17,981

FILED FOR RECORD
FEB 14 2021
BECKY LANDRUM County Clerk, Hunt County, Tex.

WHEREAS, there are many thousands of men, women, and children waiting on lists for a life-saving organ/tissue donation that will provide them with a second chance; and

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, more than 100,000 people are on the waitlist for an organ transplant in the United States, of which 85% of patients are waiting for a kidney. Many transplant candidates wait years for an organ from a deceased donor. On average, 20 people die each day waiting on a transplant; and

WHEREAS, one donor can save up to 8 lives through organ donation and improve another 75 lives through eye, blood, and tissue donation; and

WHEREAS, it is unfortunate that in our society many people are unaware of the real need for organ donations, as the list of those requiring transplants grows every year; and

WHEREAS, it is recognized that being a donor is a personal decision; which should be discussed in advance with one's family; and

WHEREAS, only through education and increased public awareness can people make the decision to donate their organ/tissue and make a tremendous contribution of the gift of life; and

WHEREAS, thousands of Americas receive the gift of life each year through organ transplantation, however, the number of people in need of life-saving organs remains staggeringly high and increases by 1 person every 9 minutes; and

WHEREAS, the gift of life is not just an option for a donor who passes away, but an option for a living person as well, known as a living donor, In 2022, 6,466 people became living organ donors, most living donors donate one of their kidneys or part of their liver; and **WHEREAS**, living organ donors make thousands of transplants possible every year, there is a lot to learn before you can decide whether donating an organ is right for you; and

**WHEREAS**, February is National Organ Donation Month however February 14<sup>th</sup> is National Donor Day, a time for all Americans to celebrate the generosity of those who have saved lives by becoming an organ, eye, tissue, marrow, and blood donors - and to encourage more Americans to follow this example; and

**NOW, THEREFORE,** I, Steven M. Harrison, County Commissioner of Hunt County, do hereby proclaim February as NATIONAL DONATE LIFE MONTH in Hunt County and urge all employees and residents to visit organdonor.gov to find out more about becoming a donor, to become better educated about becoming an organ donor and create a better community for all individuals within.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, this 14th day of February, 2023.

Steven M. Harrison Hunt County Commissioner, Pct. 4

