

AMERICAN RED CROSS MONTH

WHEREAS: Today, the mission of the American Red Cross is more relevant than ever as we confront a changing America full of unique challenges. The heroic efforts of the first responders to the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks became a source of strength for millions of people around the world. From their example came a new resolve: to be better prepared in the event of another attack. Today, in a collaborative effort, Georgia's Red Cross is better able to serve the community. Through its bold new "Together We Prepare" initiative, the Red Cross is leading the way in empowering individuals and families to protect themselves. With five simple steps--make a plan, build a kit, get trained, volunteer and give blood-- Georgia's Red Cross and Americans from coast to coast will help make their communities safer; and

WHEREAS: For more than 121 years, the American Red Cross has honored its mission: to provide relief to victims of disasters while helping people prevent, prepare for and respond to emergencies. Last year alone, more than 52,000 Georgia volunteers, silent heroes, helped neighbors by supporting the efforts of their local Red Cross. Another 312,000 Georgians took the time to learn lifesaving skills such as first aid, CPR and use of a defibrillator from a Red Cross instructor; and nearly 93,000 volunteer donors across Georgia gave more than 270,000 pints of blood, the gift of life, through the American Red Cross; and

WHEREAS: Community involvement is critical for programs that prepare individuals, families and neighborhoods for emergencies. Through its presence in local communities, the Red Cross is a leader in empowering people; and when the unexpected does happen, the Red Cross is there to respond with help and hope; and

WHEREAS: The victims of more than 2,500 disasters, thousands of families who experienced natural or manmade disasters, received help from a Red Cross chapter in Georgia last year; nearly 19,000 U.S. military families in Georgia received direct assistance from the Red Cross; and those who receive life-saving training or other vital services rely on the American Red Cross; to be there for them every day; now

THEREFORE: I, SONNY PERDUE, Governor of the State of Georgia, do hereby proclaim March 2003 as AMERICAN RED CROSS MONTH in Georgia. As we celebrate American Red Cross Month, I call upon all citizens of Georgia to become partners in preparedness with their local Red Cross chapters and to become active participants in advancing the noble mission of the Red Cross. Together, we prepare Georgia. Together, we save lives.

In witness thereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Executive Department to be affixed this 11th day of March in the year of our Lord two thousand three.