

---

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

---

SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 36 Session of  
2013

---

INTRODUCED BY BAKER, DINNIMAN, ERICKSON, YAW, STACK, GREENLEAF,  
WAUGH, TEPLITZ, FONTANA, RAFFERTY, WOZNIAK, ALLOWAY, GORDNER,  
BREWSTER, WARD, ARGALL, WHITE, FARNESE, COSTA, WASHINGTON,  
VANCE, PILEGGI, TARTAGLIONE AND KASUNIC, FEBRUARY 13, 2013

---

INTRODUCED AND ADOPTED, FEBRUARY 13, 2013

---

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating March 2013 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 at home 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

14 WHEREAS, For more than a century, the American Red Cross has  
15 been at the forefront of helping Americans prevent, prepare for  
16 and respond to large and small disasters, and just as families  
17 and communities depend on the Red Cross in times of need, the

1 Red Cross depends on the support of the American people to help  
2 sustain the foundation; and

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

6 WHEREAS, The American Red Cross makes no discrimination as to  
7 nationality, race, religious beliefs, class or political  
8 opinions; and

9 WHEREAS, Services provided by the American Red Cross promote  
10 mutual understanding, friendship, cooperation and lasting peace  
11 among all peoples; and

12 WHEREAS, As demonstrated by their response to Hurricane Irene  
13 and Tropical Storm Lee in 2011 and Superstorm Sandy in 2012, the  
14 44 American Red Cross chapters in Pennsylvania meet the needs of  
15 hundreds of thousands of individuals and families throughout the  
16 State by: responding to hundreds of disasters, providing  
17 emergency communications to United States Armed Forces  
18 servicemen and servicewomen and their families, training  
19 thousands of people in providing disaster relief services and  
20 training and certifying thousands more people in vital,  
21 lifesaving skills including CPR, AED, first aid, water safety  
22 and HIV/AIDS prevention; and

23 WHEREAS, The American Red Cross sheltered more than 6,000,  
24 and fed more than 250,000 Pennsylvanians during Hurricane Irene  
25 and Tropical Storm Lee during August and September 2011. Red  
26 Cross relief efforts provided more than \$3.4 million in  
27 assistance to State residents; and

28 WHEREAS, In fiscal year 2011, the volunteers and staff of the  
29 American Red Cross responded to 2,971 disasters throughout this  
30 Commonwealth, caring for more than 4,000 families in addition to

1 massive relief efforts during Hurricane Irene and Tropical Storm  
2 Lee; and

3 WHEREAS, As Superstorm Sandy bore down upon the East Coast in  
4 late October 2012, the Red Cross worked cooperatively with the  
5 Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency to identify shelters,  
6 ready supplies and mobilize emergency response vehicles and  
7 relief workers; and

8 WHEREAS, In the wake of Superstorm Sandy's high winds and  
9 torrential rainfall, the Red Cross opened 140 shelters,  
10 providing more than 3,000 overnight stays for Pennsylvanians  
11 displaced by the storm, served more than 18,000 meals and  
12 ministered to more than 5,000 Pennsylvanians with health  
13 concerns; and

14 WHEREAS, Three and two tenths per cent of the residents of  
15 this Commonwealth learned lifesaving, aquatics and disaster  
16 preparedness programs through the American Red Cross during  
17 2011; and

18 WHEREAS, More than 35,000 Pennsylvanians serve as volunteers  
19 for the American Red Cross and stand prepared to prevent and  
20 respond to disasters within our Commonwealth; and

21 WHEREAS, Residents of Pennsylvania donated hundreds of  
22 thousands of units of blood to help save the lives of their  
23 neighbors in need; and

24 WHEREAS, The American Red Cross will continue to play a  
25 valuable role in catastrophic relief, humanitarianism and  
26 volunteerism during the 21st century; therefore be it

27 RESOLVED, That the Senate designate March 2013 as "American  
28 Red Cross Month" in Pennsylvania; and be it further

29 RESOLVED, That the Senate commend the American Red Cross, all  
30 of its employees and all of its volunteers for their service and

1 dedication to the communities and residents of this  
2 Commonwealth.