

House Resolution 388

By: Representative Gardner of the 57th

A RESOLUTION

1 Commending the American Red Cross; proclaiming March, 2005, American Red Cross
2 Month; inviting its representatives to appear before the House of Representatives; and for
3 other purposes

4 WHEREAS, the American Red Cross is chartered by Congress to provide a system of relief
5 for Americans during times of disaster and, though not a government agency itself, faithfully
6 carries out its national and state responsibilities for feeding and sheltering disaster victims,
7 administering emergency first aid, coordinating disaster welfare inquiries and distributing
8 bulk emergency relief supplies, and also provides blood, health services, and mental health
9 services in times of crisis; and

10 WHEREAS, last year alone, the Red Cross helped more than 3,100 of Georgia's families
11 recover from 2,800 disasters – house and apartment fires, floods, damaging storms, and other
12 natural and manmade occurrences – in addition to feeding, sheltering, and financially
13 assisting thousands of Georgians during hurricanes Frances, Ivan, and Jeanne last fall; and

14 WHEREAS, more than 30,000 of Georgia's military service members and their families
15 turned to the Red Cross last year for emergency services including help in relaying the news
16 of births, deaths, serious illnesses and other urgent family matters; and Georgia's refugees,
17 who lose touch with their loved ones due to changing world conditions, can also turn to the
18 Red Cross for help; and

19 WHEREAS, the American Red Cross is saving lives in Georgia every day, empowering
20 individuals, families, neighborhoods, schools, businesses, and organizations to partner in
21 building safer, stronger communities by participating in Together We Prepare, a program
22 encouraging citizens to make a disaster plan; build an emergency supplies kit; get trained in
23 first aid and CPR; volunteer to help others prepare; and give blood regularly – and through
24 its efforts, is better preparing Georgians for the unexpected; and

1 WHEREAS, last year, nearly 320,000 Georgians took the time to learn lifesaving skills from
2 a Red Cross instructor including first aid, CPR, use of an automated external defibrillator,
3 water safety and lifeguarding, and how to prevent the spread of HIV/AIDS; while an
4 additional 25,000 Georgians gave their time as Red Cross volunteers and 187,500 Georgians
5 gave "the gift of life" by donating more than 300,000 pints of blood for local patients through
6 the American Red Cross; and

7 WHEREAS, for more than a century, the American Red Cross has been steadfast in carrying
8 out its humanitarian mission and is the organization that so many compassionate and caring
9 Georgians turn to when they want to make a difference in their communities, the nation, and
10 the world, as evidenced following the recent tsunami disaster.

11 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
12 the members of this body join the President of the United States, the Governor of Georgia,
13 and government officials across the country in proclaiming March, 2005, American Red
14 Cross Month; call upon all citizens to support and honor this organization and recognize its
15 proud heritage of service by taking the pledge to become partners in preparedness; and invite
16 its representatives to appear before the House at a date and time to be determined by the
17 Speaker of the House.

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