

Omaha World Herald by Joseph Morton

WASHINGTON- The House voted 411-3 on Tuesday to create a nationwide registry for those who have Lou Gehrig's disease. Rep. Lee Terry, R-Neb., introduced the legislation with Rep. Eliot Engel, D-N.Y. The registry is intended to gather information to further research on amyotrophic lateral sclerosis. Gehrig, the New York Yankees first baseman, died of the disease in 1941 at the age of 37.

Studies have indicated that a combination of environmental factors and a gene trigger the disease, Terry said. The registry could help locate clusters of the disease and identify environmental factors that could help in the prevention or treatment of ALS, he said.

According to the ALS Association, about 5,600 people in the United States are diagnosed every year with the progressive neurodegenerative disease. There is no cure for the disease, which affects nerve cells in the brain and the spinal cord.

