

HR 9045

2009

House Resolution

A resolution designating April 28, 2009, as "Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis Awareness Day" 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 with ALS survive only three to five 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 designation of an "Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis Awareness Day" 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

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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,

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

37 |

38 | That April 28, 2009, is designated as "Amyotrophic Lateral
39 | Sclerosis Awareness Day" in the State of Florida.