

Gift of Life answers questions about organ donation

The Gift of Life responds to questions about organ/tissue donation.

Will my medical treatment suffer if I am a donor?
This is simply not true. Organ donation is considered only after every attempt has been made to save the life of the donor.

How is death determined?
When brain activity has totally ceased, breathing and heart function can no longer continue independently then the individual is dead.

Now there are respirator machines which can temporarily

allow the heart and lungs to continue functioning in a brain-dead individual. These machines have helped make organ donations possible.

Strict medical criteria have been established to define brain death. The condition is always determined by physicians who don't participate in organ procurement or transplantation.

To ensure viability of internal organs such as the heart, lung, liver, pancreas and kidneys, individuals without brain function must be maintained on a respirator. Donations of eyes,

bone, skin and other tissue doesn't require maintenance on a respirator.

Will my body be disfigured?
No. There is no disfigurement. A highly skilled surgical team will remove the organs and tissues in the hospital, leaving the body intact for burial.

Will my family have to pay additional fees if I am a donor?
The family of a donor doesn't

receive nor pay fees. It is illegal to buy or sell human organs. The family is responsible for burial costs, but doesn't pay any hospital or physician fees associated with organ or tissue removal.

What about my religious beliefs?
All major religions fully support organ and tissue donation and the concept of brain death.

For more information, call The Gift of Life, organ and tissue donation, (800) 482-4881.

Chat room from page B1

As rangefinder operator, I had powerful binoculars with which I could see and range in on enemy positions on the shore. I had a ringside seat watching the real heroes of the war, the soldiers marines and pilots, exchanging gunfire with enemy troops. The planes swooped down dropping their bombs and strafing with machine guns. At night the sky would light up with tracer shells criss crossing against the black sky.

We evacuated some of the real fighting men, soldiers and marines, who had been slugging it out in the thick of things. They thought they were in heaven when they got aboard our ship, clean and neat, warm, safe, with a soda fountain and comforts hard for them to believe. I was awestruck by the presence of those guys, seeing them up close, just off the front lines,



Seaman Ken Kemp talking to them.

The Manchester left for home the exact day the armistice was signed. I always wanted to take my kids to see it someday, but I recently learned it was sold for scrap nearly 40 years ago. Now it is nothing more than a long ago memory.

Kenneth Kemp is a resident of Farmington Hills.

Heart from page B1

things: choose to die or get a heart transplant. Thus Jerry began a new program of rehabilitative therapy at Botsford Hospital.

"You have to build yourself up before you're ready for a transplant," he said.

On July 18, 1995, Jerry received his new heart. In the ensuing three years, Jerry, Nancy and the girls have become spokespersons for Gift of Life, the agency that oversees organ and tissue donation. The agency awarded the family a plaque for their community service last year.

"I go out and give talks and presentations," said Jerry. He also visits the YMCA in Farmington Hills three days a week to keep up his exercise regimen. And Fridays, he visits Henry

Ford Hospital's transplant floor to talk to patients and families awaiting transplant.

Nancy wears a green ribbon on her shirt. It stands for organ and tissue awareness, she said. "The need is so great," she says. "We're speaking for everyone. The transplant program is only limited by the number of donors. Michigan is one of the lowest organ donating states in the country. I think it's a process of education."

The family says deciding to become an organ donor is easy. Simply fill out the back of your Michigan driver's license and toll a family member of your decision.

"Having my dad at my graduation was the greatest gift I could ask for," Kari said.

Bug from page B1

comments with the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) in June stating that the vast majority of consumer electronics products will not experience Year 2000 problems.

In a press release, CEMA stated that only a few products, including a limited number of older models of video and personal computer products, are likely to be affected by the date change.

"We believe the number of products likely to be affected by the turn of the century is negligible. For older model products, Y2K problems probably won't affect the function of the product, and will often be remedied by simply resetting the date," said Gary Shapiro, president of CEMA.

"For personal computers, software fixes should be readily available and in many cases, free of charge."

How to tell if you have year sensitive appliances? If you can set "current year" information or change that information, then most likely the embedded system is not Year 2000 vulnerable.

VCR vaccine

You certainly don't want to program your VCR to record the Rose Bowl on New Year's Day 2000 and end up with a rerun of "The Brady Bunch." Don't boot your old VCR out the door and buy a new one. This tip was offered on the Money Magazine website: You can trick the old VCR into functioning properly by resetting its internal clock back 29 years to 1972, when the calendar dates and days of the week fell in the same sequence they will in 2000.

"As far as faxes and copiers are concerned, don't sweat it," said Michael Day, sales manager for National Business Machines in Westland, which services Sharp Electronics products.

Day said all information they've received from Sharp Electronics indicates there won't be a problem, especially with base station faxes. Just reset the date to 2000 or 00 according to directions in the fax manual.

Borman said there shouldn't be a problem with computer fax modems as long as the computer is Year 2000 compliant.

Banking

NBD, like other major banks, operates several decades old, data based computer system checking accounts, ATM and debit cards, mortgages and credit cards to name a few.

"We have built on those systems and just forwarded information," said a vice president with NBD,

who added NBD is spending \$100 million to ensure all systems are 2000-compliant by the end of this year. The bank will spend next year testing systems with its vendors. The bank has 3 million customers in Illinois, Michigan and Indiana, of which 60,000 use on-line computer banking. On-line banking customers could catch the millennium bug unless they're updated versions of Quicken and Microsoft Money.

Dan Weichbeck, a computer risk management consultant for Arthur Andersen, said the question for people who bank by computer is "What date is being used to update the files, the personal computer or the banks?" His advice: keep hard copies of financial documents.

Experts assure that the foreboding 2000 expiration date isn't likely to bring cash registers crashing down.

Lincoln Locke, vice president of technical communications for MasterCard, said the company processes 1.6 million transactions daily with a 2000 expiration date and beyond. "They're handled with no problem."

Major credit card companies like MasterCard and Visa have designed compliance programs to make sure their vendors are ready for the year 2000. However, there's no way to predict 100 percent compliance.

In July 1998, a power outage occurred across the West, shutting down electricity to eight states from California to Colorado and parts of Canada. Although it lasted less than two hours, it revealed the vulnerability of the nation's interconnected grid system.

The country's entire electrical system consists of a grid of 8,000 electrical generating units, 500,000 miles of bulk transmission lines, 12,000 major substations and thousands of lower voltage transformers.

Will there be, could there be, massive power outages within the first few weeks or months of year 2000?

Detroit Edison is spending \$65 to \$70 million to remedy Y2K problems and keep the electricity flowing for its 2 million customers. Dave Peterson, Y2K project manager, said Edison is addressing four major areas: preventing potentially dangerous power surges, generation and delivery of electricity, collecting and crediting revenues, and managing financial and maintenance operations.

Home Security Alarm systems detect fires, break-ins and medical emergencies. "There should be no year 2000 issues with the alarm equipment installed in our customers' premises," said a spokesman for Brinks Home Security.

Dave Barnett, owner of AVIO, Inc., a Troy based company that deals with electronic infra-structure of homes, said homeowners can sleep peacefully through the night of Dec. 31, 1999. Alarm systems will work.

A few dark clouds may roll in come Jan. 1, 2000, but the sky won't fall. The computer has revolutionized the world again and again. Let's hope it does it one more time.

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