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SENATE MEMORIAL 13

56TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2023

INTRODUCED BY

Leo Jaramillo and Antonio Maestas

A MEMORIAL

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

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, ALS eventually causes muscles to atrophy, and the

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1 patient becomes a functional quadriplegic; and

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

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

7 WHEREAS, in 2010, soon after his twenty-eighth birthday,
8 former university of New Mexico lobo and Albuquerque high
9 school soccer star Patrick Grange was diagnosed with ALS,
10 making him the youngest ALS patient in New Mexico; and

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

15 WHEREAS, the Grange family has supported numerous New
16 Mexico families affected by ALS over the past decade in
17 collaboration with ALS New Mexico by providing guidance and
18 direction when caring for a someone with ALS; and

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

22 WHEREAS, ALS New Mexico leaves no stone unturned by
23 navigating financial hardships through respite grants, access
24 to life-changing clinical care at the university of New Mexico
25 hospital and providing adaptive equipment free of charge; and

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