

1: Ed Roberts, the Disability Rights Movement and the ADA – Google Arts & Culture

The disability rights movement is a true mosaic, with diversity as its central characteristic. No one leader or organization can claim to speak for all people with disabilities. Without one highly visible leader, the disability rights movement has gone largely unnoticed by nondisabled people.

The ADA changed America, but there is a lot of work left to be done. Disability Rights History Before the ADA Ableism - the oppression and discrimination against people with disabilities - has always been with us. Despite centuries of isolation, segregation, violence, incarceration, and institutionalization, people with disabilities have always existed and have always resisted. In 1962, Ed Roberts decided that he would attend UC Berkeley, even though they had no accommodations for people with severe disabilities. Similar movements were beginning in other parts of the country. She emphasized that young activists like her son modeled for other disabled people and their families that opportunity for education and independence could be possible. Youth movements have always been a part of the quest for disability rights. The PDSP was so successful that they extended its benefits to Berkeley more generally, making it one of the most accessible places in the world. As other people with disabilities reached out to her, they founded a new cross-disability political activist organization, Disabled in Action. A few years later, she moved out to Berkeley to become Deputy Director of the Center for Independent Living, just as a new issue was emerging: Section of the Rehabilitation Act was the first U. So disability rights activists took matters into their own hands and staged sit-ins all over the country. At the San Francisco Office of the U. Department of Health, Education and Welfare, activists staged the longest sit-in of a federal building in U. The sit-ins and other direct action worked. Section was signed and implemented, teaching disability rights activists that they could shape federal legislation, paving the way for new battles. Disability rights are civil rights. Cross-movement activism remains one of the lasting impacts of the direct actions of the s. Around the country, groups and individuals learned from the success of the movement, practicing both direct action and governmental lobbying and service in order to achieve their goals. One important goal was access to public transportation. This national grassroots organization staged actions across America, often physically imposing themselves in front of busses to demand attention for their cause. The Deaf community, long plagued by audism - discrimination based on the notion that people who can hear are superior - united around a contest over the leadership of Gallaudet University. When the Board appointed a non-Deaf president, students led marches, sit-ins, and other direct actions. Eventually, the Board of Trustees named Dr. King Jordan the first Deaf president and took other steps to empower the Deaf community to participate in governing their university. Cross-disability activism and identity - in which disabled people identified with each other as part of a movement, even if their conditions differed, helped build the coalition that made the ADA possible. They embraced the principle that people with disabilities needed to lead their own lives, organizations, and institutions. The ADA promised the right to reasonable accommodation, fair treatment in employment, and an overall country-wide awareness of disability rights. The bill required direct action, legislative determination, and support from the White House. Here are just some of the landmark moments and actions that expressed the cross-disability power of the movement. The ADA Diaries were a collection of stories about disability discrimination from all over the country assembled by Justin and Yoshiko Dart. The Darts traveled all over the country for years hosting gatherings where people with disabilities would tell their stories of discrimination, segregation and inequality. The testimony of individuals like Lakesha helped make the discrimination experienced by disabled people more real to Congress and the national media. After years of work by so many people in and out of D. Over protestors came to Washington in March of to protest the delay. In a dramatic event, some activists cast aside crutches and wheelchairs and pulled themselves up the steps of the Capitol building. The crawl symbolized the lack of accessible spaces that disabled Americans faced every day. Along with hard work behind the scenes, this activism propelled the ADA forward towards passage. Direct action was only one part part of the effort that went into passing the ADA. The disability rights movement had many allies in Congress and the White House, especially from lawmakers and officials who were either disabled themselves or had disabled family members.

These four Senators, for example, were all major supporters of the ADA. Edward Kennedy D-MA had an intellectually disabled sister. When the ADA passed the Senate, Tom Harkin delivered the first speech on the Senate floor in sign language, sending a message of solidarity to his brother Frank, and millions of other disabled Americans who needed the help promised by this bill. As vice-chair of the National Council on Disabilities and a friend of Ronald Reagan, Dart served as the link between disability rights groups around the country and D. At the signing ceremony, Justin Dart Jr. He was proud of the ADA and all the work he had done, but knew that the real work - to put it into effect - was just beginning. He spent the rest of his life not only working on implementing the ADA, but nurturing the next generation of leaders. Those leaders are now taking his message of universal empowerment, love, and justice to young people who can carry the movement forward. Its protections have proven especially powerful when it comes to government services and public access. The ADA provided a legal framework for disability rights. It was immediately clear, and remains clear today, that using the ADA to create more equity and justice for people with disabilities would take an enormous amount of work. The successes, though, have only made the ongoing and emerging struggles more apparent. The ADA has radically transformed the built environment. Curb cuts, ramps, power doors, elevators - these innovations have made the world more accessible to people with disabilities. In fact, when we build spaces based on the principles of universal design, emphasizing accessibility for the greatest number of people, everyone benefits. Many of the most pressing problems facing the disability community stem from fundamental misconceptions about the nature of disability itself. But everyone is likely to experience disability at some point in their life. Some disabilities come and go. Many disabilities are non-apparent. The disabled community is as diverse as humanity itself, and disability is not what most people think. These laws both addressed expanding the definition of disability. Olmstead ruled that people with disabilities have a right to live in communities instead of institutions. The ADAAA expanded the protections of the ADA, in part by widening the definition of disability to include a variety of non-apparent disabilities, such as cancer, diabetes, and epilepsy. Both the Olmstead decision and ADAAA remind us of the diversity of disability and that all people with disabilities, non-apparent and apparent must be recognized, protected and afforded the right to work and live within their chosen communities. Not all issues depend on laws, of course. From smartphone apps, 3D printed prosthetics, to better wheelchairs, innovations in technology are opening new frontiers of accessibility every day. We can not just build ramps into an inaccessible internet, but instead need an online world based around the principles of universal design. Discrimination whether intentional or not keeps people with disabilities from participating fully in their systems of government. The right to vote is a basic American value; furthermore, without the power of the vote, the disability community will lack the power to push our governments to address our most pressing issues. Many children with disabilities can attend school with their peers. Next, though, we need to move from inclusion - in which a disabled child is allowed into the mainstream classroom - to integration. An integrated classroom belongs to everyone. More disabled individuals work for the federal government right now than at any time in history, and some companies have ramped up their efforts to hire people with disabilities through diversity initiatives, but the private sector lags behind. Too many people with disabilities can only find work in sheltered workshops, paid far below the minimum wage, and isolated from society. In , the unemployment rate for disabled individuals who wanted work is twice as high as for the non-disabled population. We have to do better. One way to improve employment is to make sure that young people with disabilities receive both the training and supports that they need as they enter adulthood. Schools are much better now, but once a child ages out the age varies by state , they " fall off the cliff " and lose all services. Young people suddenly find themselves isolated as their friends go off to college and leave home, they get pushed towards sheltered workshops, prisons and institutions, or they just sit at home. To foster independence in people with disabilities, we need to continue to provide education and assistance as they transition to adulthood. Too many people with disabilities are still stuck in institutions. Some are confined to nursing homes because the state will not support a community option, whereas others have no choice but to live in homes for people with disabilities. Prisons, though, are the worst aspect of 21st-century forced institutionalization. Around , individuals with psychiatric disabilities are currently in jail. The solutions are known - Housing and community-based mental health services would help - but have yet to

be enacted. Instead, people with disabilities languish in prison, suffering not only deprivations of freedom, but systematic violence and danger. Countless studies have verified that women and men with disabilities, especially intellectual disabilities, are much more likely to be sexually assaulted than people without disabilities. People with disabilities are more likely to be victims of domestic violence, as well. A third to a half of all people killed by police have disabilities, and children with disabilities are much more likely to be subjected to restraint, isolation, and criminalization in school than children without. American society, despite the ADA, is still a dangerous place to be disabled, especially for disabled individuals who hold multiple marginalized identities. But still, empowered by the ADA and in the face of ongoing adversity, disability cultures and communities have flourished. For example, across the nation, young people with disabilities are starting their own cross-disability advocacy, community, and arts groups. These groups are trying to build connections among youth with disabilities with diverse backgrounds and identities LGBTQ, communities of color, etc. These people represent the future of the struggle for disability rights, but too frequently lack support and mentoring from mainstream elements of movement. Another way that the disability community is expanding is the inclusion of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities as leaders. Too often, the focus on disability has emphasized only people with neurotypical minds; for example, people who are physically disabled, blind, or Deaf. Now, the self-advocacy and neurodiversity movements, led for and by people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, aim to expand the types of people with disabilities that can lead the way in the struggle for integration, justice, and opportunity. The expansion of the movement cannot just be limited to people with diverse types of disabilities, but to all types of diversity. Disability intersects with multiple identities, often unrecognized, and although cross-movement activism was an important part of the Section and ADA, solidarity has to be worked at in order to be maintained.

2: List of disability rights activists - Wikipedia

The Disability Rights Movement is a global movement for equal opportunities and rights for people across the disability spectrum. It includes access and safety in physical environments, buildings and transportation; "equal opportunities in independent living, employment equity, education, and housing; and freedom from discrimination, abuse.

Where We Came From: All of those people in all of those places were reacting to one common issue – people with disabilities have the right to experience life in the same manner, and to the same degree as Americans without disabilities. Building on the growing civil rights movement, people with disabilities began demanding access to education, services and lifestyles that others enjoyed. This is just one perspective on the important events, people and places that would bear the infant to become known as the disability rights movement. It is important to note that the disability rights movement did not begin in a vacuum, it was one small part of the larger civil rights movement that was happening throughout America. The following are just a few of the most important events. This was very much a response to the number of disabled Vets returning from WWI. Roosevelt signs the Social Security Act, establishing federal old-age benefits and grants to the states for assistance to blind individuals and disabled children. The act also extends the already existing vocational rehabilitation programs established by earlier legislation. The League of the Physically Handicapped is formed in New York City to protest discrimination against people with disabilities by federal relief programs. The group organizes sit-ins, picket lines, and demonstrations, and it travels to Washington, D. It pushes for an end to job discrimination and lobbies for passage of legislation calling for a National Employ the Physically Handicapped Week, among other initiatives. This is a limited prototype for later federal disability assistance programs such as Social Security Disability Insurance. The Association for Retarded Children of the United States later renamed the Association for Retarded Citizens and then The ARC is founded in Minneapolis by representatives of various state association of parents of mentally retarded children. The cancelled envelope from the letter is stapled to the bottom of the letter. Supreme Court in *Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka*, rules that separate schools for black and white children are inherently unequal and unconstitutional. This pivotal decision becomes a catalyst for the African-American civil rights movement, which in turn becomes a major inspiration to the disability rights movement. Congress passes the Vocational Rehabilitation Amendments, authorizing federal grants to expand programs available to people with physical disabilities. This is a black and white photograph of about twenty disabled veterans in wheelchairs. The men are waiting in a line on the sidewalk along the wall of an office building. The wall looks like the facade of a government building, with smooth grey stone and tall, barred windows. The men wear clothes of the s and s: One man smokes a pipe and is wearing a suit with a wide striped tie and Argyll socks. The men hold signs that say: Mary Switzer, Director of the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation, uses this authority to fund more than university based rehabilitation related programs. This landmark document becomes the basis for all subsequent architectural access codes. Roberts, generally accepted as the father of the modern Disability Rights Movement becomes the first severely disabled student at the University of California at Berkeley. Together they form the Rolling Quads to advocate for greater access on campus and in the surrounding community. The Rolling Quads use the civil rights movement happening in Berkeley as the structure and model to develop and begin the modern disability rights movement. At that time they, along with many others had been living in a hospital on the Campus. Today, the old hospital that housed the disabled students program is the location of the UC Berkeley School of Business. It will become a model for subsequent disability rights legislation. These programs provide federally subsidized health care to disabled and elderly Americans covered by the Social Security program. This photographic essay about the state of institutions in America is still available today. Many of the photos used in this presentation are from *Christmas in Purgatory*. This act is generally considered to be the first ever-federal disability rights legislation. Their remarks, and those of others, are published in *Changing Patterns in Services for the Mentally Retarded*. With its provisions for community living, political advocacy, and personal assistance services, it becomes the nucleus for the first Center for Independent Living, founded two years later. I brought John Hessler in as

director. He is doing a magnificent job. Would you like to hear more? I believe no other consulting firm like this in the country. I want cripples to direct their own programs and to be able to train other cripples to direct new programs. This is the start of something big -- cripple power. He did it for himself and then began laying the groundwork for the rest of us. Independence and rehabilitation have not been the same since, and will never return to the archaic notions which perceived people with disabilities as passive recipients of charity, unable to self direct their lives. With chapters in several other cities, it organizes demonstrations and files litigation on behalf of disability rights. This decision is a crucial victory in the struggle for deinstitutionalization. District Court for the District of Columbia, in *Mills v. Board of Education*, rules that the District of Columbia cannot exclude disabled children from the public schools. Pennsylvania, strikes down various state laws used to exclude disabled children from the public schools. These decisions will be cited by advocates during the public hearings leading to passage of the Education for All Handicapped Children Act of PARC in particular sparks numerous other right-to-education lawsuits and inspires advocates to look to the courts for the expansion of disability rights. The law relieves families of the financial responsibility of caring for their adult disabled children. It consolidates existing federal programs for people who are disabled but not eligible for Social Security Disability Insurance. Rockefeller to end the appalling conditions at that institution. A television broadcast from the facility outrages the general public, which sees the inhumane treatment endured by people with developmental disabilities. This press exposure, together with the lawsuit and other advocacy, eventually moves thousands of people from the institution into community-based living arrangements. Demonstrations are held by disabled activists in Washington, D. Among those organizing demonstrations in Washington and elsewhere are Disabled in Action, Paralyzed Veterans of America, the National Paraplegia Foundation, and other groups. The first convention of People First is held in Salem, Oregon. People First become the largest U. The lack of an enforcement mechanism within the bill and subsequent court decisions, will, however, render this portion of the act virtually useless to disability rights advocates. Law is passed, establishing the right of children with disabilities to a public school education in an integrated environment. The act is a cornerstone of federal disability rights legislation. In the next two decades, millions of disabled children will be educated under its provisions, radically changing the lives of people in the disability community. The Atlantis Community is founded in Denver as a group-housing program for severely disabled adults who, until that time, had been forced to live in nursing homes. Atlantis will later for the American Disabled for Accessible Public Transportation ADAPT , an organization focused on public demonstrations and civil disobedience to create the political will to change. He moves to establish nine independent living centers across that state, based on the model of the original Center for Independent Living in Berkeley. The success of these centers demonstrates that independent living can be replicated and eventually results in the founding of hundreds of independent living centers all over the world. This is a faded color photograph showing a flat suburban neighborhood street. It is quiet and deserted. There is no sidewalk but a slightly worn grassy footpath edges the side of the street. A flat area of close cut grass extends out from the curb along the street. There is a street light on a high pole. In the background rises a two-story brick building and two white houses with big trees in the front yards. TV aerials are visible on rooftops in the distance. A car is just rounding the corner at the far end of the street and headed this way, perhaps into a parking lot or down another street. There is a white metal sign with black letters placed at the curb that reads: The demonstrations galvanize the disability community nationwide, particularly the San Francisco action, which lasts nearly a month. Court of appeals for the Seventh Circuit, in *Lloyd V. Regional Transportation authority*, rules that individuals have a right to sue under Section of the Rehabilitation Act of and that public transit authorities must provide accessible service. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit, in *Snowden v.* The demonstration is organized by the Atlantis Community and is the first action in what will be a yearlong civil disobedience campaign to force the Denver Transit Authority to purchase wheelchair lift-equipped buses. Supreme Court, in *Southeastern Community College v. The National Alliance for the Mentally Ill* is founded in Madison, Wisconsin, by parents of persons with mental illness. Other provisions mandate a review of Social Security recipients, leading to the termination of benefits of hundreds of thousands of people with disabilities. Justice Department to file civil suits on behalf of residents of institutions whose rights are being

violated. After three years, the Reagan Administration abandons its attempts to revoke or amend the regulations. Advocates charge that these terminations are an effort to reduce the federal budget and often do not reflect any improvement in the condition of those being terminated. Several disabled people, in despair over the loss of their benefits, commit suicide. Although disability rights activists try to intervene, Baby Doe starves to death before legal action can be taken. The case results in litigation argued before the U. Supreme Court in *Bowen v. School districts* can no longer refuse to educate a disabled child because they might need such a service. Congress passes the Social Security Disability Reform Act in response to the complaints of hundreds of thousands of people whose Social Security disability benefits have been terminated. The Voting Accessibility for the Elderly and Handicapped Act mandates that polling places be accessible or that ways be found to enable elderly and disabled people to exercise their right to vote. Advocates find that the act is difficult, if not impossible, to enforce.

3: History of Disability Rights in Kansas & US – Disability Rights Center of Kansas

By the s, the civil rights movement began to take shape, and disability advocates saw the opportunity to join forces alongside other minority groups to demand equal treatment, equal access and equal opportunity for people with disabilities.

Contact Us Disability History: The Disability Rights Movement "Some people may have thought it was undignified for people in wheelchairs to crawl in that manner, but I felt that it was necessary to show the country what kinds of things people with disabilities have to face on a day-to-day basis. We had to be willing to fight for what we believed in. Bush signing the Americans with Disabilities Act. Photo inscribed to Justin Dart, Jr. This has happened largely because people with disabilities have demanded and created those changes. Like other civil rights movements, the disability rights movement has a long history. Examples of activism can be found among various disability groups dating back to the s. Many events, laws, and people have shaped this development. The ADA is a major civil rights law that prohibits discrimination of people with disabilities in many aspects of public life. The disability rights movement continues to work hard for equal rights. Organizations by and for people with disabilities have existed since the s. However, they exploded in popularity in the s. The League of the Physically Handicapped organized in the s, fighting for employment during the Great Depression. In the s a group of psychiatric patients came together to form We Are Not Alone. By , NARC had tens of thousands of members, most of whom were parents. They were dedicated to finding alternative forms of care and education for their children. Between the years and , President Kennedy organized several planning committees to treat and research disability. Civil rights laws such as Brown v. Board of Education and its decision that school segregation is unconstitutional laid the groundwork for recognizing the rights of people with disabilities. Several sections of the Rehabilitation Act, which specifically address disability discrimination, are especially important to the disability rights movement. Section supports people with disabilities in the federal workplace and in any organization receiving federal tax dollars. Section requires affirmative action, which supports employment and education for members of traditionally disadvantaged minority groups. Section prohibits discrimination against individuals with disabilities in the workplace and in their programs and activities. Section guarantees equal or comparable access to technological information and data for people with disabilities. The regulations for Section of the Rehabilitation Act of were written but not implemented. In , the disability rights community was tired of waiting, and demanded that President Carter sign the regulations. Instead, a task force was appointed to review them. Afraid that the review would weaken the protections of the Act, the American Coalition of Citizens with Disabilities ACCD insisted they be enacted as written by 5 April , or the coalition would take action. When the date arrived and the regulations remained unsigned, people across the country protested by sitting-in at federal offices of Health, Education, and Welfare the agency responsible for the review. In San Francisco, the sit-in at the Federal Building lasted until April 28, when the regulations were finally signed, unchanged. These laws have occurred largely due to the concerted efforts of disability activists protesting for their rights and working with federal government. In all, the United States Congress passed more than 50 pieces of legislation between the s and the passage of the ADA in Self-advocacy groups have also shaped the national conversation around disability. The CIL provides services for people with disabilities in the community. The building is now demolished, but its legacy remains. Students Ed Roberts and John Hessler founded both organizations. Both men lived with physical disabilities and needed to find housing options after their acceptance to the university. Hessler and Roberts instead lived at Cowell Memorial Hospital when they arrived at college in the early s. With the assistance of College of San Mateo counselor Jean Wirth, they demanded access to the school and encouraged other students with physical disabilities to attend UC Berkeley. They also influenced school architecture and planning. UC Berkeley eventually created housing accommodations for these students. It was there that the students planted the seed of the independent living movement. The independent living movement supports the idea that people with disabilities can make their own decisions about living, working, and interacting with the surrounding community. This movement is a

reaction to centuries of assisted living, psychiatric hospitals, and doctors and parents who had made decisions for individuals with disabilities. Although this was not the first program of its kind-- Illinois offered similar services beginning in the s-- the UC Berkeley Program was groundbreaking. They promoted inclusion for all kinds of students on campus. The program inspired universities across the country to create similar organizations. Many of these organizations are still active today. Frank Kameny at Pride, Disability activists also work with other communities to attain their goals. People form communities based on shared values, ideas, and identity. The strength and activism of a community can help change attitudes across society at large. Perceptions of disability and resulting treatment often intersect with other groups advocating for their civil and human rights. Doctors regarded homosexuality as a disease well into the 20th century. They could send men and women to psychiatric hospitals for their sexual preference. It was not until the s that this "diagnosis" changed. Franklin Kameny Residence is part of this important history. Kameny had served as an astronomer and worked with the U. In the s, he refused to reveal his sexual orientation to the government. In response, the US government fired Kameny from his job. His home provided the space for people to safely express and identify themselves. The DSM is the official handbook used by healthcare professionals to diagnose psychiatric issues and disabilities. This decision legally removed the status of homosexuality as a disorder. It also helped shift perceptions of homosexuality. More and more people began to understand it was not wrong or defective. The Kameny Residence continues to help us recognize and embrace the work of the gay civil rights community. Other activists also took to the streets and demonstrated for disability rights. Some of these protests occurred at locations that are today listed on the National Register of Historic Places. In , students at Gallaudet University , the only American university specifically for deaf students, led the "Deaf President Now" protest. Students made several demands, calling for a Deaf president and majority Deaf population on the Board of Trustees. This week-long protest resulted successfully in the appointment of deaf president, Dr. Their protest inspired inclusion and integration across communities. They were anxiously awaiting the passage of the ADA, which had stalled due to issues around transportation. Public transit companies fought against the strict regulations for accessibility, and their lobbying efforts slowed the entire process. In response, a group of individuals with disabilities headed for the Capitol. They tossed aside their wheelchairs, walkers, and crutches and ascended the steps. This event has since become known as the "Capitol Crawl. In so doing, they highlighted the need for accessibility. Iconic images of this event spread across the country. The ADA and other civil rights legislation have transformed opportunities for people with disabilities. However, over 25 years later, there is still much work to be done. Article by Perri Meldon. The series focuses on telling selected stories through historic places. It offers a glimpse into the rich and varied history of Americans with disabilities. Disability Militancy - the s ; Fountain House. The Origin of Fountain House. Disabling Domesticity Palgrave Macmillen.

4: Disability rights movement - Wikipedia

An Introduction to the Disability Rights Movement Much like the women's liberation movement and the civil rights movement for ethnic minorities, the disabilities rights movement sought equal access, opportunity, consideration and basic human respect and dignity for those born blind, deaf, or with other forms of physical or mental disability.

People with different kinds of disabilities physical and mental disabilities, along with visual and hearing disabilities and different essential needs came together to fight for a common cause. The proof was provided as a specification for barrier free usable facilities for people with disabilities. The specifications provided the minimum requirements for barrier free physical and program access. An example of barriers are; providing only steps to enter buildings; lack of maintenance of walkways; locations not connected with public transit; lack of visual and hearing communications ends up segregating individuals with disabilities from independent, participation, and opportunities. It is based on disability ergonomic research conducted at the University of Illinois Urbana Champaign campus from to The standard is the outcome of physical therapists, bio-mechanical engineers, and individuals with disabilities who developed and participated in over 40 years of research. The standard provides the criteria for modifying programs and the physical site to provide independence. Applying the researched standards criteria presents reliable access and non-hazardous conditions. In October the standard turned 50 years old. The standard has been emulated globally since its introduction in Europe, Asia, Japan, Australia, and Canada, in the early s. This movement, a subset of the disability rights movement, postulates that people with disabilities are the best experts on their needs, and therefore they must take the initiative, individually and collectively, in designing and promoting better solutions and must organize themselves for political power. This act is generally considered to be the first ever-federal disability rights legislation. Self-representation was much more difficult for those who could not articulate their thoughts, leading to their dependence on others to carry on the movement. In the American Rehabilitation Act became law; Sections , , and prohibited discrimination in federal programs and services and all other programs or services receiving federal funds. On April 5, , activists began to demonstrate and some sat-in in the offices found in ten of the federal regions including New York City, Los Angeles, Boston, Denver, Chicago, Philadelphia, and Atlanta. The two most noteworthy protests occurred in San Francisco and Washington, D. The protesters demanded the signing of regulations for Section of the Rehabilitation Act of He was the person who was to sign the regulations, but was delaying the process. Although he met with a few protest representatives, including Frank Bowe , he still did not sign. This action led many protesters to continue their sit-in overnight, but they then left after 28 hours. Close to disability activists and protesters occupied the HEW building. Califano finally signed on April 28, This protest was significant not only because its goal was achieved, but also because it was the foremost concerted effort between people of different disabilities coming together in support of legislation that affected the overall disability population, rather than only specific groups. This action proved to be just the first in a series of civil disobedience demonstrations that lasted for a year until the Denver Transit Authority finally bought buses equipped with wheelchair lifts. They targeted the American Public Transport Association in protest of inaccessible public transportation; this campaign ended in when bus lifts for people using wheelchairs were required nationwide by the Americans with Disabilities Act. The 8-day March 6 - March 13 demonstration and occupation and lock-out of the school began when the Board of Trustees appointed a new hearing President, Elisabeth Zinser, over two Deaf candidates. The demonstration consisted of about 2, student and nonstudent participants. The protests took place on campus, in government buildings, and in the streets. King Jordan was appointed the first Deaf President of the university. Closely modeled after the Civil Rights Act and Section , the law was the most sweeping disability rights legislation in American history. The act also mandated access in public transportation, communication, and in other areas of public life. A second Disability Pride March was held in Boston in Objects on view included the pen President George H. Bush used to sign the Act and one of the first ultralight wheelchairs. The exhibition was designed for maximum accessibility. Web-based kiosks - prototypes for a version that will eventually be available to museums and other cultural institutions - provided

alternate formats to experience the exhibition. The exhibition was open from July 6, to July 23,

5: Disability Rights Movement | www.enganchecubano.com

The disability rights movement continues to work hard for equal rights. Organizations by and for people with disabilities have existed since the s. However, they exploded in popularity in the s.

It did not begin in when the first ADA was introduced in Congress. The ADA story began a long time ago in cities and towns throughout the United States when people with disabilities began to challenge societal barriers that excluded them from their communities, and when parents of children with disabilities began to fight against the exclusion and segregation of their children. It began with the establishment of local groups to advocate for the rights of people with disabilities. It began with the establishment of the independent living movement which challenged the notion that people with disabilities needed to be institutionalized, and which fought for and provided services for people with disabilities to live in the community. The ADA owes its birthright not to any one person, or any few, but to the many thousands of people who make up the disability rights movement – people who have worked for years organizing and attending protests, licking envelopes, sending out alerts, drafting legislation, speaking, testifying, negotiating, lobbying, filing lawsuits, being arrested – doing whatever they could for a cause they believed in. There are far too many people whose commitment and hard work contributed to the passage of this historic piece of disability civil rights legislation to be able to give appropriate credit by name. Without the work of so many – without the disability rights movement – there would be no ADA. The disability rights movement, over the last couple of decades, has made the injustices faced by people with disabilities visible to the American public and to politicians. The disability rights movement adopted many of the strategies of the civil rights movements before it. Like the African-Americans who sat in at segregated lunch counters and refused to move to the back of the bus, people with disabilities sat in federal buildings, obstructed the movement of inaccessible buses, and marched through the streets to protest injustice. And like the civil rights movements before it, the disability rights movement sought justice in the courts and in the halls of Congress. From a legal perspective, a profound and historic shift in disability public policy occurred in with the passage of Section of the Rehabilitation Act. Section , which banned discrimination on the basis of disability by recipients of federal funds, was modelled after previous laws which banned race, ethnic origin and sex based discrimination by federal fund recipients. For the first time, the exclusion and segregation of people with disabilities was viewed as discrimination. Previously, it had been assumed that the problems faced by people with disabilities, such as unemployment and lack of education, were inevitable consequences of the physical or mental limitations imposed by the disability itself. As with racial minorities and women, Congress recognized that legislation was necessary to eradicate discriminatory policies and practices. Section was also historic because for the first time people with disabilities were viewed as a class – a minority group. Previously, public policy had been characterized by addressing the needs of particular disabilities by category based on diagnosis. Each disability group was seen as separate, with differing needs. Section recognized that while there are major physical and mental variations in different disabilities, people with disabilities as a group faced similar discrimination in employment, education and access to society. People with disabilities were seen as a legitimate minority, subject to discrimination and deserving of basic civil rights protections. The coalition of people with disabilities has been constantly put to the test by attempts to remove protections for particular groups. After Section established the fundamental civil right of non-discrimination in , the next step was to define what non-discrimination meant in the context of disability. How was it the same or different from race and sex discrimination? The Department of Health, Education and Welfare HEW had been given the task of promulgating regulations to implement Section , which would serve as guidelines for all other federal agencies. These regulations became the focus of attention for the disability rights movement for the next four years. During this time the movement grew in sophistication, skill and visibility. The first task was to assure that the regulations provided meaningful anti-discrimination protections. It was not enough to remove policy barriers – it was imperative that the regulations mandated affirmative conduct to remove architectural and communication barriers and provide accommodations. The second step was to force a recalcitrant agency to get the regulations out. All over the

country people with disabilities sat-in at HEW buildings. The longest sit-in was in San Francisco, lasting 28 days. A lawsuit was filed, hearings before Congress were organized, testimony was delivered to Congressional committees, negotiations were held, letters were written. The disability community mobilized a successful campaign using a variety of strategies, and on May 4, the Section regulations were issued. It is these regulations which form the basis of the ADA. For two years, representatives from the disability community met with Administration officials to explain why all of the various de-regulation proposals must not be adopted. These high level meetings would not have continued or been successful without the constant bombardment of letters to the White House from people with disabilities and parents of children with disabilities around the country protesting any attempt to de-regulate Section . After a remarkable show of force and commitment by the disability community, the Administration announced a halt to all attempts to de-regulate Section . This was a tremendous victory for the disability movement. Those two years proved to be invaluable in setting the stage for the ADA. Not only were the Section regulations, which form the basis of the ADA, preserved, but it was at this time that high officials of what later became the Bush administration received an education on the importance of the concepts of non-discrimination contained in the Section regulations in the lives of people with disabilities. The CRRA sought to overturn *Grove City College v Bell*, a Supreme Court decision that had significantly restricted the reach of all the statutes prohibiting race, ethnic origin, sex or disability discrimination by recipients of federal fund. Because the court decision affected all of these constituencies, the effort to overturn the decision required a coalition effort. Working in coalition again, in , the civil rights community amended the Fair Housing Act FHA to improve enforcement mechanisms, and for the first time disability anti-discrimination provisions were included in a traditional civil rights statute banning race discrimination. Because of its commitment to disability civil rights, the Leadership Conference on Civil Rights played an important leadership role in securing passage of the ADA. In that case, a hearing impaired woman was seeking admission to the nursing program of Southeastern Community College. The court found that Ms. Davis, but included within the decision several very broad negative interpretations of Section . Contrary to established Court doctrine, the Section regulations that had been issued by the Department of Health, Education and Welfare HEW were given little deference by the Court. Ironically the Court attributed this lack of deference to the fact that HEW had been recalcitrant in issuing the regulations. After the Davis decision it was clear that the Supreme Court needed to be educated on the issue of disability based discrimination and the role that it plays in people lives. Moreover, it was clear to the disability community that the focus of its efforts in any future Supreme Court litigation must be to reinforce the validity of the HEW regulations. The issue in *Consolidated Rail Corporations* was whether employment discrimination was covered by the anti-discrimination provisions of Section . In order to educate the court on the pervasive role of discrimination in the un-employment and under-employment of persons with disabilities, the Disability Rights Education and Defense Fund filed an amicus brief on behalf of 63 national, state and local organizations dedicated to securing the civil rights of persons with disabilities. This amicus brief served not only to educate the courts on discriminatory employment policies and practices, but also to demonstrate to the Court that these issues concern the millions of Americans who were affiliated with the organizations who filed the brief. DREDF also worked very closely with the lawyer representing the disabled person in the lawsuit in order to present to the court the very best legal arguments on the validity of the HEW regulations which had found that employment discrimination was covered by provision of Section . The decision in *Consolidated Rail Corporation v. Darrone* marked a significant victory for the disability rights community. The court found that employment discrimination was in fact prohibited by Section , but equally importantly the Court found that the regulations issued in by HEW were entitled to great deference by the courts. In , the Court was presented with the issue of whether people with contagious diseases are covered by Section . The disability rights community worked closely with the lawyers representing the woman with tuberculosis as well as filing numerous amicus briefs in the Supreme Court. Working on the Arline case also provided a critical opportunity for lawyers in the disability rights community and lawyers in the AIDS community to work closely together and form alliances that would carry through and prove to be critical in the battle to secure passage of the ADA. These legislative victories further advanced the reputation of the disability community and its advocates in

Congress. The respect for the legal, organizing, and negotiations skills gained during these legislative efforts formed the basis of the working relationships with members of Congress and officials of the Administration, that proved indispensable in passing the ADA. Whether by friend or foe, the disability community was taken seriously – it had become a political force to be contended with in Congress, in the voting booth, and in the media. The ADA, as we know it today, went through numerous drafts, revisions, negotiations, and amendments since the first version was introduced in 1988. Spurred by a draft bill prepared by the National Council on Disability, an independent federal agency whose members were appointed by President Reagan, Senator Weicker and Representative Coelho introduced the first version of the ADA in April in the 101st Congress. The disability community began to educate people with disabilities about the ADA and to gather evidence to support the need for broad anti-discrimination protections. The diaries served not only as testimonials of discrimination, but also to raise consciousness about the barriers to daily living which were simply tolerated as a part of life. Justin Dart, Chair of the Congressional Task Force on the Rights and Empowerment of People with Disabilities, traversed the country holding public hearings which were attended by thousands of people with disabilities, friends, and families documenting the injustice of discrimination in the lives of people with disabilities. A room which seated over 100 people overflowed with persons with disabilities, parents and advocates. At the same time, both presidential candidates, Vice President Bush and Governor Dukakis, endorsed broad civil rights protections for people with disabilities. The disability community was determined to assure that President Bush would make good on his campaign promise, and reinvoked it repeatedly during the legislative process. From that moment, the disability community mobilized, organizing a multi-layered strategy for passage. A team of lawyers and advocates worked on drafting and on the various and complex legal issues that were continually arising; top level negotiators and policy analysts strategized with members of Congress and their staffs; disability organizations informed and rallied their members; a lobbying system was developed using members of the disability community from around the country; witnesses came in from all over the country to testify before Congressional committees; lawyers and others prepared written answers to the hundreds of questions posed by members of Congress and by businesses; task forces were formed; networks were established to evoke responses from the community by telephone or mail; protests were planned – the disability rights movement coalesced around this goal: This commitment was constantly put to the test. The disability community as a whole resisted any proposals made by various members of Congress to exclude people with AIDS or mental illness or to otherwise narrow the class of people covered. Even at the eleventh hour, after two years of endless work and a Senate and House vote in favor of the Act, the disability community held fast with the AIDS community to eliminate an amendment which would have excluded food-handlers with AIDS, running the risk of indefinitely postponing the passage or even losing the bill. Likewise, all of the groups, whether it was an issue particularly affecting their constituencies or not, held fast against amendments to water down the transportation provisions. The underlying principle of the ADA was to extend the basic civil rights protections extended to minorities and women to people with disabilities. The Civil Rights Act prohibited employment discrimination by the private sector against women and racial and ethnic minorities, and banned discrimination against minorities in public accommodations. Before the ADA, no federal law prohibited private sector discrimination against people with disabilities, absent a federal grant or contract. The job of the disability rights movement during the ADA legislative process was to demonstrate to Congress and the American people the need for comprehensive civil rights protections to eradicate fundamental injustice -to demonstrate not only how this injustice harms the individual subjected to it, but also how it harms our society. The first hearing in the 101st Senate on the new ADA was an historic event and set the tone for future hearings and lobbying efforts. It was kicked off by the primary sponsors talking about their personal experiences with disability. Senator Harkin spoke of his brother who is deaf, Senator Kennedy of his son, who has a leg amputation, and Representative Coelho, who has epilepsy spoke about how the discrimination he faced almost destroyed him. The witnesses spoke of their own experiences with discrimination. A young woman who has cerebral palsy, told the Senators about a local movie theater that would not let her attend because of her disability. The President of Galludet College, gave compelling testimony about what life is like for someone who is deaf, faced with pervasive communication barriers. The

audience was filled with Galludet students who waved their hands in approval. The committee also received boxes loaded with thousands of letters and pieces of testimony that had been gathered in hearings across the country the summer before from people whose lives had been damaged or destroyed by discrimination. A woman testified that when she lost her breast to cancer, she also lost her job and could not find another one as a person with a history of cancer. At this Senate hearing and in all the many hearings in the House, members of Congress heard from witnesses who told their stories of discrimination. With each story, the level of consciousness was raised and the level of tolerance to this kind of injustice was lowered. The stories did not end in the hearing room. People with disabilities came from around the country to talk to members of Congress, to advocate for the Bill, to explain why each provision was necessary, to address a very real barrier or form of discrimination. Individuals came in at their own expense, slept on floors by night and visited Congressional offices by day. And it was a long haul. After the spectacular Senate vote of 76 to 8 on September 7., the Bill went to the House where it was considered by an unprecedented four Committees.

6: Disability History: The Disability Rights Movement (U.S. National Park Service)

The disability rights movement is a global social movement to secure equal opportunities and equal rights for all people with disabilities.

History of the Independent Living Movement Historical Roots of Discrimination Many cultures of the world have treated persons with disabilities as having less worth than able-bodied people have. The Spartans left deformed babies to die on the hillsides. Lunatic asylums in Europe, in centuries past, imprisoned people with psychiatric disabilities in appalling conditions. The Nazis systematically killed children and adults with mental retardation, epilepsy, cerebral palsy, and other disabilities. The United States also has a long history of discrimination against persons with disabilities. In colonial days, when the focus was on survival and building new communities in the wilderness, physical stamina and moral worthiness were considered essential. Dependency of any kind was considered a financial burden. Civil Rights Laws From to , a number of laws were created that established certain civil rights for persons with disabilities. Most important among these is the Americans with Disabilities Act of , the civil rights law for all persons with disabilities. But as any African-American can tell you, the passing of a civil rights law in Washington does not give true freedom and equality and integration without a long struggle. Indeed, our disability rights movement closely mirrors their civil rights movement. We, too, are fighting blatant and subtle prejudice, building pride in who we are, and protesting discrimination in non-violent ways. No Pity Our world is changing fast. The disability rights movement includes new thinking by people with disabilities that there is no pity or tragedy in disability. One in Five Did you know that one in five Americans today has a disability? There are over 54 million Americans with disabilities – one in five. We are more numerous than African-Americans or Hispanic-Americans. We are a very diverse group. There are hundreds of different disabilities. Some are present at birth, most are acquired later in life. Some are progressive, like muscular dystrophy. Others, such as epilepsy, are episodic. Multiple sclerosis is episodic and progressive. Some are static, like the loss of a limb. Some, like cancer, can even go away. Some disabilities, like epilepsy or diabetes, are hidden. Some perceived disabilities, such as obesity or stuttering, which are not disabling but create prejudice and discrimination. Each disability comes in differing degrees of severity. For example, hearing loss can range from a mild loss to profound deafness. Some people with autism spend their lives in institutions while others are graduating from college and pursuing professions. There are more of us than ever before. Advances in medical technology have saved the lives of severely injured people, and allow people with all kinds of medical complications to live longer. Think of wounded soldiers, automobile accidents, premature babies, people with cancer surviving longer. The graying of America expands our ranks, too. One-third of Americans with disabilities are 65 or older. Disability is the one minority that anyone can join at any time, as a result of a sudden automobile accident, assault, or disease. There are no socioeconomic boundaries. And if you live long enough, you are very likely to acquire a disability. A New Movement People with disabilities have been a hidden, misunderstood minority, often routinely deprived of the basic life choices that even the most disadvantaged among us take for granted. In the last 20 to 30 years, little noticed alongside the civil rights struggles of African-Americans, women, gays and lesbians, and other minorities, another movement has slowly taken shape to demand for people with disabilities the fundamental rights that have already been granted to all other Americans. It has led to the emergence of a group consciousness, even the start of a disability culture, which did not exist nationally even in the late s. Our Movement is a True Mosaic There is a disability angle to almost any topic, from access to health care to aging to end-of-life issues, from abortion to prenatal care, from education to work, from civil rights to criminal justice. The disability rights movement is a true mosaic, with diversity as its central characteristic. No one leader or organization can claim to speak for all people with disabilities. Without one highly visible leader, the disability rights movement has gone largely unnoticed by nondisabled people. But by its acceptance of differences, the campaign for disability rights has forged a powerful coalition of millions of people with disabilities, their families and friends. Disability Rights Leaders Below is a list of just a few key people in the Disability Rights Movement, please use your preferred search engine and research how these and

other individuals contributed to the rights of persons with disabilities and civil rights in general. Without these leaders, we would not be where we are today.

7: Disability Rights | Human Rights Watch

Another innovative method the disability rights movement is utilizing is the Global Disability Rights Library (GDRL). The project is the result of a collaboration between the U.S. International Council on Disabilities and the University of Iowa.

Comprises a number of related but distinct social movements advocating civil rights for an estimated 53 million U. Emerging after World War II, these movements replaced a medical model of disability with a minority-group model. The medical model defined disability as physical, psychosocial, and vocational limitation resulting from illness or injury. Locating the problem within individuals, it prescribed the solution as treatment to cure or at least to correct individual functioning. The minority model asserted that limitations in social and vocational functioning were not the exclusive and inevitable result of bodily impairment but were also a product of the inadequacies in the architectural and social environment. Thus, for example, paralyzed legs did not inevitably cause limitations in mobility, but the absence of ramps did. The new model saw devaluation of disabled persons as producing socioeconomic discrimination. The disability rights movements arose in response to a historic legacy of discrimination and segregation. In the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, most professionals in medicine, social services, and education increasingly attributed a lack of moral and emotional self-control to the "defective classes," which included virtually anyone with a disability, blaming them for the poverty, vice, crime, and dislocations of the new industrial order. People with mental retardation, epilepsy, or cerebral palsy were often permanently institutionalized as a danger to society. Reacting to an emerging deaf subculture, an "oralist" movement began in the 1880s to oppose sign language and insist that deaf people learn speech and speech reading. Led by Alexander Graham Bell, it took over much of deaf education and sought to disperse the deaf community. Eugenacists pressed for the sterilization of people with various disabilities, and by more than half the states had adopted sterilization laws, and thousands of people were sterilized. It thus brought many disabled people under permanent medical and social-service supervision and relegated them to a stigmatized and segregated economic dependency. Beginning during World War I, some professionals avowed continuing faith in treatment and training. Special education of disabled children and medical-vocational rehabilitation of disabled adults sought to correct the functional limitations that allegedly prevented social integration. People with physical and sensory disabilities were imbued with an ethos of individualistic striving known as "overcoming," with President Franklin D. Roosevelt. People with mental handicaps, however, were still often institutionalized or subjected to social control in the community. After World War II, the disability rights movements developed in opposition to these ideologies and practices. Beginning in the late 1960s, deaf advocates redefined deafness as a linguistic difference and demanded their rights to sign language and cultural self-determination. Their efforts culminated in the March "Deaf President Now" campaign at Gallaudet University, when a student strike at that university for deaf people, supported by the deaf community, won its demand for selection of a deaf educator to head the university. Meanwhile, physically disabled activists launched an independent-living movement for self-directed, community-based living. They also claimed the right of equal access to public transit and public accommodations. Advocacy groups, such as Americans Disabled for Accessible Public Transit (ADAPT), took to the streets—sometimes tying up traffic, construction, and business—as well as to the halls of legislatures to win passage and enforcement of accessibility statutes. The organized blind movement, long the most politically effective disability movement, lobbied successfully for both access to the right to use white canes and guide dogs in public places and policies to advance economic well-being through tax exemptions, for example. All these efforts reflected an emerging minority consciousness documented in a opinion survey of disabled adults: The movement thus demanded federal protection against discrimination in education, jobs, public accommodations, and government-funded activities. Antidiscrimination and the right of equal access were the basis of fifty federal laws that began with the Architectural Barriers Act of 1968 and culminated in the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. Adaptive devices, assistive services, and architectural modifications for example, Braille markings, sign-language interpreters, and ramps had been considered special benefits to those who were fundamentally dependent. Equal access moved beyond such social welfare notions by viewing these

provisions as reasonable accommodations for different ways of functioning. Traditional civil rights theory sometimes allowed differential treatment of a minority as a temporary remedy to achieve equality. Disability rights ideology argued that for persons with disabilities, permanent differential treatment in the form of accessibility and reasonable accommodations was legitimate because it was necessary to achieve and maintain equal access and thus equal opportunity for full participation in society. Gallaudet University Press, Fleischer, Doris Zames, and Frieda Zames. *The Disability Rights Movement: From Charity to Confrontation*. Temple University Press, *The New Disability History*: New York University Press, *From Good Will to Civil Rights: Transforming Federal Disability Policy*. *Inventing the Feeble Mind*: University of California Press,

8: Has the Disability Rights Movement Stagnated? | HuffPost

More Humane Mental Health Treatment. While the disability rights movement initially focused on people with physical impairments, the middle of the 20 th century brought increased concern about the treatment of people with mental health issues and developmental disabilities.

There could be a number of factors that contribute to its lack of momentum. First, there may be a greater perception that people with disabilities are less productive and able. Disability issues do not receive as much mainstream attention as other social justice issues. In their own ways, other social justice movements are "hot topics" in the news these days, although often controversially. Newsworthy topics regarding rights for racial minorities stem from the immigration debate, to Ferguson, to a remembrance of the march in Selma that drew the participation of the president. LGBT rights continue to be covered as more and more states achieve marriage equality. Social justice is never a competition, and each group has its own unique challenges that should receive attention, so the recognition that these movements receive is extremely justified. The stories are there, ranging from heartwarming tales to major issues of discrimination and violence towards people with disabilities. PwDs are not significantly more privileged than any other minority. According to the World Health Organization, children with disabilities and adults with mental health conditions are four times more likely to be the victims of violence than their peers without disabilities. Forty percent of homeless persons in the United States have disabilities. A recent study in the UK found that 77 percent of recent graduates are afraid of disclosing a disability to their employer for fear of discrimination. Worldwide, barriers to inclusivity for people with disabilities continue to be significant. First, there may be a greater perception that people with disabilities are less productive and able members of the public than people without disabilities. The fear of discrimination that was mentioned in the UK study was generated by the fact that some employers believe employees with disabilities will not be able to keep up with their job duties. Many people, including those who are not blatantly biased against people with disabilities, may believe that people with disabilities are less capable of taking care of themselves and carrying out major responsibilities. Meanwhile, the perception that women, racial minorities, and LGBT individuals are less capable is more isolated to those who are solidly prejudiced against these groups, and the general population is more accepting of the idea that these groups are fully capable of living and working at a normal level of ability still, microaggressions and societal conditioning of prejudice against these groups exist and must be challenged. Because disability is a medical issue, many individuals with disabilities may not be able to fully participate because they are too busy overcoming their medical barriers to devote energy to disability rights. Many people with chronic conditions are familiar with "the spoon theory," which explains that individuals with chronic conditions have to make tradeoffs and negotiate where using their limited energy represented in the story as spoons is important. People who are currently going through difficult medical conditions, who may be facing complications or relapses, must devote their attention to their immediate needs, including work, family and their own medical needs, and may not be able to take up the responsibility of advocacy. It is also more difficult for people to congregate and advocate when they face barriers including accessibility needs even as simple as finding a wheelchair-accessible meeting place, or disseminating informational videos that include closed captioning. Finally, fear of increased discrimination may be one of the most significant barriers to disability rights. Unlike gender and race, disability in many cases can still be hidden. A large number of PwDs cannot be visibly identified as having a disability. People with invisible disabilities are told to hide their disabilities and to avoid disclosing anything about their medical situation, as they have a better chance of being treated "normally" if they do not let on to their conditions. This incentivizes hiding disability status, and so many people are afraid of speaking up because they feel that they will fare better and experience less discrimination. This is a fruitless action, as the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission found that the most frequent disability discrimination complaints actually came from people with invisible disabilities. Even people who are well-established in their careers do not talk about how their disability impacted their growth. There is a shocking shortage of mentors with disabilities in every field. Even those who have achieved greatly still seem

to fear that they will be the subject of discrimination if they start to discuss their challenges. Of course, not all PwDs have an invisible disability, and those who can be visibly identified are the subject of just as much or more discrimination than their invisibly disabled peers, especially early in the hiring process. The government places a special emphasis on hiring persons with "targeted disabilities," which generally tend to be more noticeable conditions including paralysis, blindness, deafness, and intellectual disabilities. Its reasoning behind this policy is that these individuals face the greatest discrimination in employment and have a harder time being placed in a job. However, even when disability is visible, many individuals are told to avoid discussing it for the purpose of minimizing its perceived impact on their lives. The disability rights movement needs a jolt of energy. It deserves the recognition of the public. Significant barriers exist within and outside of the movement due to the stigma of disability, but people can overcome them by educating themselves and recognizing that this discrimination is pervasive in society. Most importantly, individuals without disabilities should remember that they could become part of this community at any time, and that generating discussion on disability topics could not only benefit the millions of people with disabilities, but themselves and their loved ones as well.

9: Disability Rights Movement | LIFE Center for Independent Living

At a recent briefing on Capitol Hill, civil rights, human rights, and disability rights advocates discussed how federal transportation policies can be improved to meet the needs of one of the nation's most transit-dependent communities: people with disabilities.

Bush signs the Americans with Disabilities Act on July 26, 1990. Standing left to right: This historic piece of legislation was a watershed moment for civil rights for all people with disabilities throughout the world. In some ways, we can view the history of disability rights and the ADA in a very short window from the mid to late 1970s and early 1980s through to its legislative passage in 1990. From that perspective, the ADA was the culmination of merely two and a half decades of civil rights activities by disability advocates beginning from the Civil Rights Act of 1964. But in reality, the ADA is rooted in a long history far too important to forget. Understanding this history gives perspective to where we are today. After all, today we have a generation of young Americans with disabilities who never experienced life prior to the ADA. I was age 19 in 1971 when I acquired my disability from a car accident. That was 11 years prior to the ADA. Although much had improved for people with disabilities by then, there was still so much more to do. At that age, I can remember the old-timers telling me how good I had it and how much worse it was back in the 1950s and 60s. I hope this will inspire our younger ADA generation to keep the fire burning and never give up our fight for civil rights. So the truth is, the ADA was centuries in the making, if not from the very beginning of humankind itself. The oppression and discrimination against people with disabilities can be traced to biblical times and probably even earlier. In Christian theology, disability was characterized as something that could be cast upon you for not following the teachings of God. Disability could be something you received from God if you did not obey his commandments or for doing wrong. Interestingly, the Bible also articulates compassion for people with disabilities, recognizes the need for certain protective laws, and even strikes fear and guarantees retribution against anyone who might commit an abusive act upon a person with a disability see Leviticus. From medieval times, the Renaissance, the 18th and 19th centuries, the Industrial Revolution, and more than half of the 20th century, people with disabilities were subjected to a broad range of oppression and discrimination, as well as treatment and intervention. The middle ages saw the demonology or supernatural attributes to all kinds of disabling conditions. People with disabilities were faced with managing survival through a variety of supports such as family, neighbors, employers, charitable institutions and begging. However, dramatic shifts occurred during the late 18th and early 19th century as institutional solutions and interventions become the norm. Segregated schools and institutions for persons with physical disabilities, deafness, blindness, mental illness and intellectual disability took root throughout Europe and North America. Social Darwinism and the Eugenics movement began to take hold and gave rise to the belief that disability was considered a degrading of the species. The eugenics movement led to laws in the United States that segregated people with disabilities, and even prohibited marriage and procreation. Forced sterilization laws were viewed as normal and appropriate. Bell, the United States Supreme Court ruled that states have a legitimate interest in sterilizing people with intellectual disabilities. It was this long and shameful history of discrimination and oppression that set the stage for a disability rights movement that began shortly after the civil rights movement of African Americans. Disability rights advocates saw the opportunity to legislate change that would put an end to centuries of negative stereotypes and attitudes, and eliminate barriers to equal participation in American society. Thus, the road to the ADA was about to be paved as advocates began chipping away at societal barriers by securing modest legislative victories. Of all these victories, the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 was from a legal perspective the most historic and profound. The Rehab Act banned discrimination on the basis of disability similar to how previous civil rights laws banned discrimination based on race, ethnic origin and sex or gender. For the first time, the exclusion and segregation of people with disabilities was viewed as discrimination. Previously, it had been assumed that the problems faced by people with disabilities, such as unemployment and lack of education, were inevitable consequences of the physical or mental limitations imposed by the disability itself. Through the Rehab Act, Congress recognized that the inferior social and economic status of people with disabilities

was not a consequence of the disability itself, but instead was a result of societal barriers and prejudices. For the first time, people with disabilities were viewed as a class, a minority group, instead of being categorized based on diagnosis. The Rehab Act of 1973 was a monumental victory, but it took four years to get regulations written so enforcement could begin. In April 1977, activists demanding that Section 504 regulations be issued staged sit-ins at several Department of Health, Education, and Welfare HEW buildings throughout the country. Many other such grassroots demonstrations and acts of civil disobedience played a part in passing civil rights laws that improved life for people with disabilities. The activism of Wade Blank in establishing the advocacy group called ADAPT led the fight for accessible public transportation, in-home personal assistance services, and an end to unnecessary institutionalization. Dart traveled twice to all 50 states and territories in the early and late 1970s, chronicling the injustices and discrimination endured by people with disabilities. Sixty disability activists with physical disabilities shed their crutches, wheelchairs, powerchairs and other assistive devices and proceeded to crawl up all 78 west side steps of the Capitol. Bush received from the disability community during the Reagan Administration was instrumental in the passage of the ADA. After much protest by the disability community, the Administration announced a halt to all attempts to de-regulate Section 504. This was a tremendous victory, as it set the stage for the ADA and gave high officials of what later became the Bush administration an education on the importance of the concepts of non-discrimination contained in Section 504 in the lives of people with disabilities. Ironically, it was President Bush who tipped off the disability community that Congress and his own advisors were trying to kill the ADA bill. Employment Opportunity Commission by his friend President Bush. That demonstration gave the President the excuse to ask why protesters were angry with the administration and send another strong message to White House staff that he wanted the ADA passed. There are so many other important people, organizations and events that contributed to the passage of the ADA. All of these are too numerous to cite in a short history of disability rights and the ADA, but if you want to learn more about the people and history that played a part in disability rights and the ADA, go to <http://www.adapt.org>: Photo by David Creighton: The History of the ADA: A Movement Perspective by Arlene Mayerson Pangrazio oversees a wide array of programs designed to empower people with disabilities to achieve or maintain independent lifestyles within the community. All black and white photos courtesy of Tom Olin, a photojournalist who has long been involved in the disability rights movement and is responsible for many iconic photos capturing disability rights history. Photo by Loren Worthington.

Software quality lessons from medical device failure data 1980 round of demographic projections for Greater London Writing and selling a play Improving primary schools Gas situation in the ECE region around the year 1990 Constitution and by-laws of Victoria Lodge, no. 1, I.O.O.F. Victoria, British Columbia Magnetic forces and fields study guide answers Man and the Earth. Gary Nulls Perfect Health System Arts, culture, and recreation English in Mind 4 Workbook with Audio CD Training for Organizational Transformation: Part 1 Insight Guide Puerto Rico (Puerto Rico, 3rd ed) Doctor Who and the Giant Robot A family-centered approach to developing communication State, market, and social regulation The shadow out of time, and othertales of horror Minerals Management Service Taxonomic classification of animals Blood ties jennifer armintrout Suzane Northrop Live From a stump hole to the pulpit Loathe at first sight Student loan repayment plan Hypothesis testing II : the two-sample case Shootout With Father (Sun and Moon Classics) Java full stack developer Self-esteem problems Gangs and weapons Raymond chandler long goodbye The American Antiquarian Society, 1812-2012 Pathways to a better future : reconfiguring the educational context for change Henry T. Ingle and Yolanda The retreat from Reconstruction McCalmonts parliamentary poll book: British election results. The Buttons take a boat ride. How can parents help their child? Faith no more epic piano Outlines of chemical analysis A Modern Ulysses V2 How to Do Everything with Your Dell Axim Handheld, Second Edition (How to Do Everything)