

A member of our New Jersey support group has been a teacher for many years. She loves the career and wants to continue teaching, but says that her school district is trying to force her to resign. A second grade teacher who's a member of our Philadelphia group is still working, but sometimes needs assistance. So far, her colleagues have been able to help her hide the problems.

A New Jersey Special Ed teacher is an "expert" on the accommodations that people with disabilities need. She's angry because her school makes accommodations for her students, but has refused to do so for her. She asked for a chair and a program that would enable her to dictate because she has difficulty writing.

Dystonia has impacted or ended the careers of many other friends and support group members. The bass member of a singing group can no longer sing. A travel agent can no longer drive and has difficulty speaking to clients. An attorney has similar problems. A guitarist friend, who was a Grammy winner, lost the ability to finger the strings. A French Horn player's lips stopped working properly.

A half year ago, a story about a Midwest woman in her thirties received a lot of Internet and media attention. Her story was featured on national news programs and she was interviewed on the Today show. The woman had been diagnosed with CP, was treated unsuccessfully for that disease for over thirty years and led a very disabled life. After living as a CP patient for over three decades, she finally received the correct diagnosis: dystonia. Her story is even more frustrating. The woman is one of a minute percentage of dystonia patients who have dopa responsive dystonia. The symptoms that those people have can be controlled by medication. After thirty years, the woman is now leading an almost "normal" life.

Misdiagnosis is common. Many patients are told that their symptoms are psychosomatic.

A third of the hundreds of thousands of dystonia patients in this country are children. An eight and a half year old girl from New Jersey and a fifteen year old young woman from Connecticut were both diagnosed with CP. Both had unnecessary and very painful surgeries that cut their leg tendons in an attempt to straighten their feet. Both actually have dystonia. A foot turning in is often a first symptom. It wasn't recognized by their pediatricians or by their orthopedists.

When we started our New Jersey support group, it took our daughter and many of the original members over ten years to be diagnosed correctly. Research conducted by the NIH has shortened that time for many patients. It has also improved the types and number of treatments that are available. However, as our presentations have illustrated, there's much more to learn and it's important to continue funding the research.

Please help us.

Thank you.

#### RECOGNIZING THE 100TH BIRTHDAY OF GERTRUDE HENDRICK

**HON. DANIEL M. DONOVAN, JR.**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 30, 2015*

Mr. DONOVAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 100th Birthday of Staten Island's Gertrude Hendrick.

Ms. Hendrick currently resides on Staten Island at the New Lane Shores assisted living

facility. She is a mother of three sons: Michael; John; and Raymond, and a grandmother of eleven, and a great-grandmother of two.

Ms. Hendrick is originally from Brooklyn, NY, where she attended Bay Ridge High School. She retired 35 years ago in 1980 from Bankers Trust, where she worked in the accounting department for 23 years. After her retirement, she moved from Brooklyn to Staten Island. Two years later, on August 24, 1984, she moved into the New Lane Assisted Living Facility where she is now the longest, and oldest, resident in New Lane.

During her time at New Lane Shores, she volunteered and orchestrated trips for residents, which included collecting money for transportation that allows the residents to go shopping, demonstrating her commitment to helping others.

At the age of 100, Ms. Hendrick is very energetic and loved by all. She enjoys playing poker and dancing with her walker. She loves to attend parties and is a source of positive energy in every room.

Mr. Speaker, Gertrude Hendrick's positive personality and commitment to helping others embodies the perfect example of a model American citizen. I commend her outstanding life and I am proud to honor this citizen from New York's 11th District on her 100th birthday.

#### IN RECOGNITION OF NATIONAL RECOVERY MONTH

**HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 30, 2015*

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of September as National Recovery Month.

Established 26 years ago, National Recovery Month strives to educate Americans about opportunities for addiction treatment and mental health services, and the urgent need to take advantage of them. This year, National Recovery Month is highlighting the value of peer-to-peer support in educating, mentoring, and helping others in their recovery.

Addressing the prescription drug abuse epidemic is a uniquely American problem. It is not limited by geography or demographics. Prescription drug abuse has spread across the country like wildfire—with the U.S. accounting for less than five percent of the world's population yet consuming over 80 percent of the world's opioids and 99 percent of its hydrocodone. Tragically, 46 people die each day from an overdose of prescription drugs, and, each year, a staggering 185,000 people over the age of twelve in Massachusetts are at risk of an overdose. This number rises to a chilling 424,000 when taking into account those suffering from alcohol abuse. These statistics neither fully convey the dangers of drug and alcohol abuse nor the toll of this epidemic—both on families nationwide and on the limited resources available to law enforcement and social service agencies.

The first step toward stemming the rising rates of addiction is investing directly in our communities. This includes promoting and encouraging prevention, treatment and recovery measures in every state, as well as ensuring robust funding for the Substance Abuse and

Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). I am proud of the programs in my district that serve as a positive and successful example for others to follow—including, but not limited to, High Point Treatment Center, South Shore Mental Health, Gosnold Treatment Center, and Stanley Street Treatment and Resources (SSTAR) Addiction Treatment. They have proven the extent to which we can fight substance abuse through the integration of mental health services and treatment, thereby providing opportunity for individuals in recovery.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in highlighting this important issue. There is no single solution to fighting this epidemic, but together we can make a difference.

#### HONORING BEN RICHMOND OF THE LOUISVILLE URBAN LEAGUE ON HIS RETIREMENT

**HON. JOHN A. YARMUTH**

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 30, 2015*

Mr. YARMUTH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Benjamin K. Richmond, the President and C.E.O. of the Louisville Urban League, who retires today after serving our proud city and community for nearly three decades.

Since 1987, Ben and his staff have helped countless individuals and families across the city of Louisville achieve economic stability. Under Ben's leadership, the League has broken down barriers to ensure that all Louisvillians have the opportunity to pursue a better education, a better career, and a better life for their families. The organization has been a national model for success, regularly exceeding expectations and finding new ways to tackle the challenges facing our community.

Ben was instrumental in creating REBOUND Inc., the Urban League's charitable arm dedicated to housing development and rehabilitation. This program not only transforms vacant and abandoned properties into new houses for low and moderate income families, it helps transform the lives of those families and the neighborhoods they will call home.

At every level, Ben's passion and dedication has increased the Urban League's presence and stature throughout Louisville, forging new partnerships with local organizations, businesses, and members of the community.

Ben has spent his entire life making sure that all individuals have the opportunity to not only be successful, but to achieve that success while helping others. Quite simply, he is the very embodiment of the mission of the Urban League: to empower communities and change lives.

Louisville would not be what it is today without the contributions and commitment of Ben Richmond. I am proud to have worked closely with him through the years, but I'm even prouder to be able to call him a friend.

On behalf of the people of Kentucky's Third Congressional District and the city of Louisville, thank you, Ben, for your service and for being such a powerful source of inspiration for so many of us. I wish you all the best in your retirement. It certainly is well deserved.

RECOGNIZING THE 104TH  
NATIONAL DAY OF TAIWAN

**HON. SCOTT DESJARLAIS**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 30, 2015*

Mr. DESJARLAIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the upcoming Double Ten Day, the Republic of China's, also known as Taiwan, national day, which falls on October 10th and to extend my very best wishes to the people of Taiwan as they gather to celebrate the 104th National Day.

As a vibrant democracy and contributor to the global economy, Taiwan plays an important role in the peace and security of the Asia-Pacific region. I am proud of the role our country and the United States' Congress have played, through the Taiwan Relations Act, in making it possible for the hard working and resilient people of Taiwan to build a strong, prosperous and democratic society. Our relationship is as strong as ever, as I believe it will continue to be in the years and decades ahead.

As a member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee's Subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific, I would also like to commend the actions taken by President Ma Ying-jeou and his government to create an environment where peace and prosperity for all countries of the region can be pursued. President Ma has proposed both an East China Sea Peace Initiative and a South China Sea Peace Initiative, which lay out diplomatic approaches for all sides involved in maritime disputes to set aside their differences and jointly explore the natural resources of the disputed waters, while upholding international law.

In global disputes, such as these, it is this exact vision that is needed to reduce tensions and open up a dialogue between claimants, and as such, it should be given all due consideration by the international community.

In closing, I applaud the nation of Taiwan for its strong commitment to democratic values and more importantly, for the shining example it sets for aspiring countries, both in the Asia-Pacific region and around the world. As someone who is very appreciative of Taiwan's many contributions to the global community, I encourage my colleagues to join me in wishing the people of Taiwan a happy Double Ten Day.

MALNUTRITION AWARENESS WEEK

**HON. RENEE L. ELLMERS**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 30, 2015*

Mrs. ELLMERS of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about a hidden epidemic facing millions of Americans and their families. It is the epidemic of malnutrition, often unrecognized, yet directly impacting many of our own families and the constituents we serve. It increases the burden of our nation's health care costs and hits our elderly and minority communities especially hard according to a number of studies.

For example, a 2014 study conducted by researchers at the University of North Carolina and the Karolinska Institute in Stockholm

found that of older adults living at home, one of every six are malnourished when they enter a hospital. Other studies have shown that an additional 1 in 3 become malnourished while in the hospital. Why is this important? Patients with malnutrition have been shown to potentially heal slower, experience longer hospital stays and be at greater risk for re-hospitalizations and complications.

This economic burden of disease-associated malnutrition is profound. One study estimates that the U.S. burden is roughly \$156.7 billion per year—and for those aged 65+ it is estimated to be \$51.3 billion per year. As we struggle to contain health care costs and get the most value for patients and our health care dollars, it seems counterintuitive to ignore malnutrition, particularly among our most vulnerable populations.

So what can we do? A broader engagement by the healthcare community is the first step. The critical role of nutrition in the prevention and treatment of disease should have a greater emphasis in physician training. Malnutrition screening should become part of regular patient assessment. Knowing the nutrition status of patients and undertaking appropriate interventions are low-cost, common-sense solutions that will improve health outcomes and save health care dollars.

This week of September 28 through October 2 is Malnutrition Awareness Week. Let's help foster a greater attention to the problem and make a difference through solutions that better support healthy aging among senior citizens across our country. Sometimes the solution is easier than we think.

IN MEMORY OF REP. JIM SANTINI

**HON. SAM FARR**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 30, 2015*

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember the life and times of one of our former colleagues, Rep. Jim Santini from Nevada. I actually never served with Jim, but I came to know him well and appreciate him for his work on travel and tourism issues, two issues for which we shared a great passion. Sadly, Jim Santini passed away on September 22 from esophageal cancer.

Jim Santini was elected in 1974 and left the House in 1982. He served in the House at a time when Nevada only had one representative. In many respects he was the third Senator. He travelled to every corner of the state and was especially interested in protecting the interests of the rural communities; he didn't want even the smallest of towns in the desert to be forgotten.

During his tenure in the House he honed in on one of the great economic engines of our country: travel and tourism. This industry often toils in disparate ways but Santini recognized its potential power if it ever came together over its common goals: to encourage new adventures around the country through travel and exploration and to serve customers by creating memorable, lasting experiences for them in the process of travel. Currently, travel and tourism accounts for \$2.1 trillion in economic output in the U.S. and employs 15 million persons.

Rather than letting this vast travel economy move along in all its separate parts he helped

all the many facets of travel and tourism see their commonalities and unite around a common purpose. In doing so he elevated the industry's interests in Congress from its myriad components into a singularly focused agenda. Part of the way he did this was to organize the Congressional Travel and Tourism Caucus.

After Santini left Congress the caucus disappeared. But given California's tremendous tourism industry and my involvement in promoting travel and tourism when I was in the California Assembly, one of the first things I did when I got elected to Congress was to re-establish the Caucus. I am proud to say that the Caucus today is quite vigorous with 116 Members. We have significant accomplishments under our belt including the enactment and reauthorization of the BRAND USA legislation which helps promote the United States to international travelers, and the JOLT Act which was introduced this year and proposes to reform and enhance the way visitor visas are processed so as to make travel to the U.S. easier from abroad. We have Jim Santini to thank for these accomplishments. It is his vision that is embodied in much of today's travel and tourism agenda.

Jim Santini leaves behind his devoted wife, Ann Crane Santini, his children David, Lisa, Katherine, Lori, Mark and JD and their families, 13 grandchildren and 1 great grandchild.

Mr. Speaker, I feel certain the House joins me in offering condolences to the Santini family and in giving our former colleague posthumous thanks for all he did to serve the great state of Nevada and the nation.

RECOGNIZING DYSAUTONOMIA  
AWARENESS MONTH

**HON. BRIAN HIGGINS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 30, 2015*

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the millions that fight each day against dysautonomia. Dysautonomia is a group of debilitating medical conditions that result in a malfunction of the autonomic nervous system. This system is responsible for "automatic" bodily functions such as respiration, heart rate, blood pressure, digestion, and temperature control. Dysautonomia continues to significantly impact the lives of Americans across the United States especially here in Buffalo, New York.

Multiple forms of dysautonomia can be extremely disabling and this disability can result in social isolation, stress on the families of those impacted, and financial hardships. The outstanding character and strong moral fiber of those in the Western New York community have provided the much needed support for the victims suffering from dysautonomia. Looking ahead it will be important for the community to rally around these victims as they continue their hard fought battle against this disease.

Dysautonomia awareness is monumental in the early detection of the disease due to the fact that most patients take years to get diagnosed. Dysautonomia International, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that advocates on behalf of patients living with dysautonomia, encourages communities to celebrate Dysautonomia Awareness Month