

## politicalticker...

July 26, 2010

### Quadriplegic to preside over House

Posted: July 26th, 2010 02:37 PM ET

From CNN Congressional Producer Deirdre Walsh

Washington (CNN) - Rhode Island Rep. Jim Langevin, who is a quadriplegic, will be the first person in a wheelchair to preside over the House of Representatives Monday.

A series of lifts and platforms will allow the Democrat to get in the Speaker's chair position on the 20th anniversary of the Americans with Disability Act. The House will take up a resolution in honor of the anniversary later in the evening.

In addition to installing the lifts, the gavel has also been altered – a smaller version was fashioned with a hook and a Velcro attachment that can attach the gavel to Rep Langevin's hand.

The congressman was paralyzed as a teenager while on a Boy Scout Explorer program at a local police department when a gun accidentally discharged. The congressman credits the community support he received following his injury for inspiring him to go into public service.



Rhode Island Rep. Jim Langevin, who is a quadriplegic, will be the first person in a wheelchair to preside over the House of Representatives Monday.

Filed under: House • Jim Langevin

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|----------------------|----------------------------|--|
| Keith in Austin      | July 26th, 2010 4:07 pm ET | Symbolic of a paralyzed House led by Queen Pelosi!                     |
| Willy Brown          | July 26th, 2010 3:49 pm ET | Hey the democrats did something today with out screaming racism        |
| Jim                  | July 26th, 2010 3:45 pm ET | Inspiration to all !!!! thank you for your service to the country,sir. |
| Jamie from Riverside | July 26th, 2010 3:32 pm ET |  |

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Wow! For the first time ever I am reading something going on in Congress that makes me proud.

No partisan bickering, no screaming or name calling but instead an inspiring story of courage and hope.

Shon P. Connors

July 26th, 2010 3:27 pm ET

I think it is very inspirational to see that people with disabilities are being recognized for their accomplishments than rather our disabilities. I am very proud to be a part of that category and hope that many more of us can be a bigger part of society.

Mr. Moderate

July 26th, 2010 3:25 pm ET

What an inspiring story. I wonder how long it will be before the Republicans give him the Max Cleland treatment.

XWngLady

July 26th, 2010 3:13 pm ET

This is an example of what is truly great about America!!! Good on 'em.

NYC REPUB

July 26th, 2010 3:10 pm ET

I love being progressive.....God bless you Rep. Langevin!!!

Joe from CT, not Lieberman

July 26th, 2010 3:09 pm ET

Here is the important part – he is a member of Congress being given the privilege of being the presiding officer. What astounds me is given how many wheelchair bound members of congress there have been, it has taken this long for one of them to get this honor. What is ironic is in the outside had someone wheelchair-bound not be given that honor (like a city board of aldermen or state legislature), they would have had the full force of the Americans with Disabilities Act behind them to force the accomodation. Because Congress specifically exempted themselves from many of these laws, they were never required to make the necessary modifications to the podium to support disabled members access to preside over the House or Senate. Bravo to the House for finally putting the 1991 law to work in their chambers!

Dominican mama 4 Obama

July 26th, 2010 3:01 pm ET

I do not know of this gentleman, but I wish him all the best. This has all the makings of a truly inspirational story. I also hope that based on his personal experience Rep. Langevin will have a more compassionate outlook towards those who are sick, and or disabled and that that view translates into good legislation towards same.

Congratulations and good luck sir.

carlos

July 26th, 2010 2:59 pm ET

can not wait for the people of the so called becks hatred network will have to say about this article.....God bless, Rep. Langevin

Dominican mama 4 Obama

July 26th, 2010 2:48 pm ET

Glad Langevin was able to make history. Hopefully, democrats will be voted out of the Congress so that our country can recover.

GI Joe

July 26th, 2010 2:47 pm ET

The republicans want someone like this to be put before Virginia Foxx's death panel, or left with no health care because of pre-existing conditions.

Vote NO to the GOBP of NO.

Kahuna

July 26th, 2010 2:46 pm ET

I'm surprised the Republicans will let him preside over the session. I'm sure they're seething about it because Langevin "isn't a real American" in the Republican lexicon. After all, bullets bounce off real Americans.

BobH

July 26th, 2010 2:45 pm ET

Doesn't matter whether Dem, Rep or Ind, some things just make you proud to be an American.

Would Tim Mcveigh be a Tea Party hero today?

July 26th, 2010 2:44 pm ET

Good luck, hope you make it, the real cripples are brain crippled republicans that want the U.S to fail.

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Randy

July 26th, 2010 2:43 pm ET

Is anyone else wondering why there was a gun at the Boy Scout Explorer program? Wouldn't that be a good time for the police not to be handling weapons?

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