



# Proclamation

## By the Governor of Alabama

*WHEREAS, Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS), better known as Lou Gehrigs disease, is a fatal disease characterized by progressive degeneration of motor neurons in the brain and spinal cord leading to a loss of voluntary muscle control; and*

*WHEREAS, ALS eventually causes muscular atrophy such that the patient becomes a functional quadriplegic requiring total and constant care; and*

*WHEREAS, the progression of ALS causes the patient to experience difficulty in swallowing, talking, and breathing; and*

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

*WHEREAS, the advanced stages of ALS can be financially crippling, depleting the resources of patients and families; and*

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

*WHEREAS, nearly 6000 Americans are diagnosed with ALS every year, and an estimated 35,000 Americans are afflicted with the disease; and*

*WHEREAS, military veterans are at greatly increased risk of developing ALS compared to those who have never served in the military; and*

*WHEREAS, a national ALS patient registry, istered by the Centers for Disease Control, is currently identifying cases of ALS in the United States through voluntary reporting; and*

*WHEREAS, the ALS Association, many individuals and organizations across Alabama and the United States are aggressively searching for treatments and a cure for ALS through active research and clinical programs; and*

*WHEREAS, Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis Awareness Month increases the publics awareness of ALS patients circumstances and acknowledges the devastating impact this disease has on the patient, his or her family and the community as a whole, and recognizes the research being done to eradicate this terrible disease;*

*NOW, THEREFORE, I, Kay Ivey, Governor of Alabama, do hereby proclaim May 2019, as*

## *ALS Awareness Month*

*in the State of Alabama.*



*Given Under My Hand and the Great Seal of the Office of the Governor at the State Capitol in the City of Montgomery on the 5<sup>th</sup> day of April 2019.*

*Kay Ivey*  
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Kay Ivey, Governor