LRB-2232/1 SRM:kjf:md

## 2009 ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION 23

March 4, 2009 – Introduced by Representatives Strachota, Benedict, Spanbauer, M. Williams, Berceau, A. Ott, Dexter, Bies, Brooks, Pasch, Kaufert, Lothian and Hintz, cosponsored by Senators Erpenbach, Darling, Wirch, Cowles, Taylor, Kedzie, Grothman, Olsen and Lehman. Referred to Committee on Rules.

1	Relating to: declaring May as Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis Awareness Month.
2	Whereas, amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS) is better known as Lou Gehrig's
3	disease; and
4	Whereas, ALS is a fatal neurological disease characterized by degeneration of
5	nerve cells of the body's voluntary muscles; and
6	Whereas, ALS is one of the most common neuromuscular diseases worldwide,
7	affecting people of all races and backgrounds; and
8	Whereas, the onset of ALS is so slight that the symptoms are often ignored.
9	Early symptoms may include twitching, cramping, muscle weakness, slurred
10	speech, and difficulty swallowing; and
11	Whereas, ALS does not affect a person's mind, personality, or intelligence. Nor
12	does it affect a person's ability to see, smell, taste, or hear; and
13	Whereas, there exists no single test providing a definitive diagnosis. An ALS
14	diagnosis is based on an evaluation of symptoms and a series of tests to rule out other
15	diseases; and

1	Whereas, ALS occurs in adulthood, most commonly between 40 to 70 years of
2	age and affects men two to three times more often than women; and
3	Whereas, over 5,000 new ALS patients are diagnosed annually in the United
4	States; and
5	Whereas, on average, patients diagnosed with ALS survive only two to five
6	years from the time of diagnosis; and
7	Whereas, in 90 percent to 95 percent of all ALS cases, the disease occurs at
8	random with no known cause or risk factors; and
9	Whereas, Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis Awareness Month increases the
10	public's awareness of ALS patients' circumstances and acknowledges the terrible
11	impact this disease has, not only on the patient, but on his or her family as well, and
12	recognizes the research being done to eradicate this horrible disease; now, therefore,
13	be it
14	Resolved by the assembly, the senate concurring, That the legislature
15	hereby proclaims the month of May 2009 and in each year thereafter, as Amyotrophic
16	Lateral Sclerosis Awareness Month in Wisconsin, to coincide with the National
17	Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis Awareness Month; and, be it further
18	Resolved, That the assembly chief clerk shall provide a copy of this joint
19	$resolution\ to\ the\ Amyotrophic\ Lateral\ Sclerosis\ Association\\ Wisconsin\ Chapter.$
20	(END)