

House Resolution 830

By: Representatives Gardner of the 42nd, Post 3, Henson of the 55th, Drenner of the 57th, Thomas of the 43rd, Post 1, Stephenson of the 60th, Post 1, and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Commending the American Red Cross; and for other purposes.

2 WHEREAS, the mission of the American Red Cross today is more relevant than ever as we
3 confront a changing world of unique challenges. We applaud the work of the American Red
4 Cross as it provides emergency communications and other services for our soldiers, sailors,
5 airmen, and marines deployed overseas and their families. We also applaud the American
6 Red Cross for its humanitarian role in helping to alleviate the suffering of refugees who have
7 been affected by international conflict; and

8 WHEREAS, the heroic efforts of the first responders to the September 11, 2001, terrorist
9 attacks became a source of strength for millions of people around the world and here in
10 Georgia struggling to comprehend this terrible tragedy. From their example came a new
11 resolve to be better prepared in the event of another wide-scale attack in our state or
12 anywhere in America. Today, in a collaborative effort with the federal government and other
13 members of the emergency planning community, Georgia's Red Cross and its partners are
14 better able to serve the community. Through its bold, new Together We Prepare initiative,
15 the Red Cross is leading the way in empowering individuals and families to protect
16 themselves. With five simple steps - make a plan, build a kit, get trained, volunteer, and give
17 blood - Georgia's Red Cross and Americans from coast to coast will help make their
18 communities safer; and

19 WHEREAS, for more than 121 years, the American Red Cross has honored its mission of
20 providing relief to victims of disasters while helping people prevent, prepare for, and respond
21 to emergencies. Last year alone, more than 52,000 Georgia volunteers, silent heroes, helped
22 their neighbors by supporting the efforts of their local Red Cross chapters. Another 312,000
23 Georgians took the time to learn lifesaving skills such as first aid, CPR, and the use of a
24 defibrillator from a Red Cross instructor. Also, nearly 93,000 volunteer donors across
25 Georgia gave more than 270,000 pints of blood - the gift of life - through the American Red
26 Cross; and

1 WHEREAS, community involvement is critical for programs that prepare individuals,
2 families, and neighborhoods for emergencies. Through its presence in local communities,
3 the Red Cross is the leader in empowering people in Georgia neighborhoods to be ready and
4 prepared for the unexpected. When the unexpected does happen, the Red Cross is there to
5 respond with help and hope; and

6 WHEREAS, the victims of more than 2,500 disasters - thousands of families who
7 experienced house and apartment fires, floods, tornadoes, and other natural or manmade
8 disasters - received help from a Red Cross chapter in Georgia last year. That help consisted
9 of food, shelter, mental health services, health services, and other support. Nearly 19,000
10 military families in Georgia received direct assistance from the Red Cross, keeping them
11 connected in times of great personal sorrow and joy. The Red Cross has also responded to
12 international emergencies by aiding other countries devastated by natural disasters and
13 helping people in other nations get access to safe drinking water and battle malnutrition and
14 life-threatening diseases, such as measles. All Red Cross humanitarian relief services are
15 provided without charge to the recipients; and

16 WHEREAS, those who need blood, those who are victims of disaster, and those who receive
17 lifesaving training or other vital services rely on the American Red Cross in Georgia to be
18 there for them every day. Compassionate and caring Georgians who want to make a
19 difference in their communities and across the nation, at home and abroad, channel their
20 support through the American Red Cross.

21 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
22 the members of this body applaud and recognize the selfless dedication of generations of Red
23 Crossers, commend the men and women of the American Red Cross for their life-saving
24 work, and call upon all citizens of Georgia to become partners in preparedness with their
25 local Red Cross chapters and become active participants in advancing the noble mission of
26 the Red Cross.

27 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
28 and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to the American Red Cross.