

Proclamation



Jane Castor, Mayor

WHEREAS, established in Washington, D.C. on May 21, 1881, the **American Red Cross** was founded by the late Clara Barton, and is one of the nation's oldest, most recognized humanitarian organizations providing compassionate care, both in the United States of America and internationally, when disaster and crisis threaten, and every eight minutes, the American Red Cross brings help and hope to people in need; and

WHEREAS, the mission of the American Red Cross is to provide a beacon of hope and prevent and alleviate human suffering in the face of emergencies by mobilizing the power of volunteers and the generosity of donors, and the fundamental principles of the American Red Cross include *Humanity, Impartiality, Neutrality, Independence, Voluntary Service, Unity, and Universality*; and

WHEREAS, through its strong network of volunteers, donors and partners, the American Red Cross is always available during times of need and it aspires to turn compassion into action by providing care, shelter, and hope, and by preparing communities for disasters, and during the COVID-19 pandemic, people stepped-up to help others in need by donating blood and providing food, lodging, and recovery support; and

WHEREAS, with approximately a 90 percent volunteer workforce, the American Red Cross responds annually to an estimated 60,000 disasters, and it provides support to members and veterans of the United States Armed Forces and their families, collects and distributes safe, life-saving blood and blood products, and trains millions of people life-saving skills including first aid and water safety; and

WHEREAS, the American Red Cross of Central Florida and the United States Virgin Islands, headquartered in Tampa Bay serves nineteen Florida Counties and four of the United States Virgin Islands, and locally, the Tampa Bay Chapter serves the communities of Hillsborough and Pinellas Counties, and the volunteers support our families during disasters and emergencies including house fires, tornados, tropical storms, and hurricanes, they assist our military members, veterans, and servicemember organizations with emergency communications, aid, and resources, and they train our residents in valuable life-saving skills; and

WHEREAS, March was proclaimed "**American Red Cross Month**" by President Franklin D. Roosevelt in 1943, to raise awareness of the organization and its humanitarian mission, and to honor its founder Clara Barton and the efforts of those in our nation that advance her legacy and serve their communities.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Jane Castor, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor of the city of Tampa, Florida, do hereby proclaim the month of March 2022 as

"AMERICAN RED CROSS MONTH"

in the city of Tampa, Florida, and urge all citizens to join me in thanking the volunteers, donors, and supporters of the American Red Cross for all they have contributed to our community, our nation, and the world for well over a century.

Dated in Tampa, Florida, this 17th day of February 2022.



Jane Castor

Mayor