



# PROCLAMATION

ONE CITY. ONE JACKSONVILLE.

**WHEREAS:** The American Red Cross is a humanitarian organization founded in 1881 and originally chartered by Congress as a federal instrumentality in 1900, but receives no federal funding, and provides free disaster assistance with 90 cents of every dollar donated going directly to mission service delivery that prevents and alleviates human suffering in the face of emergencies by mobilizing the power of volunteers and the generosity of donors; and

**WHEREAS:** The American Red Cross responds to more than 70,000 disasters annually and delivers vital services to members of the Armed Forces, their families, and Veterans at home and overseas. In 2020, the American Red Cross provided lifesaving health and safety training to more than five million people, helped more than 1,900 family members affected by more than 550 home fires or other disasters, hosted more than a dozen blood drives throughout the region, including collections targeted at Sickle Cell Disease and vital minority blood-type collections, and regionally provided more than 23,000 vital services to military members, veterans, and families, and deployed more than 500 of its 1,600 volunteers in response to hurricanes and other disasters; and

**WHEREAS:** For 75 years, American Presidents have proclaimed March as Red Cross Month across the nation and 2021 marks the 140th anniversary of the American Red Cross and the 107<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Florida's first chartered Red Cross Chapter, established here in Jacksonville, Florida; and

**WHEREAS:** The American Red Cross has repeatedly answered the call to assist Northeast Florida, beginning with the Yellow Fever epidemic of 1888, including support in Jacksonville to American troops during the Spanish American War, and later providing relief to those affected by Jacksonville's Great Fire of 1901, and

**WHEREAS:** The Northeast Florida Chapter of the American Red Cross provides its humanitarian services across thirteen counties in Northeast Florida and is the headquarters for the 35-county Red Cross North Florida Region stretching from the First Coast across the entire breadth of the Florida Panhandle, and

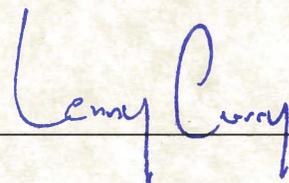
**WHEREAS:** The American Red Cross and its Northeast Florida Chapter have delivered these vital services without interruption and with scrupulous attention to client and volunteer safety throughout the COVID-19 epidemic.

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, LENNY CURRY,** by virtue of the authority vested in me as mayor of Jacksonville, Florida, do hereby proclaim March 2021 as

## NATIONAL RED CROSS MONTH

in Jacksonville and commend the volunteers and staff of the North Florida Region for their continuing humanitarian service to our City and to the State of Florida and encourage all citizens to become local heroes through volunteer service to the community.

IN WITNESS THEREOF, this 4<sup>th</sup> day of March  
in the year Two Thousand



MAYOR



CITY OF JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA