

[Gather at flag pole and quick intro]

Good morning. On behalf of (ORGANIZATION NAME) thank you for joining us as we pause to give life and kick off National Donate Life Month. I'm (NAME, TITLE).

Today, we join hospitals across the state in raising a Donate Life flag to honor donors, recognize recipients who received the gift of hope and kick off National Donate Life Month.

The Donate Life flag was first introduced in 2006. Since then it has become a national symbol of unity, remembrance and hope, honoring those touched by donation and transplantation. During the past 15 years, 50,000 Donate Life flags have flown across America. [optional: Here at (ORGANIZATION NAME) we are proud to raise the Donate Life flag not only in April, but also during the period when a donor hero is giving the gift of life at our hospital.]

Last year in Nebraska, 72 deceased organ donors, 22 living donors, 670 tissue donors and 264 birth tissue donors gave the gift of life. More than 300 recipients received an organ transplant and thousands received tissue transplants.

We acknowledge the medical professionals and staff among us who work every day to care for our family, friends and neighbors, and who play an active role in honoring the decisions of donors and their families to offer life, hope and healing to others through donation. We recognize that we must work diligently to help those still in need.

Right now, more than 100,000 people are waiting for a life-saving transplant, over 300 are right here in Nebraska.

We'll now raise the Donate Life flag, then observe a moment of silence to recognize those who have given selflessly to save and heal others, and those still waiting for a second chance at life.

[Raise flag followed by a moment of silence]

[Continue remarks]

[If applicable: Introduce any donor families, donors and transplant recipients now and/or ask them to say a few brief words.]

Finally, today we also want to say thank you to our Nebraska neighbors who have said "Yes," and registered as organ, tissue and eye donors.

We ask you to help us to continue to educate our fellow Nebraskans about the need for more registered organ, tissue and eye donors. April is National Donate Life month and a great time for us to remember this important work.

Thank you so much for joining us here today.