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DISABILITY PRIDE PHILADELPHIA COMMITTEE Celebrates 6th Annual Disability Pride Philadelphia March and Celebration

(Philadelphia, PA) – The Disability Pride Philadelphia Committee will honor the 27th anniversary of the passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) with a weeklong celebration in Philadelphia beginning Monday, June 12, 2017 through Saturday, June 17, 2017. During this celebration it is the goal of the committee to change the way people think about and define “disability” and to promote a positive environment where society takes pride and embraces people with disabilities as a natural and beautiful part of human diversity.

This year’s event which is being hosted by the City of Philadelphia, the office of Councilman at Large Al Taubenberg, The National Constitution Center, The Mayor’s Commission for People with Disabilities, and Disabled In Action will begin a week-long event on **Monday June 12, 2017 at 12 o’clock noon with a *Flag Raising Ceremony on the North Apron of City Hall*** that will be attended by Mayor James Kenney , Councilman Al Taubenberg, Disabled In Action President German Parodi and committee members of Disability Pride Philadelphia. The Disability Pride Flag will fly over City Hall and the MSB Building all week to bring attention to this great celebration.

On **Wednesday, June 14, 2017 from 11:00 – 3:00 PM**, there will be a special ***“Let’s Get Decorated for Pride”*** art event hosted by Disability Pride Philadelphia committee at Liberty Resources, 112 N 8th Street on the second floor

in the Wade Blank room. This event is open to the public and each participant will be able to design a flag to show their PRIDE. These creative masterpieces will be displayed by their owners during our Disability Pride march which will culminate our week long celebration.

On **Thursday, June 15, 2017 at 10:00 AM** in City Council Chambers the Disability Pride Committee along with individuals from throughout the community will receive a proclamation from City Hall in recognition of the Disability Pride Philadelphia and the many accomplishments achieved by those with disabilities.

On **Friday, June 16, 2017 at 12:30 PM** at the Prince Theater Liberty Resources and Disability Pride Committee will be hosting the U.S. Premier of Defiant Lives. The film Defiant Lives is a documentary about the rise of the disabled people's movement. For more information see link:

<http://princetheater.org/events/defiant-lives/>

Disability Pride Philadelphia will hold its final event **"The Disability Pride March & Main Stage Events" on Saturday, June 17, 2017** with opening ceremonies beginning at 10:00 AM at the National Constitution Center located at 525 Arch Street. We will be joined by a number of dignitaries including Justin Dart's widow, Yoshiko Dart (Justin signed the American's with Disabilities Act on the White House lawn with President George H. Bush), and there will be a display of Justin Dart's wheelchair at the National Constitution Center (NCC) in the lobby free of charge, in which he sat in while signing the ADA. Opening ceremonies will also include the singing of the National Anthem, speeches, and a performance by Independence EDGE. Our 6th annual Disability Pride Parade will depart around 11:00 AM down Market Street converging onto City Hall and Dilworth Park around 12:00 Noon for the rest of the day's activities. We will have sponsor and informational tables, live performances** and speeches* on the Main Stage along with giveaways and activities for the children including face painting, coloring, and a bubble guy. The event will end at 4:00 PM.

This year's Disability Pride Philadelphia celebration is being sponsored by but not limited to UPMC Health Plan, JEVS, Supports Your Way, Visions for Equality, and Liberty Resources.

Members of the press are invited to attend all events.

*Speakers include UPMC Health Plan Vice President Maureen Long, Thomas Earle, CEO of Liberty Resources, Councilman Al Taubenberger, Yoshiko Dart (wife of Justin Dart), Disability Rights Attorney Steven Gold, ADAPT Member Cassie Holdsworth, Pennsylvania School for Deaf Elizabeth Hill, Charles Horton, Executive Director of the Mayor's Commission for People with Disabilities, and other City officials.

**Performances by Independence EDGE Studio, Zap Goes Pop!, Johnny Crescendo, 4 Wheel City, Deuteronomy, Anomie Fatale, Dennis Queen, Ogden Whitehead, and Patrick Kilgallon.