

House Resolution 1533

By: Representative Gardner of the 42nd, Post 3

A RESOLUTION

1 Commending the American Red Cross and proclaiming March, 2004, American Red Cross
2 Month and inviting its representatives to appear before the House of Representatives; and for
3 other purposes.

4 WHEREAS, the American Red Cross is part of an international humanitarian organization
5 that works to alleviate human suffering worldwide and is chartered by Congress to provide
6 a system of relief for Americans during times of disaster and also to provide emergency
7 services for members of the U.S. military and their families back home; and

8 WHEREAS, for more than a century, the American Red Cross has remained steadfast in its
9 mission to provide relief to disaster victims and help people prevent, prepare for, and cope
10 with emergencies and never in its history has the lifesaving work of the Red Cross been more
11 relevant than it is in these uncertain times; and

12 WHEREAS, today, in a collaborative effort with the federal government, the State of
13 Georgia, and members of the emergency planning community that includes the Federal
14 Emergency Management Agency, the Department of Homeland Security, the Georgia Office
15 of Homeland Security, and the Georgia Emergency Management Agency, the American Red
16 Cross, though not a government agency itself, has vital responsibilities for feeding, clothing,
17 and sheltering disaster victims and for providing blood, first-aid, basic health care, and
18 mental health counseling in times of crisis; and

19 WHEREAS, last year, the Red Cross helped thousands of Georgia families recover after
20 more than 2,800 disasters – house and apartment fires, floods, tornadoes, and other natural
21 and manmade occurrences – disrupted their lives; and

22 WHEREAS, 32,000 of Georgia's military families turned to the Red Cross for help in
23 relaying news of births, deaths, serious illnesses, and other urgent family matters to military
24 family members stationed overseas; and

1 WHEREAS, preparedness and vigilance are the hallmarks of our new national reality and the
2 American Red Cross, through its national "Together We Prepare" program, is urging
3 individuals and families to take responsibility for their safety by implementing five simple
4 action steps: make a disaster plan, build an emergency supplies kit, get trained in first-aid and
5 CPR, volunteer to help others prepare, and give blood regularly; and, through its efforts, the
6 Red Cross is better preparing Georgia families, neighborhoods, and communities for the
7 unexpected; and

8 WHEREAS, the American Red Cross is a leader in empowering individuals, families,
9 neighborhoods, schools, businesses, and organizations to partner in building a safer, stronger
10 community and last year alone was supported in those efforts by more than 37,000 Red Cross
11 volunteers from Georgia, while another 300,000 Georgians took the time to learn lifesaving
12 skills such as first-aid, CPR, and the use of a defibrillator from a Red Cross instructor; and

13 WHEREAS, nearly 180,000 Georgia blood donors gave more than 257,000 pints of
14 blood – the gift of life – through the American Red Cross; and

15 WHEREAS, those who need blood transfusions, those who are victims of disaster, and those
16 who receive and benefit from lifesaving training; U.S. service members and their families;
17 and refugees who lose touch with loved ones rely on the American Red Cross to be there for
18 them every day; and compassionate and caring Georgians who want to make a difference in
19 their communities, the nation, and the world channel their support through the American Red
20 Cross.

21 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
22 the members of this body commend the American Red Cross and proclaim March, 2004,
23 American Red Cross Month and call upon all citizens to support and honor this organization
24 and recognize its proud heritage of service by taking the pledge to become partners in
25 preparedness and invite its representatives to appear before the House at a date and time to
26 be determined by the Speaker of the House.

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 Tim English, Chris Rhouda,
29 Berneé Floney, Rick Walter, and Jim Martin of the American Red Cross.