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By:  Jetton H.R. No. 1488

R E S O L U T I O N

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

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

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

WHEREAS, Although life expectancy averages about two to five years from diagnosis, the disease is variable, and some people survive longer while retaining quality of life; according to the ALS Association, approximately 20 percent of individuals with ALS live five years or more, and about five percent live 20 years or longer; there is currently no cure for ALS, but a number of medications and treatments are available to help alleviate symptoms and prolong survival; and

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

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

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