



**NEWS RELEASE**

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## **Blood drive salutes first responders in May**

THE WOODLANDS, TEXAS (May 9, 2017) – The Woodlands Township recognizes National Police Week, International Firefighters Day and National EMS week in May, and will conduct a blood drive to honor first responders.

Donate blood during The Woodlands Township Blood Drive from 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., Thursday, May 18, 2017, at The Woodlands Township Parks and Recreation offices, located at 8203 Millennium Forest Drive. Donors will receive a commemorative Township T-shirt, while supplies last. Light refreshments will be served after 12:30 p.m.

The Gulf Coast Blood Center has seen an increase in need for blood components over the past several months, making regular donations even more important. 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. To meet the needs of the community, the blood center must collect about 1,000 donations every day.

Each blood donation is separated into components: red blood cells, platelets and plasma, which can save up to three lives. To make an appointment, please go to the Gulf Coast Regional Blood Center Commit for Life website, [www.commitforlife.org/donor/schedules/drive\\_schedule/250747](http://www.commitforlife.org/donor/schedules/drive_schedule/250747).