

THE SIGNING OF THE ADA

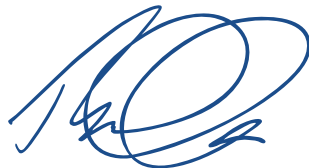
Washington, D.C.

Thursday, July 26, 1990

The temperature had soared into the mid-90s on the south lawn of the White House as nearly 3,000 invited advocates and supporters of the **Americans with Disabilities Act** gathered to witness the historic signing. These were members of what California Representative Tony Coelho referred to as a “hidden army” of people living with disabilities and their families, coming together as one of the largest crowds to gather on the White House lawn for such a signing.

Joining President George H. W. Bush on the dais was long-time friend Evan Kemp, *Chairman of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC)* on his right, one of the advisors credited with convincing the President to make disability civil rights a priority of his administration. On his left, Justin Dart Jr., *Chair of the President’s Committee on Employment of PWDs*. Behind stands Reverend Harold Wilkie and Sandra Parrino, *Chairwoman of the National Council on Disability*.

Declaring “Let the shameful wall of exclusion finally come tumbling down,” President Bush signed the Act into law, ushering in a new era of civil rights in America, and the promise of access and opportunity for all Americans living with disabilities.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Tom Olin', written in a cursive style.

Tom Olin Collection