WHEREAS, amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, also commonly known as Lou Gehrig's disease, is a progressive fatal neurodegenerative disease in which a person's brain loses connection with their muscles, slowly reducing a person's ability to walk, talk, eat, and eventually breathe; and,

WHEREAS, thousands of new amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS) cases are reported every year, and estimates show that every 90 minutes, someone is diagnosed with ALS and someone passes away from ALS; and,

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

WHEREAS, the exact causes of ALS are unknown and there is no known cure for ALS; and,

WHEREAS, people who have served in the military are more likely to develop ALS and die from the disease than those with no history of military service; and,

WHEREAS, securing access to new therapies, durable medical equipment, and communication technologies is of vital importance to people living with ALS; and,

WHEREAS, clinical trials play a pivotal role in evaluating new treatments, enhancing quality of life, and fostering assistive technologies for those living with ALS; and,

WHEREAS, the ALS Association is the largest philanthropic funder of ALS research globally and has committed more than $154 million to support more than 550 projects across the United States and 18 other countries; and,

WHEREAS, the ALS Association is committed to make ALS livable and cure it for everyone, everywhere; and,

WHEREAS, Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis Awareness Month provides an opportunity to increase public awareness of the dire circumstances of people living with ALS, acknowledge the terrible impact this disease has on those individuals and their families, and support research to eradicate this disease.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Gaston County Board of Commissioners hereby proclaims the month of May 2026 as

ALS Awareness Month

and calls upon Gaston County citizens to join in supporting ALS research, advocating for increased funding, and standing in solidarity with those affected by this relentless disease.

Chad Brown, Chairman

Jim Bailey

Bob Hovis, Vice-Chairman

Cathy Cloninger

Tom Keigher

Allen R. Fraley

Scott Shehan

To be Adopted the 26th Day of May 2026

Gaston County

Gaston County
Board of Commissioners
www.gastongov.com

Commissioners

Board Action

File #: 26-129

Commissioners Cloninger & Shehan - BOC - Proclamation - To Proclaim the Month of May 2026 as ***Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS) Awareness Month*** in Gaston County

STAFF CONTACT

Donna S. Buff - Clerk to the Board - 704-866-3196

BACKGROUND

POLICY IMPACT

N/A

ATTACHMENTS

Proclamation

DO NOT TYPE BELOW THIS LINE

I, Donna S. Buff, Clerk to the County Commission, do hereby certify that the above is a true and correct copy of action taken by the Board of Commissioners as follows:

NO.	*DATE*	*M1*	*M2*	*JBailey*	*CBrown*	*CCloninger*	*AFraley*	*BHovis*	*TKeigher*	*SShehan*	*Vote*
2026-153	**05/26/2026**	**AF**	**JB**	**A**	**A**	**AB**	**A**	**A**	**AB**	**A**	**U**

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A=AYE, N=NAY, AB=ABSENT, ABS=ABSTAIN, U=UNANIMOUS