

COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA CALIFORNIA

RESOLUTION PROCLAIMING
THE MONTH OF MAY 2006 AS
A.L.S. AWARENESS MONTH IN
SANTA BARBARA COUNTY

WHEREAS, Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS), also known as Lou Gehrig's Disease, is a fatal neurodegenerative disease with no known cause, prevention or cure; and,

WHEREAS, the initial symptom of ALS is weakness of the skeletal muscles, especially in the extremities and as the disease progresses the patient experiences difficulty in swallowing, talking and breathing; and

WHEREAS, ALS eventually causes the muscles to atrophy and the patient to become a functional quadriplegic; but the disease has no effect on the patient's mental capacity, so they remain alert and aware of their loss of motor skills and the inevitable outcome of continued deterioration and death; and,

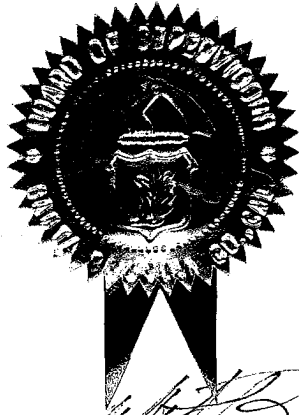
WHEREAS, ALS effects over 5,000 people in the United States each year; occurring in adult hood commonly between the ages of 40 to 70 and affects men two to three times more often than women; and in the advanced stages, caring for a patient with ALS can cost \$20,000.00 a year or more; depleting the financial resources of the patient and their family; and,

WHEREAS, the suffering of patients and the anguish and struggle of families and caregivers must be supported and alleviated a much as possible; and,

WHEREAS, ALS Awareness month increases the public's awareness of the impact the disease has on the patients as well as their families and recognizes the need for continued financial aid to fund the research being done to eradicate this horrible disease.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT HERE BY ORDERED AND RESOLVED that this Board of Supervisors proclaims **MAY 2006** as **ALS AWARENESS MONTH IN SANTA BARBARA COUNTY** and urges all county residents to aid in combating this disease by all means possible.

PASSED AND ADOPTED BY the Board of Supervisors of Santa Barbara County, State of California this 2nd day of May 2006 by unanimous vote of all members present.



ATTEST:

[Signature]
Clerk of the Board

[Signature]
Supervisor ~ 1st District
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Supervisor ~ 2nd District
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Supervisor ~ 3rd District
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Supervisor ~ 4th District
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Supervisor ~ 5th District