

*Proclamation Recognizing May 2026 as  
ALS Awareness Month*

*Whereas* Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), 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 ALS cases are reported every year, and estimates show that every 90 minutes, someone is diagnosed with ALS. There are over 34,000 people living with ALS in the United States and experts believe cases will increase by over 10% by 2030; and

*Whereas* The exact causes of ALS are unknown and there is no known cure for ALS. On average, patients diagnosed with ALS survive only two to five years from the time of diagnosis. People who served in the military are twice as likely to develop ALS; and

*Whereas* Securing access to new therapies, durable medical equipment, and communication technologies is of vital importance to people living with ALS. Clinical trials play a pivotal role in evaluating new treatments and enhancing quality of life 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 over 550 projects across the United States and other countries; and

*Whereas* ALS Awareness Month provides an opportunity to increase public awareness of the dire circumstances people living with ALS face; it highlights the terrible impact this disease has on those individuals and their families.

*Now, therefore, be it proclaimed* that the Hidalgo County Commissioners Court recognizes May 2026 as ALS Awareness Month and calls upon the community to join in supporting ALS patients by advocating for increased research funding and standing in solidarity with those affected by this relentless disease.

**Approved this 12<sup>th</sup> day of May 2026.**

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**RICHARD F. CORTEZ**  
County Judge

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**DAVID L. FUENTES**  
County Commissioner, Pct. 1

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**EDUARDO “EDDIE” CANTU**  
County Commissioner, Pct. 2

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**EVERARDO “EVER” VILLARREAL**  
County Commissioner, Pct. 3

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**ELLIE TORRES**  
County Commissioner, Pct. 4

**Attest:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**ARTURO GUAJARDO, JR.**  
County Clerk