

30TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ADA

1967

Lex Frieden is in an automobile accident in Oklahoma while a freshman in college, and suffers a spinal cord injury. He goes to TIRR for rehabilitation where he meets Dr. William A. Spencer, a pioneer in rehabilitative medicine who becomes his mentor.

Lex is denied readmission to the university due to his disability. He eventually completes a Bachelor of Science in psychology at the University of Tulsa and a Master of Arts in social psychology at the University of Houston.

1977

The Independent Living Research Utilization Program (ILRU) at TIRR Memorial Hermann is founded. Lex was a part of it's founding and serves as director.



1984

President Ronald Reagan appoints Lex to serve in his administration as director of the newly created National Council on the Handicapped (now called the National Council on Disability).



1986

After serving as an advocate for individuals with disabilities, Lex and the Council meet with then-Vice President George H.W. Bush and propose the American Disabilities Act, which Lex was instrumental in drafting.



Bush supported Lex's advocacy work, but reminded Lex that he was just the vice president and as soon as he had the chance to do more, he would.

1988

Lex was appointed coordinator of the newly formed, Congressional Task Force on the Rights and Empowerment of Americans with Disabilities.

George Bush becomes president.



1990

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) was passed and signed into law by President George H.W. Bush on July 26.



2015

25th anniversary of the ADA
TIRR marks the 25th anniversary of this land-mark legislation in Washington DC.



2020

Lex continues to serve as Director of the ILRU and advocate for people of disabilities. His office is based at TIRR Memorial Hermann, the hospital that treated him as a college student.

