

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1166

By Hazlewood

A RESOLUTION to commemorate ALS Awareness Month.

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

WHEREAS, a neurodegenerative condition, ALS was first identified by a French scientist in 1869, but the disease garnered international attention seventy years later, when it ended the career of beloved baseball player Lou Gehrig; and

WHEREAS, 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; and

WHEREAS, 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; and

WHEREAS, approximately 5,600 people in the United States are diagnosed with ALS each year, and some fifteen 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; and

WHEREAS, according to the ALS Association, approximately twenty percent of individuals with ALS live five years or more, and about five percent live twenty years or longer; and

WHEREAS, 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 Tennessee who are working to improve outcomes and develop new treatments for ALS; and

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

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRTEENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we commemorate ALS Awareness Month, May 2024, to increase public awareness about the disease.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy and upon proper request made to the appropriate clerk, the language appearing immediately following the State seal appear without House or Senate designation.