

# **PRESS RELEASE- FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **ALBERT PUJOLS WINS PHI DELTA THETA'S LOU GEHRIG AWARD**

Albert Pujols, of the St. Louis Cardinals, has won this year's Lou Gehrig Memorial Award, sponsored by the Phi Delta Theta International Fraternity, headquartered in Oxford, Ohio. The award is presented annually by Phi Delta Theta to a Major League Baseball player who best exemplifies the giving character of Hall of Famer Lou Gehrig, a member of the Fraternity's Columbia University chapter. The award was first presented in 1955 and is permanently maintained at the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum in Cooperstown, New York.

A team of representatives from the Phi Delta Theta Association will present the award to Pujols at Busch Stadium on September 28<sup>th</sup> when the Cardinals take on the Pittsburgh Pirates at 7:15 PM.

"While the list of Lou Gehrig Award winners has always read as the who's who of baseball, in recent history I don't believe there has been a winner such as Albert who truly embodies Lou Gehrig on and off the field," says Sean Wagner, spokesman for the Lou Gehrig Memorial Award Committee and Associate Executive Vice President of Phi Delta Theta, "They both played first base, were All-Stars, league MVPs, and World Series Champions while also serving as a champions for their communities. We are proud to honor Albert and to have his name added to a plaque in Cooperstown well in advance to his sure-fire induction into the Hall of Fame."

Pujols's Gehrig Award win comes amidst another all-star and MVP-quality season in the midst of the Cardinals pennant chase. With 39 homers and 104 RBIs already this year, he has extended his record of 30 homers & 100 RBIs to a tenth consecutive season, a feat only matched by two other players in history. He is currently the active league leader in career batting average (.331) and slugging percentage (.625). In only ten seasons of play, Pujols ranks 47<sup>th</sup> in all-time home runs and recorded his 400<sup>th</sup> career home run earlier this year.

While Pujols is an MVP on the field, he is also revered as one off the field. Pujols, whose daughter Isabella has Down syndrome, created the Pujols Foundation in 2005 to support individuals with the disease and their families. Since then, the foundation has served more than 500 families affected by Down syndrome in the greater St. Louis area, and through its "High Five" program, the Pujols Foundation has enabled adults with the disease to become more active members of the St. Louis community. The Pujols Foundation also has an international outreach, providing dental care and improving living conditions for children in Haiti and in his home country, the Dominican Republic.

Pujols is the 6<sup>th</sup> member of the Cardinals to win the Gehrig Award, more than any other club in Major League Baseball. Past Cardinals winners include such greats as Stan Musial, Ken Boyer, Lou Brock, Ozzie Smith, and Mark McGwire. For detailed information about the history of the award, its recipients and to download this press release, go to [www.LouGehrigAward.org](http://www.LouGehrigAward.org).

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