

By Senator Ring

32-02358-09

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Senate Resolution

A resolution recognizing May 2009 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, eventually leading to functional quadriplegia, and

WHEREAS, ALS does not affect an individual's mental capacity, which means that a person with ALS remains alert and aware of his or her loss of motor functions and the inevitability of continued deterioration and death, and

WHEREAS, on average, a patient diagnosed as having ALS survives only 2 to 5 years after the initial 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 "Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis Awareness Month" will increase awareness regarding the circumstances of ALS patients and the terrible impact of this disease not only on the person who has ALS, but on his or her

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

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36 Be It Resolved by the Senate of the State of Florida:

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38 That May 2009 is recognized as "Amyotrophic Lateral
39 Sclerosis Awareness Month" in the State of Florida.