



WHEREAS, Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis or ALS, better known as Lou Gehrig's disease, is a fatal neurodegenerative disease characterized by degeneration of cell bodies of the lower motor neurons in the gray matter of the anterior horns of the spinal cord; and

WHEREAS, the initial symptom of ALS is weakness of the skeletal muscles, especially those of the extremities; and

WHEREAS, as ALS progresses the patient experiences difficulty in swallowing, talking, and breathing; and eventually causes muscle atrophy rendering the patient a functional quadriplegic; and

WHEREAS, ALS does not affect a patient's mental capacity, so that the patient remains alert and aware of his or her loss of motor functions and the inevitable outcome of continued deterioration and death; and

WHEREAS, on average, patients diagnosed with ALS only survive two to five years from the time of diagnosis; however, Dr. Stephen Hawking, probably the most famous person who suffered with ALS, lived for 55 years after being diagnosed with the disease at age 21 in 1963; and

WHEREAS, ALS has no known cause, means of prevention, or cure; and

WHEREAS, research indicates that military veterans are approximately twice as likely to develop ALS as those who have not served in the military; and

WHEREAS, Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis Awareness Month increases the public's awareness of ALS patients' circumstances and acknowledges the terrible impact this disease has not only on the patient but on his or her family and the community, and recognizes the research being done to eradicate this horrible disease.

NOW, THEREFORE, the Mayor and Council of Rockville, Maryland, do hereby declare the month of **May 2025**, as **Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS) Awareness Month** in Rockville and call upon residents to join other communities across the region to recognize and participate in this special observance.



 Kate Fulton, Councilmember	 Monique Ashton, Mayor	 Izola (Zola) Shaw, Councilmember
 Barry Jackson, Councilmember	 Marissa Valeri, Councilmember	 Adam Van Grack, Councilmember

May 12, 2025