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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 106 Session of  
2015

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INTRODUCED BY MURT, BAKER, BARRAR, BENNINGHOFF, BIZZARRO,  
BOBACK, BROWNLEE, BURNS, CALTAGIRONE, COHEN, CONKLIN,  
D. COSTA, CUTLER, DIGIROLAMO, DONATUCCI, DUSH, EVERETT,  
FARINA, FREEMAN, GABLER, GIBBONS, GILLEN, GODSHALL, GOODMAN,  
GRELL, HAHN, HARHAI, HARHART, A. HARRIS, HENNESSEY,  
HICKERNELL, KAUFFMAN, KILLION, KIM, KINSEY, KORTZ, LONGIETTI,  
MACKENZIE, MAHONEY, MAJOR, MARSICO, McCARTER, MENTZER,  
MILLARD, O'NEILL, PASHINSKI, PETRI, PICKETT, READSHAW, ROSS,  
ROZZI, SAMUELSON, SANTARSIERO, SCHLOSSBERG, SONNEY, TALLMAN,  
THOMAS, VEREB, WATSON, WHEELAND AND MARSHALL,  
FEBRUARY 23, 2015

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INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,  
FEBRUARY 23, 2015

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A RESOLUTION

1 Designating March 2015 as "American Red Cross Month" in  
2 Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, On May 21, 1881, Clara Barton founded the American  
4 Association of the Red Cross; and

5 WHEREAS, In 1900, the Congress of the United States granted  
6 the American Red Cross a charter, making the volunteer  
7 organization responsible for providing services to members of  
8 the armed forces of the United States and relief to disaster  
9 victims domestically and abroad; and

10 WHEREAS, Today's American Red Cross is a humanitarian  
11 organization led by volunteers that provides relief to victims  
12 of disasters and helps people prevent, prepare for and respond  
13 to emergencies; and

1       WHEREAS, For more than a century, the American Red Cross has  
2 been at the forefront of helping Americans prevent, prepare for  
3 and respond to large and small disasters; and

4       WHEREAS, Just as families and communities depend on the  
5 American Red Cross in times of need, the American Red Cross  
6 depends on the support of the American people to help sustain  
7 the foundation; and

8       WHEREAS, In fiscal year 2014, volunteers and staff from the  
9 American Red Cross responded to approximately 3,000 disasters  
10 throughout this Commonwealth, providing relief for at least as  
11 many families; and

12       WHEREAS, The American Red Cross partnered with the  
13 Pennsylvania State Police to support three feeding sites, 24  
14 hours a day for 48 days, providing more than 65,000 meals and  
15 more than 1.3 million snacks for the first responders during the  
16 Commonwealth's largest manhunt ever; and

17       WHEREAS, There were 7,355 Pennsylvanians who served as  
18 volunteers for the American Red Cross in 2014; and

19       WHEREAS, In 2014, the American Red Cross responded and  
20 provided assistance to families impacted by disaster in 67  
21 counties in this Commonwealth; and

22       WHEREAS, In fiscal year 2014, the American Red Cross  
23 financially assisted 4,151 families across this Commonwealth;  
24 and

25       WHEREAS, Residents of Pennsylvania donated hundreds of  
26 thousands of units of blood to help save the lives of their  
27 neighbors and provide for their needs; and

28       WHEREAS, The American Red Cross strives to prevent and  
29 alleviate human suffering wherever it may be found, to protect  
30 life and health and to ensure respect for each human being; and

1       WHEREAS, The American Red Cross trained more than 215,000  
2 people in many different programs Statewide; and

3       WHEREAS, Approximately 100,000 individuals were trained in  
4 first aid, the proper way to perform CPR or the use of an  
5 automatic external defibrillator; and

6       WHEREAS, Thirty-five thousand individuals received training  
7 in aquatic/water safety and more than 75,000 were trained in  
8 emergency preparedness; and

9       WHEREAS, The American Red Cross has teams responding to a  
10 disaster every eight minutes, with most of them being fires; and

11       WHEREAS, The current prolonged and extremely cold and snowy  
12 winter has led to an increase in home fires; and

13       WHEREAS, The United States Fire Administration reports that  
14 there are almost 365,000 residential fires reported in the  
15 United States every year, killing more than 2,400 Americans and  
16 causing more than \$6 billion in property damage annually; and

17       WHEREAS, Home fires are mostly preventable and the American  
18 Red Cross recommends installing smoke alarms on every level of a  
19 home outside each sleeping area and in each bedroom; and

20       WHEREAS, The American Red Cross further recommends each  
21 family develop a fire escape plan and to practice the plan at  
22 least twice a year; and

23       WHEREAS, The American Red Cross makes no discrimination as to  
24 nationality, race, religious beliefs, class or political  
25 opinions; and

26       WHEREAS, Services provided by the American Red Cross promote  
27 mutual understanding, friendship, cooperation and lasting peace  
28 among all people; and

29       WHEREAS, The American Red Cross continues to play a valuable  
30 role in catastrophe relief, humanitarianism and volunteerism

1 during the 21st century; therefore be it

2       RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate March  
3 2015 as "American Red Cross Month" in Pennsylvania; and be it  
4 further

5       RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize the  
6 American Red Cross, its employees and its volunteers for their  
7 dedication, service and sacrifice to the communities and  
8 residents of this Commonwealth; and be it further

9       RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be transmitted to  
10 the American Red Cross, 2221 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia, PA  
11 19103.