

By Senator Ring

32-00318-08

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## Senate Resolution

A resolution recognizing May 2008 as "Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis Awareness Month" in the State of Florida.

WHEREAS, Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS), better known as Lou Gehrig's Disease, is a progressive neurodegenerative disease that affects nerve cells in the brain and spinal cord, and

WHEREAS, the early symptoms of ALS include weakness of the skeletal muscles, especially involving the arms and legs, and difficulty in swallowing, talking, and breathing, and

WHEREAS, ALS eventually causes muscles to atrophy, and the patient becomes a functional quadriplegic, and

WHEREAS, ALS does not affect a patient's mental capacity; therefore, the patient remains alert and aware of his or her loss of motor functions and the inevitability of continued deterioration and death, and

WHEREAS, on average, patients diagnosed as having ALS survive only 2 to 5 years after the diagnosis, and

WHEREAS, research indicates that military veterans are at least 50 percent more likely to develop ALS than those who have not served in the military, and

WHEREAS, ALS has no known cause, means of prevention, or cure, and

WHEREAS, the recognition of an "Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis Awareness Month" will increase awareness regarding the circumstances of ALS patients and the terrible impact this disease has not only on the patient but on the patient's family and the larger community and will support the goals of biomedical

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30 | research on ALS, which are to find the cause or causes of ALS,  
31 | understand the mechanisms involved in the progression of the  
32 | disease, and develop effective treatment, NOW, THEREFORE,

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34 | Be It Resolved by the Senate of the State of Florida:

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36 |       That May 2008 is recognized as "Amyotrophic Lateral  
37 | Sclerosis Awareness Month" in the State of Florida.