

By Senator Ring

32-02198-10

20102562

Senate Resolution

A resolution recognizing May 2010 as "Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis Awareness Month" in 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, resulting in functional quadriplegia, and

WHEREAS, ALS does not affect an individual's mental capacity, and he or she remains alert and aware of his or her loss of motor functions and the inevitability of continued deterioration and death, and

WHEREAS, on average, individuals diagnosed with ALS survive only 3 to 5 years after their 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 an "Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis Awareness Month" increases awareness of the circumstances of ALS patients and the impact of the disease on the patient, his or her family members, and the larger community, and supports the goals of ALS research, which are to

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30 find the cause or causes of ALS, to understand the mechanisms
31 involved in the progression of the disease, and to develop
32 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 2010 is recognized as "Amyotrophic Lateral
37 Sclerosis Awareness Month" in Florida.