



Notes from



the Navigator

OCTOBER IS NATIONAL DISABILITY EMPLOYMENT AWARENESS MONTH

In recognition of National Disability Employment Awareness Month, following is a list of well-known Americans with disabilities who have been successful in their chosen professions:

Actors

Tom Cruise: Dyslexia
Patty Duke: Bipolar Disorder
Sandy Duncan: Vision Impairment
Annette Funicello: Multiple Sclerosis
Danny Glover: Epilepsy
Katherine Hepburn: Parkinson's Disease
Marlee Matlin: Deaf
Patricia Neal: Stroke
Gene Tierney: Depression

Politicians

Sen. Daniel Inouye: Amputee
John F. Kennedy: Addison's Disease
Abraham Lincoln: Depression
Nelson Rockefeller: Dyslexia
Franklin Delano Roosevelt: Polio
Theodore ("Teddy") Roosevelt: Asthma
Woodrow Wilson: Learning Disability

Authors

Ernest Hemingway: Depression
Henry David Thoreau: Tuberculosis
Wendy Wasserstein: Dyslexia

Musicians

Ray Charles: Blind
John Cougar Mellencamp: Spina Bifida
Teddy Pendergrass: Quadriplegia
Ithzak Perlman: Polio
Mel Tillis: Stuttering
Hank Williams, Sr.: Spina Bifida

Athletes

Lionel Aldridge: Paranoid Schizophrenia
Arthur Ashe: AIDS
Jean Driscoll, Spina Bifida
Lou Gehrig: Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis
Bruce Jenner: Learning Disability
Greg Louganis: Learning Disability
Jimmy Piersall: Bipolar Disorder

Miscellaneous

Erin Brockovich: Dyslexia
Dick Cavett: Bipolar Disorder
Thomas Edison: Deaf
Albert Einstein: Dyslexia
Henry Ford: Dyslexia
Harriet Tubman: Blind

"It's not the disability that defines you, it's how you deal with the challenges the disability presents you with. We have an obligation to the abilities we DO have, not the disability."

~**Jim Abbott**, one-handed major league baseball player (pitcher).