



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 31, 2011

**THREE CLEARWATER DONORS TO ENTER CENTURY DONOR CLUB
100 Gallon Donors Give On Veteran's Day 11/11/11 In Honor Of Them
Two Of These Milestone Donors Are Vietnam Veterans**

(St. Petersburg, FL: 10/31/11) On Veterans Day, Friday, November 11, 2011 at 1 pm at our Clearwater Donor Center three outstanding donors will be enrolled into the Florida Blood Services Century Donor Club. Two of these individuals will donate their 100th gallon of blood and platelets beginning at 11 am on that day and the third person, who recently gave his 111th gallon, will join them for the induction celebration. The Clearwater Donor Center is located at 1680 South Missouri Ave, just south of Belleair.

The newest Century Donor Club members and their brief stories are as follows:

111 Gallon Donor: Ray Buchholz:

Ray became a donor in 1980 with his first whole donation at St. Anthony's Blood Bank. He became a platelet donor in 1985 after reading an article about chemotherapy patients and their need for blood and platelets. Ray continues to donate because it does not cost anything and he wants to share his good health. Ray is a Vietnam veteran and was a Sergeant in the Air Force from 1963-1967.

100 Gallon Donor: Joanne Gauzens

Joanne started donating blood when her husband dared her that if she did it, then he would too. Their first donation was at their church's blood drive where they donated side by side holding hands. After that Joanne became a regular whole blood donor and when she saw donors on the automated machines, inquired about what they were doing. When she learned that platelet donations help cancer patients that's all they had to say. Joanne's sister died of leukemia when Joanne was only 12 years old, leaving behind a 9 month old son. Joanne's motto is that if she can help prolong someone's life so they can see their children grow up, then she has helped in her sister's name.

100 Gallon Donor: Joe Beauchamp

Joe was a Sergeant in the U S Army from 1966-1968 and he remains active in American Legion Post 119, where he is a member of their Honor Guard and is the Sergeant at Arms. Joe's Brother in Law encouraged him to start donating platelets and it has been a competition between the two ever since to see who can give more. Joe continues to donate to help the community and leukemia patients.

Florida Blood Services, is a not for profit, community based provider for the blood needs of patients at 46 hospitals in Hillsborough, Manatee, Pasco, Pinellas and Polk Counties, through the generosity of volunteer blood donors. Almost 1,000 donations are required daily, due to the high quality of medical care in Tampa Bay that serves the most critically ill patients throughout west central Florida.

FOR MEDIA INQUIRIES CONTACT:

Dan Eberts
Corporate Communications Manager
deberts@fbsblood.org
Cell: 727-656-5239

JB Gaskins
Vice President, Donor Systems
jbgaskins@fbsblood.org
Cell: 727-656-8441

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