

1 Introduced by Council Member White:
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4 **RESOLUTION 2023-153**

5 A RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING MARCH AS NATIONAL RED
6 CROSS MONTH AND COMMEMORATING THE 142ND
7 ANNIVERSARY OF THE AMERICAN RED CROSS AND THE
8 109TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE NORTHEAST FLORIDA
9 CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN RED CROSS; COMMENDING
10 THE VOLUNTEERS AND PAID STAFF OF THE NORTH
11 FLORIDA REGION FOR THEIR CONTINUING HUMANITARIAN
12 SERVICE TO OUR CITY AND TO THE STATE OF FLORIDA;
13 PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.
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15 **WHEREAS**, the American Red Cross is a humanitarian organization
16 founded in 1881 and originally chartered by Congress as a federal
17 instrumentality in 1900, but receives no federal funding; and

18 **WHEREAS**, the American Red Cross prevents and alleviates human
19 suffering in the face of emergencies by mobilizing the power of
20 volunteers and the generosity of donors; and

21 **WHEREAS**, the American Red Cross responds to more than 60,000
22 disasters annually, delivers vital services to members of the Armed
23 Forces, their families, and Veterans at home and overseas, and
24 provided lifesaving health and safety training to more than 4.6
25 million people in 2022; and

26 **WHEREAS**, March is recognized as Red Cross Month across the
27 nation and 2023 marks the 142nd anniversary of the American Red Cross
28 and the 109th anniversary of Florida's first chartered Red Cross
29 Chapter, established here in Jacksonville, Florida; and

30 **WHEREAS**, the American Red Cross has repeatedly answered the
31 call to assist Northeast Florida, beginning with the Yellow Fever

1 epidemic of 1888, offering support in Jacksonville to American troops
2 during the Spanish American War, then later providing relief to those
3 affected by Jacksonville's Great Fire of 1901; and

4 **WHEREAS,** the Northeast Florida Chapter of the American Red
5 Cross provides its humanitarian services across 13 counties in
6 Northeast Florida and is the headquarters for the 35-county Red Cross
7 North Florida Region stretching from the First Coast across the entire
8 breadth of the Florida Panhandle; and

9 **WHEREAS,** in 2022, the Northeast Florida Chapter of the American
10 Red Cross helped over 1,900 family members affected by nearly 600
11 home fires or other disasters, hosted 60 blood drives throughout the
12 region, including collections targeted at Sickle Cell Disease and
13 vital minority blood-type collections, regionally provided more than
14 18,600 vital services to military members, veterans, and families,
15 and deployed more than 200 of its 1,100 volunteers in response to
16 hurricanes and other disasters; and

17 **WHEREAS,** the American Red Cross and its Northeast Florida
18 Chapter delivered these vital services without interruption and with
19 scrupulous attention to client and volunteer safety throughout the
20 COVID-19 pandemic, at no cost to those they served, with 90 cents of
21 every dollar donated going directly to mission service delivery; now
22 therefore

23 **BE IT RESOLVED** by the Council of the City of Jacksonville:

24 **Section 1.** The City Council hereby recognizes March as
25 National Red Cross Month and commemorates the 142nd anniversary of
26 the American Red Cross and the 109th Anniversary of the Northeast
27 Florida Chapter of the American Red Cross.

28 **Section 2.** The Council also commends the volunteers and
29 paid staff of the North Florida Region for their continuing
30 humanitarian service to our City and to the State of Florida.

31 **Section 3. Effective Date.** This Resolution shall become

1 effective upon signature by the Mayor or upon becoming effective
2 without the Mayor's signature.

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4 Form Approved:

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6 /s/ Mary E. Staffopoulos

7 Office of General Counsel

8 Legislation Prepared By: Jeff Clements, City Council Research

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