

## 2011-K518

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION memorializing Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim June 12, 2011 as ALS (Lou Gehrig's Disease) Day in the State of New York

WHEREAS, Better known as Lou Gehrig's disease, Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS) is a progressive neurodegenerative disease for which there is no known cause, cure, or means of control; and

WHEREAS, On Sunday, June 12, 2011, the ALS Association Greater New York Chapter will host its ninth Annual Westchester Walk to Defeat ALS at Tibbet Brook Park in Yonkers, where, in 2010, over 800 participants raised over \$155 thousand; and

WHEREAS, Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis is responsible for nearly two deaths per 100,000 people each year, approximately 5,600 people in the United States are newly diagnosed with Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis each year and ultimately, thirty thousand people living today in the United States will die from Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis; and

WHEREAS, ALS occurs throughout the world with no age, racial, ethnic, or socioeconomic boundaries; this devastating disease has impacted the lives of many people across this great State including former New York State Senator Jacob K. Javits, who lost his battle at the young age of 81, William Glenn Monti, whose brilliance was darkened at the tender age of 33 and Benjamin Tenzer, a beloved and devoted member of the Brooklyn community; and

WHEREAS, This year commemorates the 72nd Anniversary of the Lou Gehrig's Farewell Speech delivered at Yankee Stadium; in honor of those Unforgettable words, "...today I consider myself the luckiest man on the face of this earth....," all July 4th baseball games across the country will host an on-field reading of that speech during the 7th Inning Stretch; and

WHEREAS, Furthermore, Major League Baseball has also announced "4 ALS Awareness," a charitable campaign to help raise awareness and financial support for organizations leading the fight against ALS; and

WHEREAS, This year also marks the 17th Anniversary of The ALS Association Greater New York Chapter whose 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

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to urge all of our citizens to support the search for a cure of ALS and assist those individuals and families who deal with this devastating disorder on a daily basis; and

WHEREAS, The New York State Wadsworth Laboratory has been at the forefront of research on brain to computer interface which will allow ALS patients a better quality of life; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body urge the State of New York to join forces with the ALS research community to begin to conduct ALS case ascertainment for the purpose of coordinating with the National ALS patient registry at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to advance the fight against the disease in New York and across the United States; and be it further

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to memorialize Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim June 12, 2011, as ALS (Lou Gehrig's disease) Day in the State of New York; and be it further

RESOLVED, That copies of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to The Honorable Andrew Cuomo, Governor of the State of New York; Dorine Gordon, President and CEO of The ALS Association Greater New York Chapter; Mr. William Monti; and Mr. Mark Rubin.