

CRIPSTORY

The Unheard History of Disability

Brad Lomax

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Brad Lomax was a courageous black man with a disability who played a significant role in bringing together the civil rights community. Brad's passion for the Black Panther Party stemmed from his desire to see a world free of discrimination, poverty, and police brutality for black Americans. Despite living with multiple sclerosis and using a wheelchair, Brad refused to let his disability hold him back. However, he soon realized that the independence his wheelchair gave him was met with different forms of barriers than his race. This realization led Brad to team up with his personal care attendant and fellow Black Panther, Chuck Jackson, to advocate for the rights of disabled individuals. Together, they helped provide hot meals to the Disability Rights Advocates during the 28-day protest known as the 504 Sit-In. Although this event is widely discussed, the involvement of Brad Lomax and Chuck Jackson, two black disability activists, is often overlooked. Alongside other activists, they flew to Washington, DC, to pressure the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare to implement regulations. Their relentless efforts paid off, and eventually, the government signed the regulations for the 504, which laid the groundwork for the passing of the American Disabilities Act in 1990. A disability advocate and participant in the 504 Sit-In, Corbett O'Toole, acknowledges that "These activists showed us what an ally could be; we would never have succeeded without them. They are a critical part of disability history, and yet their story is almost never told."



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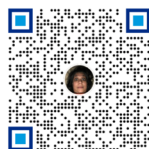
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