

1 WHEREAS, a diagnosis of ALS is particularly troubling because the disease does
2 not affect mental capacity, thus the patient remains alert, conscious of their surroundings,
3 and aware of the loss of motor functions and the inevitable course of the disease; and

4 WHEREAS, in the face of these circumstances, Steve Gleason famously declared
5 there will be "NO WHITE FLAGS", and this became the mantra for the mission he has
6 undertaken since to show that people can not only live after being diagnosed with ALS, but
7 can thrive; and

8 WHEREAS, to accomplish his mission, Steve and his wife, Michel, formed Team
9 Gleason and organized the Gleason Initiative Foundation; and

10 WHEREAS, based in New Orleans, the Gleason Initiative Foundation helps to
11 provide leading-edge technology, equipment, and services to persons with neuromuscular
12 diseases or injuries; fosters a global conversation about ALS in order to find solutions and
13 ultimately an end to the disease; and raises public awareness of ALS by providing and
14 documenting extraordinary life adventures for individuals living with the disease and other
15 neuromuscular conditions; and

16 WHEREAS, the Gleason Initiative Foundation was instrumental in founding the
17 Team Gleason House for Innovative Living, a residential facility in New Orleans which is
18 designed to help people with incurable neuromuscular disorders live more independently and
19 is only the second facility of its kind in the nation; and

20 WHEREAS, Team Gleason, the NFL players and coaches who make up Steve's
21 football family, and his many fans beyond the world of football all stand firmly by his belief
22 that each person who is diagnosed with ALS has the right to fight and to receive proper
23 treatment and the best available care; and

24 WHEREAS, Mr. Gleason's personal accomplishments are as impressive as those of
25 the organization that bears his name; despite the progression of his disease, he has traveled
26 on the Inca Trail to Machu Picchu, been the namesake of an Act of Congress (the Steve
27 Gleason Act of 2015, Public Law No. 114-40, making speech generating technology more
28 accessible), and starred in an award-winning documentary film; and

29 WHEREAS, among all of his achievements and experiences, the one he treasures
30 most is being a loving father to his son, Rivers, the center of his and Michel's life; and

1 WHEREAS, Mr. Gleason has shown his indomitable spirit in countless ways and is
2 a beloved adopted son of Louisiana; and

3 WHEREAS, this state is honored to be the home of Team Gleason and the Gleason
4 Initiative Foundation, groups that are inspiring hope and making a world of difference in the
5 lives of people with ALS.

6 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby
7 recognize and commend Team Gleason and the Gleason Initiative Foundation for tireless
8 advocacy on behalf of persons with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS) and other
9 neuromuscular diseases and injuries.

10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a suitable copy of this Resolution be transmitted
11 to the executive director of the Gleason Initiative Foundation and to Steve, Michel, and
12 Rivers Gleason.

DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

HCR 37 Original

2017 Regular Session

Stokes

Commends Team Gleason and the Gleason Initiative Foundation for advocacy on behalf of persons with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS) and other neuromuscular diseases and injuries.