

*The Village of Carlock, of McLean County, of Illinois
Proclaims May 2018 to be
Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS) Awareness Month*

WHEREAS, Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis or ALS is better known as Lou Gehrig's Disease; and

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

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

WHEREAS, as ALS progresses, the patient experiences 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, so that the patient remains alert and aware of his or her loss of motor functions and the inevitable outcome of continued deterioration and death; and

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

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

WHEREAS, research indicates that military veterans are approximately twice as likely to develop ALS as those who have not served in the military; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Veterans Affairs implemented the regulations to establish a presumption of service connection for ALS, thereby presuming that the development of ALS was incurred or aggravated by a veteran's service in the military; and

WHEREAS, a national ALS patient registry, administered by the Centers for Disease Control, is currently identifying cases of ALS in the United States and may become the single largest ALS research project ever created; and

WHEREAS, Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis Awareness Month increases the public's awareness of ALS patients' circumstances and acknowledges the terrible impact this disease has not only on the patient but on his or her family and the community and recognizes the research being done to eradicate this horrible disease; now,

THEREFORE, be it resolved that the President of the Village of Carlock, Jeremiah Houston, hereby proclaims the Month of May 2018 as Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis Awareness Month in the Village of Carlock, in the County of McLean County, in the State of Illinois, on this day, April 24, 2018.

Signed: Jeremiah Houston, President, Village of Carlock
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