

WHEREAS, everyday, for thousands of people in need who look to the American Red Cross as a banner of hope – including disaster victims here and abroad, servicemen and women seeking assistance, and everyone seeking a safe and ready supply of blood – the Red Cross stands prepared to respond; and

WHEREAS, the scope of Red Cross service extends well beyond the provision of emergency care, its broader mission is clear to promote compassion, to foster a spirit of generosity, and to improve the human condition everywhere; and

WHEREAS, the Alexandria Chapter of the American Red Cross is one of 1000 chapters nationwide, whose members have been called to serve in war and peace and, today, with more than 1500 dedicated and experienced volunteers, the Alexandria Chapter plays a vital role in bringing physical and emotional comfort to those who need it most, whether they are responding to an emergency or addressing the daily necessities of the homeless and elderly; and

WHEREAS, for 22 years, the Alexandria Red Cross Waterfront Festival has celebrated Alexandria's maritime heritage, raised funds to support Red Cross services, served to recruit Red Cross volunteers, publicized Red Cross activities, and provided a weekend of family-oriented fun along Alexandria's historic waterfront; and

WHEREAS, the Red Cross example challenges us to revitalize the covenant of American citizenship with our willingness to live out the ideals long embodied by the American Red Cross – to celebrate our past and safeguard our future . I am proud to commend the generous spirit of all those who have carried out the work of the American Red Cross and all those individuals who have sustained the Alexandria Chapter for the past 86 years;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, KERRY J. DONLEY, Mayor of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, and on behalf of the Alexandria City Council, do hereby declare the:

“2003 ALEXANDRIA WATERFRONT FESTIVAL OPEN”

Few of us have remained untouched by the work of the Red Cross. I encourage all Alexandrians to support their efforts – whether by attending the festival, giving blood, donating funds to help disaster victims, or becoming Red Cross volunteers. In doing so, we will ensure that the Alexandria Chapter of the American Red Cross will continue its tradition of compassionate service in the 21st century and beyond.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of Alexandria to be affixed this 10th day of June 2003.

KERRY J. DONLEY MAYOR

*On behalf of the City Council
of Alexandria, Virginia*

ATTEST:

Jacqueline M. Henderson, CMC City Clerk