

## House Resolution 608

By: Representatives Gardner of the 57<sup>th</sup>, Cheokas of the 134<sup>th</sup>, Fullerton of the 151<sup>st</sup>,  
Baker of the 78<sup>th</sup>, Kaiser of the 59<sup>th</sup>, and others

## A RESOLUTION

1 Commending the American Red Cross and recognizing March, 2009, as American Red Cross  
2 Month at the state capitol and inviting representatives of the American Red Cross to appear  
3 before the House of Representatives; and for other purposes.

4 WHEREAS, The American Red Cross plays a vital humanitarian role in Georgia by  
5 empowering tens of thousands of caring citizens known as "Hometown Heroes" to make a  
6 difference each day by giving of their time, talent, money, and blood to help ease and prevent  
7 human suffering, and to save lives in our state, the nation and the world; and

8 WHEREAS, the Red Cross, though not a government agency itself, is a valued partner that  
9 collaborates with Georgia's emergency planning community to respond to disasters of all  
10 types; and

11 WHEREAS, last year, through a state-wide network of 22 chapters, the Red Cross provided  
12 food, clothing, shelter, first aid, health care, and counseling to more than 5,700 Georgia  
13 families following 3,000 local disasters; and

14 WHEREAS, the Red Cross brought compassionate relief to thousands of our neighbors  
15 following three devastating tornado outbreaks in the spring of 2008; and

16 WHEREAS, last year alone, Red Cross Blood Services collected 329,300 units of blood,  
17 including red blood cells and platelets, from Georgia blood donors, who in turn may have  
18 helped save more than 922,400 lives through their selfless generosity; and

19 WHEREAS, last year, Red Cross training in programs in such areas as first aid, CPR, use of  
20 an AED, and water safety gave more than 146,700 Georgia citizens the confidence and skills  
21 they need to respond to life-threatening emergencies; and

22 WHEREAS, as part of its humanitarian mission, the Red Cross provides the only worldwide  
23 communications link between service members and their loved ones, and last year, the Red  
24 Cross helped 15,800 of Georgia's military families send emergency messages, get financial  
25 assistance, find counseling, and get referrals, and briefed 98,400 family members on services  
26 available to them; and

27 WHEREAS, preparedness is a vital part of the Red Cross mission, and the Red Cross, in  
28 partnership with state and local agencies, is helping Georgia's families become safer,  
29 healthier, and better prepared for the unexpected, whether natural disasters, manmade threats,  
30 or health emergencies such as a pandemic flu outbreak; and

31 WHEREAS, it is fitting that this body recognize and celebrate the contributions of Georgia's  
32 Hometown Heroes, Red Cross volunteers, donors, partners, and employees, including those  
33 visiting the capitol on March 18, 2009.

34 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that  
35 the members of this body recognize March, 2009, as American Red Cross Month at the state  
36 capitol, commend the outstanding humanitarian aid provided by this organization and its  
37 proud heritage of service, and invite representatives of the American Red Cross to appear  
38 before the House of Representatives at an appropriate date and time to be designated by the  
39 Speaker of the House.

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