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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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# HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 616 Session of  
2006

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INTRODUCED BY MCGILL, ARGALL, BAKER, BALDWIN, BASTIAN, BELARDI, BELFANTI, BENNINGHOFF, BEYER, BOYD, BUNT, CALTAGIRONE, CAPPELLI, CAUSER, COHEN, CORNELL, CORRIGAN, CRAHALLA, CREIGHTON, CRUZ, CURRY, DALLY, DENLINGER, DeWEESE, DIGIROLAMO, DONATUCCI, J. EVANS, FABRIZIO, FEESE, FICHTER, FLEAGLE, FORCIER, FRANKEL, FREEMAN, GEIST, GEORGE, GILLESPIE, GINGRICH, GOOD, GOODMAN, GRUCELA, HARPER, HARRIS, HERSHEY, HESS, JAMES, KILLION, KOTIK, LEACH, LEDERER, LEH, MAJOR, MANN, MARKOSEK, MARSICO, McGEEHAN, McILHATTAN, MICOZZIE, MILLARD, MUNDY, MUSTIO, MYERS, PALLONE, PERZEL, PHILLIPS, PICKETT, PISTELLA, PYLE, RAMALEY, RAPP, READSHAW, REICHLEY, ROEBUCK, ROHRER, ROSS, RUBLEY, SAINATO, SAMUELSON, SANTONI, SATHER, SCAVELLO, SCHRODER, SEMMEL, SIPTROTH, SOLOBAY, SONNEY, STABACK, STERN, TANGRETTI, E. Z. TAYLOR, THOMAS, TIGUE, TRUE, WATSON, WILT, WOJNAROSKI, YOUNGBLOOD, ZUG AND WHEATLEY, MARCH 6, 2006

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INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,  
MARCH 6, 2006

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## A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing the month of May 2006 as "Amyotrophic Lateral  
2 Sclerosis Awareness Month" in Pennsylvania and urging the  
3 President and Congress of the United States to enact  
4 legislation to provide additional funding for research in  
5 order to find a treatment and a cure for ALS.

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

8 WHEREAS, ALS is a fatal neurodegenerative disease  
9 characterized by degeneration of cell bodies of the lower motor  
10 neurons in the gray matter of the anterior horns of the spinal  
11 cord; and

12 WHEREAS, The initial symptom of ALS is weakness of the

1 skeletal muscles, especially those of the extremities; and

2 WHEREAS, As ALS progresses, the patient experiences  
3 difficulty in swallowing, talking and breathing; and

4 WHEREAS, ALS eventually causes muscles to atrophy, and the  
5 patient becomes a functional quadriplegic; and

6 WHEREAS, ALS does not affect a patient's mental capacity, so  
7 a patient remains alert and aware of the loss of motor functions  
8 and the inevitable outcome of continued deterioration and death;  
9 and

10 WHEREAS, ALS occurs in adulthood, most commonly between the  
11 ages of 40 and 70, with the peak age about 55, and affects men  
12 two to three times more often than women; and

13 WHEREAS, More than 5,600 new ALS patients are diagnosed  
14 annually; and

15 WHEREAS, It is estimated that 30,000 Americans may have ALS  
16 at any given time; and

17 WHEREAS, On average, patients diagnosed with ALS survive two  
18 to five years from the time of diagnosis; and

19 WHEREAS, Research indicates that military veterans are at a  
20 50% or greater risk of developing ALS than those who have not  
21 served in the military; and

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

23 WHEREAS, "Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS) Awareness  
24 Month" will increase public awareness of ALS patients'  
25 circumstances, acknowledge the terrible impact this disease has  
26 on patients and families and recognize the research for  
27 treatment and cure of ALS; therefore be it

28 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the  
29 Commonwealth of Pennsylvania recognize the month of May 2006 as  
30 "Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS) Awareness Month" in

1 Pennsylvania; and be it further

2       RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives urge the  
3 President and Congress of the United States to enact legislation  
4 to provide additional funding for ALS research; and be it  
5 further

6       RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to  
7 the President of the United States, to the Vice President of the  
8 United States, to the Speaker of the House of Representatives,  
9 to the members of Congress from Pennsylvania and to the United  
10 States Secretary of Health and Human Services.