

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.