



CITY OF BELLINGHAM
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
KELLI LINVILLE

MAYORAL PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis or ALS is better known as Lou Gehrig's Disease; and

WHEREAS ALS 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 ALS eventually causes muscles to atrophy and the patient becomes a functional quadriplegic; and

WHEREAS On average, patients diagnosed with ALS only survive two to five years from the time of diagnosis; and

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

WHEREAS Research indicates that military veterans are at a 50% or greater risk of developing ALS than those who have not served in the military. The Department of Veterans Affairs implemented regulations to establish a presumption of service connection for ALS thereby presuming that the development of ALS was incurred or aggravated by a veteran's service in the military.

WHEREAS The Walk to Defeat ALS 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, DO I Kelli Linville, Mayor of the City of Bellingham, proclaim Saturday, September 20, 2014 as

“WALK TO DEFEAT ALS DAY”

in the City of Bellingham, WA. The City of Bellingham proclaims support for the families of the region impacted by Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis.



Signed this 16th of September, 2014

Kelli Linville, Mayor
City of Bellingham