

By: Bonnen of Galveston

H.C.R. No. 110

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 WHEREAS, The observance of ALS Awareness Month in May
2 provides an opportunity to educate the public about Amyotrophic
3 Lateral Sclerosis, often known as Lou Gehrig's disease; and

4 WHEREAS, A fatal neurodegenerative disease, ALS was first
5 identified by a French scientist in 1869, but international
6 attention came 70 years later, when the disease ended the career of
7 beloved baseball player Lou Gehrig; ALS affects nerve cells in the
8 brain and spinal cord, and it causes the progressive degeneration
9 of the motor neurons that reach from the brain to the spinal cord
10 and from the spinal cord to the muscles throughout the body; and

11 WHEREAS, The onset of ALS is insidious, with the affliction
12 manifesting itself as muscle weakness or stiffness; as it
13 progresses, the disease causes wasting and paralysis of the muscles
14 of the limbs and trunk, as well as of the muscles that control vital
15 functions such as speech, swallowing, and breathing; patients in
16 the later stages of the disease may become completely paralyzed;
17 and

18 WHEREAS, Approximately 5,600 people in the United States are
19 diagnosed with ALS each year; although life expectancy averages
20 about two to five years from diagnosis, this disease is variable,
21 and some people survive longer while retaining quality of life;
22 according to the ALS Association, about 20 percent of individuals
23 with ALS live 5 years or more, and 5 percent will live for 20 years;
24 there are those in whom ALS has stopped progressing, and symptoms

1 have reversed in a small number of patients; and

2 WHEREAS, Congress recently increased funding for two crucial
3 projects, the ALS Research Program at the U.S. Department of
4 Defense and the National ALS Registry, administered by the federal
5 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; the tireless efforts of
6 advocates have played a crucial role in expanding resources to
7 investigate potential causes of ALS and to search for a cure, giving
8 new hope to patients and their families; now, therefore, be it

9 RESOLVED, That the 84th Legislature of the State of Texas
10 hereby recognize May 2015 as Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis Month
11 and urge all Texans to support efforts to find a cure for ALS.