

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS: Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS), commonly known as Lou Gehrig's disease, is a fatal neurodegenerative disorder of motor neurons, causing the failure of nerve cells in the brain and spinal cord that control the action of voluntary muscles; and

WHEREAS: Initial symptoms of ALS include muscle weakness, atrophy, cramping, twitching, stiffness, and spasticity, which lead to problems with mobility, speaking, swallowing and breathing; and

WHEREAS: According to the ALS Association, the disease affects an estimated 20,000 Americans at any given time, and each year, more than 6,000 are newly diagnosed. ALS has no known cure, cause, or means of prevention; and

WHEREAS: The life expectancy of a person with ALS averages two to five years from the time of diagnosis. The disease does not affect the individual's intellectual capacity, so they remain alert and aware of the loss of motor functions; and

WHEREAS: In addition to physical symptoms, the advanced stages of ALS can be financially crippling for patients and their families; and

WHEREAS: Medical professionals, advocates and organizations throughout the United States are working to find effective treatments and a cure for ALS through aggressive research and clinical programs; and

WHEREAS: ALS Awareness Month provides an opportunity to recognize the efforts conducted to eradicate this disease and to increase public awareness about the devastating impact ALS has on those diagnosed and their families.

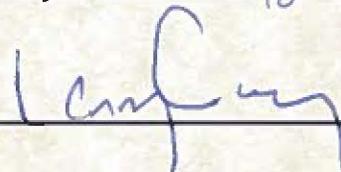
NOW, THEREFORE, I, LENNY CURRY, by virtue of the authority vested in me as mayor of Jacksonville, Florida, do hereby proclaim May 2018 as

ALS AWARENESS MONTH

in Jacksonville and encourage all citizens to learn more about ALS and to support efforts to research treatments and eradicate this disease.



IN WITNESS THEREOF, this 6th day of April
in the year Two Thousand 18


MAYOR

CITY OF JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA