

By: Zerwas

H.C.R. No. 98

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 WHEREAS, Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis or ALS, better known
2 as Lou Gehrig's disease, is a fatal debilitating disease
3 characterized by the degeneration of motor nerve cells in the brain
4 and spinal cord; and

5 WHEREAS, The initial symptom of ALS is often weakness of the
6 skeletal muscles, especially those of the extremities; as ALS
7 progresses and muscle atrophy worsens, the patient experiences
8 difficulty swallowing, talking, and breathing; because ALS does not
9 commonly affect mental capacity, sufferers remain alert and aware
10 of their loss of motor control and the inevitable outcome of
11 continued deterioration; and

12 WHEREAS, ALS affects roughly 30,000 Americans, with slightly
13 more than 5,600 diagnosed each year; there is no known cause, means
14 of prevention, or cure, and on average, patients only survive two to
15 five years from the time of diagnosis; and

16 WHEREAS, Studies have indicated that military veterans are
17 approximately twice as likely to develop ALS as those who have not
18 served; in light of this finding, the Department of Veterans
19 Affairs implemented a presumption of service connection for ALS,
20 thereby concluding that the development of the disease could be
21 incurred or aggravated by a person's service in the military; and

22 WHEREAS, Through a number of initiatives, researchers are
23 investigating possible causes and treatments for ALS, and one
24 related endeavor is a national patient registry; administered by

1 the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the registry is
2 currently identifying cases in the United States and may become the
3 single largest ALS research project ever undertaken; and

4 WHEREAS, During May 2013, health and advocacy organizations
5 nationwide are observing Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis Awareness
6 Month with a variety of activities to raise awareness of the
7 profound impact that ALS has on patients, their families, and their
8 communities and to recognize and support the important research
9 being conducted to end this devastating disease; now, therefore, be
10 it

11 RESOLVED, That the 83rd Legislature of the State of Texas
12 hereby designate May 2013 as Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis
13 Awareness Month in Texas.