Proclamation

WHEREAS, Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS) 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 When the motor neurons in ALS die, the ability of the brain to initiate and control muscle movement is lost; and

WHEREAS, ALS is not just Lou Gehrig's disease and it knows no boundaries The Disease has cut short the lives of such notable and courageous individuals as Jim "Catfish" Hunter (Hall of Fame Pitcher), Michael Zaslow (actor), Jon Stone (creator of Sesame Street), David Niven (actor), Ezzard Charles (boxing champion), Glenn Montgomery (Pro football player), Jacob Javits (Senator), and Keith LeClair (former East Carolina University baseball coach); and

WHEREAS, there is no known cause for ALS, and

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

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

WHEREAS, about 95% of the cases are "sporadic" and about 5% of the cases are familial, meaning it occurs in some families more often than it would occur by chance; and

WHEREAS, there is no cure for ALS and it is difficult to diagnose There is one FDA-approved drug that, in some cases, extends life three to four months, 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, 2006;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Robert D Parrott, Mayor of the City of Greenville, North Carolina, do hereby issue this proclamation recognizing May 2006 as

ALS AWARENESS MONTH

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

This 10th day of May, 2006

Robert D Parrott, Mayor