

Spotlighting Disability Pride

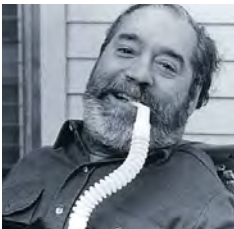
On March 13, 1990, more than 1,000 people marched from the White House to the U.S. Capitol to demand Congress pass the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). About 60 of them cast aside their wheelchairs and other mobility aids and crawled up the Capitol steps. The “Capitol Crawl” was a physical demonstration to show others how inaccessible buildings can be. President George H.W. Bush signed the ADA into law on July 26, 1990. Disability Pride Month commemorates that event, highlights the continuing progress toward expanding rights, and offers a moment for individuals with disabilities to celebrate and reclaim public visibility.



As people celebrate Disability Pride, they prove that disabled people haven't just been surviving in the face of oppression –

they've been thriving.”

– **Laken Brooks**, Disability Rights Activist



Edward Verne Roberts was diagnosed with polio at age 14 in 1953. He became paralyzed from the neck down, relied on an **iron lung**, and attended high school via telephone until his senior year. He was accepted at the University of California Berkeley, but had to fight for the right to attend due to inaccessibility and discrimination. He ultimately earned two degrees and founded the **Physically Disabled Students Program**, which is still active today.



Alice Wong was born with spinal muscular atrophy. As a Chinese-American activist and writer, she embraces her differences and uses her voice to shine light on people living with disabilities and creating inclusive environments where they can thrive, particularly within media. Wong is co-founder of **Disabled Writers**, a digital resource to help connect editors with disabled writers.



Jessica Long is a Russian-American Paralympic swimmer whose legs were amputated at the age of 1 due to fibular hemimelia. She competed in her first Paralympic Games at age 12 in 2004, winning three gold medals. She went on to compete in four more Paralympic Games, winning 26 more medals, along with more than 50 world championship medals. Long is the second-most decorated Paralympian in U.S. history and is a voice for fairness in Paralympic classification.



Nyle DiMarco is a Deaf actor, model, author, documentary producer, and founder of the **Nyle DiMarco Foundation**. The winner of two televised reality shows (“America’s Top Model” and “Dancing With the Stars”), DiMarco is a public advocate for the Deaf community. His foundation focuses on providing parents with information about early language acquisition and early intervention for deaf and hard of hearing children.

Did You Know?

- Disability Pride is accepting and honoring each person's uniqueness and seeing it as a natural part of human diversity.
- Chicago hosts an annual **Disability Pride Parade**.
- Boston held the first Disability Pride Day in 1990. New York City observed the first official Disability Pride Month in July 2015.
- Students ages 3-22 with disabilities may be eligible for special education services under **IDEA**, a federal law. Eligible students can qualify for an Individualized Education Program, which provides specially designated instruction and services for students to access education.
- In 2019, Ann Magill created the first Disability Pride Flag. The five diagonal zigzag lines represent unique qualities within the disability community and symbolizes disabled people breaking down barriers.



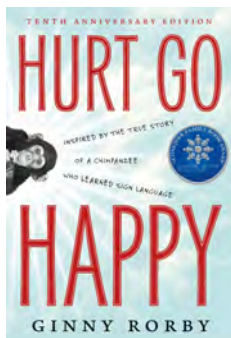
Take the next step...

- Learn how to make **web content accessible**.
- Always ask before helping an individual with a disability.
- Always assume competence.
- Use **appropriate terminology**.

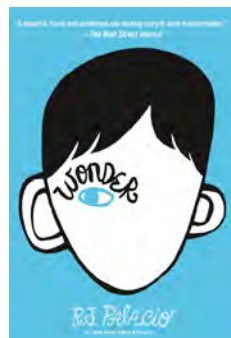
Resources:

- **'Nothing About Us Without Us': 16 Moments in the Fight for Disability Rights**
- **A Brief History of Disability Rights & the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)**
- **You Should be Following More Disability Activists**

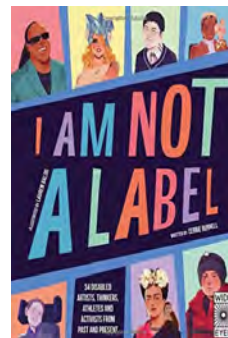
Books to Support Disability Pride:



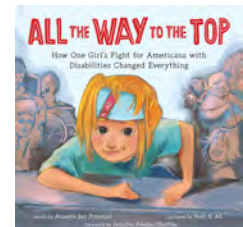
Hurt Go Happy
by Ginny Robby



Wonder
by R.J. Palacio



I Am Not a Label
by Cerrie Burnell



All the Way to the Top
by Annette Bay Pimentel

If you have a suggestion for an Equity Hero theme, please email equity@isbe.net.

Photos

Edward Verne Roberts: Independence Now | Alice Wong: Catapult | Jessica Long: Popsugar | Nyle DiMarco: Wikipedia | Disability Pride Flag: American Foundation for the Blind | Hurt Go Happy, Wonder, I Am Not a Label, All the Way to the Top: Amazon