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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 122 Session of  
2019

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INTRODUCED BY FARNESE, DINNIMAN, BARTOLOTTA, BROWNE, MARTIN,  
BAKER, SCAVELLO, KILLION, SCHWANK, FOLMER, BREWSTER,  
PHILLIPS-HILL, MENSCH, HUGHES, K. WARD, HUTCHINSON, SABATINA,  
BLAKE, TARTAGLIONE, J. WARD, COSTA AND AUMENT, MAY 7, 2019

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INTRODUCED AND ADOPTED, MAY 7, 2019

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A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the month of May 2019 as "Amyotrophic Lateral  
2 Sclerosis Awareness Month" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS) is better known  
4 as Lou Gehrig's disease; and

5 WHEREAS, ALS is a fatal neurodegenerative disease  
6 characterized by degeneration of cell bodies of the upper and  
7 lower motor neurons in the gray matter of the anterior horn of  
8 the spinal cord; and

9 WHEREAS, The initial symptom of ALS is weakness of the  
10 skeletal muscles, especially those of the extremities; and

11 WHEREAS, As ALS progresses, the patient experiences  
12 difficulty in swallowing, talking and breathing; and

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

15 WHEREAS, Patients with ALS typically remain alert and are  
16 aware of their loss of motor functions and the inevitable  
17 outcome of continued deterioration and death; and

1       WHEREAS, ALS affects military veterans at twice the rate of  
2 the general population; and

3       WHEREAS, ALS occurs in adulthood, most commonly between 40  
4 and 70 years of age, peaking at approximately 55 years of age,  
5 and affects both men and women without bias; and

6       WHEREAS, More than 5,000 new ALS patients are diagnosed  
7 throughout the nation each year; and

8       WHEREAS, In Pennsylvania there are currently more than 1,000  
9 individuals who have been formally diagnosed with ALS; and

10       WHEREAS, The \$750,000 in State funding appropriated by the  
11 General Assembly for ALS support services for 2018-2019 provided  
12 services to nearly 1,000 constituents and a substantial savings  
13 to the State budget and taxpayers; and

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

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

18       WHEREAS, "Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis Awareness Month"  
19 increases the public's awareness of ALS patients' circumstances  
20 and acknowledges the negative impact this disease has on ALS  
21 patients and their families and recognizes the research being  
22 done to eradicate ALS; therefore be it

23       RESOLVED, That the Senate of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
24 designate the month of May 2019 as "Amyotrophic Lateral

25 Sclerosis Awareness Month" in Pennsylvania; and be it further

26       RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be transmitted to  
27 the President of the United States, the presiding officers of  
28 each house of Congress and to each member of Congress from  
29 Pennsylvania.