

30 Famous Deaf Individuals

HOW TO USE THIS PAGE

Thirty names, each with a birthday and a one-line reason they matter. Post the sheets whole, or cut along the card edges for a bulletin board or a matching activity.

BORN JUNE 27, 1880

Helen Keller

First DeafBlind person to earn a college degree.
Became a renowned author, activist, and lecturer.

BORN AUGUST 24, 1965

Marlee Matlin

Oscar-winning actress for *Children of a Lesser God*. Advocate for Deaf representation in Hollywood.

BORN JUNE 3, 1993

Sean Berdy

Actor in *Switched at Birth*, ASL performer, and advocate for Deaf culture.

BORN MAY 8, 1989

Nyle DiMarco

Model, actor, and Deaf activist. Winner of *America's Next Top Model* and *Dancing with the Stars*.

BORN DECEMBER 26, 1785

Laurent Clerc

French Deaf educator and co-founder of the first American school for the Deaf.

BORN DECEMBER 10, 1787

Thomas Hopkins Gallaudet

Co-founder of the first Deaf school in the U.S. and key figure in American Deaf education.

BORN SEPTEMBER 29, 1950

CJ Jones

Deaf actor, known for *Baby Driver*. Director and advocate for Deaf artists in Hollywood.

BORN NOVEMBER 30, 1945

Linda Bove

Deaf actress known for her role on *Sesame Street*. Promoted ASL and Deaf awareness to children.

BORN FEBRUARY 22, 1947

Chuck Baird

De'VIA artist and actor who portrayed Deaf culture through his paintings and stage performances.

BORN FEBRUARY 24, 1973

Heather Whitestone

First Deaf Miss America (1995). Advocate for education and literacy.

BORN JUNE 16, 1943

I. King Jordan

First Deaf president of Gallaudet University, after the Deaf President Now movement in 1988.

BORN MAY 1, 1860

Douglas Tilden

Deaf sculptor known for public monuments in San Francisco and contributions to art.

BORN FEBRUARY 29, 1944

Phyllis Frelich

Tony Award-winning actress for *Children of a Lesser God*. Pioneer in Deaf theatre.

BORN MAY 14, 1971

Deanne Bray

Actress known for the TV show *Sue Thomas: F.B.Eye*, promoting positive Deaf role models.

BORN MARCH 24, 1946

Kitty O'Neil

Deaf stuntwoman and speed racer, set numerous land-speed records.

BORN OCTOBER 5, 1976

Matt Hamill

Deaf wrestler and UFC fighter known for breaking barriers in sports.

BORN FEBRUARY 24, 1969

Terrylene Sacchetti

Deaf actress in film and TV and advocate for ASL and Deaf empowerment.

BORN 1932

Robert Davila

Deaf educator and former president of Gallaudet University. Advocate for inclusive education.

BORN JULY 24, 1968

Troy Kotsur

Oscar-winning actor for his role in *CODA*. Prominent figure in Deaf acting.

BORN OCTOBER 31, 1860

Juliette Gordon Low

Founder of the Girl Scouts of the USA. Became Deaf due to ear injuries.

BORN 1960

Fred Beam

Deaf actor, dancer, and diversity advocate. Founding member of the Wild Zappers.

BORN JULY 21, 1919

William Stokoe

Hearing linguist who proved ASL is a real language. Transformed Deaf education and linguistics.

BORN OCTOBER 23, 1905

Gertrude Ederle

First woman to swim the English Channel. Became Deaf due to illness and promoted athletics.

BORN JUNE 27, 1925

Andrew Foster

First African American Deaf man to graduate from Gallaudet. Founded schools for the Deaf in Africa.

BORN NOVEMBER 13, 1949

Ann Silver

Deaf artist and member of the De'VIA movement, exploring Deaf identity through pop art.

BORN MARCH 2, 1972

Claudia Gordon

First Deaf Black female attorney in the U.S.
Advocate for disability rights and accessibility.

BORN JULY 16, 1991

Rikki Poynter

Deaf YouTuber and advocate for captions, Deaf rights, and accessibility online.

BORN MARCH 3, 1847

Alexander Graham Bell

Inventor of the telephone. Though hearing, he was deeply involved in Deaf education, and controversially promoted oralism.

BORN FEBRUARY 5, 1982

Sean Forbes

Deaf rapper and co-founder of D-PAN (Deaf Professional Arts Network), promoting music accessibility.

BORN 1980

Christine Sun Kim

Deaf sound artist exploring communication, Deaf identity, and language through visual and conceptual art.