

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, the American Red Cross was founded in 1881 by Clara Barton, a woman selflessly devoted to the needs of humanity; and

WHEREAS, compassion, courage, character, and civic duty are inherent in the Red Cross mission to prevent and relieve human suffering, and the City of Alexandria shares these grand ideals; and

WHEREAS, the Red Cross is chartered and authorized by the Congress of the United States to act in times of need, providing compassionate assistance to people afflicted by personal, local or national disasters; and

WHEREAS, the Alexandria Chapter is the first chapter designated in the Commonwealth of Virginia and has operated continuously since 1916; and

WHEREAS, the Alexandria Chapter last year responded promptly and assisted the victims of 20 single-family disasters, and on three occasions provided shelters for the victims of condominiums without heat and apartments flooded by melting snow, as well as assistance to elderly victims of crime in the city; and

WHEREAS, the Red Cross volunteers and paid staff from the Alexandria Chapter responded to the needs of the victims of Hurricane Isabel by delivering 2000 meals per day to those without electricity, and clean up kits to those with flooded residences, and countless hours of counseling to those unable to cope with the magnitude of the disaster; and

WHEREAS, the Alexandria Red Cross is an active participant in disaster preparedness in the Washington D.C. Metropolitan Area; and

WHEREAS, people depend on the Red Cross for the information and skills they need to be safe at home, at work, at school and at play. Last year, the Alexandria Chapter trained nearly 5000 people in lifesaving CPR and first aid, and in the use of an automated external defibrillator; 500 people were trained in HIV/AIDS prevention; 1400 were trained in lifeguard techniques and water safety; and 55 were trained in the art of babysitting; and

WHEREAS, the American Red Cross provides lifesaving blood and blood products whenever and wherever needed – always with the safety of the blood supply as its number one priority; and

WHEREAS, the Red Cross volunteers in Alexandria have delivered International Red Cross messages from family members in war-torn areas of the world to 155 residents of Alexandria this past year; and

WHEREAS, the Red Cross staff deploy with the U.S. military to provide emergency communications and a caring presence to service men and women separated from their families. The volunteers of the Alexandria Chapter have assisted 225 families in Alexandria with messages to loved ones in the United States Armed Forces; and

WHEREAS, the Alexandria Chapter of the American Red Cross has programs including leadership development, self-esteem building and service learning for the youth of Alexandria, including intergenerational programs, serving more than 3000 Alexandria youth in the past year through Junior Red Cross Clubs in the elementary schools, Red Cross Clubs in the middle schools, and the Interschool Council for high school students; and

WHEREAS, the 75 volunteers of the Community Service Department of the Alexandria Red Cross, 19 of whom speak a language in addition to English, have provided 7800 hours of service to isolated, immigrant and indigent elderly in the Alexandria community including friendly visits, food distribution, food preparation, assistance with medical bills and basic household items; and

WHEREAS, in 1943, President Franklin Delano Roosevelt called upon the American people with this request: "... that during this month our people rededicate themselves to the splendid aims and activities of the Red Cross.";

NOW, THEREFORE, I, WILLIAM D. EUILLE, Mayor of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, and on behalf of the Alexandria City Council, do hereby proclaim March 2004, as:

"AMERICAN RED CROSS MONTH"

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of Alexandria to be affixed this 24th day of February 2004.

WILLIAM D. EUILLE **MAYOR**
On behalf of the City Council
of Alexandria, Virginia

ATTEST:

Jacqueline M. Henderson, CMC City Clerk