

2013 Henry Viscardi Achievement Award Recipient



U.S. Rep. James R. Langevin
Rhode Island's 2nd Congressional District

U.S. Rep. James R. Langevin (Rhode Island) is the first person with quadriplegia to serve in Congress. He chairs the bipartisan Disabilities Caucus and is leading the fight for stem cell research funding and strengthening amendments to the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). In recent months, Langevin, who was injured as a teenager in an accidental discharge of a firearm, has been an outspoken advocate for families affected by gun violence.

“I’m humbled to be recognized in such extraordinary company and with an honor named for Dr. Viscardi, who, long before the Americans with Disabilities Act, epitomized the tremendous contributions people with disabilities can make to better our society when given the opportunity,” said Langevin. “After the accident that left me paralyzed, I was so fortunate to receive an outpouring of support from a loving family and caring community that inspired me to pursue my role in public service. I hope that the founding of these Awards will help raise awareness of the improvements that can be made in America and around the world so all people with a disability will have the same chance as I did to realize their potential.”