



**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, which 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 from 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 2026** 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.



  
Monique Ashton, Mayor

  
Kate Fulton, Councilmember

  
Izola (Zola) Shaw, Councilmember

  
Barry Jackson, Councilmember

  
Manissa Valeri, Councilmember

  
David Myles, Councilmember

  
Adam Van Grack, Councilmember

May 4, 2026