



Karen Alvord



GUEST EDITORIAL

Guest editorial: Honoring our second Independence Day



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Each year, America commemorates our independence on July 4. But America celebrates a second holiday of significance in July: National Disability Independence Day, which marks the anniversary of the life-changing Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

Passed with overwhelming bipartisan support on July 26, 1990, the ADA ended discrimination against people with disabilities in key areas, such as em



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public accommodations and access to state and local government services.



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The ADA is a blueprint for barrier-free lives for the millions it helps fully participate in civic affairs, enjoy what our communities offer and contribute meaningfully in the workplace.

But perhaps most importantly, the ADA has reframed how we see our neighbors with physical and mental differences.



As a child born with a spinal birth defect (which meant countless hospital hours for my parents and me), I realized early how physical differences often came with a stigma. With the ADA, the belief we can all achieve if given the opportunity and support – a belief my parents taught at an early age – has taken root in American hearts.



This is why organizations like PRIDE Industries are so well respected. I have the privilege of serving as a director for PRIDE, the nation’s largest provider of employment opportunities for people with disabilities, as well as a proud supporter of countless veterans (30 percent of whom suffer from service-related disabilities). We are blessed to have PRIDE headquartered in Roseville.

This July 26, I hope you will join me in spreading awareness of National Disability Independence Day and companies like PRIDE Industries. Empowering everyone helps us build better communities.

Karen Alvord is a director at PRIDE Industries, 30+-year resident of Roseville, and Roseville City Council District 5.



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