



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 13, 2009

Local Blood Donor Selected for Fenwal's Donation Hall of Fame

Retired Navy diver gives in many ways so that others may live

(St. Petersburg, FL: 10/13/09) Fenwal Blood Technologies has selected **Gene Hink**, one of Florida Blood Services (FBS) faithful donors, to be inducted into their Donation Hall of Fame. In recognition of this achievement, FBS will host a celebration in his honor on **Wednesday, October 21 at 11am at the Kennedy Donor Center**, located at 4041 West Kennedy Boulevard in Tampa, just west of South Dale Mabry. His family and friends, as well as any grateful patients or other donors are invited to attend.

"Gene's commitment to saving lives is outstanding," states Karen Bergeron, Donor Specialist Charge of the Kennedy Donor Center where Gene regularly donates platelets. "He is a champion to us and we should all follow in his footsteps. He has potentially saved hundreds if not thousands of patient lives," said Bergeron.

Gene started donating blood in 1968 when he served in the military as a Navy Diver. A co-worker's son had been diagnosed with Leukemia and Gene felt like he needed to do something to help. He decided to start donating blood in honor of his coworker's son, thereby helping to replenish the blood and platelets the young boy had used. Gene came to realize how many ways blood can help to save lives so he has continued to donate for over 40 years. **On this special day of recognition, Gene plans to donate again to make for a lifetime total of 75 gallons!**

Gene has been married to his spouse Mary for over 58 years and they are the parents of a son and daughter and the grandparents of 5 children. In addition to regularly giving platelets, Gene has done a variety of other charitable work since his retirement after 32 years as a Maintenance Engineer for Exxon-Mobile Corporation. In the Brandon area where he lives, Gene has served on the Board and done fundraising for ECHO - Emergency Care Help Organization providing food and clothing to people in need. He also is a fundraiser for New Horizon Group Homes which provides shelter for mentally challenged men and women. As an active member of his church men's group he also does clean up and repair projects for shut-ins and others who need assistance. In his 'spare' time, Gene also helps out whenever he can at the Brandon Outreach Clinic that provides medical services to those who cannot afford them.

Headquartered in St. Petersburg Florida, FBS provides over 350,000 blood donations to patients at 92 hospitals and other ambulatory healthcare facilities throughout 42 Florida, Georgia, and Alabama counties, through the participation of volunteer donors.

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Additional Blood Supply Information is Available at www.fbsblood.org

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