

## House Resolution 99

By: Representatives Dudgeon of the 25<sup>th</sup>, Gardner of the 57<sup>th</sup>, and Cooper of the 43<sup>rd</sup>

## A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing January 30, 2013, as Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis Awareness Day at the  
2 capitol; 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 January 30, 2013, 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.