

## June 14 is World Blood Donor Day!

World Blood Donor Day is celebrated annually on June 14—the birth date of Karl Landsteiner, the Nobel Prize winner who discovered the ABO blood group system—to honor those that donate blood and to signify a global awareness of the need for safe blood products everywhere.

In celebration of World Blood Donor Day, the Armed Services Blood Program extends a warm thank you to its blood donors from around the world, and asks you to help celebrate by giving blood at one of our [22 blood donor centers](#).



World Blood Donor Day, by raising awareness of the need for blood, not only celebrates donors but also serves to encourage occasional blood donors to become lifelong donors. Most of us know that the need for blood is universal, but many do not realize that only a small percentage of the population donates blood. So, for those who are eligible to donate, your regular donation of blood is truly a gift.

Captain Philip Bossart, Officer in Charge of the Blood Donor Center in Landstuhl, Germany reminds us that: "Each time you donate blood you bring a new meaning to the word *Battle Buddy, Wingman, Shipmate*: Give the Gift of Life to your Brothers and Sisters at Arms."

Here is what other countries are doing to celebrate World Blood Donor Day:

In India, school children and college students are competing to design a "*Thank You Blood Donor*" greeting card.

Down in Australia, politicians are encouraged to show their true colors by donating blood through their annual "Prick-a-Pollie" (*Aussie for Politician*) challenge.

For more information on World Blood Donor Day, please visit <http://www.wbdd.org>