



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Media contact:**

Claudine Van Gonka/Manager, Public Relations  
(619) 400-8166/Cell: (619) 455-7785, [cvangonka@sandiegobloodbank.org](mailto:cvangonka@sandiegobloodbank.org)

**EAST COUNTY RESIDENT TO DONATE 170<sup>TH</sup> GALLON OF BLOOD ON MONDAY**

**SAN DIEGO (October 11, 2019)** – Long time Alpine resident and blood donor Stephen McMeeken will donate his 170<sup>th</sup> gallon of blood on Monday, October 14 at 11 a.m. at the San Diego Blood Bank's Gateway Donor Center, located at 3636 Gateway Center Avenue, Suite 100, San Diego, CA 92102.

McMeeken started donating blood in 1976 when he and his wife were expecting their first child and were encouraged to join the “Stork Club”, which promoted umbilical cord blood banking and donation. McMeeken donates platelets – which are blood cells that help control bleeding - 24 times each year. Patients undergoing bone marrow transplants, surgeries, chemotherapy, radiation treatments or organ transplants often need platelets to survive.

To be eligible to donate blood, you must be at least 17 years old, weigh at least 114 pounds and be in general good health. Eligible blood donors are encouraged to schedule an appointment to give by visiting [www.SanDiegoBloodBank.org/Donate](http://www.SanDiegoBloodBank.org/Donate) or calling 1-800-4-MY-SDBB (1-800-469-7322).

**About the San Diego Blood Bank**

SDBB is dedicated to community health by providing a reliable supply of blood to patients in need. Our vision is to further ensure the health of our community by simultaneously delivering related health and wellness education and services and extending into research. SDBB is an independent, 501(c)(3) non-profit that serves hospitals in San Diego, Orange, Imperial and Los Angeles counties with blood transfusion products and reference laboratory services. SDBB currently operates six local donor centers and 10 bloodmobiles. SDBB’s Cell Therapy Program provides lifesaving stem cell transplants to patients worldwide. For more information about SDBB, visit [www.SanDiegoBloodBank.org](http://www.SanDiegoBloodBank.org) or connect with us on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

###