

Regular Session, 2012

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 131

BY SENATOR CORTEZ

SENATE. Recognizes May 2012 as Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis Awareness Month.

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To recognize May 2012 as Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis Awareness Month.

3 WHEREAS, amyotrophic lateral sclerosis or ALS is better known as Lou Gehrig's  
4 disease; and

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

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

10 WHEREAS, as ALS progresses the patient experiences difficulty in swallowing,  
11 talking, and breathing; and

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

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

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

1           WHEREAS, ALS has no known cause, means of prevention, or cure; and  
2           WHEREAS, research indicates that military veterans are at a sixty percent or greater  
3 risk of developing ALS than those who have not served in the military; and  
4           WHEREAS, the Department of Veterans Affairs implemented regulations to  
5 establish a presumption of service connection for ALS thereby presuming that the  
6 development of ALS was incurred or aggravated by a veteran's service in the military; and  
7           WHEREAS, a national ALS patient registry, administered by the Centers for Disease  
8 Control, is currently identifying cases of ALS in the United States and may become the  
9 single largest ALS research project ever created; and  
10          WHEREAS, Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis Awareness Month increases the public's  
11 awareness of ALS patients' circumstances and acknowledges the terrible impact this disease  
12 has not only on the patient but on his or her family and the community and recognizes the  
13 research being done to eradicate this horrible disease.  
14          THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana  
15 hereby recognizes May 2012 as Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis Awareness Month.

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The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part  
of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Jerry J. Guillot.

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DIGEST

Cortez

SR No.

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