

Senate Resolution 173

By: Senator Shafer of the 48th

A RESOLUTION

1 Commending the American Red Cross and recognizing March, 2013, as American Red Cross
2 Month in Georgia; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, the American Red Cross plays a vital humanitarian role in Georgia by
4 empowering tens of thousands of our caring citizens — "Hometown Heroes" — to join us
5 in making a difference with life-saving skills and donations of time, talent, money, and blood
6 to help ease and prevent human suffering and to save lives down the street, across the
7 country, and around 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 12 chapters, Georgia's Red Cross
12 provided food, clothing, shelter, first aid, health care, and counseling to nearly 3,400 Georgia
13 families following 2,800 local disasters, primarily home fires, brought relief to counties
14 affected by tornadoes in the winter and spring, and helped out during the devastation of
15 Hurricane Irene; and

16 WHEREAS, the Red Cross is saving lives in Georgia every day — last year alone, Red Cross
17 Southern Blood Services collected, processed, and tested blood collected from generous
18 donors state wide and distributed blood, including red blood cells and platelets, to more than
19 120 Georgia hospitals; and

20 WHEREAS, last year, Red Cross training in programs such as First Aid, CPR, use of an
21 AED, and Water Safety gave nearly 61,000 of our citizens the confidence and skills they
22 need to respond to life-threatening emergencies; and

23 WHEREAS, as part of its humanitarian mission, the Red Cross provides the only world-wide
24 communications link between service members and their loved ones; last year, the Red Cross
25 helped 16,200 of Georgia's military families send emergency messages, get financial
26 assistance, find counseling, and get referrals and briefed more than 62,000 family members
27 on 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, through community presentations and digital outreach, including
32 mobile apps that put practical information in the hands of users; and

33 WHEREAS, it is fitting that this body recognize and celebrate the contributions of Georgia's
34 Hometown Heroes — Red Cross volunteers, donors, partners, and employees, including
35 those who are visiting the capitol on March 6, 2013.

36 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
37 join the President of the United States, the Governor of the State of Georgia, and government
38 officials across the country in recognizing March, 2013, as American Red Cross Month and
39 call upon the citizens to support and honor this organization and recognize its proud heritage
40 of service.

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