

House Resolution 1775

By: Representatives Dudgeon of the 25th and Cooper of the 43rd

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing March 12, 2014, as Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis Awareness Day at the capitol
2 and honoring the Georgia Chapter of the ALS Association as the only charity in Georgia
3 dedicating 100 percent to supporting ALS patients and their families; and for other purposes.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

29 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
30 the members of this body recognize March 12, 2014, as Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis
31 Awareness Day at the capitol.

32 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
33 and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to the Georgia Chapter of the
34 ALS Association.