

Substitute for House Resolution No. 34.

A resolution to declare March 2013 as Red Cross Month in the state of Michigan.

Whereas, March has historically been recognized as Red Cross Month by Presidents and Congress alike; and

Whereas, The American Red Cross was established on May 21, 1881, and undertook its first disaster relief effort aiding victims of forest fires across northern Michigan; and

Whereas, The United States Congress issued a Congressional Charter to the Red Cross on January 5, 1905, to fulfill the United States obligation under the First Geneva Convention protecting war-wounded and designating it as the entity to prepare for and respond to disasters in the United States as well as serve as the communications link between United States military personnel and their families; and

Whereas, The Red Cross nationwide enjoys the services of more than 500,000 volunteers, of whom 14,386 are in Michigan, responded in fiscal year 2012 to nearly 70,000 disasters, 2,303 of which occurred in Michigan, and provided about 75 percent of the blood supply used by Michigan residents in need of biological treatments, and

Whereas, Red Cross volunteers and staff provide invaluable Disaster, Health and Safety, Military, Biomedical and International services in every county in Michigan; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives, That the members of this legislative body declare March 2013 as Red Cross Month in the state of Michigan. We urge all citizens to volunteer, donate blood and provide financial support as the Red Cross works to improve the lives of Michigan citizens.