

October is National Disability Employment Awareness Month

In 1945, Congress enacted a law declaring the first week in October each year “National Employ the Physically Handicapped Week.” In 1962, the word “physically” was removed to acknowledge the employment needs and contributions of individuals with all types of disabilities. In 1988, Congress expanded the week to a month and changed the name to “National Disability Employment Awareness Month.”

2013 Theme: Because We Are EQUAL to the Task

PROFILE: Frank G. Bowe 1947-2007

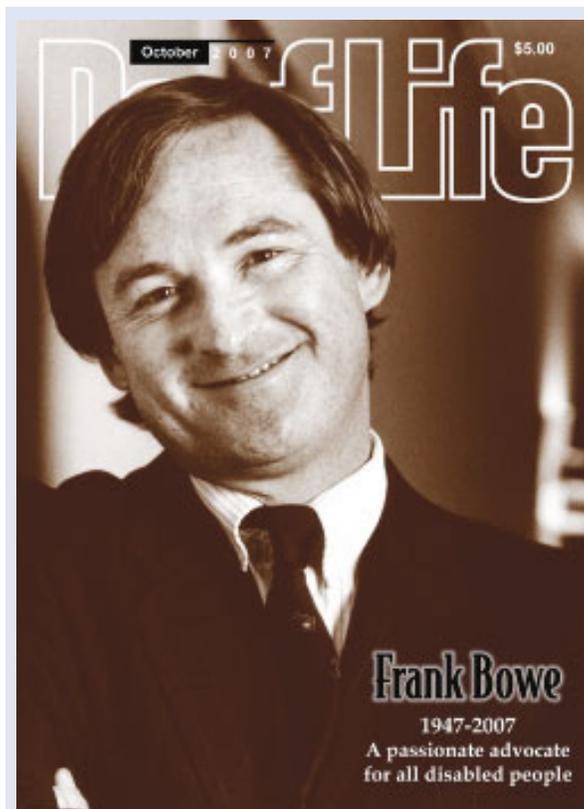
Frank G. Bowe lost his hearing at age 3. He became an acclaimed disability rights activist, CEO, consultant, author, and teacher. He earned a BA from McDaniel College, MA from Gallaudet Graduate School and a Ph.D. from New York University.

In 1977, as the first executive director of the American Coalition of Citizens with Disabilities, Bowe helped organize people with disabilities to occupy offices of the U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare to focus attention on the rights of the disabled. This 10-city protest resulted in landmark regulations to enforce *Section 504* of the 1973 *Rehabilitation Act* - requiring that federally funded institutions provide access to the disabled. Many consider these events a precursor to the 1990 *Americans with Disabilities Act*.

Bowe was involved with legislation (1990) that required TVs to receive and display closed captioning. The subsequent 1996 *Telecommunications Act* required broadcast and cable programs to be closed-captioned.

Bowe joined Hofstra University in 1989, teaching research, counseling, special education and rehabilitation. Bowe’s books include: *Handicapping America and Making Inclusion Work*.

Read More: <http://digitalhistory.hsp.org/node/5136>



Cover photo: Peter C. Howard/The Hill. Featured on DeafLine magazine, October 2007 issue - www.deafline.com