

## 2013-J2419

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commemorating the Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS) Association's 5th Annual Hudson Valley Walk to Defeat ALS on October 20, 2013, in New York State

WHEREAS, Also known as Lou Gehrig's disease, Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS) is a progressive neurodegenerative disease for which there is no known cause, cure, or effective treatment; and

WHEREAS, ALS affects 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; the progressive degeneration of the motor neurons in ALS eventually lead to their death; when the motor neurons die, the ability of the brain to initiate and control muscle movement is lost; with voluntary muscle action progressively affected, patients in the later stages of the disease may become totally paralyzed, yet, through it all, for the vast majority of people, their minds remain unaffected; and

WHEREAS, On Sunday, October 20, 2013, the ALS Association Greater New York Chapter will host its 5th Annual Walk to Defeat ALS at the Hudson Valley's scenic Walkway Over the Hudson; and

WHEREAS, Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis is responsible for nearly two deaths per 100,000 people each year; approximately 5,600 people in the United States are newly diagnosed with ALS each year; there are thirty thousand people living with ALS today in the United States; and

WHEREAS, ALS occurs throughout the world with no age, racial, ethnic, or socioeconomic boundaries; this devastating disease has impacted the lives of many people across New York State including the late United States Senator from New York, Jacob K. Javits; and

WHEREAS, This year marks the 19th Anniversary of the ALS Association Greater New York Chapter whose mission is to lead the fight to cure and

treat ALS through global, cutting-edge research and to empower people with ALS and their families to live fuller lives by providing them with compassionate care and support; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to urge all of our citizens to support the search for a cure of ALS and assist those individuals and families who deal with this devastating disorder on a daily basis; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commemorate the Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS) Association's 5th Annual Hudson Valley Walk to Defeat ALS on October 20, 2013, in New York State; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Dorine Gordon, President and CEO of the ALS Association Greater New York Chapter.