

# Proclamation



*Bob Buckhorn, Mayor*

**WHEREAS**, Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS), often referred to as Lou Gehrig's Disease, is a progressive neurodegenerative disease that affects nerve cells and pathways in the brain and spinal cord, making even simple movements nearly impossible, and ALS has no known cause, means of prevention or cure; and

**WHEREAS**, ALS can strike anyone and occurs throughout the world with no racial, ethnic, or socioeconomic boundaries and, on average, patients with ALS survive only two to five years after the diagnosis, and research shows that military veterans are twice as likely to develop the disease than those that have not served; 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 eventually ALS causes muscles to atrophy and the patient becomes a functional quadriplegic; and

**WHEREAS**, since ALS does not affect a patient's mental capacity, the person remains alert and aware of his or her loss of motor functions and the inevitability of continued deterioration and death; and

**WHEREAS**, founded in 1985, The ALS Association is the only national not-for-profit health organization dedicated solely to the fight against ALS and leads the way in researching patient and community services, public education, and advocacy, and commits millions of dollars annually toward research, giving help and hope to those facing the disease; and

**WHEREAS**, The ALS Association Florida Chapter based in Tampa was founded in 1987 to serve the needs of those living with ALS and their caregivers, and its mission is "to lead the fight to cure and treat ALS through global, cutting-edge research, and to empower people with Lou Gehrig's Disease and their families to live fuller lives by providing them with compassionate care and support" and carries out its mission by empowering the lives of those living with ALS through Care, Advocacy, Research, Education and Support (CARES).

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Bob Buckhorn, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor of the City of Tampa, Florida, do hereby proclaim May, 2012 as

## ***"AMYOTROPHIC LATERAL SCLEROSIS AWARENESS MONTH"***

in the City of Tampa, Florida, and encourage all citizens to participate and support the mission of the ALS Association in its goal of increasing awareness and finding a cure for this disease.

Dated in Tampa, Florida, this 30<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2012.



*Bob Buckhorn*

Mayor

