

# Deaf Awareness Week



September 19-23, 2022

*The purpose of Deaf Awareness Week is to increase public awareness of deaf issues, people, and culture. Activities and events throughout Deaf Awareness Week encourage individuals to come together as a community for both educational events and celebrations.*

# Why Celebrate Deaf Awareness???

## **Messages during Deaf Awareness Week include:**

Celebrate the culture, heritage, and language unique to deaf people of the world.

Promote the rights of Deaf people throughout the world, including education for Deaf people, access to information and services, the use of sign languages, and human rights for Deaf people in developing countries.

Recognize achievements of deaf people, including famous deaf individuals.

Educate about the misconceptions of being deaf and the challenges the deaf population face during everyday life.

Learn about types, degrees, and causes of hearing loss.

Be exposed to sign language and other ways deaf and hard of hearing people communicate.

Learn about the types of educational programs, support services, and resources that are available to the deaf and hard of hearing community, including children.

Gain a better understanding of deaf culture.

Understand that deaf and hard of hearing individuals are just as capable, able, and intelligent as hearing individuals. There is a difference in the way those that are deaf and hard of hearing communicate, but it is not a handicap or disability.

(From Signing Savvy: <https://www.signingsavvy.com/deafawarenessweek>)

For more information related to Deaf Awareness Week please visit the following websites:

**Verywell.com** is a health website:

<https://www.verywell.com/deaf-awareness-week-1046519>

**National Deaf Children Society** is a British website offering information and materials for families and professionals working with children with hearing loss. All the information is great, however, information about sign Language is about British Sign Language and not American Sign Language.

[http://www.ndcs.org.uk/family\\_support/communication/deaf\\_awareness/index.html](http://www.ndcs.org.uk/family_support/communication/deaf_awareness/index.html)



# U.S. Post Office Honors .....

In April of 2017, a two ounce (70¢) stamp with the image of leading educator in deaf education, Robert Panara, was released. He taught at the National Technical Institute for the Deaf at



Rochester Institute of Technology. It coincides with the 200th anniversary of the 1817 founding of the American School for the Deaf in Hartford, Connecticut, according to the Postal Service. It is part of the 16th issue of the Distinguished Americans stamp series that began in 2000.

Panara's stamp differs from past stamps in that it features a full photograph. The stamp features a photograph of Panara signing the word "respect." The stamp inscription "Teacher, Pioneer of Deaf Studies" is printed in white reading down from the upper-right corner. "Robert Panara" is printed along the bottom edge.

Known and honored as a teacher, Robert Panara was a scholar of deaf culture, an interpreter of the arts, and a poet whose collection *On His Deafness and Other Melodies Unheard* was published in 1997.

Panara lost his hearing at age 10 when he emerged from a 10-day coma brought about by spinal meningitis. Panara helped to establish the National Technical Institute for the Deaf in 1967 and joined the staff as its first deaf professor, developing the curriculum and founding the English and Theater programs. He taught classes that brought together hearing and deaf students. He was quoted as saying, "I used signs and I fingerspelled, talk, act, pantomime—you name it! I think the hearing students enjoy watching a ham like me. Maybe my voice is a little bit different, like it has an accent. But after the first couple of days, the hearing students became used to me."

Panara died in 2014 at the age of 94.



# Other Stamps that Honor Deaf Culture

<p><b>Ann Sullivan</b> Ann Sullivan, who had a hearing loss herself, was honored on a 15¢ stamp in 1980 with her famous student, Helen Keller.</p> 	<p><b>Thomas H. Gallaudet</b> Thomas H. Gallaudet, hearing, founded the American School for the Deaf. That is where Robert Panara learned to use sign language, Gallaudet is honored on a 20¢ stamp issued in 1983. Gallaudet University, where Panara later studied and taught, was founded by Edward Gallaudet, the son of Thomas H. Gallaudet.</p> 	<p><b>Others</b> Many deaf or partially deaf individuals have been honored on U.S. Stamps such as Thomas Edison, first on a 3¢ stamp issued in 1947 as well as founder of Girls Scouts, Juliette Gordon Low in 1948. In 1995, there was anthropologist Ruth Benedict, on a 46¢ stamp.</p>   	<p><b>“I Love You”</b> A se-tenant pair of 29 cent stamps captioned “Recognizing Deafness and American Sign Language” was issued in 1993 with designs showing a mother signing “I love you” to her infant and a hand signing the same phrase.</p> 
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# Martha's Vineyard

## A Utopia for the Deaf

If you could create a deaf utopia or a place in which everything is perfect for Deaf people, what would it be like? At one time Deaf Utopia did exist. It was an isolated island off the Massachusetts coast - Martha's Vineyard. Some early Vineyard settlers carried a gene for deafness (the first known deaf one was Jonathan Lambert, 1694), and over years of marriage, generation after generation was born with hearing loss. At one point, one in four children was born deaf! There were so many deaf people on the Vineyard (most deaf lived in Chilmark) that residents developed a sign language, Martha's Vineyard Sign Language (MVSL).

Martha's Vineyard Sign Language (MVSL) was a village sign language once widely used on the island of Martha's Vineyard by both deaf and hearing people in the community; consequently, deafness did not become a barrier to participation in public life. Sign language was so accepted on the Vineyard that a newspaper marveled in 1895 at the way the spoken and signed languages were used so freely and easily by both deaf and



hearing residents. People moving to Chilmark had to learn sign language in order to live in the community. Deafness was so common that it was never considered to be a handicap. In Martha's Vineyard, the deaf were considered equals, not second-class citizens, as many Deaf people today feel. No one considered deafness a disability, which is contrary to how deafness has historically been viewed throughout the world.

Martha's Vineyard Sign Language is mostly dead today, but it has an important legacy. In the early 19th century, children from the island brought their language to America's

first school for the deaf, where it mingled with French Sign Language and other colloquial home sign traditions creating much of the uniquely beautiful American Sign Language that exists today.

**Myth:** Sign language is universal or the same all over the world.

**Fact:** American Sign Language is a visual-gestural language used by Deaf people in the United States and Canada. Nearly every country has its own sign languages. Sign languages, like spoken languages, can have regional dialects. Sign languages use grammar and syntax that differ from the spoken languages use in their countries of origin.

## Where Did We Get . . . .

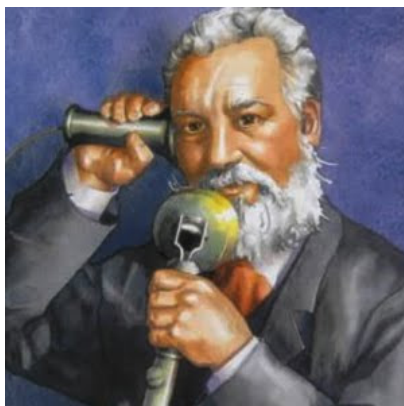


### **the huddle formation in football?**

It originated from the football team at Gallaudet University, a liberal arts college for deaf people in Washington, D.C. to prevent other schools from reading their sign language.

### **hand signals for strikes and balls in baseball?**

Invented by William Hoy, an outfielder who was deaf and played for the five different major league teams as an outfielder for fifteen years. Hoy hit a grand-slam home run in 1901 which was the first ever grand-slam in the American League.



### **the telephone?**

It was invented by Alexander Graham Bell, who was originally an instructor for deaf children. He invented the telephone to help his wife and mother who were deaf to hear.

## Have you seen or heard of these deaf individuals?



She graduated from North Dakota School for the Deaf in 1962. She originated the leading female role in the production of *Children of a Lesser God*, written by Mark Medoff. *Children* won the Tony for Best Play; Best Actor and she won Best Actress.

\_\_\_\_\_ 1



This woman has made Gallaudet University history in January 2016 by being the first woman President. Her mother is a graduate from North Dakota School for the Deaf.

\_\_\_\_\_ 2



This woman was crowned Miss America in 1998.

\_\_\_\_\_ 3



This man is known as one of the "fathers of the Internet." He is hard of hearing.

\_\_\_\_\_ 4



Despite being deaf, she is a deaf jazz and pop singer plus songwriter who competed in season 12 of America Got Talent and won 4th place

\_\_\_\_\_ 5



While playing basketball for North Dakota School for the Deaf from 1969 to 1973 became North Dakota's all time leading scorer even without the three point line. He holds seven school, 12 state and three national records.

\_\_\_\_\_ 6

A. Heather Whitestone

B. Steve Blehm

C. Matt Hamill

D. Mandy Harvey

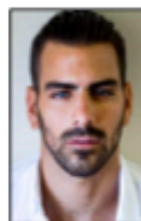
E. Ashley Fiolek

F. Vinton Cerf

G. Roberta "Bobbi" Cordano

H. Nyle Dimarco

I. Phyllis Frelich



This man is the first Deaf model to appear and win on America's Next Top Model: He has won the Dancing with the Stars: competition as well.

\_\_\_\_\_ 7



This athlete is the youngest motocross champion EVER.

\_\_\_\_\_ 8



This man is an American mixed martial artist and wrestler who competed in the Light Heavyweight division of the UFC.

\_\_\_\_\_ 9

Answers: 1-I, 2-G, 3-A, 4-F, 5-D, 6-B, 7-H, 8-E, 9-C



# Sign Language Resources

**<http://www.icansign.com/>**

\$12.00 membership for full access, however, this site has many free printable such as sign language UNO, Sign Language Snakes and Ladders featured, Sign Language deck of cards, dominos, scrabble, alphabet and word flash cards, etc.



**[Startasl.com](http://www.startasl.com)**

Has free printable manual letter coloring pages at  
<https://www.startasl.com/printable-sign-language-for-kids.html>



**[DLTK-teach.com](http://www.dltk-teach.com)**

Has free printable manual letter coloring pages at  
<http://www.dltk-teach.com/alphabuddies/asl/>

**[Sign Language Printables](https://www.teachersprintables.net/category/sign_language)**

[https://www.teachersprintables.net/category/sign\\_language](https://www.teachersprintables.net/category/sign_language)



help

Choose from 241 sign language printables that you can download and print for free. Choose single letter or single number items, available both with- and without labels, baby vocabulary signs, or grab an all-in-one single page with all letters A through Z and numbers 1 through 9.



water

**On-line Sign Language Dictionary**

**ASL PRO** <http://www.aslpro.com>

Has a variety of categories including main dictionary with 7000 words, religious signs, baby signs, downloadable video packages, and ASL quizzes for fingerspelling, everyday signs, religious and school signs plus more ASL learning tools that includes games, poems/songs, shared lesson plans, etc.

**Signing Savvy** <https://www.signingsavvy.com/>

A sign language dictionary containing several thousand high resolution videos of American Sign Language (ASL) signs, fingerspelled words, and other common signs used within the United States and Canada. Includes the ability to view large sign videos, build your own word lists and share them with others, create virtual flash cards and quizzes, print signs, build sign phrases, and more. You can access basic dictionary but membership is required for full access.

## Assistive Technology has created access for Deaf and Hard of Hearing individuals

It is sometimes easy to forget that people who are deaf or hard of hearing did not have access to the telephone network until the TTY was developed in the 1960s and nationwide relay services began in the 1990s. The phone had been around since the late 1800s.



Similarly, closed captions for television were developed in the 1970s, became available on a limited, voluntary basis in the 1980s with the use of closed caption decoder equipment. It is finally required and made available through built-in television caption decoder systems in the 1990s.



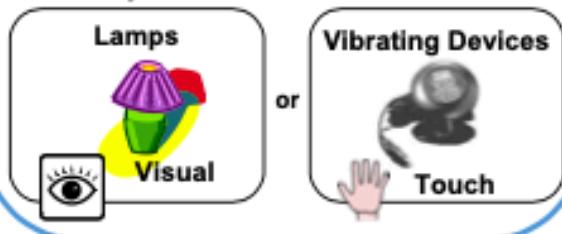
Likewise, going to the movies was not possible until the development of captioned film prints in the 1980s and caption display systems in the late 1990s. The exclusion of generations of deaf and hard of hearing people is something to be remembered so as not to be repeated.



### How do they....

- ❖ Know when the phone is ringing?
- ❖ Wake up to an alarm clock?
- ❖ Hear someone at the door?
- ❖ Hear fire alarms/smoke detectors?
- ❖ Hear a baby crying?

People with hearing loss may only need to amplify the alerting sound to hear it. Others may need the alarm sounds to be visual or feel it. They do this by connecting their phones, alarm clocks, doorbell, fire alarms/smoke detectors and baby monitors to:



At the same time, and perhaps due in part to this history, people who are deaf or hard of hearing were early and eager adopters of accessible text-based communication and information systems, such as pagers, e-mail, instant messaging, and the Internet, as well as early adopters of videophones.

Today, we have assistive listening technologies, real-time captioning services, Internet captioning applications, movie caption display systems, a wide range of relay services that provide access to the telephone network, digital televisions with digital captions, and video remote interpreting services.



**Relay services** typically has a third party participant who either types, voices or signs according to who is talking and what device is being utilized.



**"Yes"**



**"No"**



**"Please"**



**"Thank  
You"**



**"Sorry"**



**"Help"**



**"More"**



**"Stop"**



## "Mine"

(Place the right palm, fingers pressed together against the chest, as if holding something you own close to you.)



## "Finished"

(Hold open hands, fingers spread in front of chest, palms facing inward. With a sudden movement, rotate wrists so that palms face outward.)



## "Play"

(Place pinkies and thumbs out on both hands. Quickly move hands from left to right.)





**POWER IN OUR HANDS**

*Fully signed throughout*