

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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The United States International Council on Disabilities (USICD) mourns the passing of our board member, friend, and U.S. and global disability rights activist, Judith Heumann.

Judith Heumann spent most of her life advocating tirelessly on behalf of all people with all disabilities in the U.S. and globally. She influenced countless people and policies with her actions and her deep commitment to advocacy, equity, and leadership.

Her leadership was unparalleled in domestic civil rights advancement of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, and the Americans with Disabilities Act. USICD will be forever grateful for her involvement as a US delegate in the drafting of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) and the global impact she had when she honorably served as the U.S. Department of State Special Advisor on International Disability Rights.

Judy helped elevate the voices of people with disabilities around the world as they sought to advocate for their rights and create national disability rights laws. She was a friend and mentor to many young people with and without disabilities and regularly met with USICD interns and fellows and many other young leaders to listen to their stories and see how she could help. Her Rolodex of contacts was infinite, and she was endlessly connecting people that should know each other to develop collaborations.

Judy made the following statement at a past USICD Gala:

Look at what we have been able to accomplish, and the role that we have, as U.S. citizens who care about disabled individuals around the world in supporting human rights and civil rights; what our role is with USICD, and what your role, as individuals and people representing different organizations, can play as we move forward.

May we all be comforted and blessed by the memories we have of our dear friend and continue her ideals for equitable access, inclusion, advocacy, and collaboration. We will be forever in her debt.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Judy's family, friends, colleagues, and fans.

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