

Ex-college player who inspired ice bucket challenge honored

September 5 2017



Pete Frates, right, who inspired the ice bucket challenge, looks at his wife Julie is during a ceremony at City Hall in Boston where Tuesday, Sept. 5, 2017, was declared Pete Frates Day by Boston Mayor Marty Walsh. (AP Photo/Bill Sikes)

The man who inspired the ice bucket challenge was honored on Tuesday for helping to raise millions of dollars for Lou Gehrig's disease research.

Sept. 5 was declared Pete Frates Day, Mayor Martin Walsh said, as the

former Boston College baseball star was feted by more than 100 people outside City Hall.

"What it showed us is that ordinary people can make a difference," Walsh, a Democrat, said of the challenge Frates inspired. "It shows when you have a great idea you can have a rippling effect that reaches far beyond any one individual person."

Frates was diagnosed in 2012 with Lou Gehrig's disease, also called amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, or ALS, and can no longer speak or move. He said in a statement read by his wife, Julie Frates, that it was "amazing" and "humbling" to be honored by the city he loves.

His mother, Nancy Frates, said he has helped "alter the trajectory of a disease" that was relatively unknown and lacked adequate funding for research before the ice bucket challenge took off in the summer of 2014.

The global social media phenomenon, in which people dumped buckets of ice water over their heads and then nominated others to do the same, raised more than \$200 million for ALS research.



Boston Marty Walsh, second from right, speaks to Pete Frates, center, who inspired the ice bucket challenge, after Walsh declared Tuesday, Sept. 5, 2017, as Pete Frates Day during a ceremony at City Hall in Boston. Frates' mother Nancy, left, and wife Julie, second from left, stand at his side. Applauding at right is Major League Baseball Commissioner Rob Manfred. (AP Photo/Bill Sikes)

Major League Baseball Commissioner Robert Manfred, Boston Red Sox officials, the Boston College baseball team and Frates' family members were on hand for Tuesday's festivities.

Red Sox president Sam Kennedy said Frates "belongs on the Mount Rushmore of sports" for his contributions to finding a cure for ALS.

In June, the bucket Frates used for his ice bucket challenge at Fenway Park was enshrined in the Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, New

York, along with other mementos from his Boston College days.



Major League Baseball Commissioner Rob Manfred, second from right, speaks beside Pete Frates, second from left, who inspired the ice bucket challenge, after Boston Marty Walsh declared Tuesday, Sept. 5, 2017, as Pete Frates Day during a ceremony at City Hall in Boston. At left is Frates' wife Julie, and at right is his mother Nancy Frates. (AP Photo/Bill Sikes)

Gov. Charlie Baker, a Republican, recently signed a bill making the first week of each August Ice Bucket Challenge Week in the state.

The disease was named for New York Yankees legend Lou Gehrig, a famously durable first baseman who played in 2,130 consecutive games and earned the nickname The Iron Horse.

Gehrig retired from baseball after his diagnosis at age 36. In his farewell speech, he acknowledged his disease as a "bad break" but declared

himself "the luckiest man on the face of the earth." He died two years later, in 1941.



In this Dec. 13, 2016, file photo, former Boston College baseball captain Pete Frates, center left, receives a kiss from Boston College head baseball coach Mike Gambino after Frates was presented with the 2017 NCAA Inspiration Award, during ceremonies in Frates home in Beverly, Mass. The man who inspired the ice bucket challenge that has raised millions for ALS research is being honored at Boston City Hall. Mayor Martin Walsh is hosting a rally Tuesday, Sept. 5, 2017, for Frates at City Hall Plaza. The event coincides with the release of a new book on Frates. (AP Photo/Steven Senne, File)

© 2017 The Associated Press. All rights reserved.

Citation: Ex-college player who inspired ice bucket challenge honored (2017, September 5)
retrieved 18 April 2024 from

<https://medicalxpress.com/news/2017-09-boston-honors-als-patient-ice.html>

This document is subject to copyright. Apart from any fair dealing for the purpose of private study or research, no part may be reproduced without the written permission. The content is provided for information purposes only.