

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.