STATE OF ARKANSAS

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

PROCLAMATION

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS COME – GREETINGS:

WHEREAS: The American Red Cross saw a record-breaking year in 2017 of challenging domestic and international response efforts. Through the support of its volunteers, in just 45 days, the Red Cross responded to six of the largest and most complex disasters of 2017 including back-to-back hurricanes, the deadliest week of wildfires in California history, and the horrific mass shooting in Las Vegas. In addition, the Red Cross responded to nearly 50,000 home fires in 2017, providing casework assistance to help 76,000 families recover; and

WHEREAS: In the state of Arkansas, the Red Cross has a long history of helping our neighbors in need. Red Cross volunteers provided assistance in over 1,300 local disasters in Arkansas in the past year alone. They installed nearly 4,000 smoke alarms and reached over 1,700 households with fire safety information. In our state, the Red Cross handles an average of 750 emergency military calls every year; and

WHEREAS: March is American 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 Arkansas who give of themselves to assist their neighbors when they need a helping hand; and

WHEREAS: Across Arkansas, the country, and around the world, the American Red Cross responds to disasters big and small. It collects about 40 percent of the nation's blood supply; provides 24-hour support to military members, veterans, and their families; teaches millions lifesaving skills such as lifeguarding and CPR; and through its Restoring Family Links program, connects family members separated by crisis, conflict, or migration; 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 donations of time, money, and blood to fulfill its humanitarian mission;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, ASA HUTCHINSON, Governor of the State of Arkansas, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the laws of the State of Arkansas, do hereby proclaim the month of March, 2018, as

AMERICAN RED CROSS MONTH

across the State, I encourage all Arkansans to support their noble humanitarian mission.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Arkansas to be affixed this 19th day of March, in the year of our Lord 2018.

Asa Hutchinson, Governor

Mark Martin, Secretary Of State