

HR 9061

2011

## House Resolution

A resolution designating May 2011 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 swallowing, talking, and breathing, and

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

WHEREAS, because ALS does not affect a person's mental capacity, 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, the average survival rate for a person with ALS is 2 to 5 years after the diagnosis, and

WHEREAS, research indicates that military veterans are at least twice as 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 Month" will increase public awareness of the circumstances of ALS patients and the terrible impact of this disease on the patient, the patient's family, and the community

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29 | in which they live and will increase support for biomedical  
30 | research on ALS to find the cause or causes of ALS, understand  
31 | the mechanisms involved in the progression of the disease, and  
32 | develop effective treatment, NOW, THEREFORE,

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

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37 |       That May 2011 is designated as "Amyotrophic Lateral  
38 | Sclerosis Awareness Month" in the State of Florida.