



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, 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 are approximately 30,000 people living with ALS in the United States at any given time. ALS is no respecter of persons and strikes without regard to gender, race, income level, occupation or any other demographic;

WHEREAS, there is no known cause for ALS. There is no effective treatment or cure for ALS and it is difficult to diagnose. There is one FDA-approved drug that, in some cases, extends life for several months;

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 2010; and

WHEREAS, the purpose of National ALS Awareness Month is to:

- Educate the public about the disease;
- Raise awareness about the issues and concerns of those affected by ALS;
- Advocate for ALS-specific legislation;
- Advance ALS research to find a cure;
- Attract new supporters to help fight ALS; and


WHEREAS, this year, the ALS Association's National ALS Advocacy Day is May 11. The ALS Association's 2010 National Day and Public Policy Conference will be held May 9-May 11. Hundreds of ALS patients, their families, caregivers, volunteers, and members of the medical community will travel to Washington, DC to meet with Congress for the purpose of discussing ALS-related legislation and programs.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Patricia C. Dunn, Mayor of the City of Greenville, North Carolina, do hereby proclaim the month of May, 2010 as

ALS AWARENESS MONTH

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

This 10th day of May, 2010.


Patricia C. Dunn, Mayor