

The Lamp Post

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



Issue No.

09

MAY 2025



Addressing the Community

We now have movement again.

DHA has put out their guidelines and things are moving forward. Surgeries, new HRT, MTPs, etc. are all back on the table. The downside is that there was also a restriction for those below the age of 19. The most junior servicemembers will more than likely be affected. We won the fight, but have a black eye and a busted hand.

Beyond our immediate front, we're experiencing a test of the American system. Federalism, checks & balances, and the Constitution itself are all at a crossroads. And in our fight, we're experiencing a sharp decline of our rights and protections. Our existence has long been politicized against our will and it is now coming to a head.

Small victories are the goal right now. Both on a personal basis and in the bigger picture. A one-degree deviation may not matter for a meter, but it can get you somewhere else entirely after a few kilometers. So make those one-degree deviations towards survival, positivity, and hope.

We've got a long road ahead. There will be wins and there will be losses. We will adapt to the situation as we always do. Times like these are where the history of our community is forged. Don't give up.

As I always say:

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

-Catie

Dear TMH,

I don't intend to write a piece in the same way Catie addresses the community every publication, but I feel the need and desire to remind you all:

In the face of uncertainty, know this: your service matters, and so do you. You've worn the uniform with honor. You've stood on the line — whether in silence or with visibility — upholding the values of courage, integrity, and selfless duty. That is no small thing. It's extraordinary.

You have served a nation that hasn't always served you back — but your strength, resilience, and authenticity light the way for others. You are part of a proud lineage of warriors who have stood not only against enemies abroad, but also adversity at home. That takes a kind of bravery that goes beyond medals and citations.

History has shown us that progress often comes at a cost — but it also shows us that those who endure injustice with dignity and strength leave an unshakable mark. Christine Jorgensen once stood alone in the public eye. Today, you are not alone. You are part of a community of veterans, allies, and advocates who see you, respect you, and will continue to fight beside you.

Take pride in your story. You are not defined by anyone else's idea of who you should be — you are defined by the truth you live, the service you gave, and the strength you continue to show every single day.

You are not a burden. You are not a distraction. You are the embodiment of resilience. Keep going. You are needed. You are powerful. You are not alone.

You all are SO important. Not just to your own personal loved ones, but to TMH Staff, TMH as a whole, and the greater LGBTQ+ community.

Love, Marc(ie)

Taking STOCC

(Summarized Totality of Community Circumstances)

J2 Team

- **Developments in the last 2 weeks:**

BLUF: Injunctions in Shilling and Talbott continue to block enforcement of the 2025 ban, despite aggressive efforts by the admin to overturn the injunctions in the appellate courts and the Supreme Court. In the meantime, the DoD has been compelled to restore gender-affirming medical care for service members. However, the release of a federal report highly critical of gender-affirming care signals a new front in the admin's campaign against trans rights, which is likely to shape future policy and legal battles. The situation is still volatile, with legal protections currently holding under sustained attack.

- **Legal and Policy:**

Two separate federal court injunctions (Talbott in the DC Circuit and Shilling in the 9th Circuit) block implementation of the purge. These rulings prohibit adverse actions against trans servicemembers and require the DoD to maintain open service and access to care.

For any and all reporting, send an email to
TMHJ2Submissions@gmail.com

Taking STOCC (cont.)

The DC Circuit is reviewing the govt's request to stay the Talbott nationwide injunction. The court hasn't ruled yet. The govt will likely file an appeal to SCOTUS if they do. They have already petitioned SCOTUS for a stay of the 9th Circuit injunction, and Lambda's response was filed on 1 May. We expect a response in the next week.

- **DoD Policy:**

In response to the court orders, DoD has reinstated access to gender-affirming care, including surgeries, HRT, voice therapy, and BH. SHCP waivers for civilian care have also resumed, as have DEERS marker changes. DoD has confirmed that no trans personnel will be separated or denied accessions just for being trans while the injunctions are in place.

- **Congressional Inquiry:**

Senator Tammy Duckworth and other congressional Democrats have demanded a report from the DoD regarding the treatment of trans personnel and the implementation of court orders. No word as of yet on a response.

Taking STOCC (cont.)

- **Emerging Threat:**

On 30 April, the federal Department of Health and Human Services published a 400-page Cass-like report highly critical of gender-affirming care for youth, claiming that there is "insufficient evidence" for current medical practices and recommending severe restrictions. Major medical organizations (including the American Academy of Pediatrics) condemned the report as misleading, unscientific, and politically motivated. While the report doesn't immediately change military or federal policy, we expect it to be weaponized in future legislative, regulatory, and legal efforts to restrict gender-affirming care for both military and civilian populations, both for youth and adults. We are closely watching how the UK military has responded to public pressure from the Cass report, and will report as the situation changes.

- **Assessment:**

We remain protected by federal injunctions. Open service and access to gender-affirming care are legally required. However, the ongoing appeals and SCOTUS petitions mean these protections could be reversed quickly if higher courts side with the administration. The uncertainty is causing anxiety, disrupting planning, and undermining cohesion for trans personnel and their families. There is a persistent blue-on-blue threat as the admin attempts to weaponize the "voluntary separations" clause of the enjoined ban to drive a wedge in the community between those electing to remain and those wishing to separate. We cannot allow these issues to lead us to mistreat one another.

Taking STOCC (cont.)

The uncertainty is causing anxiety, disrupting planning, and undermining cohesion for trans personnel and their families. There is a persistent blue-on-blue threat as the admin attempts to weaponize the "voluntary separations" clause of the enjoined ban to drive a wedge in the community between those electing to remain and those wishing to separate. We cannot allow these issues to lead us to mistreat one another.

- **Outlook and Recommendations:**

Short-Term (Next 2-4 weeks)

Watch for DC Circuit and Supreme Court decisions on the pending stay requests. An adverse ruling could allow the ban to be enforced with little notice. The next scheduled court action is in Shilling with the 9th Circuit on 22 May, but a ruling from the other courts could come at any time. Stay alert for new DoD guidance or congressional actions in response to court rulings or the HHS report. Maintain records of all official communications, medical care, and personnel actions. Get everything in writing to the greatest extent possible.

Mid-Term (1-6 Months)

Stay engaged with the community, and with advocacy orgs like TMH and Sparta. The HHS report will likely be cited in future attempts to restrict care or service.

Taking STOCC (cont.)

J2 Note:

To our friends and comrades,

Look, shit is hard right now. There's no sugarcoating it. The news is exhausting, the uncertainty sucks, and it can feel like we're always bracing for the next attack. But you are not alone in this. We're in it together. Every single one of us.

Don't let them divide us. Don't let fear or frustration turn us against each other. Our community is our strength, and we get through this by showing up for one another, sharing what we know, and refusing to let anyone tell us we don't belong or that we can't control our own lives and careers.

Hope isn't just some fluffy concept or naive optimism. Hope is what keeps us going. Things can and do change, and our fight is going to make that happen. Every day you wake up, show up, and put up, you're making a difference, even when it doesn't feel like it

Stay strong, lean on each other, and keep your head up. **We've made it this far together, and we're not stopping now.**

QUEER HISTORY

Christine Jorgensen (30 MAY 1926- 3 MAY 1989)

Born in 1926, Jorgensen became the first American to gain widespread recognition for undergoing male-to-female sex reassignment surgery, at a time when the subject was rarely discussed publicly. After serving in the U.S. military, she returned to New York, increasingly distressed over what she described as a "lack of male physical development." Her self-guided research and consultations with Dr. Joseph Angelo — a connection through her medical assistant studies — introduced her to the possibility of hormone therapy and surgery.

Her original plan was to travel to Sweden, the only country performing such procedures at the time. But a visit to relatives in Copenhagen proved life-changing. There, she met Dr. Christian Hamburger, a Danish endocrinologist and pioneer in the field. Under his care, Jorgensen began hormone replacement therapy and underwent a series of gender-affirming surgeries, beginning with an orchiectomy (removal of the testicles) and later a penectomy. With support from the Danish Minister of Justice and the American ambassador, her passport was legally changed to reflect her new identity.

She later received a vaginoplasty in the United States when the procedure became available, under the supervision of Dr. Angelo and famed sexologist Harry Benjamin. Jorgensen adopted the name Christine in honor of Dr. Hamburger and went on to become a public advocate, writer, and speaker — bringing trans issues to the forefront in a time of silence and stigma.

Christine Jorgensen's courage and visibility helped lay the groundwork for future generations of transgender individuals. Her legacy remains a powerful reminder of the resilience it takes to live authentically — and the importance of making space for every person's journey.

QUEER HISTORY

Christine Jorgensen



Christine Denies Intent to Profit On Publicity From Operation

GI Changed to Girl
Impresses Reporters
At News Conference

By the Associated Press

COPENHAGEN, Denmark, Dec. 12.—Christine Jorgensen held her first news conference yesterday since word of her change from a man into a woman broke into the news. She said she has no Hollywood ambitions as an actress and no intention to profit commercially from her situation.



THE LIFE OF CHRISTINE JORGENSEN

THE FIRST TRANSGENDER WOMAN
YOU NEVER HEARD ABOUT



JENNIFER
HOPKINS



Christine Talks To Dr. Kinsey

CHICAGO, June 25 (UP)—Christine Jorgensen has given Dr. Alfred Kinsey a "full report" on her case "in the interests of science," the former GI said today.

Christine, who underwent a sex alteration in Denmark and adopted the name Christine, visited Kinsey this week at Bloomington, Ind.

Christine came here from Bloomington and registered Wednesday night at a Chicago hotel.

Christine spent Wednesday talking with Kinsey, noted author of books on sex behavior, at Indiana university.

"I see nothing sensational about that," Christine said. Thousands of "other women" have given him similar reports, Christine added.

Christine said Kinsey is a "great scientist, and a realist."

"He believes in what he's doing, just as I believe in what I'm doing."



Community Spotlight:

First Co-Hosted Town Hall with both TMH and SPARTA

On 26 Apr 25, SPARTA and TMH teamed up to co-host their first joint town hall session allowing members of both communities to hear the latest updates, ask questions, and work together as large community to make it through these trying times. The session started with a memorial for Piper Spencer, a US Coast Guardsman and C-130 mechanics, who tragically passed away on 23 Apr 25. Following the memorial, TMH Staff broke down the current information concerning the DHA Memo reauthorizing nearly all care from Pre-January for service members but not authorizing care for persons under 19. Next, the TMH J2 team discussed the current court situation including updates on both the Shilling and Talbott cases before discussing potential risky events coming from the Trump Administration. These include the DOJ developing strategy for going after GAHC surgeons under the guide of “child mutilation” and a “study” by the CDC and HHS on the detransition rate of transgender people. Finally, the session ended with the typical questions and answer portion where members were able to have their issues heard and receive the best information the community can provide. While there were some minor tech issues, the TMH and SPARTA staff already have plans for mitigation and these continued joint town halls allow both communities to support each other and stand as a united front!

For Additional Information:

Piper Spencer's Obituary:

<https://www.dignitymemorial.com/obituaries/bourne-ma/colin-spencer-12355185>

Town Hall Summary:

https://docs.google.com/document/u/0/d/1gOAK25M4koDtfOKpl4_GDO_ABI-JORy3Mbi09D8shpQ/mobiledbasic



Contact TMH Staff or Sylvie on the TMH Discord for [Future Submissions](#).

Upcoming Events

- Friday Night Gaming
 - TMH Discord - Every Friday @ 1800 EST
- Pathfinders T4T
 - Veterans Group | Hang-out Night
 - Saturdays at 2100 EST
- TMH Town Hall Schedule
 - 24MAY25 @ 1530 EST
 - 28JUN25 @ 1530 EST (Stonewall Day)
 - 26JUL25 @ 1530 EST
 - 23AUG25 @ 1530 EST
 - 27SEP25 @ 1530 EST
 - 25OCT25 @ 1530 EST
 - 22NOV25 @ 1530 EST
 - 27DEC25 @ 1530 EST

To subscribe in an email, click [here](#).

To share a feedback, click [here](#).