Donating blood is a noble act – one that demonstrates the highest humanity. People of all ages, professions and social statuses can come to the aid of those who are desperately fighting for every breath.

The history of blood donation and transfusion shows that many lives have been saved thanks to this noble cause. From the time of William Harvey (1578–1657), who discovered the laws of blood circulation, to the discovery of blood types by Karl Landsteiner (1868–1943), every step in this field has had the goal of saving and supporting those in need. The 20th century was marked by the rapid development of transfusion medicine (the science of blood transfusion). The first documented mention of a blood service in Ukraine appeared in 1918–1919 in the only medical journal in Ukraine at the time, which was published by the Kharkiv Hospital Society. The First and Second World Wars, with their millions of wounded, drove research and the improvement of transfusion methods, the creation of blood banks, and the transformation of blood donation into a mass phenomenon.

In Ukraine, about half a million people donate blood every year. Unfortunately, however, the supply of the priceless red liquid never matches demand and the ability to collect it. The blood shortage is especially acute now, during the war, as blood loss is one of the



main causes of death on the battlefield and as a result of aggressor attacks on the civilian population. World statistics are unequivocal: from 25% to 45% of military losses occur due to a lack of blood.

During these unprecedented challenges, blood donation is a lifeline not only for wounded soldiers, but also for civilians, giving the sick a chance to recover, and giving children a future.

On June 14, World Blood Donor Day, we remember those who selflessly donate the most valuable thing they have – their blood. These people are real heroes, because their donations save millions of people around the world.

This Drop of Life is made of metal, but its true value lies in the human kindness that makes blood donation possible. It is an expression of gratitude to everyone who is willing to share a part of themselves to save and support others.

Join the noble cause of blood donation, because only by joining forces can thousands of lives be saved!

GLORY TO UKRAINE!

Designer – Maryna Kuts.

A DROP OF LIFE

