

HR 9013

2008

## 1 House Resolution

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

4  
5 WHEREAS, Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS), better known  
6 as Lou Gehrig's Disease, is a progressive neurodegenerative  
7 disease that affects nerve cells in the brain and spinal cord,  
8 and

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

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

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

18 WHEREAS, on average, patients diagnosed with ALS survive  
19 only three to five years after the diagnosis, and

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

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

25 WHEREAS, the designation of an "Amyotrophic Lateral  
26 Sclerosis Awareness Month" will increase awareness regarding the  
27 circumstances of ALS patients and the terrible impact this  
28 disease has not only on the patient but on the patient's family

HR 9013

2008

29 | and the larger community and will support the goals of  
30 | biomedical research on ALS, which are to find the cause or  
31 | causes of ALS, understand the mechanisms involved in the  
32 | progression of the disease, and develop effective treatment,  
33 | NOW, THEREFORE,

34 |

35 | Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of  
36 | Florida:

37 |

38 |       That May 2008 is designated as "Amyotrophic Lateral  
39 | Sclerosis Awareness Month" in the State of Florida.