

The Lamp Post

Shining the light in the dark
for trans service members & veterans



JAN 2025

Mid-Month Issue



Addressing the Community

2025 will be a year of struggle, fighting, wins, and losses. But this is what we do. As trans people, we are the heirs of a legacy of resilience, strength, community, and love. As servicemembers, we know what it means to endure hardships and survive. The future might be scary and uncertain, but we will be busy. The work we do will ensure the best possible outcomes and, more importantly, that you're all taken care of.

At the time of writing/publishing, the inauguration and the end of our prep phase are right around the corner. We've built strong defenses and challenges for our opposition to deal with. Their plans will be slowed, delayed, and incomplete to their fullest potential.

Time is our ally. It will take time for an executive order to be written and disseminated. It will take time for them to try to get through our institutional opposition. It will take time for them to initiate processes for discharges, many of which I suspect will be prolonged by individual appeals and challenges.

Expect the worst; Hope for the best; Fight to bridge the gap.

-Catie

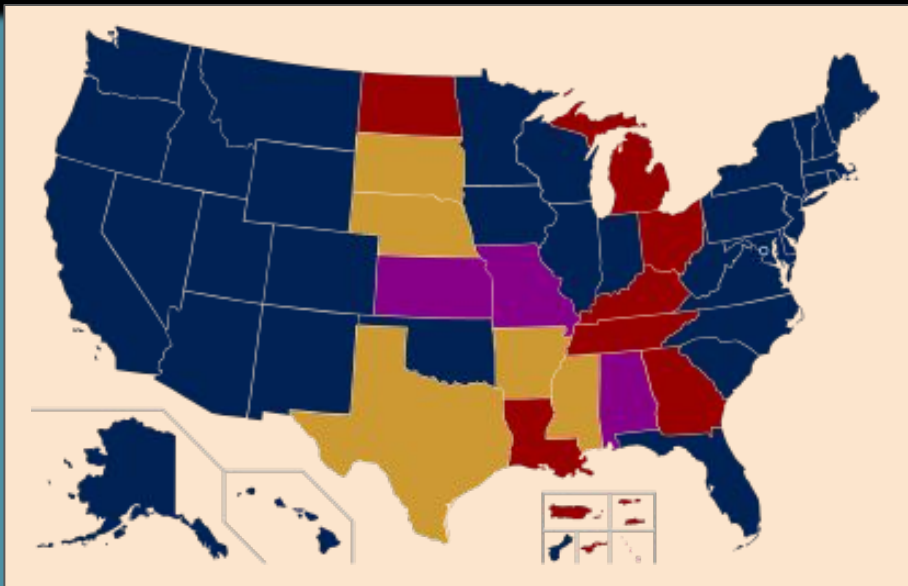
Taking STOCC

(Summarized Totality of Community Circumstances)

Marriage Equality Now in Question

As of January 15th, the Idaho Rep. Heather Scott, R Blanchard, **proposing to reconsider the Obergefell v. Hodges decision** legally making states not discriminate any couple wanting to get married. They're asking SCOTUS to have the ability to "reject" the decision that *"...took the right away from a state to make the decision and that it undermined the right of voters to determine their own state's 'marriage laws'."* This is saying the decision has somehow 'overstepped' the state's ability to legislate on their own. Idaho governor's written a '[Joint Memorial](#)' to SCOTUS to ask about the ability to not except the decision. ([Idaho Statesman](#))

States Before Views Obergefell vs Hodges (2015)



State laws regarding same-sex marriage in the United States prior to *Obergefell v. Hodges*¹

■ Same-sex marriage legal (including by court decision)

■ Same-sex marriage ban overturned, decision stayed indefinitely

■ Same-sex marriage banned where federal circuit court has found similar bans unconstitutional

■ Same-sex marriage banned

■ Same-sex marriage legality complicated

News from the Front

TMH has been working both internally and with a coalition of partner organizations to prepare the defenses as well as we can. We've established a full localization network, strengthened existing community features, and amassed a force of volunteers that have already been put to work on our various lines of effort. We're not going anywhere, and even in the eventuality of a total ban, the fight doesn't stop until the threat is completely gone.

INTERNAL MESSAGING FOR THE TRANSGENDER MILITARY COMMUNITY

EXPECT THE WORST

MDCOA: Swift & total ban. This is only a planning consideration for the moment & predicated on little/no resistance.

MLCOA: Trump admin will attempt to push a ban, but face resistance from community and allied organizations.

Prepare to face more adversity than before. Don't take good news for granted, don't get complacent/apathetic, and be an active part of your own rescue.

HOPE FOR THE BEST

There is a concerted effort amongst the transgender military/veteran community, allied organizations, and groups affected by adjacent issues. Support will only rally as time goes on.

The community is alive and well. Lean on each other for support.

The last time this was attempted, we were able to win a grandfather clause and stave off the ban for two years.

There are ample resources available to us.

FIGHT TO BRIDGE THE GAP

Don't give up hope.

Be good to yourselves & each other. It is everyone's responsibility to care for each other and do their part for the good of the community and those to their left & right. You don't have to be in the fight 24/7: take breaks and time to relax/recharge.

Volunteer. There are lines of effort that cover support, outreach, legal, finance, education, medical, etc.

People are already positioning themselves in the ideal places to leverage their networks and their talents to make positive change.

News from the Front

Message from Kara Corcoran (SPARTA):

We continue to push forward to hear your stories because every voice matters. We've provided a platform for you to share your experiences through the questionnaire linked below. You can share as much or as little as you feel comfortable, and there's also an option to remain anonymous.

Every story, no matter how small it may seem, adds another layer to our collective defense. These stories reinforce our message to the world: we are proud Americans who love our country and are committed to serving it.

At your discretion, please share your story to help us continue fighting for your right to serve. But we're not just looking to hear from you. We also want to hear from veterans, individuals from every corner of America and the globe, and even future warriors.

As you fill out the questionnaire, remember: if a question doesn't apply to you, feel free to leave it blank. We'll continue capturing the information as needed.

Your stories will help us build awareness and advocacy through our social media platforms and partner organizations, including the HRC, A4TE, and MMAA. Together, we can show the world and America the depth of your selfless dedication to our country.

Thank you for your time and courage. Please remain steadfast and prepared for the next fight.

<https://forms.gle/1pyqa6Bzh1bq6s5m7>

News from the Front

Message from Amanda Atchley (MMAA):

Modern Military is a national nonprofit organization that serves as a united voice for the LGBTQ+ military and veteran community. Modern Military educates, advocates, and champions the rights and well-being of LGBTQ+ service members, veterans, and their families, as well as people living with HIV. We focus on advocacy, education, and support programs, as well as tracking and addressing discrimination reports.

Advocacy

Modern Military is based in Washington, DC, allowing our staff to meet directly with lawmakers and those writing and implementing policies that impact the LGBTQ+ military and veteran communities. We work closely with other veteran and military service organizations to oppose anti-LGBTQ+ legislation and policies that would negatively impact our community.

Education

Modern Military's Rainbow Shield program provides in-person and virtual training for companies, military institutions, nonprofit organizations, government agencies, and individuals seeking to increase their understanding of LGBTQ+ and HIV topics through a military and veteran lens. Our organization also publishes the award-winning Modern Military Magazine, dedicated to raising awareness of issues impacting the LGBTQ+ and HIV-positive military community, as well as sharing personal insights into the lives of service members, veterans, families, and allies.

Support

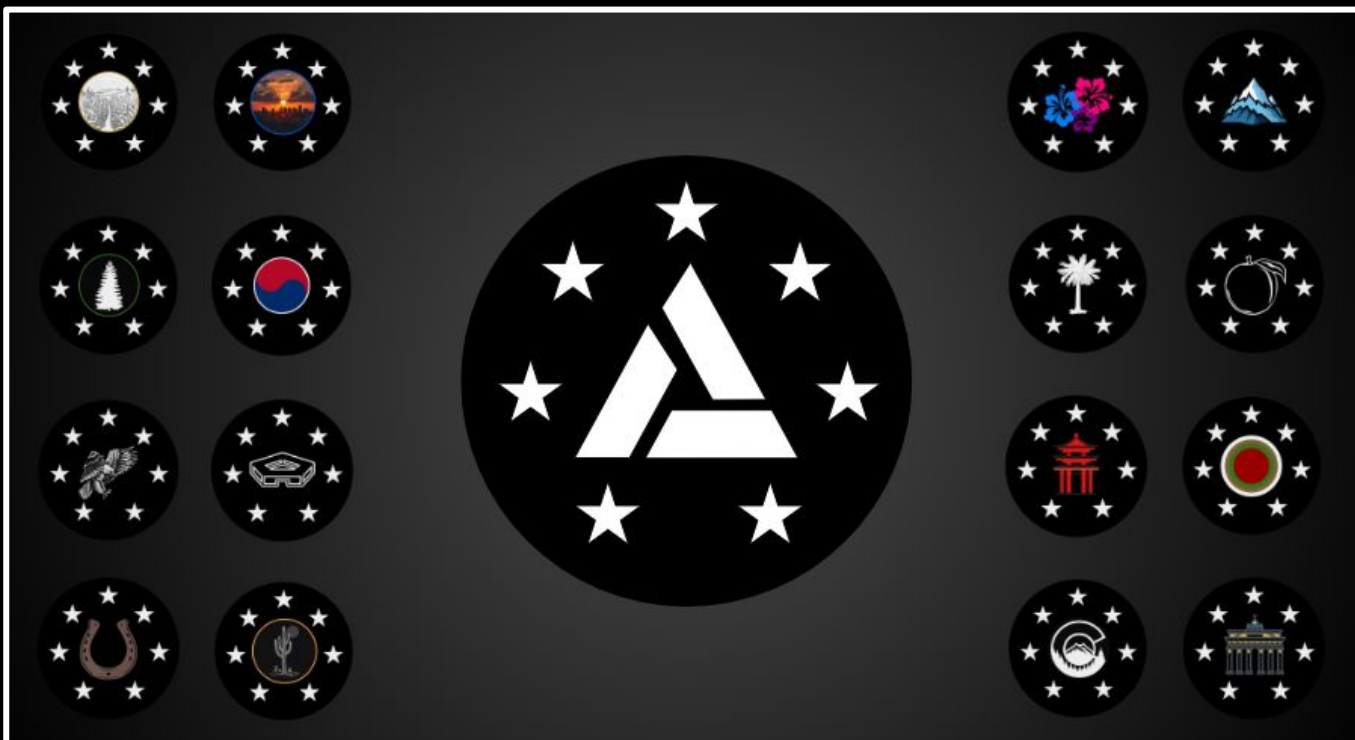
Modern Military recently launched a mental health and suicide prevention program for veterans, thanks to a generous grant from the VA. This program includes peer-to-peer support, case management services, and resiliency training at no cost to eligible participants. We also offer virtual support meetings and online support communities for LGBTQ+ service members and veterans, parents and partners of transgender service members, and a group for military-affiliated parents and caregivers of LGBTQ+ children (of any age).

For more information on any of our programs, please email us at info@modernmilitary.org.

Community Spotlight

Localization is here! Reach out to the staff to get into the TMH Signal chat to get sorted into your regional area. Groups can be made more granular/local as needed, but require approval from the network HQ for tracking and integration. TMH will serve as the administrative organization for this network, but the groups retain local autonomy and are meant to be community-first.

Contact TMH Staff for [Future Submissions](#).



Upcoming Events

- Movie Nights & Game Nights
 - Recurring; See events calendar
- Politics Classes w/ Robin
 - Times TBD
- TMH Town Hall Schedule
 - **25JAN25 @ 1430 EST**
(Post-Inauguration Talk)
 - 22FEB25 @ 1430 EST
 - 22MAR25 @ 1430 EST
 - 26APR25 @ 1430 EST
- Presidential Inauguration Stream
 - **20JAN25, Time 1345 EST**
- Discord Basics Class
 - **25JAN25 @ 1700 EST**

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