86R19405 JGH-D

By:  Allen H.R. No. 821

R E S O L U T I O N

WHEREAS, For more than a century, the American Red Cross has made vital contributions to the people of the Lone Star State; and

WHEREAS, Established more than 137 years ago, the Red Cross is one of the largest humanitarian organizations in the world; its four regions in Texas are represented by 17 chapters and more than 7,000 volunteers; in 2018, these men and women contributed nearly 580,000 hours of their time and sweat equity to the welfare of their fellow citizens; and

WHEREAS, In recent history, the Red Cross responded to the tragic mass shootings at First Baptist Church of Sutherland Springs in 2017 and Santa Fe High School in 2018 by setting up canteens for first responders and opening family reunification and family assistance centers; the organization also provided support to law enforcement and emergency personnel during the series of Austin package bombings in 2018; and

WHEREAS, All four regions of the Red Cross opened mega-shelters across the state for displaced families in the aftermath of Hurricane Harvey and offered long-term recovery assistance for hundreds of thousands of Texans; following the devastating tornadoes in North Texas in 2015, the organization supplied food and shelter as well as case workers who helped families connect with needed resources, and it regularly responds to floods in Central, South, and West Texas by providing shelter and cleaning kits to families whose homes were damaged by high water; and

WHEREAS, In addition to its efforts during emergencies and natural disasters, the Red Cross works every day to benefit Texans; in 2018, it delivered 168,000 units of blood to hospitals, trained more than 205,000 people in first aid and CPR, helped over 6,900 families after local emergencies such as house fires, installed more than 17,800 free smoke alarms in homes, and offered nearly 44,000 services to veterans, serving military personnel, and their families; and

WHEREAS, Every day, across our state, the American Red Cross endeavors to prevent and alleviate the suffering of those in crisis, and the skill and compassion of its dedicated volunteers are truly deserving of special recognition; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 86th Texas Legislature hereby commend the American Red Cross for its contributions to the people of Texas and extend to its staff and volunteers sincere best wishes for continued success in their important work; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be prepared for the American Red Cross as an expression of high regard by the Texas House of Representatives.