



# *Proclamation*

**WHEREAS**, Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), known by many as Lou Gehrig's disease, is a progressive fatal neurodegenerative disease in which a person's brain loses connection with the muscles, slowly taking away their ability to walk, talk, eat, and eventually breathe; and

**WHEREAS**, with no cure, every 90 minutes someone is diagnosed with ALS and someone passes away from ALS, and on average, patients diagnosed with ALS only survive two to five years from the time of diagnosis; and

**WHEREAS**, people who have served in the military are more likely to develop ALS and die from the disease than those with no history of military service; and

**WHEREAS**, securing access to new therapies, durable medical equipment, and communication technologies is of vital importance; as well as clinical trials that play a pivotal role in evaluating new treatments to foster quality of life, and to advance assistive technologies for those living with ALS; and

**WHEREAS**, we celebrate the 10th Anniversary of the Ice Bucket Challenge through a renewed commitment to galvanize public awareness and support funding leading to significant investments in ALS research; and

**WHEREAS**, the ALS Association, as the largest philanthropic funder of ALS research globally, has committed over \$154 million to support more than 550 projects across the United States and 18 other countries; and

**WHEREAS**, ALS Awareness Month increases the public's awareness of people with ALS' dire circumstances, and acknowledges the terrible impact this disease has, not only on the person but also on his or her family and the community, and also recognizes the research being done to eradicate this disease.

**NOW THEREFORE**, I, Richard Franks, Mayor, and the City Council of the City of Gastonia, do hereby proclaim the month of May 2025 as **Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS) Awareness Month** and call upon all citizens to join in supporting ALS research, advocating for increased funding, and standing in solidarity with those affected by this relentless disease.

**IN WITNESS THEREOF**, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the City of Gastonia to be affixed, this the 20<sup>th</sup> day of May in the year of our Lord two thousand and twenty-five.

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Richard Franks, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Suzanne J. Gibbs, City Clerk