



## Saying Goodbye A Tribute to Robin Sims

Photo by: Ozzie (rvooiiipphoto.com)

*“Resolve is what brings us back every year and what keeps us going as advocates day in and day out, even against the odds. **If not us, who?** Our resolve speaks to the immediacy of the need and our unending actions to meet our daily challenges.”*

This statement was part of Robin’s last VOR President’s Message. Robin had been VOR’s President since 2008 and “resolve” describes so well her every action on behalf of individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDDD) and their families.

VOR represents a necessary voice: Families. VOR is the only national advocacy organization for people with ID/DD that stands up for the right of individuals and their families to choose from a full array of service options to meet very diverse needs ([www.vor.net](http://www.vor.net)). VOR respects choice and embraces the individual and family voices as primary.

As the mother of two children with developmental disabilities, Robin brought to VOR a passion for our mission that is really only felt by families whose motivation is personal. Advocating and leading alongside mothers, fathers, sisters, brothers and other close relatives, she motivated others by example and reminded anyone who would listen: *“If not us, who?”*

Robin was not easily deterred in the face of injustice. From the Halls of Congress to living rooms, Robin’s advocacy meant the difference between desolation and salvation for countless individuals and their families.

Perhaps Robin’s greatest gift to our advocacy movement is her legacy. She has left us with the wisdom, the energy, and the knowledge to know we can carry on – that we must carry on. Her legacy will not fill the hole in our hearts, but will sustain our advocacy on behalf of all people with ID/DD.