

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, clinical management, and giving assistance and hope to those facing the disease, and the organization is committed to its vision of creating a world without ALS; 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 it supports the mission of "leading 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 it accomplishes this 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 2015 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 15th day of May, 2015.



Bob Buckhorn

Mayor