



WHEREAS, Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis or ALS, better known as Lou Gehrig's disease is a fatal neurodegenerative disease characterized by degeneration of cell bodies of the lower motor neurons in the gray matter of the anterior horns of the spinal cord; and

WHEREAS, 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 eventually causes muscle atrophy rendering the patient a functional quadriplegic; and

WHEREAS, ALS does not affect a patient's mental capacity, so that the patient remains alert and aware of his or her loss of motor functions and the inevitable outcome of continued deterioration and death; and

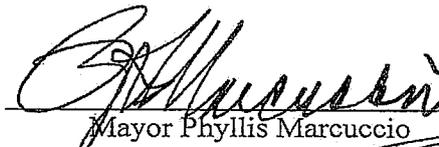
WHEREAS, on average, patients diagnosed with ALS only survive two to five years from the time of diagnosis; and

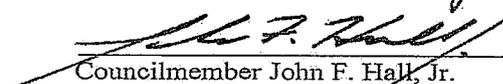
WHEREAS, ALS has no known cause, means of prevention, or cure; and

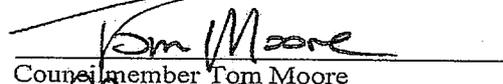
WHEREAS, research indicates that military veterans are approximately twice as likely to develop ALS as those who have not served in the military; and

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 the patient but on his or her family and the community and recognizes the research being done to eradicate this horrible disease.

NOW, THEREFORE, the Mayor and Council of Rockville do hereby declare the month of May 2012 as Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis Awareness Month in Rockville and call upon the people of Rockville to join their fellow citizens in the community and across the region to recognize and participate in this special observance.


Mayor Phyllis Marcuccio


Councilmember John F. Hall, Jr.


Councilmember Tom Moore


Councilmember Bridget Donnell Newton


Councilmember Mark Pierzchala