

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 Alexandria, Virginia, shares these grand ideals; and

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

WHEREAS, the Alexandria Chapter last year responded and assisted the victims of 21 single-family disasters in Alexandria; and

WHEREAS, Red Cross volunteers from Alexandria responded to five disasters outside of Alexandria last year, including response to flooding in the District of Columbia and the massive relief efforts following the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001, - providing food, clothing, shelter and mental health support; and

WHEREAS, people have counted 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 5900 people in lifesaving CPR and first aid, 700 in HIV/AIDS education, 1700 in lifeguarding and water safety and 100 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 volunteers of the Alexandria Chapter have provided comfort and compassion with over 3700 visits to isolated seniors in the City of Alexandria; and

WHEREAS, Red Cross volunteers have delivered International Red Cross Messages from family members in war-torn areas of the world to 112 residents of Alexandria this past year; and

WHEREAS, Red Cross staff deploy with the U.S. military to provide emergency communications and a caring presence to servicemen and women separated from their families, and the volunteers of the Alexandria Chapter have assisted 57 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, serving over 2700 Alexandria youth in the past year; 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, KERRY J. DONLEY, Mayor of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, and on behalf of the Alexandria City Council, do hereby proclaim March 2002, 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 26th day of February 2002.

KERRY J. DONLEY **MAYOR**
On behalf of the City Council
of Alexandria, Virginia

ATTEST:

Beverly I. Jett, CMC City Clerk