough blood products to meet patient needs due to inclement weather often resulting in cancelled blood drives, and seasonal illnesses like the flu may cause some donors to become temporarily unable to donate; and

WHEREAS, one pint of blood can save three lives and in the United States approximately 36,000 units of red blood cells, 10,000 units of plasma and 7,000 units of platelets are needed each day; and

WHEREAS, every two seconds someone in the U.S. needs blood and a single car accident victim can require as many as 100 pints of blood; and

WHEREAS, the blood used in an emergency must be on the shelves prior to an event occurring thus blood donations are needed more than ever after large scale emergencies, especially since it cannot be artificially made and can only come from generous donors; and

WHEREAS, millions of people donate blood each year, but only an estimated 38 percent of the U.S. population is eligible to donate blood at any given time and of those who are eligible, only 1 in 10 donate.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Board of Health hereby proclaims **January as National Blood Donor Month** to increase public understanding of the importance of blood donation and urge citizens of our community to donate towards this lifesaving cause.

Adopted this eighth day of January, 2019

BOARD OF HEALTH



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