

BLOOD DRIVE HONORS WOMAN'S LAST WISH

WHAT: If you had one last wish before passing into the next life, what would it be? Former hospice patient Pamela Ray asked her nurse, Melissa Ustaavci, to help people who needed blood.

Ustaavci of course complied with Ray's selfless request. She convinced her employer, Varco Staffing, to host a blood drive in conjunction with Gulf Coast Regional Blood Center in Ray's honor Friday, July 31, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. outside of Varco Staffing's offices.

The summer months are particularly challenging for blood collections because many individuals are on vacation and students are off school. However, patients do not have the option of taking vacations from needing blood.

The donation process is simple and every donation can help save as many as three lives. All donations will go into the community blood supply. For more information, visit giveblood.org.

WHEN: Friday, July 31, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

WHERE: Varco Staffing
9898 Bissonnet St, Suite 364
Houston, TX 77036

HOW: To schedule your donation, call 1(888) 482-5663 or login to [Digital Donor](#). For more information, contact Saba Mahmood at (713) 581-9190.

ABOUT US: Gulf Coast Regional Blood Center is asking its donors to *Commit for Life*. It takes three simple steps: 1) Donate once per quarter; 2) allow The Blood Center to contact you; and 3) spread the word, encouraging others to *Commit for Life*. The Blood Center is the primary supplier of blood components to more than 170 hospitals and health care facilities in a 26-county Texas Gulf Coast region. Donors must be at least 17 years of age, weigh a minimum of 110 pounds and be in good general health. Individuals who are 16 years old, at least 122 pounds, in good general health and have parental consent also may be eligible to donate. The donation process is simple, taking only about one hour. Gulf Coast Regional Blood Center is an independent, non-profit blood center that is not affiliated with the American Red Cross.

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MEDIA

CONTACT: Cortney Martin, Communications Manager – cmartin@giveblood.org, (713) 791-6682