

Be Ready When Called

Thanks in large measure to social media, a phenomenon known as the Ice Bucket Challenge swept across America in 2014.

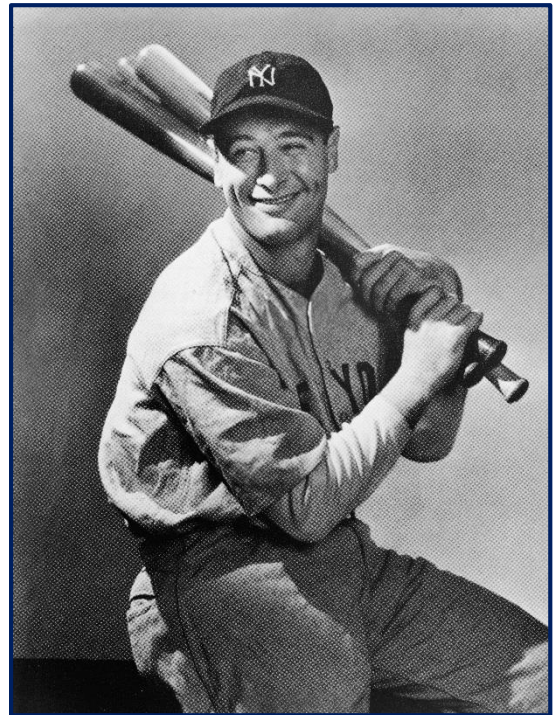
It is an activity involving dumping a bucket of ice water on someone's head to promote awareness of the disease amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, or ALS. It is commonly known as Lou Gehrig's Disease. The Ice Bucket Challenge, which encourages donations for research, went viral on social media during July through August 2014.

ALS is a progressive neurodegenerative disease that causes muscle weakness, paralysis and, ultimately, respiratory failure.

Gehrig was a famous baseball player, first baseman for the New York Yankees, who played 17 seasons in Major League Baseball. He was renowned for his prowess as a hitter and for his durability, a trait which earned him his nickname, *The Iron Horse*.

Gehrig revealed his diagnosis during the prime of his career. Years before he was diagnosed with ALS, Gehrig got his start in baseball after teammate Wally Pip came to the ballpark with a splitting headache. The team manager said, "Wally, take the day off. We'll try that kid, Gehrig."

The moment Yankees manager Miller Higgins called his name, Gehrig snatched the opportunity and stepped onto the field. He was prepared and was eagerly anticipating the challenge. This was the first game in Gehrig's amazing record of 2,130 consecutive games spanning 14 seasons.



The Bible is replete with stories of men and women who became heroes in their obedience to God and His plans for them. Their faithfulness, dedication and perseverance were eventually rewarded.

It didn't always come easy for them. It started by trusting God and stepping out in faith to accept the challenge before them.

Like these biblical characters, we should prayerfully trust in God as we listen for our name and prepare to get in the game.

(more)

God wants us to use the gifts He has given us to serve and glorify Him as we prayerfully seek and live out His calling in our lives.

The Lord came, stood there, and called as before, "Samuel, Samuel!" Samuel responded, "Speak, for your servant is listening" (1 Samuel 3:10 HCSB).

– Beecher Hunter