



**For More Information Contact:**

Ericka Miller, Texas Department of Public Safety  
[Ericka.Miller@dps.texas.gov](mailto:Ericka.Miller@dps.texas.gov)  
512-424-2607 cell

Michelle Segovia, Texas Organ Sharing Alliance  
[msegovia@tosa1.org](mailto:msegovia@tosa1.org)  
512-554-7795 cell

## **National Donate Life's DPS Appreciation Celebration**

### ***Virtual Flag Raising Ceremony and Donate Life Texas Champion Awards Presentation***

Austin (October 9, 2020) — [National Donate Life's DPS Appreciation Celebration](#) is a time to recognize and thank the staff at many driver license offices across the country for their support and commitment to organ, eye and tissue donation. A Donate Life Texas (DLT) Flag Raising Ceremony will be held on Friday, October 9<sup>th</sup> to honor the Texas Department of Public Safety's (DPS) Driver License Division staff for their support of the [Glenda Dawson Donate Life Texas Registry](#). In observance of the current pandemic and social distancing measures, the event is by invitation only and attendance will be kept at a minimum.

During the ceremony, Donate Life Texas will honor three individuals for their outstanding support of the Glenda Dawson Donate Life Texas Registry over the years. DLT presents the Donate Life Texas Champion Award to individuals who have gone above and beyond to increase registrations and raise awareness about organ, eye and tissue donation.

These individuals have worked hard to increase registrations and promote organ, eye and tissue donation throughout Texas.

The 2020 champion award recipients include:

- DLT Advocate Champion Award – the late Laurie Reece
- DLT DPS Employee Champion Award – Stephen W. Bell, Texas Department of Public Safety
- DLT Legislative Champion Award – Senator Judith Zaffirini: District 21

Be sure to join us on [DLT's Facebook Live page](#) as we honor our DPS partners for their support and commitment to organ, eye and tissue donation.

**What:** DPS Appreciation Celebration – Flag Raising Ceremony, DLT Champion Awards and Media Event

**Who:** Transplant recipients, donor family members, healthcare professionals, donation advocates and the entire community are invited to participate *virtually*

**When:** Friday, October 9, 2020 @ 10:00 a.m.

**Where:** Texas Department of Public Safety Headquarters, 5805 North Lamar Blvd., Austin, TX 78752

"The ongoing partnership with the Texas Department of Public Safety's Driver License Division remains the primary source of registrations," says Kim Charles, DLT executive director. "Approximately 84 percent of those registered have signed up through a transaction at a DPS driver license office. We could

not have reached more than 12.5 million registered donors and saved and healed so many lives without our partnership.”

Right now, more than 108,000 people nationwide are waiting for a lifesaving organ transplant. More than 10,000 of these patients are from Texas.

Becoming a registered donor is easy and can have a tremendous impact. One donor can help save and heal the lives of more than 75 people with organ, eye and tissue donation. It all starts with saying ‘yes’ at your local DPS driver license office.

The next time you’re at your local DPS driver license office, we encourage you to say, “thank you” and show your appreciation to those behind the counter who help us drive our mission forward, each and every day. Don’t forget, signing up is fast and easy at [DonateLifeTexas.org](https://www.donatelifetexas.org) and provides a way for individuals to make their decision to be an organ, eye and tissue donor known.

###

### ***About Donate Life Texas***

*The Donate Life Texas organ donor registry started in 2005 and celebrated its twelve millionth registration in 2019. The registry is supported by the Texas organ procurement organizations, LifeGift, Southwest Transplant Alliance and Texas Organ Sharing Alliance and the ten eye and tissue banks serving the state.*

*Signing up is fast and easy at [DonateLifeTexas.org](https://www.donatelifetexas.org) and provides a way for individuals to make their decision to be an organ, eye and tissue donor known to the right people at the right time, automatically. It also provides legal consent for donation after death, which removes the burden of decision-making from the family during an already difficult time.*

*Donate Life Texas is part of the [Donate Life America](https://www.donatelifeamerica.org) not-for-profit alliance of national organizations and local partners across the United States, serving as a national voice and inspiring all people to save and heal lives through organ, eye and tissue donation.*