



Parish of Ascension

OFFICE OF THE PARISH PRESIDENT

TOMMY MARTINEZ
Parish President

Parish President Proclaims March as Red Cross Month in Ascension

Contact: Lester Kenyon (225) 450-1138; E-mail: lkenyon@apgov.us

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: March 14, 2014

GONZALES – Ascension Parish President Tommy Martinez proclaimed March, 2014 as Red Cross Month in Ascension Parish.

President Martinez read the proclamation aloud during the Ascension Parish Council meeting in Donaldsonville on March 6.

President Martinez commended the efforts of local Red Cross volunteers including representatives of the local chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., a local service organization.

“We appreciate everything the Red Cross does here in Ascension Parish,” President Martinez said. “We were able to work side by side with their volunteer members of the American Red Cross, especially during Hurricane Gustav, and they did a wonderful job not only on the east bank or the west bank, but the entire parish.”

Monique Edwards, board member of the Louisiana Capital Area Region of the American Red Cross and a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, said the Red Cross offers health and safety training education classes to the general public.

“We do a lot of training, especially with CPR,” Edwards said. “One of the biggest challenges we have is with the weather and with fire. People don’t realize that the first responders call the Red Cross and we go out.”

Edwards said the Red Cross is also available for fire safety demonstrations.

#

“There are some funds that we can access to get smoke detectors in the homes of your residents,” Edwards said.

According to the American Red Cross website, the organization is part of the world’s largest humanitarian network and includes 13 million volunteers in 187 countries. The Red Cross responds to approximately 70,000 disasters in the United States every year, ranging from home fires that affect a single family to hurricanes that affect tens of thousands, to earthquakes that impact millions.

During these events, the Red Cross provides shelter, food, health and mental health services to help families and entire communities get back on their feet. The Red Cross also helps military members, veterans and their families prepare for, cope with, and respond to the challenges of military service. Emergency communications, training, support to wounded warriors and veterans, and access to community resources help an average of 150,000 military families and veterans annually.

Parish Councilman Randy Clouatre thanked the volunteers and said his family has several members serving in the military and the Red Cross was instrumental in helping them.

“I thank you guys very much for your duty and for your services,” Councilman Clouatre said.

For more information, call the Capital Area Chapter of the American Red Cross at (225) 291-4533 or visit www.redcross.org/la/baton-rouge.

#



Parish President Tommy Martinez (third from right) is shown presenting a parish proclamation to Monique Edwards during the March 6 parish council meeting in Donaldsonville. President Martinez proclaimed the month of March, 2014 as Red Cross Month in Ascension Parish. Ms. Edwards is a board member of the Louisiana Capital Area Region of the Red Cross, and a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority which is a service organization that volunteers with the Red Cross. Shown from left to right from Alpha Kappa Sorority are Audrey Preston, Juanita Dandridge, Angeline Comminey, President Martinez, Monique Edwards and Mary Ann Edwards.

#