



STATE OF TENNESSEE

# PROCLAMATION

BY THE GOVERNOR

**WHEREAS**, ALS known by many 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 - walking, speaking, gesturing - incredibly difficult; and

**WHEREAS**, approximately 23,000 individuals in the United States are afflicted with ALS at any given time, with 5,000 new cases appearing each year; and

**WHEREAS**, approximately 15 new cases of ALS are diagnosed in the United States every day, and

**WHEREAS**, ALS strikes people regardless of race, sex, age, or ethnicity; and

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

**WHEREAS**, aggressive treatments of the symptoms of ALS can extend the lives of those living with the disease; and

**WHEREAS**, for over 60 years, the Muscular Dystrophy Association (MDA) has aggressively supported services and research for ALS; and

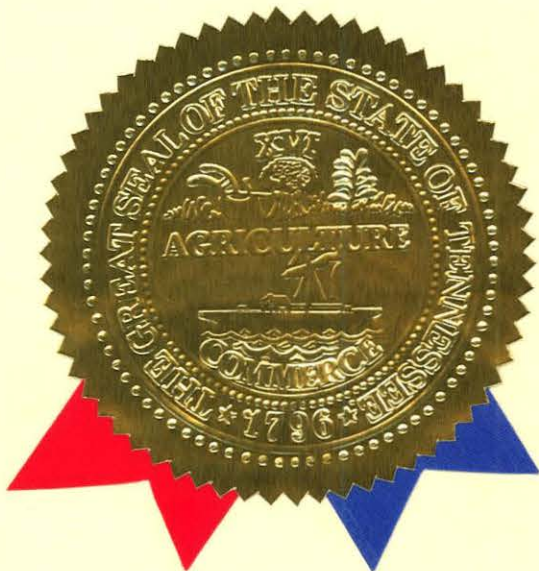
**WHEREAS**, raising public awareness of this disease could help facilitate the discovery of a cure, and bring much needed dollars for support and services for families in Tennessee dealing with ALS;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Bill Haslam, Governor of the State of Tennessee, do hereby proclaim May 2012 as

## ALS AWARENESS MONTH

in Tennessee and encourage all citizens to join me in this worthy observance.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the official seal of the State of Tennessee to be affixed at Nashville on this 1st day of May, 2012.



A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Bill Haslam".

Governor

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Lee Hargett".

Secretary of State