



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR, CITY OF GREENVILLE

# *Proclamation*

**WHEREAS**, Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS), also known as Lou Gehrig's Disease, is a progressive neurodegenerative disease that attacks nerve cells in the brain and the spinal cord. Motor neurons reach from the brain to the spinal cord and from the spinal cord to the muscles throughout the body. In ALS, when the motor neurons die, the ability of the brain to initiate and control muscle movement is lost;

**WHEREAS**, millions ALS is not just Lou Gehrig's disease and it knows no boundaries. The disease has cut short the lives of local notable and courageous individuals Jim "Catfish" Hunter (Hall of Fame Pitcher) and Keith LeClair (former East Carolina University baseball coach) as well as a long list of athletes, actors, politicians, family members, and friends;

**WHEREAS**, there is no known cause for ALS;

**WHEREAS**, there are approximately 30,000 people living with ALS in the United States at any given time;

**WHEREAS**, ALS is no respecter of persons and strikes without regard to gender, race, income level, occupation or any other demographic;

**WHEREAS**, there is no effective treatment of cure for ALS and it is difficult to diagnose; and

**WHEREAS**, promoting nationwide awareness and understanding of ALS is of great importance to the ALS community, which will launch a month-long series of awareness activities dedicated to the fight against ALS during the month of May 2013;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Allen M. Thomas, Mayor of the City of Greenville, North Carolina, do hereby proclaim the month of May 2013, as

## **NATIONAL ALS AWARENESS MONTH**

in Greenville and encourage all citizens to support the fight against this disease.

This 6th day of May, 2013.

Allen M. Thomas, Mayor