



**JOHN E. JACOBS LEGION POST 68 LELAND
MEDIA RELEASE**

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Submitted by:

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DONORS NEEDED TO ADDRESS ACUTE BLOOD SHORTAGE

For only the second time in its history, the American Red Cross (ARC) declared a national Blood Emergency Shortage this summer. The declaration followed a 25-percent drop in the national blood supply in 2026. With less than a 1-day supply of O Positive, the ARC also began limiting the amount of this type it supplies to hospitals. To help address the emergency, the John E. Jacobs American Legion Post in Leland, in cooperation with local television station WWAY, is sponsoring a community blood drive on Friday, September 25 (details below).

In the US, someone receives a blood transfusion every two seconds. Donated blood has a short shelf life and cannot be stockpiled. While demand for blood in 2026 increased by 3,500 units per week, donations reached a 4-year low. The drop in donations can be attributed to several factors, including summer vacations, extreme heat and weather conditions across the country, food-borne illnesses, and wildfires. It comes at the height of the annual trauma season—Memorial Day through Labor Day. The shortage jeopardizes the ability to transfuse trauma patients, sickle cell patients, and birthing mothers in a timely manner. While the shortage is particularly acute for O Positive, B Negative, and AB Plasma, all types are needed.

The Legion Post 68 Blood Drive is on Friday, September 25, 2026, in the WWAY TV3 Community Room, 1224 Magnolia Village Way, Leland, NC 28451, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Donors of all blood types are urgently needed to ensure patients continue to receive critical medical care.

To schedule an appointment, visit <https://www.redcrossblood.org/> and enter your ZIP code. Scroll down to WWAY on Friday, September 25, then click "See Times" to select your preferred appointment time. On the day of your donation, scan the QR code below to complete your pre-donation questionnaire. Please bring your ID and be well hydrated!



RAPIDPASS®

Complete your pre-donation and health history questionnaire from your mobile device using RapidPass®.



Expedite your donation!

Use your mobile device or a donor tablet to scan the QR code and complete your RapidPass®. Be sure to screenshot or email your RapidPass® to yourself and have it ready to present to staff before exiting health history.

To learn more about how veterans can join the American Legion or about what the Legion offers our veterans and the community, visit <https://ncpost68.org/>. Post 68 meets at 6 pm on the third Thursday at the Blossoms Restaurant Banquet Room (1800 Tommie Jacobs Drive, Leland, NC). For those who want to participate, attendees gather at 4:30 pm at Blossoms Restaurant for an optional dinner and social hour before the meeting.