

Proclamation

Lupus Awareness Month May 2026

WHEREAS, lupus is a chronic autoimmune disease that can cause inflammation, pain, and damage to any part of the body, affecting millions of people worldwide; and

WHEREAS, lupus disproportionately impacts women of color, particularly Black women, who are three times more likely to develop the disease and experience more severe symptoms; and

WHEREAS, the month of May is recognized nationally as Lupus Awareness Month to educate, support, and encourage those living with lupus and to promote earlier diagnosis, treatment, and research; and

WHEREAS, community awareness and advocacy are vital in improving access to care and resources for individuals and families affected by lupus; and

WHEREAS, Mesha McLean, the founder of the Fight of the Butterfly movement, has worked to raise awareness, advocate for and empower lupus warriors, and promote understanding of chronic illness throughout the Southeastern United States; and

WHEREAS, the City of Chipley acknowledges the courage, strength, and perseverance of lupus warriors, caregivers, and advocates who continue to fight for visibility, understanding, and better healthcare outcomes;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED by the Mayor and City Council of the City of Chipley that, May 2026 is Lupus Awareness Month. I encourage all citizens to learn more about lupus, support those impacted, and join the Fight of the Butterfly movement in efforts to increase awareness and find a cure.

Tracy L. Andrews, Mayor