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Mr. Bennett Goes to Washington

By Christopher B

I first started my public service 28 years ago with the National Down Syndrome Society both in New York and Southern California. I was with the National Down Syndrome Congress for 15 years. In 2007, I joined Partners in Policy Making in California, serving a four-year term until 2008. I was appointed to serve the State of California Council on Developmental Disabilities of the State of California to the United States Congress. I worked on disability legislation with the White House Press at Capitol Hill with the House of Representatives in Washington D.C in April of this year. I hope to be invited to the White House this Fall in October. I'm excited about the possibility of being invited to the White House in Autumn, which would further highlight the importance of disability advocacy on a national level.



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Drew Goes to Italy!

I have wanted to go to Italy for many years. This April, my parents took me there for vacation! I was excited to see famous cities and landmarks, including Venice, the Roman Colosseum, and Vatican City. To prepare myself, I practiced my Italian by reading, note-taking, and using the language-learning app, Duolingo.

While walking through Italian cities, I said several phrases like “salve” (**greetings**), “arrivederci” (**goodbye**), “buongiorno” (**good morning**), “grazie” (**thank you**), and “prego” (**you’re welcome**).

The places we went included Padova, Venice, Bologna, Levanto, Cinque Terre, Florence, Vatican City, and Rome. The five villages in Cinque Terre are Monterosso al Mare, Vernazza, Corniglia, Manarola, and Riomaggiore.

My favorite part was touring Venice. I enjoyed seeing gondolas, crossing bridges, exploring Saint Mark’s Basilica, and riding the vaporetto on the Grand Canal. Later in Cinque Terre, we toured three of the five towns; Manarola, Vernazza, and Monterosso al Mare. I even got a “Cinque Terre Trekking” shirt for a present! In Florence, I took pictures of many statues, including Michelangelo’s David and Roman gods. Finally in Rome, I took pictures of the ornate Saint Maria Maggiore and the ancient Colosseum. In Vatican City, there are gorgeous scenes of St. David’s Basilica, the Tiber River, the Trevi Fountain, and the Spanish Steps.

The newsletter, **MOMENTUM**, is written and created by the residents of Moving Forward Towards Independence.

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