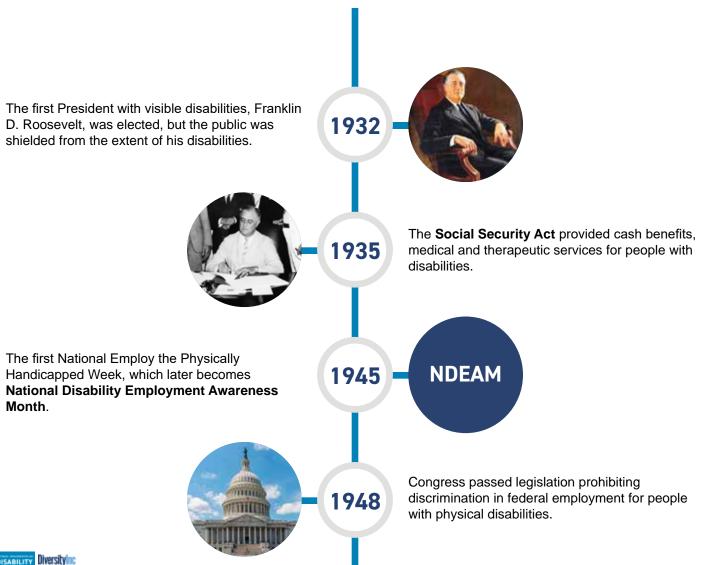
Timeline of Disability Rights

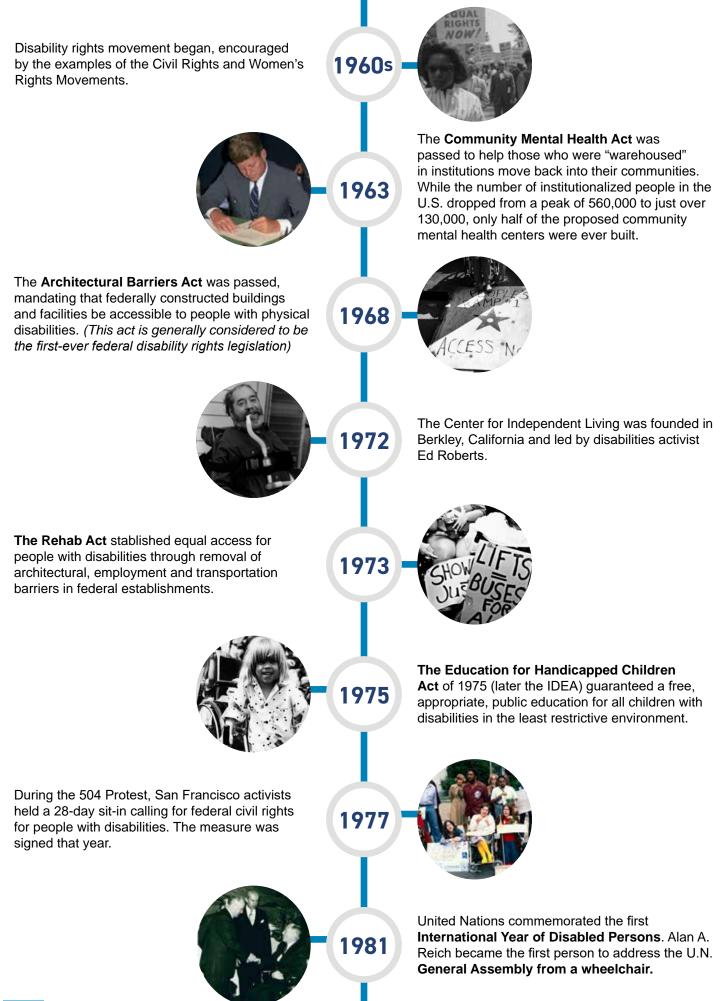
The Overlooked Civil Rights Issue

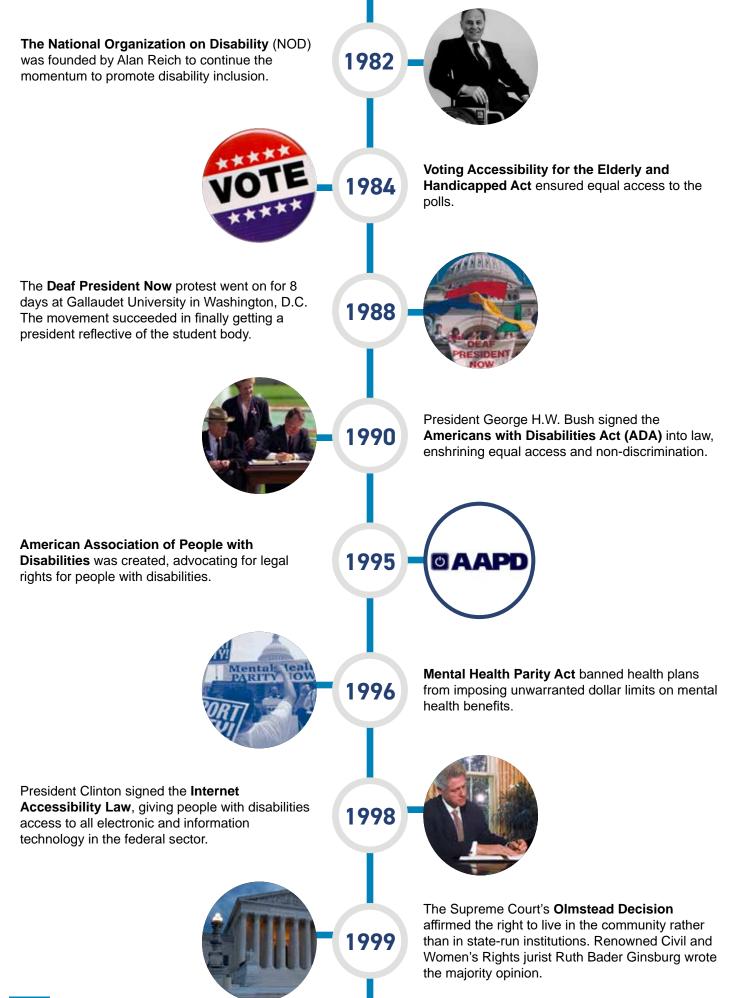
The Disability Rights Movement was sparked primarily by people with mobility problems who use wheelchairs - as a result of polio, spinal injuries, or cerebral palsy. There has been relatively little joint work with organizations of or for the blind, deaf, and developmentally disabled. Nevertheless, equal access to education, employment, transportation, health care, and attendant services have been unifying themes. Over the last few decades, the movement has

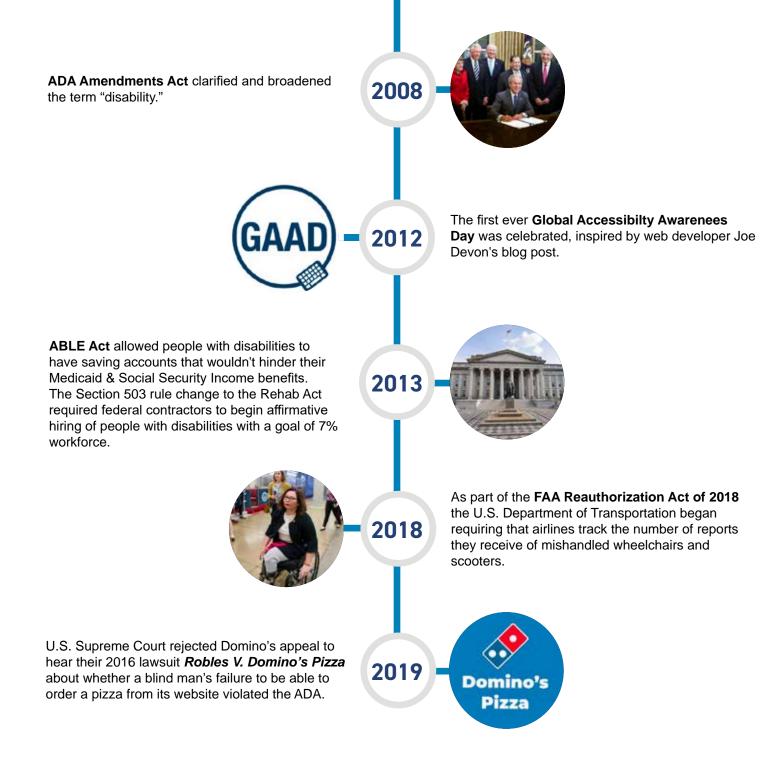
begun to approach disability in a new way. Rather than the "impairment model," the modern disability rights movement focuses on the "civil rights model." This addresses the misconception that because impairment causes disability, unless one is cured, one cannot expect equality. Therefore, as the disability rights movement redefines "disability," the movement also challenges basic social assumptions about the nature of disability.

While the concept of disability as a strength is not foreign to most of us in the disability rights movement, most Americans still view disability as an impairment to be cured, feared, or "risen above."









Click here for a more in-depth look at the disability rights movement