



HR0204

LRB100 11860 MST 23369 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, Clara Barton and a circle of her acquaintances
3 founded the American Red Cross in Washington, D.C. on May 21,
4 1881 after hearing of the Swiss-inspired global Red Cross
5 network while visiting Europe following the American Civil War;
6 and

7 WHEREAS, The American Red Cross is one of the largest
8 humanitarian social service organizations in the country; it
9 was first chartered by the United States Congress in 1900; and

10 WHEREAS, Mrs. Williams T. Lewis and a group of local
11 friends and colleagues held the first meeting of the Red Cross
12 in Springfield at 503 South 7th street during the fall of 1916;
13 and

14 WHEREAS, The group had 1,300 enrollments and was recognized
15 as an official chapter on March 30, 1917; and

16 WHEREAS, The Sangamon Valley Chapter of the American Red
17 Cross increased area membership to 12,980 volunteers that same
18 year; volunteers of this group provided support and assistance
19 to the Mattoon/Charleston area in the aftermath of a May 1917
20 tornado, its first disaster response; and

1 WHEREAS, Area Red Cross members provided care for more than
2 300 patients during the 1918 influenza epidemic and
3 successfully started two war funds that raised \$90,971.71 and
4 \$132,962.37 respectfully in 1918; and

5 WHEREAS, The tireless efforts of Red Cross volunteers
6 continue in our community, our State, and in our Nation during
7 disasters, when someone needs lifesaving blood, or
8 around-the-clock support to members of the military and their
9 families; and

10 WHEREAS, Volunteer assistance and financial contributions
11 are needed now more than ever before to respond to the nearly
12 64,000 disasters that occur across our nation annually; and

13 WHEREAS, For these past 100 years, the American Red Cross
14 has had a long history of helping neighbors in need and it
15 continues to be part of the greater Springfield community,
16 helping citizens to learn, to help, and to care; and

17 WHEREAS, The American Red Cross is a full partner with the
18 State of Illinois; during times of disaster it is the lead
19 agency providing care to our citizens; it supports our Illinois
20 military personnel by providing biomedical supplies on a 24
21 hour non-stop basis, and is a charter member of the Illinois
22 Terrorism Task Force, IN which they continue to participate to

1 ensure the security of Illinois; and

2 WHEREAS, More than 90% of the Red Cross mission is
3 delivered through the work and support of volunteers; the Red
4 Cross depends on local heroes to deliver help during disasters
5 both near and far; therefore, be it

6 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
7 HUNDREDTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we
8 declare March 30, 2017 as Red Cross Centennial Day in the State
9 of Illinois, and we urge all residents to donate their time and
10 their resources in support of the American Red Cross; and be it
11 further

12 RESOLVED, That a community celebration will be held at 503
13 South 7th Street, where the Springfield Red Cross will show
14 appreciation for 100 years of service to the community and
15 further dedicate themselves to ensure that its mission remains
16 strong and vital for the next 100 years in Springfield and in
17 the United States; and be it further

18 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
19 presented to the Springfield chapter of the Red Cross.