

1 A MEMORIAL

2 PROCLAIMING FEBRUARY 3, 2015 "PATRICK GRANGE ALS AWARENESS
3 DAY" IN THE SENATE.

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

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

11 WHEREAS, the initial symptom of ALS is weakness of the
12 skeletal muscles, especially those of the extremities; and

13 WHEREAS, as ALS progresses, the patient experiences
14 difficulty in swallowing, talking and breathing; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

10 WHEREAS, as a senior, Pat led the Albuquerque high
11 school bulldogs to a district 1-5A championship title; and

12 WHEREAS, Pat was the first soccer player to be inducted
13 into the Albuquerque high school athletic hall of fame; and

14 WHEREAS, as a senior at the university of New Mexico,
15 Pat started in all twenty games for the lobos men's soccer
16 team, was third on the team in scoring and scored two goals
17 in the national collegiate athletic association tournament;
18 and

19 WHEREAS, despite fighting this terrible disease as hard
20 as he could, Pat died of ALS on April 10, 2012; and

21 WHEREAS, "Patrick Grange ALS Awareness Day" will
22 increase public awareness of ALS patients' circumstances,
23 acknowledge the terrible impact the disease has, not only on
24 the patient but also on the patient's family and community,
25 and recognize the research being done to eradicate this

1 horrible disease;

2 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE
3 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that February 3, 2015 be proclaimed
4 "Patrick Grange ALS Awareness Day" in the senate; and

5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the senate urge the
6 president of the United States and members of congress to
7 enact legislation to provide additional funding for research
8 in order to find a treatment and, eventually, a cure for
9 ALS; and

10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this memorial be
11 transmitted to the interim legislative health and human
12 services committee. _____

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