

House Resolution 1711

By: Representatives Dudgeon of the 24th, Cooper of the 41st, Gardner of the 57th, and Harden of the 28th

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing March 7, 2012, as Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis Awareness Day at the capitol;
2 and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS) is better known as Lou Gehrig's disease
4 and is a fatal neurodegenerative disease characterized by the degeneration of cell bodies of
5 the lower motor neurons in the gray matter of the anterior horns of the spinal cord; and

6 WHEREAS, the initial symptom of ALS is weakness of the skeletal muscles, especially
7 those of the extremities, and as ALS progresses, the patient experiences difficulty in
8 swallowing, talking, and breathing; and

9 WHEREAS, ALS eventually causes muscles to atrophy, and the patient becomes a functional
10 quadriplegic; and

11 WHEREAS, ALS does not affect a patient's mental capacity, so the patient remains alert and
12 aware of his or her loss of motor functions and the inevitable outcome of continued
13 deterioration and death; and

14 WHEREAS, ALS has no known cause, means of prevention, or cure, and on average,
15 patients diagnosed with ALS only survive two to five years from the time of diagnosis; and

16 WHEREAS, research indicates that military veterans are at a 50 percent or greater risk of
17 developing ALS than those who have not served in the military; and

18 WHEREAS, the Department of Veterans Affairs implemented regulations to establish a
19 presumption of service connection for ALS, thereby presuming that the development of ALS
20 was incurred or aggravated by a veteran's service in the military; and

21 WHEREAS, a national ALS patient registry, administered by the Centers for Disease
22 Control, is currently identifying cases of ALS in the United States and may become the
23 single largest ALS research project ever created; and

24 WHEREAS, Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis Awareness Day increases the public's awareness
25 of ALS patients' circumstances and acknowledges the terrible impact this disease has not
26 only on the patient but on his or her family and the community and recognizes the research
27 being done to eradicate this horrible disease.

28 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
29 the members of this body recognize March 7, 2012, as Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis
30 Awareness Day at the capitol.

31 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
32 and directed to transmit appropriate copies of this resolution to each member of the Georgia
33 congressional delegation.