

October Facts of the Day 2014



**DEFENSE EQUAL OPPORTUNITY MANAGEMENT INSTITUTE
DIRECTORATE OF RESEARCH DEVELOPMENT AND STRATEGIC INITIATIVES**

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Day	Fact	Source
1	According to the Disability History Project, the earliest known account of a prosthesis being used comes from the Rig-Veda, an ancient sacred poem of India that was written in Sanskrit between 3500 and 1800 BC. The poem tells the story of Queen Vishpla, a warrior who lost her leg in battle, was fitted with an iron prosthesis, and returned to battle.	http://www.disabilityhistory.org/timeline_new.html
2	Harriet Tubman escaped slavery and helped numerous others escape via the Underground Railroad. During the Civil War, she served in the Union Army as a cook, a nurse, an armed scout, and a spy. She led an armed expedition, the Combahee River Raid, freeing more than 700 slaves. She also experienced seizures, severe headaches, and narcoleptic episodes from epilepsy, which she developed as a teenager after being hit on the head while protecting a fellow slave.	http://www.biography.com/people/harriet-tubman-9511430#early-life&
3	Thomas Edison lost almost all his hearing when he was about 12 years old. This may have been caused by scarlet fever, but he believed it resulted from being grabbed by the ears and lifted onto a moving train. He often regarded his disability as an asset that allowed him to concentrate on his experiments and research. He became a renowned inventor who acquired 1,093 patents and whose inventions included the light bulb and the phonograph.	http://www.loc.gov/disabilityawareness/profiles/edison.html
4	Founded in 1915 by Helen Keller and George Kessler, Helen Keller International (HKI) is among the oldest international nonprofit organizations devoted to preventing blindness and reducing malnutrition. HKI continues Keller's legacy by working to help some of the world's poorest people, guided by her words, " <i>The welfare of each is bound up in the welfare of all.</i> "	http://www.hki.org/about-helen-keller/

5	<p>In 1932, Franklin Roosevelt was elected the 32nd President of the United States. Roosevelt used a wheelchair as a result of contracting polio in 1921. He inspired and directed the March of Dimes program that eventually funded the polio vaccine.</p>	<p>http://www.fdrlibrary.marist.edu/aboutfdr/polio.html</p>
6	<p>In 1935, the League for the Physically Handicapped formed in New York City to protest discrimination by the Works Progress Administration (WPA). The 300 members—most with disabilities caused by polio and cerebral palsy—had been denied WPA jobs because the Home Relief Bureau of New York City had stamped their applications “PH” for physically handicapped. League members held sit-ins and eventually generated thousands of jobs nationwide.</p>	<p>http://www.disabilityhistory.org/timeline_new.html</p>
7	<p>Otto Weidt (1883–1947) quit his work as a wallpaper hanger because of vision loss. He then started a workshop in Berlin making brushes and brooms. Almost all of his employees were Jewish people who were blind or deaf. When the Nazis started deporting Jewish people, he fought for each of his workers. When the Gestapo arrested several of his employees, he went to the place where they were being confined awaiting deportation and got them released.</p>	<p>http://www.disabilityhistory.org/people.html</p>
8	<p>Daniel Inouye was born and raised in Hawaii. In 1942, he enlisted in the U.S. Army’s 442nd Regimental Combat team, made up of soldiers of Japanese ancestry. After losing his right arm in battle in 1945, he was honorably discharged in 1947, earning a Medal of Honor and a Purple Heart, among other awards. He became Hawaii’s first congressman when it became a state in 1959. In 1962, he was first elected to the U.S. Senate, where he served for almost 50 years.</p>	<p>http://www.loc.gov/disabilityawareness/profiles/inouye.html</p>

9	<p>In 1945, Congress declared the first week in October each year National Employ the Physically Handicapped Week. In 1962, the word "physically" was deleted to acknowledge the needs and contributions of individuals with all types of disabilities. In 1988, Congress expanded the week to National Disability Employment Awareness Month.</p>	<p>http://www.dol.gov/opa/media/press/odep/ODEP20140713.htm</p>
10	<p>Photographer Dorothea Lange walked with a limp as a result of contracting polio as a child. She said of her disability, <i>“I think it was perhaps the most important thing that happened to me. It formed me, guided me, instructed me, helped me, humiliated me, all those things at once. I’ve never gotten over it, and I am aware of the force and power of it.”</i></p>	<p>http://www.disabilityhistory.org/people.html</p>
11	<p>The Rehabilitation Act of 1973 was the first major legislative effort to secure an equal playing field for individuals with disabilities. This legislation provided a wide range of services for persons with physical and cognitive disabilities. Those disabilities can create significant barriers to full and continued employment, the pursuit of independent living, self-determination, and inclusion in American society.</p>	<p>http://www.ada.gov/cguide.htm#anchor65610</p>
12	<p>The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) was enacted by Congress in 1975 to mandate free public education for children with disabilities. It was most recently amended in December 2004, with final regulations for school-aged children published in August 2006 and for babies and toddlers in September 2011.</p>	<p>http://www.parentcenterhub.org/repository/idea/</p>

13	<p>On June 22, 1999, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in <i>Olmstead v. L.C.</i> that unjustified segregation of persons with disabilities constitutes discrimination in violation of the Americans with Disabilities Act. The plaintiffs were two women who had mental illness and developmental disabilities. They had been voluntarily admitted to the psychiatric unit of a state-run hospital but were involuntarily held for several years after their initial treatment. They filed the suit to be released from the hospital.</p>	<p>http://www.ada.gov/olmstead/olmstead_about.htm</p>
14	<p>Jim Langevin was the first quadriplegic to serve in the U.S. House of Representatives. At 16, he was injured while in the Boy Scout Explorer program working with a local police department. He was hit by a bullet and paralyzed when a gun accidentally discharged. Inspired by the community support he received, he decided to enter public service. In 1994, he became the nation's youngest Secretary of State, and in 2000, he was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives.</p>	<p>http://www.loc.gov/disabilityawareness/profiles/langevin.html</p>
15	<p>In the 2000 Olympic Games in Sydney, Australia, Marla Runyan finished eighth in the 1,500-meter run, the highest finish by an American woman in that event. Runyan, who holds American women's records in several running events, was the first legally blind person to compete in the Olympics.</p>	<p>http://www.nwhm.org/education-resources/biography/biographies/marla-runyan/</p>
16	<p>In 2001, Congress established the Office of Disability Employment Policy (ODEP) to develop and influence policies and practices that increase the number and quality of employment opportunities for people with disabilities to ensure that they are fully integrated into the workforce.</p>	<p>http://www.dol.gov/odep/about/</p>

17	<p>Congresswoman Tammy Duckworth is an Iraq War Veteran. In 2004, she was deployed to Iraq as a Blackhawk helicopter pilot for the Illinois Army National Guard. She was one of the first Army women to fly combat missions during Operation Iraqi Freedom. Her helicopter was shot down, and she lost her legs and partial use of her right arm. She was awarded a Purple Heart for her combat injuries.</p>	<p>http://duckworth.house.gov/about/full-biography</p>
18	<p>According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, about 1 in 6 children in the United States had a developmental disability in 2006–2008. These ranged from mild disabilities—such as speech and language impairments—to serious developmental disabilities—such as intellectual disabilities, cerebral palsy, and autism.</p>	<p>http://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/autism/data.html</p>
19	<p>On September 25, 2008, the President signed the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act of 2008. The Act emphasizes that the definition of disability should be construed in favor of broad coverage of individuals to the maximum extent permitted by the terms of the ADA and generally shall not require extensive analysis. The effect of the Act is to make it easier for an individual seeking protection under the ADA to establish that he or she has a disability within the meaning of the ADA.</p>	<p>http://www.eeoc.gov/laws/statutes/adaaa_info.cfm</p>
20	<p>According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, workers with a disability were more likely than those with no disability to be employed part time. Among workers with a disability, 34 percent usually worked part time in 2013, compared with 19 percent of workers without a disability. The proportion of workers who were employed part time for economic reasons was slightly higher among those with a disability (7 percent) than among those without a disability (5 percent).</p>	<p>http://www.bls.gov/news.release/disabl.nr0.htm</p>

21	<p>According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, 15 percent of workers with a disability were employed in federal, state, or local government in 2013, similar to the share for workers with no disability (14 percent).</p>	<p>http://www.bls.gov/news.release/disabl.nr0.htm</p>
22	<p>Hector Garcia Middle School in San Antonio, Texas, honored a student's service dog, Taxi, by placing the dog's picture in the yearbook alongside his 14-year-old owner, Rachel Benke, who experiences epileptic seizures. Taxi can predict and warn Benke of an impending seizure up to an hour and a half before it happens, and according to her mother, the dog's warnings have saved Benke's life.</p>	<p>http://time.com/2860417/service-dog-gets-his-own-photo-in-the-middle-school-yearbook/</p>
23	<p>According to the U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics, the unemployment rate during June 2014 dropped from 6.3 to 6.1 percent. The unemployment rate among people with disabilities was 12.9 percent. Among people with disabilities, 19.3 percent were in the labor force, compared to 69.2 percent for people without disabilities.</p>	<p>https://www.disability.gov/bureau-labor-statistics-releases-june-employment-numbers/</p>
24	<p>For National Disability Employment Awareness Month 2014, the U.S. Department of Labor has chosen the theme <i>Expect. Employ. Empower.</i> Assistant Secretary of Labor for Disability Employment Policy Kathy Martinez explains that this theme “conveys that advancing disability employment is about much more than just hiring. It's about creating a continuum of inclusion. And the first step on this continuum is expectation.”</p>	<p>http://www.dol.gov/opa/media/press/odep/ODEP20140713.htm</p>

25	<p>National Disability Employment Awareness Month is celebrated every October to raise awareness about disability employment issues and honor the contributions of America’s workers with disabilities.</p> <p><i>“We all have a role to play in—and benefit to gain from—increasing opportunities for meaningful employment for people with disabilities,”</i> said Assistant Secretary of Labor for Disability Employment Policy Kathy Martinez.</p>	<p>http://www.dol.gov/opa/media/press/odep/ODEP20140713.htm</p>
26	<p>For the purpose of federal nondiscrimination laws, the federal government defines a person with a disability as someone who has a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities, has a record of such an impairment, or is regarded as having such an impairment.</p>	<p>http://www.dol.gov/odep/faqs/general.htm#2</p>
27	<p>According to the Americans with Disabilities Act, service animals are dogs trained to do work or perform tasks for people with disabilities. This includes guiding people who are blind, alerting people who are deaf, pulling a wheelchair, alerting and protecting a person who is having a seizure, and calming a person with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder during an anxiety attack. The work or task a dog has been trained to provide must be directly related to the person’s disability.</p>	<p>http://www.ada.gov/service_animals_2010.htm</p>
28	<p>According to estimates from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s Autism and Developmental Disabilities Monitoring Network, about 1 in 68 children has been identified with autism spectrum disorder, which occurs in all racial, ethnic, and socioeconomic groups. It is almost five times more common among boys (1 in 42) than among girls (1 in 189).</p>	<p>http://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/autism/data.html</p>

29	Down syndrome remains the most common chromosomal condition diagnosed in the United States. Each year, about 6,000 babies born in the United States have Down syndrome. This means that Down syndrome occurs in about 1 out of every 700 babies.	http://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/birthdefects/DownSyndrome.html
30	Each year, women experience about 4.8 million intimate partner-related physical assaults and rapes. Research has shown that women with a disability are more likely to experience intimate partner violence (IPV) than those without a disability. In fact, researchers found that 37.3% of women with a disability reported experiencing some form of IPV during their lifetime, compared with 20.6% of women without a disability.	http://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/disabilityandhealth/women.html
31	Social Security's Ticket to Work program supports career development for people with disabilities. Social Security disability beneficiaries between the ages of 18 and 64 qualify. The program is free and voluntary. It helps people with disabilities increase their earning potential and progress toward financial independence by offering access to meaningful employment with the assistance of Ticket to Work employment service providers.	http://www.chooseworkttw.net/about/index.html