



City of Alachua, Florida
Office of Mayor Gib Coerper

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, lupus is an autoimmune disease that can cause severe damage to the tissue and organs in the body, in some cases causing death; and

WHEREAS, more than 5 million people worldwide suffer the devastating effects of this disease with over 100,000 men, women, and children diagnosed each year; the great majority being women of childbearing age; and

WHEREAS, medical research efforts as well as the discovery of safer, more effective treatments for lupus patients are under-funded in comparison with diseases of comparable magnitude and severity; and

WHEREAS, many physicians worldwide are unaware of the symptoms and health effects of lupus; causing people with lupus to suffer sometimes for many years before they obtain a correct diagnosis and treatment; and

WHEREAS, there is a deep, unmet need worldwide to educate and support individuals and families affected by lupus; and

WHEREAS, there is an urgent need to increase awareness in communities worldwide of the debilitating impact of lupus;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Gib Coerper, Mayor of the City of Alachua, representing the City and the City Commission, do hereby proclaim **May 10, 2015** as

World Lupus Day

and join with lupus organizations around the globe to call for increases in public and private sector funding for medical research on lupus, targeted education programs for health professionals, patients, and the public, and worldwide recognition of lupus as a significant public health issues.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this 27th day of April, 2015

ATTEST:

Gib Coerper, Mayor