

1 A MEMORIAL

2 PROCLAIMING JANUARY 31, 2023 "ALS AWARENESS DAY" IN THE
3 SENATE.

4
5 WHEREAS, amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, ALS, is also
6 known as Lou Gehrig's disease; and

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

9 WHEREAS, ALS does not affect a patient's mental
10 capacity, so the patient remains alert and aware of the
11 patient's loss of motor functions and of the inevitable
12 outcome of continued deterioration and death; and

13 WHEREAS, ALS is a fatal neurodegenerative disease that
14 is characterized by degeneration of the cell bodies of the
15 lower motor neurons in the gray matter of the anterior horns
16 of the spinal cord; and

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

19 WHEREAS, research indicates that military veterans have
20 a fifty percent greater risk of developing ALS than those who
21 have not served in the military; and

22 WHEREAS, an estimated one hundred fifty New Mexicans are
23 living with ALS at any given time; and

24 WHEREAS, in 2010, soon after his twenty-eighth birthday,
25 former university of New Mexico lobo and Albuquerque high

1 school soccer star Patrick Grange was diagnosed with ALS,
2 making him the youngest ALS patient in New Mexico; and

3 WHEREAS, despite fighting this terrible disease as hard
4 as he could, Pat died of ALS on April 10, 2012, which led to
5 several "Patrick Grange ALS Awareness Days" designated at the
6 state capitol; and

7 WHEREAS, the Grange family has supported numerous
8 New Mexico families affected by ALS over the past decade in
9 collaboration with ALS New Mexico by providing guidance and
10 direction when caring for a someone with ALS; and

11 WHEREAS, ALS New Mexico is a local nonprofit
12 organization that supports, on average, one hundred thirty
13 people living with ALS and their loved ones; and

14 WHEREAS, ALS New Mexico leaves no stone unturned by
15 navigating financial hardships through respite grants,
16 access to life-changing clinical care at the university of
17 New Mexico hospital and providing adaptive equipment free of
18 charge; and

19 WHEREAS, ALS New Mexico helps many families through
20 funding, direct services and capacity support, as well as
21 bringing awareness of ALS through educational opportunities
22 to New Mexicans; and

23 WHEREAS, ALS New Mexico's combined fundraising events
24 have welcomed over four hundred golfers, eight hundred
25 walkers and countless ALS advocates resulting in over four

1 hundred eighty-thousand dollars (\$480,000) raised for ALS
2 families in New Mexico; and

3 WHEREAS, "ALS Awareness Day" will increase public
4 awareness of ALS patients' circumstances, acknowledge the
5 terrible impact the disease has, not only on the patient but
6 also on the patient's family and community, and recognize the
7 services being provided to families affected by ALS and the
8 research being done to eradicate this horrible disease; and

9 WHEREAS, we as a community join in collective support to
10 combat ALS and improve the quality of life for patients,
11 families and New Mexicans affected by ALS;

12 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE
13 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that January 31, 2023 be proclaimed "ALS
14 Awareness Day" in the senate; and

15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
16 transmitted to the chair of the interim legislative health
17 and human services committee and ALS New Mexico. _____

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