

2025 Pause to Give Life



9:50 a.m. Gather at the flagpole and give a quick introduction.

Note: You will need to allow time for everyone to gather. The primary purpose of this document is to provide key talking points. Feel free to adjust the schedule and remarks as needed around 10:08 a.m. The flag raising, followed by 30 seconds of silence, signifies the over 3,000 patients waiting in NC.

Good morning. On behalf of (Hospital name and HonorBridge), thank you for joining us as we pause to give life and celebrate April as National Donate Life Month. I am (NAME, TITLE).

In just a few minutes, at **10:08**, we will be among other participating hospitals across the HonorBridge service area that will raise a Donate Life flag. The flag-raising honors donors, their families, those waiting, and recipients who received the gift of life and celebrate what Donate Life Month means. The time of **10:08** signifies that **one** donor can save **eight** lives.

(Someone can read one of the poems, a story of hope, or history of the Donate Life Flag)

In 2006, The Donate Life flag became a national symbol of unity, remembrance, and hope, honoring those touched by donation and transplantation. During the past 19 years, over 50,000 Donate Life Flags have flown across America.

Once we raise our flag, we will observe a moment of silence for **30** seconds to recognize the over **3,000** patients waiting for a lifesaving transplant in NC.

10:08 a.m. **Raise the flag, followed by a moment of silence for 30 seconds.**

10:10 ish **Continue remarks.**

This morning, we recognize the strength and courage of those waiting. We honor the hundreds of North Carolina donors and donor families who have so selflessly given the gift of life and healing through organ, eye, and tissue donation.

During 2024, HonorBridge staff:

- Recovered organs from 350 donors, saving 815 lives
- Recovered tissues from a record-shattering 1,372 donors
- Recovered 258 organs for research

(If applicable: Introduce any donor families, living donors, and transplant recipients now and ask them to say a few brief words.)

(If applicable: Introduce any additional guests or call up other speakers. Following their remarks, thank everyone again for joining today, and if holding additional activities, please provide details on schedule/location.)

Finally, today, we also want to thank the over five million North Carolinians who have said "yes" and registered as organ, eye, and tissue donors. We appreciate the efforts of our North Carolina DMV partners, who ask the question every day as part of their job. We are united in a mission to save and heal lives and create a culture where donation becomes a fundamental human responsibility.

Yet, more must be done. Today, over 100,000 men, women, and children are waiting for lifesaving organ transplants across our country, and as mentioned before, over 3,000 of those waiting live in North Carolina.

We ask you to help us continue educating our fellow North Carolinians about the need for more registered organ, eye, and tissue donors. ***April is Donate Life Month*** and an excellent time to remember this vital work. So, throughout April, please make it your mission to speak to at least one person about registering their decision to become an organ, eye, and tissue donor. They can say **yes** to donation at the DMV, and a red heart will be placed on their driver's license or register online at honorbridge.org/registerme/. And remind them, once registered, to share their decision with loved ones.

Thank you so much for joining us today and helping us save and heal lives. *Optional: If you plan on having a reception at the end of the ceremony, please let all the guests know to join us at a small reception (location)*