

HR 9005

2012

## House Resolution

1  
2 A resolution designating May 2012 as "Amyotrophic  
3 Lateral Sclerosis Awareness Month" and Thursday,  
4 February 24, 2012, as "Dave Bitner Day" in Florida.  
5

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

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

13 WHEREAS, ALS eventually causes muscles to atrophy and the  
14 patient to become a functional quadriplegic, and

15 WHEREAS, because ALS does not affect a person's mental  
16 capacity, a person with ALS remains alert and aware of his or  
17 her loss of motor functions and the inevitability of continued  
18 deterioration and death, and

19 WHEREAS, the average survival rate for a person with ALS is  
20 2 to 5 years after the diagnosis, and

21 WHEREAS, research indicates that military veterans are at  
22 least twice as likely to develop ALS than those who have not  
23 served in the military, and

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

26 WHEREAS, the designation of an "Amyotrophic Lateral  
27 Sclerosis Awareness Month" will increase public awareness of the  
28 circumstances of ALS patients and the terrible impact of this

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29 disease on the patient, the patient's family, and the community  
30 in which they live and will increase support for biomedical  
31 research on ALS to find the cause or causes of ALS, understand  
32 the mechanisms involved in the progression of the disease, and  
33 develop effective treatment, and

34 WHEREAS, David "Dave" I. Bitner of Monticello, Florida, a  
35 former member of the Florida House of Representatives, died on  
36 September 8, 2011, after a courageous months-long battle with  
37 ALS, and

38 WHEREAS, on February 24, 2012, the ALS Association, Florida  
39 Chapter, will hold its inaugural Tallahassee Walk to Defeat ALS  
40 event, NOW, THEREFORE,

41  
42 Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of  
43 Florida:

44  
45 That May 2012 is designated as "Amyotrophic Lateral  
46 Sclerosis Awareness Month" and Thursday, February 24, 2012, is  
47 designated as "Dave Bitner Day" in the State of Florida.