

WHEREAS, more than 137 years ago, the American Red Cross was established as a humanitarian organization, guided by seven fundamental principles—including humanity, impartiality and independence—to provide services to those in need regardless of race, religion, gender, sexual orientation or citizenship status. Today, the American Red Cross is one of the largest humanitarian organizations in the world, and delivers its mission every day to prevent and alleviate human suffering in the face of emergencies; and

WHEREAS, every year, the American Red Cross responds to an average of more than 62,000 disasters across the country, from small home fires to devastating massive disasters. Last year's large crises included mudslides in California, a volcano in Hawaii, wildfires in Colorado and California, destructive hurricanes in Florida and the Carolinas, and a devastating typhoon in U.S. territories. Thousands of American Red Cross volunteers provided around-the-clock shelter for disaster victims, served millions of meals and snacks with partners, and distributed millions of relief items; and

WHEREAS, in the City of Fort Pierce, the Red Cross has a long history of helping our neighbors in need. Florida's Coast to Heartland Chapter assisted with 113 local disasters in the past year alone and helped save lives through our Home Fire Campaign. Since the campaign launched in October 2014, the chapter has worked with community partners to more install 2,900 smoke alarms making households safer. Meanwhile, in our area, the Red Cross handles an average of 600 emergency military calls every year; and

WHEREAS, March is Red Cross Month, a special time to recognize and thank the Red Cross volunteers and donors who give of their time and resources to help members of the community. The Red Cross depends on these local heroes to deliver help and hope during a disaster. We applaud our heroes here in our community who give of themselves to assist their neighbors when they need a helping hand; and

WHEREAS, a the American Red Cross shelters, feeds and provides emotional support to victims of disasters; supplies about 40 percent of the nation's blood; teaches skills that save lives; provides international humanitarian aid; and supports military members and their families; and

WHEREAS, we dedicate the month of March to all those who support the American Red Cross mission to prevent and alleviate human suffering in the face of emergencies. Our community depends on the American Red Cross, which relies on volunteers and the generosity of the public to perform its mission.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Linda Hudson, Mayor of the City of Fort Pierce, Florida, do hereby issue this proclaim March 2019 as:

American Red Cross Month

and encourage all Americans to support this organization and its noble humanitarian mission.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Official Seal of the City of Fort Pierce, Florida, to be affixed this 4th day of March, 2019.

MAYOR/COMMISSIONER