

1 A MEMORIAL

2 PROCLAIMING FEBRUARY 3, 2012 "ALS AWARENESS DAY" IN THE
3 SENATE.

4
5 WHEREAS, amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, ALS, is better
6 known as Lou Gehrig's disease; and

7 WHEREAS, ALS is a fatal neurodegenerative disease that
8 is characterized by degeneration of the cell bodies of the
9 lower motor neurons in the gray matter of the anterior horns
10 of the spinal cord; and

11 WHEREAS, the initial symptom of ALS is weakness of the
12 skeletal muscles, especially those of the extremities; and

13 WHEREAS, as ALS progresses, the patient experiences
14 difficulty in swallowing, talking and breathing; and

15 WHEREAS, ALS eventually causes muscles to atrophy, and
16 the patient becomes a functional quadriplegic; and

17 WHEREAS, ALS does not affect a patient's mental
18 capacity, so the patient remains alert and aware of the
19 patient's loss of motor functions and of the inevitable
20 outcome of continued deterioration and death; and

21 WHEREAS, on average, patients diagnosed with ALS only
22 survive two to five years from the time of diagnosis; and

23 WHEREAS, research indicates that military veterans have
24 a fifty-percent greater risk of developing ALS than those who
25 have not served in the military; and

1 WHEREAS, ALS has no known cause, no means of prevention
2 and no cure; and

3 WHEREAS, an estimated one hundred fifty New Mexicans are
4 living with ALS at any given time; and

5 WHEREAS, "ALS Awareness Day" will increase public
6 awareness of ALS patients' circumstances, acknowledge the
7 terrible impact the disease has, not only on the patient but
8 also on the patient's family and community, and recognize the
9 research being done to eradicate this horrible disease;

10 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE
11 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that it proclaim February 3, 2012
12 "ALS Awareness Day" in the senate; and

13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the senate urge the
14 president of the United States and members of congress to
15 enact legislation to provide additional funding for research
16 in order to find a treatment and, eventually, a cure for ALS;
17 and

18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this memorial be
19 transmitted to the interim legislative health and human
20 services committee.

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