

# A BRIEF TIMELINE OF DISABILITY HISTORY

The following is a select list of national and international milestones highlighting people, events, and legislation that affect disability rights.



**1817**

First school for **disabled children** founded in Hartford, CT

**1848**

First **residential center** for adults with disabilities founded in Boston



**1945**

President Harry Truman begins national **Employ the Handicapped Week**

**1950**

Mary Switzer appointed director of **U.S. Rehabilitation Panel**



**1961**

President John Kennedy **appoints panel on mental retardation**

**1963**

President John Kennedy calls for increased American **community services**



**1965**

**Medicare and Medicaid** are established

**1968**

**Fair Housing Act** protects people from discrimination when they are renting or buying a home



**1972**

Ed Roberts founds the first **center for independent living**

**1973**

**Handicap parking stickers** introduced in Washington, D.C.



**1990**

President George H. W. Bush signs the Americans with Disabilities Act

