



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

October 6, 2020

[www.lg4day.com](http://www.lg4day.com) | [lg4day@gmail.com](mailto:lg4day@gmail.com)

## **LOU GEHRIG DAY COMMITTEE ANNOUNCES FULL SUPPORT FROM MLBPA AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TONY CLARK**

The Major League Baseball Players Association and Executive Director Tony Clark today joined the list of baseball community members who support establishing an official Lou Gehrig Day to honor the Yankee slugger's legacy and to raise awareness for ALS. "We've lost far too many from this disease both inside and outside of our baseball family since it prematurely took the life of one of our game's greatest Players," Clark said. "As members of the baseball community we are committed to doing our part to defeat it."

The Lou Gehrig Day Committee is made up of people directly impacted by ALS: patients, caregivers, friends, and loved ones driven to finding treatments and cures via raising awareness of the terminal disease. Lou Gehrig Day currently has the support of numerous ALS organizations across the country.

Lou Gehrig was diagnosed with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS) in 1939. ALS is a 100% fatal disease that affects nerve cells in the brain and spinal cords, causing loss of muscle control. Over time, ALS patients lose their ability to move, eat, speak, and ultimately breathe. There is currently no cure- the average life span is 2-5 years following diagnosis.

The proposal is for MLB to have a league-wide Lou Gehrig Day on June 2. The day is significant in two ways: it's the day that Gehrig died but also the day, in 1925, that Gehrig officially took over for Wally Pipp, cementing the launch of Gehrig's historic consecutive-game streak. On June 2, 2021 and moving forward, all MLB teams would commemorate this day and support partnerships with local ALS-related organizations to spur further awareness and, hopefully, treatments & cures.

More than 80 years after his famous speech, it's time to honor Gehrig and his fight at a league-wide level. The Yankees retired Gehrig's uniform number 4, making him the first player in MLB history to be accorded that honor. Entering the Baseball Hall of Fame, one is greeted with three statues: Roberto Clemente, Jackie Robinson, and Lou Gehrig. Gehrig is the only one without a league-wide day. It's time for Lou, and for the thousands of people with ALS.

Current supporters include eight teams, 12 Hall of Famers, 50+ All-Stars, current and former players, managers, front office personnel, and media. The Lou Gehrig Day Committee is excited to have the MLBPA on board. To learn more and support this effort, please visit [www.lg4day.com](http://www.lg4day.com).