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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **ALS Association Louisiana-Mississippi Chapter's Joie de Vivre Soiree a Success**

BATON ROUGE, La., March 17, 2017 - The ALS Association Louisiana-Mississippi Chapter hosted its annual auction and gala, the Joie de Vivre Soiree, with honorary chairman Coach Paul Mainieri on March 17, 2017, at the L'Auberge Hotel and Casino.

The event raised more than \$117,000 for ALS (Lou Gehrig's Disease) research and will provide families affected by ALS with comfort, care and proper equipment. Of those funds, guests raised \$31,000 in under 10 minutes during the push for the Make a Difference Campaign.

Guests dined on a three-course dinner, enjoyed an open bar, donated during live and silent auctions and listened to music by the John Gray Trio.

Auctioneer Graham Crow kept guests entertained throughout the live auction with games that got everyone on their feet and rooting for each other.

Glen Wesley and the late Tom Grantham Jr. won the Chapter's Iron Horse Awards; ALS champion, Lou Gehrig was called the "Iron Horse" throughout his legendary baseball career.

ALSA-LAMS board of trustees vice president, Steven DeSalvo, spoke on the Grantham family's behalf and honored Grantham's life.

Grantham was a successful accountant and co-founded his own firm after serving in the Miss. National Guard. He was also a deeply faithful man who contributed to his church and the Jackson, Miss. community.

Wesley served his country in the Air Force and went on to manage the Country Club of Louisiana for 13 years before settling down as a craftsman and blacksmith. Wesley has battled ALS for six years.

Grantham's wife accepted the award on his behalf and Wesley's daughter read a speech written by Wesley. Both recipients received standing ovations from the room.

Wesley's speech epitomized the ALS Association's mission of creating a world without ALS, and doing everything in its power to achieve that mission.

"We plan to keep moving for as long as we can," Wesley wrote.

The ALS Association would like to thank those who contributed to this worthy cause and also the people with ALS (PALS) and their caregivers (CALs) for attending.

Interested parties may donate to this chapter of the ALS Association at any time at [webla.alsa.org](http://webla.alsa.org).

### **The ALS Association**

*The ALS Association is the only national non-profit organization fighting Lou Gehrig's Disease on every front. By leading the way in global research, providing assistance for people with ALS through a nationwide network of chapters, coordinating multidisciplinary care through certified clinical care centers, and fostering government partnerships, The Association builds hope and enhances quality of life while aggressively searching for new treatments and a cure. For more information about The ALS Association, visit our website at [alsa.org](http://alsa.org).*

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