Remembering your loved one

MEMORIALIZING CORNEA DONATION

About cornea donation

WHY BE AN EYE DONOR?
Tens of thousands of people a year have their sight restored through corneal transplants. Hundreds of thousands more are helped through research. One eye donor can give two people the gift of sight. Cornea transplant has a success rate that exceeds 95%.

WHAT IS AN EYE BANK?
An eye bank obtains, medically evaluates, and distributes eye donations for use in cornea transplantation, research and education. Eye banks are non-profit organizations.

WHAT IS THE CORNEA?
The clear surface at the front of the eye. It helps the eye to focus. If it becomes cloudy, vision will be dramatically reduced. This can be caused by disease or injury.

WHAT IS A CORNEA TRANSPLANT?
Surgery to replace a segment of an impaired cornea with a segment of a healthy donor cornea. The cornea has no blood vessels, so matching a donor to a recipient is not necessary, as in the case of organ donation.

CAN THERE STILL BE AN OPEN CASKET FUNERAL?
If a viewing is possible, donation typically does not prevent a viewing.

HOW CAN I MAKE SURE I AM A DONOR?
You can register today to become a donor at donatelife.net/register-now. You can also sign up automatically by clicking “yes” when you obtain or renew your driver’s license. You should also discuss your wishes with your family.

Provided by:

SightLife is the only non-profit global health organization solely focused on eliminating corneal blindness in the U.S. and around the world. Learn more at sightlife.org or connect at facebook.com/ThroughNewEyes. Cover photo by cornea recipient Jenna.
Celebrating donation as part of the memorial can reinforce comfort that many families find in sharing the generosity of their loved ones. Here are some ideas:

**LISTED IN THE OBITUARY**

Cornea Donor

Donor of corneas to restore sight

Helped others see by being a cornea donor

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**NOTED IN THE MEMORIAL PROGRAM OR IN A WEBSITE TRIBUTE**

(Loved one’s name) generously donated their corneas to restore sight to the blind.

(Loved one’s name) donated their corneas, generously contributing to sight restoration.

(Loved one’s name) was a cornea donor – generously making sight available for the blind.

(Loved one’s name)’s legacy of giving continues through his/her generous decision to be a cornea donor.

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**DURING THE EULOGY OF A SERVICE OR CELEBRATION OF LIFE**

(Loved one’s name) always loved sunsets, and it warms my heart to know someone that couldn’t see before, is now getting to see the beauty of the world like (Loved one’s name).

We loved to look in each other’s eyes. I know that someone who couldn’t see before, can now see their loved one’s faces.

(Loved one’s name) enjoyed (loved one’s favorite activity), and now I know that someone who couldn’t see before, can now also enjoy (repeat activity).

(Loved one’s name)’s final generous act was to give the gift of sight through cornea (or eye) donation.

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**ON A GRAVE MARKER**

Cornea Donor

Gave the gift of sight

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**AS A FACEBOOK POST OR IN OTHER SOCIAL MEDIA**

Two possible donation pages for posting and/or tagging on facebook are:

  SightLife and Donate Life America

Sample post:

(Loved one’s name) lived every day in love and generosity to others. Through cornea donation he/she was able to donate corneas which could bring sight to two complete strangers. Forever, I’ll feel connected to these people regardless of whether I ever meet them. Just knowing they have (Loved one’s name)’s last tangible gift to this world reminds me (Loved one’s name)’s spirit will live on forever.

#SightLife #giftofsight

Sample Tweet:

Celebrating that (Loved one’s name) was able to restore sight as a cornea donor. #SightLife #giftofsight

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**IN GENERAL CONVERSATION**

(Loved one’s name) was able to help others by being a cornea donor.

(Loved one’s name) really wanted to be an organ donor and was able to donate their corneas to help others see.

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Do you have examples or suggestions for other ways to celebrate these gifts?

Send them to us at Rebecca.Grossman@SightLife.org.