

By: Jetton

H.R. No. 1488

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, The observance of ALS Awareness Month in May  
2 provides a fitting opportunity to promote better understanding of  
3 amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, often known as Lou Gehrig's disease;  
4 and

5           WHEREAS, A neurodegenerative condition, ALS was first  
6 identified by a French scientist in 1869, and the disease garnered  
7 international attention 70 years later, when it ended the career of  
8 beloved baseball player Lou Gehrig; ALS affects nerve cells in the  
9 brain and spinal cord, causing the progressive degeneration of the  
10 motor neurons that reach from the brain to the spinal cord and from  
11 the spinal cord to the muscles throughout the body; patients with  
12 ALS may lose the ability to speak, eat, move, and breathe; and

13           WHEREAS, To receive a diagnosis, patients must typically  
14 undergo numerous tests and procedures, such as electromyography  
15 testing, blood and urine studies, spinal taps, x-rays, biopsies,  
16 and neurological examinations; approximately 5,600 people in the  
17 United States are diagnosed with ALS each year, and some 15  
18 Americans are diagnosed each day; moreover, for unknown reasons,  
19 military veterans are significantly more likely to be diagnosed  
20 with the disease than the general public; and

21           WHEREAS, Although life expectancy averages about two to five  
22 years from diagnosis, the disease is variable, and some people  
23 survive longer while retaining quality of life; according to the  
24 ALS Association, approximately 20 percent of individuals with ALS

1 live five years or more, and about five percent live 20 years or  
2 longer; there is currently no cure for ALS, but a number of  
3 medications and treatments are available to help alleviate symptoms  
4 and prolong survival; and

5 WHEREAS, Individuals with ALS benefit immeasurably from the  
6 support of their families, friends, health care providers, and  
7 caregivers, as well as from the dedicated efforts of service  
8 groups, volunteers, and researchers across Texas who are working to  
9 improve outcomes and develop new treatments for ALS; and

10 WHEREAS, Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis is a serious and  
11 life-threatening disease, and the observance of ALS Awareness Month  
12 unites people around the world in their commitment to support the  
13 search for a cure and to enhance quality of life for patients; now,  
14 therefore, be it

15 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 88th Texas  
16 Legislature hereby recognize May 2023 as ALS Awareness Month and  
17 urge all Texans to learn more about the disease.