

A Proclamation  
By  
Governor Ronnie Musgrove

**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; and

**WHEREAS**, the victims of more than 70,000 disasters, from fires that affected a single structure to large-scale events such as hurricanes, floods, tornadoes and wildfires, received help from the Red Cross last year—more than 1.2 million silent heroes helped their neighbors by volunteering at their local Red Cross chapter, almost 12 million more took the time to learn lifesaving skills such as first aid, CPR, and defibrillator use, and more than 4 million volunteer donors made 7.2 million blood donations, the gift of life, through the American Red Cross; and

**WHEREAS**, compassionate and caring people who want to make a difference in their community and across the nation, at home and abroad, channel their support through the American Red Cross to those who need blood, those who are victims of disaster, or those who are the recipients from the broad spectrum of community services provided by the American Red Cross every day; and

**WHEREAS**, more than half a million U.S. military families received direct assistance from the Red Cross, keeping them connected in times of great personal sorrow and joy—the Red Cross also responded to international emergencies by aiding other countries devastated by natural disasters and helping people in other nations get access to safe drinking water and battle malnutrition and life-threatening diseases such as measles; and

**WHEREAS**, 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 struggling to comprehend the terribly tragedy—from their example came a new resolve: to be better prepared in the event of another wide-scale attack anywhere in America; and

**WHEREAS**, today, in a collaborative effort with the federal and state governments and other members of the emergency planning community, the Red Cross and its partners are better able to serve the nation; and

**WHEREAS**, 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 – the Red Cross and Americans from coast to coast will help make their communities safer:

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Ronnie Musgrove, Governor of the State of Mississippi, hereby proclaim March 2003, as

**AMERICAN RED CROSS MONTH**

in the State of Mississippi to applaud and recognize the selfless dedication of generations of Red Crossers and to urge all Mississippians 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.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Mississippi to be affixed.

DONE in the City of Jackson, March 10, 2003, in the two hundred and twenty-sixth year of the United States of America.

RONNIE MUSGROVE  
GOVERNOR