

Senate Resolution 261

By: Senators Shafer of the 48th, Unterman of the 45th, Carter of the 42nd, Goggans of the 7th, Cowsert of the 46th and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Commending the American Red Cross and recognizing March, 2011, as American Red Cross
2 Month at the state capitol; and for other purposes.

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

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

10 WHEREAS, last year, through a state-wide network of 15 chapters, the Red Cross provided
11 food, clothing, shelter, first aid, health care, and counseling to nearly 3,500 Georgia families
12 following 2,600 local disasters; and

13 WHEREAS, the Red Cross brought compassionate relief to thousands of our neighbors
14 following historic flooding in the fall of 2009 and, in turn, helped Georgians channel their
15 compassion for the suffering people of Haiti through ongoing Red Cross relief following the
16 devastating earthquake of 2010; and

17 WHEREAS, last year alone, Red Cross Southern Blood Services collected, processed, and
18 tested blood, including red blood cells and platelets, from Georgia blood donors and
19 distributed nearly 503,500 units of life-saving blood to more than 120 Georgia hospitals; and

20 WHEREAS, last year, Red Cross training in programs in such areas as first aid, CPR, use of
21 an AED, and water safety gave nearly 132,000 Georgia citizens the confidence and skills
22 they need to respond to life-threatening emergencies; and

23 WHEREAS, as part of its humanitarian mission, the Red Cross provides the only worldwide
24 communications link between service members and their loved ones, and last year, the Red
25 Cross helped 16,800 of Georgia's military families send emergency messages, get financial
26 assistance, find counseling, and get referrals, and briefed nearly 90,000 family members on
27 services available to them; and

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

32 WHEREAS, it is fitting that this body recognize and celebrate the contributions of Georgia's
33 Hometown Heroes, Red Cross volunteers, donors, partners, and employees, including those
34 visiting the capitol on March 16, 2011.

35 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
36 recognize March, 2011, as American Red Cross Month at the state capitol and commend the
37 outstanding humanitarian aid provided by this organization and its proud heritage of service.

38 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
39 to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to the American Red Cross.