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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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# HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 267 Session of  
1992

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INTRODUCED BY GEIST, MURPHY, BELARDI, FARGO, LAWLESS, SEMMEL,  
LEH, ANGSTADT, PETRARCA, COHEN, NAHILL, TIGUE, KENNEY,  
CAWLEY, HAYES, COY, SCHULER, DEMPSEY, PESCI, KOSINSKI, OLASZ,  
STURLA, CALTAGIRONE, CORRIGAN, STISH, BISHOP, MICOZZIE,  
HARPER, LESCOVITZ, STABACK, DALEY, LANGTRY, VEON, HARLEY,  
FAJT, CAPPABIANCA, MARSICO, ARNOLD, CIVERA, RUDY, PISTELLA,  
ARMSTRONG, JOSEPHS, LAUGHLIN, BATTISTO, TOMLINSON, BELFANTI,  
PRESTON, MIHALICH, HESS, GIGLIOTTI, TRELLO, CARLSON,  
J. TAYLOR, COLAIZZO, KASUNIC, FLEAGLE AND KING, MARCH 9, 1992

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REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON RULES, MARCH 9, 1992

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A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 Designating May 1992 as "Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis Awareness  
2 Month" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, Over 300,000 people alive today will eventually die  
4 from Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS), commonly known as "Lou  
5 Gehrig's Disease," which affects the motor-neuron system of the  
6 human body; and

7 WHEREAS, At least 5,000 people will be diagnosed this year as  
8 having ALS, or an average of 13 cases per day; and

9 WHEREAS, There is still no known cause or cure for ALS  
10 despite the fact that the disease was discovered in 1869; and

11 WHEREAS, Victims of this disease may lose total movement of  
12 their arms, legs, fingers and toes, as well as the ability to  
13 speak, swallow or breathe; and

14 WHEREAS, ALS patients have an average life expectancy of

1 between two and five years after the initial diagnosis is made;  
2 and

3 WHEREAS, Wheelchairs, respirators and feeding tubes are often  
4 necessary to assist those who outlive the average life  
5 expectancy; and

6 WHEREAS, The National Institutes of Health have found that  
7 victims of ALS are increasingly younger, with many in their  
8 twenties and thirties, and some mere teenagers; and

9 WHEREAS, ALS strikes people regardless of race, sex, age or  
10 ethnicity; and

11 WHEREAS, The number of male victims of ALS under 50 years of  
12 age equals the number of female victims, but over 50 years of  
13 age, male victims outnumber female victims by a ratio of 3 to 1;  
14 and

15 WHEREAS, Finding the cause of, and a cure for, ALS will  
16 prevent the disease from robbing hundreds of thousands of  
17 Americans of their dignity and lives; and

18 WHEREAS, 1992 marks the 51st Anniversary of the death of one  
19 of America's greatest baseball players, Lou Gehrig, for whom the  
20 disease was named; and

21 WHEREAS, Raising public awareness of this disease will  
22 facilitate the discovery of a cure; therefore be it

23 RESOLVED (the Senate concurring), That the General Assembly  
24 designate May 1992 as "Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis Awareness  
25 Month" in Pennsylvania and call upon the citizens of this  
26 Commonwealth to observe the month with appropriate programs and  
27 activities.