Australian 'Man with golden arm' who saved millions dies at 88

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James Harrison, the Australian blood donor whose plasma saved over 2 million babies, has passed away at 88. Known as the "man with the golden arm," Harrison died peacefully in his sleep at a New South Wales nursing home on February 17, his family confirmed.

Harrison's blood contained a rare antibody, Anti-D, vital for preventing hemolytic disease of the fetus and newborn (HDFN). This condition occurs when a mother's blood clashes with her unborn baby's, risking life-threatening complications. His plasma donations were used to develop medication that protected countless babies from this dangerous disorder.

Starting at 18, Harrison donated his plasma every two weeks for more than six decades, retiring at 81. His remarkable commitment to donating earned him the world record for the most plasma donated in 2005, a title he held until 2022. Harrison's dedication stemmed from his own experience as a teenager, receiving blood transfusions following major chest surgery.

His daughter, Tracey Mellowship, expressed pride in her father's legacy, saying he was "very proud to have saved so many lives." His selflessness has had a profound impact, with his blood saving thousands of families worldwide.

While the exact reason for Harrison's rare antibody remains unclear, his contributions will live on. Australia's Lifeblood service and the Walter and Eliza Hall Institute of Medical Research are

now working to replicate his antibodies in the lab, aiming to help pregnant women across the

globe.

Harrison's death marks the end of an extraordinary life dedicated to giving others a chance at life.