

Fred was selected for this prestigious award because of his selfless contributions to Victor Valley College and local community. As the Chief Executive Officer for the Desert Valley Hospital/Desert Valley Medical Group, Fred spearheaded a partnership with VVC to assist students in pursuing careers in the field of nursing. This partnership provided not only financial assistance to these students, but also three-year employment contracts with Desert Valley Hospital. If that wasn't enough, Fred personally mentors and tutors nursing students in the program to ensure their success.

On behalf of the U.S. House of Representatives, I would like to congratulate Fred Hunter for receiving the President's Award from the Victor Valley College Foundation. He is truly deserving of this honor and I thank him for his willingness to give back to his High Desert community.

ADA EDUCATION AND REFORM ACT OF 2017

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 15, 2018

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 620) to amend the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 to promote compliance through education, to clarify the requirements for demand letters, to provide for a notice and cure period before the commencement of a private civil action, and for other purposes.

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Chair, I rise in opposition to H.R. 620, the latest Republican attack on our family, friends, neighbors, and co-workers with disabilities. Just as they did with cuts to Medicaid for people with disabilities, Republicans are once again demonstrating the cruelty of their backwards agenda.

Nearly three decades ago, the American's with Disabilities Act (ADA) was passed and basic civil rights were guaranteed for persons with disabilities. Like the Civil Rights Act, the goal of the ADA was to remove "unjustified segregation and exclusion of persons with disabilities" in public accommodations such as hotels, restaurants, and theaters. The ADA did not enable individuals to bring lawsuits against public accommodations for non-compliance; however, many states have expanded these rights. If there are abuses, the states can and should solve these issues.

H.R. 620 undermines the basic goals of the ADA by creating a disincentive for voluntary compliance of business owners and creating burdensome requirements for individuals to bring a private lawsuit for noncompliance. Contrary to what its supporters claim, H.R. 620 would create unnecessary hurdles for victims of discrimination to file an ADA claim. Over its nearly 30 year history, the ADA has been a monumental success story. But instead of building on that success, this Republican bill makes it harder for people with disabilities to protect their right to access public accommodations.

I have heard from countless people with disabilities in Minnesota who are unified in their opposition to this Republican bill. I stand with them, and numerous groups representing people with disabilities, seniors, and veterans, op-

posing this harmful legislation that rolls back the ADA and Americans' civil rights.

I urge my colleagues to oppose H.R. 620.

RECOGNIZING GRACE HERSCHELMAN

HON. RODNEY DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 26, 2018

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS. Mr. Speaker, in honor of Rare Disease Day, I'm proud to recognize Grace Herschelman, a six-year-old from Hillsboro, Illinois who continues to be an inspiration for thousands across Illinois.

When Grace was three-years-old, she was diagnosed with Infantile Neuraxonal Dystrophy, a neurodegenerative disease that results in a loss of muscle strength, movement, and the ability to speak. At the time of her diagnosis, there were only 10 documented cases of INAD in the nation, and most children with this disease do not make it to their 10th birthday.

Throughout her diagnosis and regular therapy treatments, Grace and her family have been a source of inspiration throughout Illinois. They have increased awareness for this rare and terminal disease, and have raised more than \$175,000 for research, with donors coming from all 50 states.

Grace and her family's story is just one example of why I support increased funding for the National Institutes of Health and legislation like the 21st Century Cures Act. Thousands of Americans are afflicted with rare diseases like INAD, and we as a nation must work to ensure that better treatment, cures, and hope are prioritized and possible for these patients and their families.

HONORING THE LIFE OF GWEN YORK

HON. MARC A. VEASEY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 26, 2018

Mr. VEASEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Gwen York who dedicated her life to advance the goals of Transportation Workers Union (TWA) and the Texas American Federation of Laborers and Congress of Industrial Organizations (AFL-CIO). As Director of Transport Workers Union International Committee on Political Education, Gwen's contribution to the TWA and AFL-CIO are incalculable due to the combination of her unwavering dedication and prudent leadership. For these reasons and more, Gwen will be remembered as an integral part of the Transport Workers Union, a beloved member of the Texas AFL-CIO Executive Board, an outstanding organizer and a passionate voice for working families across the state.

Gwen York was born December 27, 1956, in Houston, Texas. Soon after her first birthday, her family relocated to Garland, Texas where she would spend much of her life. Gwen graduated from South Garland High School in 1974, and attended the University of Texas at Austin. In 1980, Gwen opted to become a flight attendant, an occupation she

loved dearly. However, she never forgot the importance of education, when she decided to return to school and graduate from the National Labor College in 2006.

Gwen's passion, experience, and tenacity made her a unique and irreplaceable advocate for labor rights. Gwen's laser focus on the future of labor as well disrupting the status quo prompted her to undertake the task of mentoring the next generation of union activists. She dedicated her time to mentoring young women, who she believed would serve as a new stream of activists that would help renew the labor advocacy movement and push it into the 21st century and beyond.

Today, we recognize Gwen York for her leadership, dedication, and lifelong work with the Transport Workers Union and the Texas American Federation of Laborers and Congress of Industrial Organizations.

I honor the life of Gwen York, a cornerstone of the labor movement and an exemplar of women's leadership.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JEFF DENHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 26, 2018

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, I missed votes on February 13th and the first vote Series on February 14th because of an engagement in the Central Valley of CA.

Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 70—H.R. 4533; YEA on Roll Call No. 71—H.R. 4979; YEA on Roll Call No. 72—H. Res. 736 Previous Question; YEA on Roll Call No. 73—H. Res. 736; YEA on Roll Call No. 74—H.R. 3542; and YEA on Roll Call No. 75—H. Res. 129.

HONORING THE URBAN LEAGUE OF GREATER MADISON ON THE ORGANIZATION'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. MARK POCAN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 26, 2018

Mr. POCAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Urban League of Greater Madison as the organization celebrates its 50th Anniversary.

Since its founding on February 20, 1968, the Urban League of Greater Madison has championed the educational and professional advancement of the city's African-American population. In the earliest years of its operation, the organization excelled at developing programs to provide skills training and job placement, more than tripling the number of employees of color working for the City of Madison.

Over the last fifty years, the Urban League of Greater Madison has maintained exceptional programming, despite a number of challenges. Through the development of partnerships with community leaders and local businesses, the Urban League of Greater Madison has continued to enhance its operations and has expanded its outreach in minority and immigrant communities.

In recent years, the Urban League of Greater Madison has been at the forefront of fighting for equality in our community with its vision to make Greater Madison the "Best in the Midwest" for everyone to live, learn, and work by 2020. Last year, the organization launched a campaign to place 1,500 low-income job seekers into career pathway employment by 2020, continuing its long legacy of advocating for economic justice and opportunity.

Through its efforts to pursue education, employment, and empowerment, the Urban League of Greater Madison has remained committed to fighting for progress and our future. It is my honor to now recognize the Urban League of Greater Madison in celebration of its 50th Anniversary and I wish them many more years of success.

**SID HULTQUIST SELECTED FOR
INDUCTION TO THE VICTOR VALLEY
COLLEGE ALUMNI HALL OF
FAME**

HON. PAUL COOK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 26, 2018

Mr. COOK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Sid Hultquist, who was selected for induction to the Victor Valley College Alumni Hall of Fame. As an alumnus of VVC, Sid became a fixture in the Victor Valley and distinguished himself as a leader and public servant.

During his 38 years of fire service, Sid worked for nearly every firefighting agency in the High Desert. Under Sid's guidance as Fire Chief for the Apple Valley Fire Protection District, the agency was able to secure additional funding to hire new firefighters and reduce critical response times for town residents. Undoubtedly, the training he received at VVC was instrumental in helping Sid excel in many areas of his career.

On behalf of the U.S. House of Representatives, I would like to congratulate Sid Hultquist for his induction to the Victor Valley College Alumni Hall of Fame. I couldn't think of a better honor for someone who gave so much to his community.

**REMEMBERING THE ANNIVERSARIES
OF TWO TRAGEDIES IN
AZERBAIJAN**

HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 26, 2018

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, as Co-Chairman of the Congressional Azerbaijan Caucus, I would like to take time to recognize the anniversaries of two tragedies in the history of this great American ally.

On January 20th 1990, heavily-armed Soviet troops stormed the capital city of Baku in a final attempt to quell anti-communist uprising. The day is most commonly known as "Black January" due to the terrible human losses and subsequent military rule. 26,000 soldiers fired into crowds of civilians targeting women, children, hospitals, and ambulances. Fighting lasted for three days and resulted in

131 fatalities, over 600 injuries, 841 arrests where detainees were subject to torture, and to this day an unknown number are still missing. These horrific acts did not have their desired effect in the slightest on Azerbaijan who won independence less than two years later.

The second occurred on this day, February 26, twenty-six years ago in the city of Khojaly where several thousand ethnic Azerbaijani people were trapped in a blockade by Armenian troops seeking to lay claim to the Nagorno-Karabakh region. Citizens of the city were told that they may escape if they left immediately but regardless, hundreds of innocent citizens, including women, children, and the elderly, were brutally murdered or taken prisoner on that day. This was the largest massacre as part of a conflict that is still ongoing.

As the first nation to lend its support to the United States following the attacks of September 11th, so too does Azerbaijan deserve our support and condolences for their losses. These were terrible crimes against humanity which we must never forget, and I urge my colleagues to commemorate them on this day.

**IN HONOR OF MARK SCARANO,
FEDERAL CO-CHAIR OF THE
NORTHERN BORDER REGIONAL
COMMISSION**

HON. ANN M. KUSTER

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 26, 2018

Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my good friend Mark Scarano as he steps down after nearly three years as Federal Co-Chair of the Northern Border Regional Commission (NBRC). Through his service on the Commission, Mark has continued his life's work as a community economic developer serving areas that are most in need of support. Mark got his start in this field in Millinocket, Maine, and later in Piscataquis County. We in New Hampshire were fortunate that he came next to Grafton County, where for eight years he led its Regional Development Corporation and significantly expanded workforce development and entrepreneurship programs.

In 2015, I was tremendously proud to support President Obama's nomination of Mark to co-chair the NBRC, and his unanimous confirmation by the Senate was a testament to his stellar reputation and achievements. He has proved more than worthy of that honor, as he has been a tireless leader, steward, and advocate of the Commission's important work during a period of tightening budgets and the emergence of new challenges, like the opioid epidemic, which are threatening our rural economy and its development.

Ten years after it was first authorized, the Northern Border Regional Commission continues to play a critical role in driving the economic growth and community development in some of New Hampshire's most economically distressed communities. It supports projects that create and sustain jobs, tackle workforce development, infrastructure, telecommunications, healthcare, culture, and much more. Mark has worked diligently during his tenure to streamline processes and procedures and maximize the impact of the Commission.

Through his excellent leadership, Mark has been an invaluable resource to the Granite State and improved the lives of thousands who have relied on projects championed by the Commission.

On behalf of my constituents in New Hampshire's Second Congressional District, I thank Mark for his many years of dedicated service to the Granite State and the Northeast. His achievements will continue to benefit our state for years to come. I am honored to recognize and congratulate Mark, and wish him the very best of luck in the years ahead.

**IN RECOGNITION OF THE
DENNISON MEMORIAL COMMUNITY
CENTER**

HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 26, 2018

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the 150th Anniversary of the Dennison Memorial Community Center.

The Dennison Memorial Community Center has been serving our area since 1868, when the New Bedford Ladies City Mission was officially incorporated by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Their mission was to care for the less fortunate through free dental clinics, public baths, and social activities. Named after Rev. Tristan Dennison, the heart and soul of the organization, this center became a pillar of the community.

Today this center continues to serve the people of New Bedford, equipped with a recreational center, daycare, academic assistance and more. Dennison is made up of an incredible, multi-lingual staff working tirelessly to strengthen the city of New Bedford. Welcoming children and teens, age 6 to 16, there is no doubt the center will continue to have a major impact on the success of the next generation.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to honor the 150th anniversary of the Dennison Memorial Community Center for their dedication to bettering their community. I ask that my colleagues join me in thanking them for their invaluable service and wishing them all the best in the many years to come.

**RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF REV-
EREND DR. BERTRAND MAURICE
BAILEY, SR.**

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 26, 2018

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize the life of a man of staunch faith, Reverend Dr. Bertrand Bailey, Sr. Reverend Bailey was born to the late Reverend Dr. Mauual Lee Bailey and Dr. Bertha Mae Bailey in McKinney, Texas. At the age of 16, Rev. Bailey answered the call to commit his life to preaching and serving his community through ministry. Pastor Bailey went on to not only receive a Bachelor of Arts degree with a double major in philosophy and religion from Bishop College; but also two honorary degrees from Short College and Jackson's Theological Seminary.