

## PROFILE OF RESISTANCE

### Donald Galloway

*Disability rights activist*

*“Just because a man lacks the use of his eyes doesn't mean he lacks vision.”*

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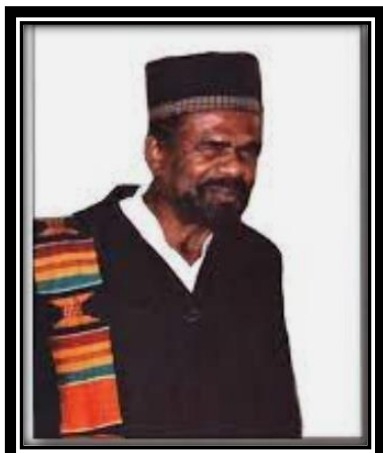


FIGURE 1 COURTESY OF THE WASHINGTON POST

#### Background Information

Born: March 21, 1938; Died; November 2011

Donald Galloway was born in Washington, D.C., in 1938. During a bow and arrow accident, Donald became permanently blind at thirteen. The injury did not deter Donald from being an active participant in community organizations. Galloway served as vice president of the junior branch of the NAACP and as a junior member of the National Federation of the Blind.<sup>i</sup> He received a specialized education at the Maryland School for the Blind. Donald attended California State University at Los Angeles. In 1969 he earned a master's degree in social work from California State University at San Diego.

#### Resistance

In 1981, Donald applied for a foreign service officer position. A medical panel terminated his application based on his disability. Donald challenged the decision and won a significant settlement. Additionally, affirmative action requirements for the disabled began to apply to both Civil and Foreign Services.<sup>ii</sup>

Donald received a notice for jury duty service from the D.C. Superior Court in 1991. When he arrived in the courtroom with his guide dog, the judge dismissed him from serving because of his disability. The judge reasoned that being unable to see the court proceedings meant he could not fulfill the duties of a juror. Donald sued the District of Columbia for discrimination. The 1993 ruling concluded that automatically disqualifying blind people from jury service was unconstitutional. People with disabilities should not be excluded from jury service. Additionally, juries are meant to represent a wide range of the defendant's peers<sup>iii</sup> Donald continued to fight for people living with blindness to live independently and with inclusion to public services.

#### Achievements

Donald Galloway was executive director of the Governor's Council on the Handicapped in Denver, followed by an appointment from 1978 to 1980 as Peace Corps director in Jamaica.<sup>iv</sup>

## Essential Questions

1. How was Donald involved in civil and human rights activity?
2. How did Donald Galloway resist discrimination people living with blindness encountered?
3. ***“Just because a man lacks the use of his eyes doesn't mean he lacks vision.”***
  - a. What does the author mean in this quote?
  - b. How can you support a person’s vision, even if it differs from your own?

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<sup>i</sup> <https://leadonnetwork.org/wordpress/2016/02/12/black-disability-history-don-galloway-independent-living-and-the-black-community/>

<sup>ii</sup> <https://nfb.org/sites/default/files/images/nfb/publications/bm/bm85/bm8511/bm851111.htm>

<sup>iii</sup> <https://www.centerforlearnerequity.org/news/donald-galloway-fighting-for-full-participation-in-society/>

<sup>iv</sup> [https://www.washingtonpost.com/local/obituaries/donald-galloway-advocate-of-rights-of-disabled-dies-at-73/2011/10/31/gIQAI93MdM\\_story.html](https://www.washingtonpost.com/local/obituaries/donald-galloway-advocate-of-rights-of-disabled-dies-at-73/2011/10/31/gIQAI93MdM_story.html)