

1 HJR161
2 199942-1
3 By Representative Wood (D)
4 RFD:
5 First Read: 25-APR-19

8 A PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING ALS AWARENESS MONTH.
9

10 WHEREAS, Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS), better
11 known as Lou Gehrig's disease, is a fatal disease
12 characterized by progressive degeneration of motor neurons in
13 the brain and spinal cord leading to a loss of voluntary
14 muscle control; and

15 WHEREAS, ALS has no known cause, means of
16 prevention, or cure; and

17 WHEREAS, nearly 6,000 Americans are diagnosed with
18 ALS every year, and an estimated 35,000 Americans are
19 afflicted with the disease; and

20 WHEREAS, military veterans are at a greatly
21 increased risk of developing ALS compared to those who have
22 never served in the military; and

23 WHEREAS, ALS eventually causes muscular atrophy and
24 the patient becomes a dysfunctional quadriplegic requiring
25 total and constant care; and

1 WHEREAS, the progression of ALS causes the patient
2 to experience difficulty in swallowing, talking, and
3 breathing; and

4 WHEREAS, on average, patients diagnosed with ALS
5 only survive two to five years from the time of diagnosis; and

6 WHEREAS, the advanced stages of ALS can be
7 financially crippling, depleting the resources of patients and
8 families; and

9 WHEREAS, a national ALS patient registry,
10 administered by the Center for Disease Control, is currently
11 identifying cases of ALS in the United States through
12 voluntary reporting; and

13 WHEREAS, the ALS Association, many individuals and
14 organizations across Alabama and the United States are
15 aggressively searching for treatments and a cure for ALS
16 through active research and clinical programs; and

17 WHEREAS, Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis Awareness
18 Month increases the public awareness of ALS patients'
19 circumstances and acknowledges the devastating impact this
20 disease has on the patient, his or her family and the
21 community as a whole, and recognizes the research being done
22 to eradicate this terrible disease; now therefore,

23 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH
24 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That we recognize May 2019, as
25 Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS) Month in Alabama, and this
26 resolution is offered in highest tribute along with best

1 wishes for success in the noble quest for a cure for Lou
2 Gehrig's Disease.