

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 684 Session of
2014

INTRODUCED BY SCAVELLO, BARRAR, SAINATO, K. BOYLE, MILLARD,
MAJOR, STERN, READSHAW, KAVULICH, SONNEY, SCHLEGEL CULVER,
BOBACK, TOEPEL, COHEN, MCGEEHAN, M. K. KELLER, BISHOP,
O'NEILL, GIBBONS, KINSEY, KILLION, THOMAS, MUSTIO, MACKENZIE,
HENNESSEY, CALTAGIRONE, PEIFER, HEFFLEY, DIGIROLAMO, DAVIS,
SWANGER, YOUNGBLOOD, LONGIETTI, FREEMAN, BROWNLEE, KORTZ,
LUCAS, JAMES, FARINA, VEREB, FEE, GRELL, MAHONEY, GODSHALL,
MIRABITO, W. KELLER, BAKER, D. COSTA, DONATUCCI, MARSHALL,
MCNEILL, HARHART, MARSICO, PETRI, MURT, ROCK, FRANKEL,
KIRKLAND, ROSS, SCHLOSSBERG, GROVE, FLECK, GOODMAN AND
SACCONE, MARCH 10, 2014

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,
MARCH 10, 2014

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating March 2014 as "American Red Cross Month" in
2 Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, On May 21, 1881, Clara Barton founded the American
4 Association of the Red Cross; and

5 WHEREAS, In 1900, the Congress of the United States granted
6 the American Red Cross a charter, making the volunteer
7 organization responsible for providing services to members of
8 the armed forces of the United States and relief to disaster
9 victims domestically and abroad; and

10 WHEREAS, Today's American Red Cross is a humanitarian
11 organization led by volunteers that provides relief to victims
12 of disasters and helps people prevent, prepare for and respond
13 to emergencies; and

1 WHEREAS, For more than a century, the American Red Cross has
2 been at the forefront of helping Americans prevent, prepare for
3 and respond to large and small disasters; and

4 WHEREAS, Just as families and communities depend on the
5 American Red Cross in times of need, the American Red Cross
6 depends on the support of the American people to help sustain
7 the foundation; and

8 WHEREAS, The American Red Cross sheltered more than 3,000
9 individuals and fed more than 18,000 Pennsylvanians during
10 Hurricane Sandy in October of 2012; and

11 WHEREAS, In the fiscal year 2012, volunteers and staff from
12 the American Red Cross responded to 2,470 disasters throughout
13 this Commonwealth, providing relief for more than 3,000
14 families; and

15 WHEREAS, There were 8,566 Pennsylvanians who served as
16 volunteers for the American Red Cross in 2013; and

17 WHEREAS, In the fiscal year 2013, the American Red Cross
18 financially assisted 4,685 families across this Commonwealth;
19 and

20 WHEREAS, Residents of Pennsylvania donated hundreds of
21 thousands of units of blood to help save the lives of their
22 neighbors and provide for their needs; and

23 WHEREAS, The American Red Cross strives to prevent and
24 alleviate human suffering wherever it may be found, to protect
25 life and health and to ensure respect for each human being; and

26 WHEREAS, The American Red Cross trained more than 268,000
27 people in many different programs Statewide; and

28 WHEREAS, One hundred thirty-four thousand nine hundred fifty-
29 three individuals were trained in first aid, the proper way to
30 perform CPR or the use of an automatic external defibrillator;

1 and

2 WHEREAS, Twenty-nine thousand seven hundred eighty-two
3 received training in aquatic/water safety and more than 100,000
4 were trained in emergency preparedness; and

5 WHEREAS, The American Red Cross has teams responding to a
6 disaster every eight minutes, with most of them being fires; and

7 WHEREAS, The current prolonged and extremely cold and snowy
8 winter has led to an increase in home fires; and

9 WHEREAS, The United States Fire Administration reports that
10 there are almost 365,000 residential fires reported in the
11 United States every year, killing more than 2,400 Americans and
12 causing more than \$6 billion in property damage annually; and

13 WHEREAS, Home fires are mostly preventable and the American
14 Red Cross recommends installing smoke alarms on every level of a
15 home outside each sleeping area and in each bedroom; and

16 WHEREAS, The American Red Cross further recommends each
17 family develop a fire escape plan and to practice the plan at
18 least twice a year; and

19 WHEREAS, The American Red Cross makes no discrimination as to
20 nationality, race, religious beliefs, class or political
21 opinions; and

22 WHEREAS, Services provided by the American Red Cross promote
23 mutual understanding, friendship, cooperation and lasting peace
24 among all people; and

25 WHEREAS, The American Red Cross continues to play a valuable
26 role in catastrophe relief, humanitarianism and volunteerism
27 during the 21st century; therefore be it

28 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate March
29 2014 as "American Red Cross Month" in Pennsylvania; and be it
30 further

1 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize the
2 American Red Cross, its employees and its volunteers for their
3 dedication, service and sacrifice to the communities and
4 residents of this Commonwealth; and be it further

5 RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be transmitted to
6 the American Red Cross, 2231 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia, PA
7 19103.