



National Eye Donor Month History

Celebrated annually in March, National Eye Donor month is a commemoration dedicated to increasing eye donation awareness, honoring donors and their families, and celebrating cornea recipients. Below is a snapshot of some defining moments in its history.

1982 – February 25: President Ronald Reagan designates the first week of March, annually, as “Save Your Vision Week.”

1983 – January 3: A joint resolution is made by the Senate and House of Representatives, authorizing President Reagan to make a proclamation that March be designated as “National Eye Donor Month” annually (signed by Thomas O’Neill, Speaker of the House of Representatives and Strom Thurmond, President of the Senate) (pro tempore).

March 21: President Reagan proclaims the first “National Eye Donor Month.”

1984 – March 13: Vice President George Bush presents National Eye Donor Month resolution during awards ceremony in his office. Cornea recipients, donor parents and Sen. Daniel Moynihan (D-NY) and Rep. Frank Guarini (D-NJ), were present.

2001 – March 1: Sen. Richard Durbin (D-IL) declares March as National Eye Donor Month; he was one of 13 senators who introduced S.R. 225, designating November 23, 2000 as a day to “Give Thanks, Give Life” by discussing organ and tissue donation with family members.

2003 – February 27: Rep. Jay Inslee (D-WA), whose son is a cornea recipient, declares March as National Eye Donor Month.

2013 – February 8: EBAA releases its first National Eye Donor Month log and details on its first Donor/Recipient Story Contest.

March 14: Rep. Alan Nunnelee (R-MS), a bilateral cornea recipient, proclaims the 30th annual National Eye Donor Month commemoration.

Proclamation Record Log

Year	Proclamation Sponsors	Date of Proclamation
1984	President Ronald Reagan	March 31, 1984
1985		
1986		
1987		
1988		
1989	Rep. Frank Guarini (D-NJ)	February 7, 1989
1990	Rep. Frank Guarini (D-NJ)	January 23, 1990
1991		
1992	Rep. Frank Guarini (D-NJ)	January 24, 1992
1993	Rep. Eliot L. Engel (D-NY)	February 4, 1993
1994	Rep. John Bryant (D-TX)	February 23, 1994
1995	Rep. Larry Combest (R-TX)	February 1, 1995
1996	Sen. Michael DeWine (R-Ohio)	February 27, 1996
1997	Rep. Michael Bilirakis (R-FL)	March 5, 1997
1998	Sen. Michael DeWine (R-Ohio)	March 13, 1998
1999	Rep. Nita M. Lowey (D-NY)	March 3, 1999
2000	Sen. John Breaux (D-LA)	March 7, 2000
2001	Sen. Richard J. Durbin (D-IL)	March 1, 2001
2002	Rep. Sherrod Brown (D-Ohio)	February 12, 2002
2003	*Rep. Jay Inslee (D-WA)	February 27, 2003
2004	Sen. Jeff Sessions (R-AL)	March 11, 2004
2005	*Rep. Fred Upton (R-MI)	March 17, 2005
2006	Rep. Charlie Norwood (R-GA)	February 28, 2006
2007	*Sen. Sherrod Brown (D-Ohio)	February 27, 2007
2008	Sen. Sherrod Brown (D-Ohio)	March 12, 2008
2009	Sen. Saxby Chambliss (R-GA)	February 26, 2009
2010	Sen. Johnny Isakson (R-GA)	February 23, 2010
2011	Sen. Sherrod Brown (D-Ohio)	March 10, 2011
2012	Sen. Sherrod Brown (D-Ohio) Rep. Joseph Pitts (D-PA)	March 27, 2012 March 1, 2012
2013	Rep. Alan Nunnelee (R-MS)	March 14, 2013

***Co-sponsors of H.R. Bill 3926, Organ Donation and Recovery Improvement Act**
Highlighted sections are pending verification from the Congressional Record.

EBAA Member Eye Banks and National Eye Donor Month

During National Eye Donor Month, EBAA member eye banks sponsor events and activities to further, acquire state and/or city proclamations, utilize social media, and much more to further the public awareness of the need for eye donation. Below are just a few highlights member eye bank highlights from National Eye Donor Month 2013:

- *Central Ohio Lions Eye Bank* - During March, Central Ohio Lions Eye Bank had a billboard posted in various locations throughout Columbus, OH.
- *Georgia Eye Bank* - On February 26, 2013, representatives from Georgia Eye Bank, Inc. visited the state capitol to have a proclamation signed by Governor Nathan Deal, designating March 2013 as "Georgia Eye Donor Month."
- *Northeast Pennsylvania Lions Eye Bank* - As one of its NEDM events, the Northeast Pennsylvania Lions Eye Bank sponsored a media event where the Hankees, whose daughter's corneas were donated, had the opportunity to share the importance of their decision with Pennsylvania State Senator Lisa Boscola (D-PA). Following the event, the eye bank was featured in *The Express-Times' Lehigh Valley Live* and *The Morning Call*.
- *Ohio Eye Banks* - The EBAA Ohio member eye banks supported an endeavor that resulted in Ohio legislation passing a law in 2002, which made March of each year a permanent "Eye Donor Month" designation.