

# PROCLAMATION

## *Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS) Month*

**WHEREAS,** Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS), also known as Lou Gehrig's disease, is a progressive fatal neurodegenerative disease that attacks nerve cells in the brain and spinal cord; making even the simplest movements such as walking, speaking, and gesturing difficult; and

**WHEREAS,** approximately 5,000 people are diagnosed with ALS each year; and

**WHEREAS,** ALS strikes people regardless of race, age, gender, ethnicity, or social status, and currently has no known cause, means of prevention, or cure, making diagnosis difficult; and

**WHEREAS,** finding the causes and cure for ALS will prevent the disease from robbing hundreds of thousands of Americans of their dignity and lives; and

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

**WHEREAS,** people who have served in the military are approximately twice as likely to develop ALS than those without a history of military service. The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs recognizes ALS as a service-connected disease; and

**WHEREAS,** ALS Awareness Month increases the public's awareness of people with ALS's dire circumstances and acknowledges the terrible impact this disease has, not only on the person affected, but on his or her family and their community. ALS Awareness Month also recognizes the research being done to eradicate this disease, and encourages Americans to focus on their heart health and encourages them to get their families, friends, and communities involved.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that I, Lisa Craig, Mayor of the City of Lodi, do hereby proclaim May 2024, as Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS) Awareness month.

**SIGNED** this 15<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2024