



## **The ALS Georgia Chapter Hosts Annual Heroes Among Us Luncheon**

**ATLANTA (August 24, 2017)** – On Friday, August 18, The ALS Association Georgia Chapter paid tribute to Atlantans battling amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS) at the Heroes Among Us Luncheon. The event highlighted baseball legend Phil Niekro, former Atlanta Braves pitcher, for his outstanding contributions to the ALS community. Niekro was recognized for his humanitarian achievements as past winner of the Lou Gehrig Memorial Award. Mark Panfel, another notable champion of the fight against ALS, was also honored for raising over \$1 million in honor of his wife Sally, who was diagnosed in 2012.

The event was attended by 200 guests and raised more than \$100,000. Supporters can still donate by visiting [www.alsaga.org](http://www.alsaga.org).

ALS is a progressive neurodegenerative disease that affects nerve cells in the brain and the spinal cord. Eventually, those with ALS lose the ability to initiate and control muscle movement, which often leads to total paralysis and death within two to five years of diagnosis. There is no cure and no life-prolonging treatments for the disease.

Many recognize ALS as "Lou Gehrig's disease" after Lou Gehrig, Hall-of-Fame baseball player for the New York Yankees, who was diagnosed with ALS in the 1930s. Phil Niekro discussed his brave and heroic fight with ALS, which brought this disease national recognition.

### **About The ALS Association Georgia Chapter**

The ALS Association is the only national nonprofit organization fighting ALS on every front. By leading the way in global research, providing assistance for people living with ALS through a nationwide network of chapters, coordinating multidisciplinary care through certified and recognized treatment centers, and fostering government partnerships, The ALS Association builds hope and enhances quality of life while aggressively searching for new treatments and a cure. For more information about The ALS Association Georgia Chapter, visit our website at [www.alsaga.org](http://www.alsaga.org).

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