

2015-J1917

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION memorializing Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim May 2015, as Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis Awareness Month in New York State

WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Legislative Body to help increase awareness of serious health conditions that affect the lives of citizens of New York State; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to memorialize Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim May 2015 as Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis Awareness Month in the State of New York; and

WHEREAS, Every day, an average of 15 people are newly diagnosed with ALS; and annually, more than 5,600 new ALS patients are diagnosed throughout the nation; and

WHEREAS, As many as 30,000 Americans have the disease at any given time, and annually, ALS is responsible for two deaths per 100,000 people; and

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

WHEREAS, ALS is a progressive, fatal, neurodegenerative disease characterized by degeneration of cell bodies of the upper and lower motor neurons in the gray matter of the anterior horn 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 patients in the later stages of the disease are totally paralyzed; and

WHEREAS, Patients with ALS typically remain alert and aware of their

loss of motor functions and the inevitable outcome of continued deterioration and death; and

WHEREAS, ALS occurs in adulthood, most commonly between 40 and 70 years of age, with the peak age of about 55, and affects both men and women without bias; and

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

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

WHEREAS, Research indicates that ALS affects military veterans at twice the rate of the general population; 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

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 patients but on their families as well; and

WHEREAS, It is imperative that there be greater awareness of this serious health condition, and more must be done to increase activity at the local, State and National levels; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to memorialize Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim May 2015, as Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis Awareness Month in the State of New York; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to The Honorable Andrew M. Cuomo, Governor of the State of New York.