

# *The Lamp Post*

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



Issue No.

10

**JUNE 2025**

(Late Pride Edition)



# Addressing the Community

I've said before that the biggest mistake the administration can make is to remove the legal constraints of a large demographic that knows how to organize, communicate, adapt, and execute an objective. We're already living up to that.

Merch is also here! Stickers have arrived and patches (including a glow-in-the-dark one) are on the way. I'll put out an order form soon so we can get everything out to everyone who wants something. The funds will be used for TMH's operations (ie tabling, resource-making, and event fees) and donations to allied organizations (SPARTA, MMAA, MV, HRC, etc.).

We're wrapping up the survey for the post-ban localization and will begin integration soon. If you haven't filled out the survey - or need to make a change - do so soon! We can always accommodate moves & additions later, too.

If you're on admin leave, enjoy it and make the time work for you. If you're a veteran, start connecting with the separating servicemembers and build that community. Have resources at the local level ready to share with the community in your corner. We're gonna continue to lean on each other and make it through this together.

**My teams and I are taking care of the big picture. If everyone else focuses on just their small corner - both online and offline - we'll get incredible results for the whole community.**

As I always say:

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

-Catie

# QUEER HISTORY

## PRIDE MONTH

While the Stonewall Inn riots didn't spark the queer rights movement, it sure as hell was a turning point. Prior to the riots, there were organizations such as the Society for Human Rights, founded in 1924 and later forced to disband the very next year, and the Daughters of Bilitis, formed in 1955.

The Mattachine Society was formed in 1950 by Harry Hay, and initially worked to serve and protect the rights of gay men. They are the foundation for the LGBTQ+ activism that would come later in time. They started out in secret, in Los Angeles, but would expand to other cities, such as San Francisco, Washington D.C., and New York City. The New York City chapter is known for its "sip in" protest in 1966, a small scale version of the "sit in" that the Civil Rights movement utilized. They took this inspiration to Julius' Bar, and afterwards it opened a court case that focused on the status of service to gay patrons. Prior to that court case, bartenders could refuse service to queer patrons.

This came just *three years* before the Stonewall Inn raid and riot. Following it, the Mattachine Society would begin to form relationships with the Mayor's Office in NYC, as well as the police. They pleaded with the public, in bright, all-capitalized letters:

**"WE HOMOSEXUALS PLEAD WITH OUR PEOPLE TO PLEASE HELP MAINTAIN PEACEFUL AND QUIET CONDUCT ON THE STREETS OF THE THE VILLAGE - MATTACHINE"**

# QUEER HISTORY

## PRIDE MONTH

### STONEWALL INN

The Genovese crime family - yes, one of *La Cosa Nostra* bought Stonewall Inn in 1966. They realized the potential and profit of serving clients who were shunned by society. They renovated it and opened as a gay bar in 1967. It was registered as a “private bottle bar” - meaning they could operate withOUT a liquor license, since they *technically* were not serving alcohol to its patrons. Patrons were supposed to bring their own. The family bribed the Sixth Police Precinct to turn a blind eye to the activities within the club.

Stonewall Inn became a staple of Greenwich Village. They welcomed everyone - drag queens, homeless gay youths, queer folks in general. Raids were still occurring, but more often than not, the Mafia-owned-and-ran bars were told before they were carried out.

That didn't happen on the morning of 28 JUN 1969. Police brought both aggression and a warrant to the Stonewall Inn. Thirteen people were arrested. Female officers took cross-dressing clients to restrooms to check their sex if they suspected a violation of New York's gender-appropriate clothing statute.

The crowd outside Stonewall Inn grew, and grew, and grew. Hundreds of people were gathered outside. Onlookers and bystanders were urged to act - throw pennies, throw rocks, throw bottles. Throw *something*.

# QUEER HISTORY

## PRIDE MONTH

People barricaded themselves in the bar - police officers, prisoners, and a writer for the *Village Voice* (a Greenwich Village-based publication that covered culture, politics, and street life of NYC). There was an attempt made to set the Stonewall Inn ablaze. The Fire Department and a riot squad were dispatched to take care of the situation: the flames, the people, those trapped inside Stonewall Inn.

The riots continued for five days.

Like mentioned at the beginning, the Stonewall Inn riot was not the birth of gay rights activism: it was a turning point, a force that pushed for the same rights and privileges as any hetero, cis individual. The Gay Liberation Front, Human Rights Campaign, Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation, and Parents, Families, and Friends of Lesbians and Gays owe their creation partly to the Stonewall Inn riot.

The next year, America's very first gay pride parade occurred. People marched the streets of Manhattan, chanting:

**“Say it loud, gay is proud.”**

2016 saw the Stonewall Inn designated as a national monument and was recognized for its contribution to gay rights.

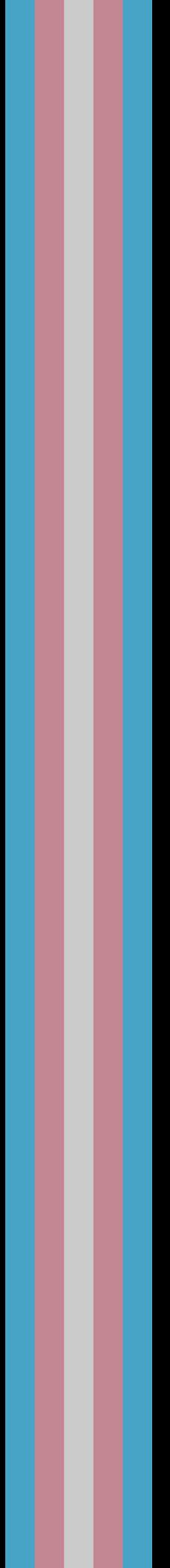
# QUEER HISTORY

## PRIDE MONTH

But... what happened after Stonewall? Everyone knows that Pride Month is in June largely due to its association with the riot, and the anniversary protest/remembrance march held the year after. It isn't like they decided "okay, you can have a month to celebrate", right?

Pride Month would not be officially recognized until 1999. President Bill Clinton declared June to be "Gay and Lesbian Pride Month". We also already know that Pride month would receive more recognition, more declarations, from other Presidents such as President Barack Obama and Joe Biden. Pride Month would become a solidified as a month of celebration, remembrance, and a reflection on how far we have come as a community.

Pride Month reminds us of where we started and where we have been, as well as a reminder that the fight is not over. There is still much to be done, progress to make.



# QUEER HISTORY

## PRIDE MONTH

We all know the prominent figures of LGBTQ+ history. Marsha P. Johnson, Sylvia Rivera, Harvey Milk, Gilbert Baker, Christine Jorgensen, the list goes on. But what about lesser known, maybe not even American names? Pride Month isn't just about LGBTQ+ in the U.S., after all.

These are not in any particular order, no order of importance or relevance, and aim to include a diverse cast of figures from LGBTQ+ history, to include people from the present day that contribute to our fight for rights, our voices to be heard, our art to be seen, and our community as a whole.

# QUEER HISTORY

## PRIDE MONTH

- **Ifti Nasim** (1946 - 2011) - Gay author of “Narman”, the first book in Urdu to express homosexuality. He fled to the U.S. to avoid persecution in Pakistan.
- **Erestine Eckstein** (1941 - 1992) - Leader of the first lesbian rights organization, Daughters of Bilitis (DOB), leading the chapter in New York.
- **Barbara Gittings** (1932 - 2007) - Gay rights activist who founded the DOB, and worked with the Gay Task Force of the American Library Association.
- **Simon Nkoli** (1957 - 1998) Gay activist and AIDS activist from South Africa. He fought against apartheid and help found the Gay Association of South Africa (GASA)

# QUEER HISTORY

## PRIDE MONTH

- **Amelio Robles Avila** (1889 - 1984) - Accepted by friends, family, society, and the Mexican government, Robles lived as a man from the age of 24 until his passing. He was a veteran of the Mexican Revolutions. He received the Mexican Legion of Honor, and the *medalla al mérito revolucionario* (Revolutionary Merit award).
- **Chi Chia-Wei** (1958 - Present) - First openly gay person on national television in 1986 and launched a campaign to prevent the spread of HIV/AIDS. He was Taiwan's only HIV/AIDS activist, and was the one to petition the court to relook at same-sex marriage rights, which came  
24 MAY 2017.

# QUEER HISTORY

## PRIDE MONTH

- **Alok Vaid-Menon** (1991 - Present): Internationally known poet, with works such as “Beyond the Gender Binary”, “Your Wound, My Garden”, and “It Gets Bitter: Poetry by DarkMatter”. They have been recognized globally and awarded. They were also the subject in “ALOK”, which was produced by Jodie Foster and debuted in 2024.
- **Hulleah Tsinhnahjinnie** (1954 - Present): Two-spirit multimedia artist known for her photography, which focuses on Native American self-governance. She was born to the Bear and Raccoon clans of the Seminole and Muscogee Nations, and Tsinhnahjinnie clan of the Navajo.

# QUEER HISTORY

## PRIDE MONTH

With the queer history of the past, there comes the question of what does modern pride look like?

Modern pride looks like the removal of DADT from the military and allowing LGBTQ+ service members to serve openly and as their true selves. Granted, the current age and climate of the military is seeing a return to these times, with transgender service members being removed from their careers, and seen as unfit for service.

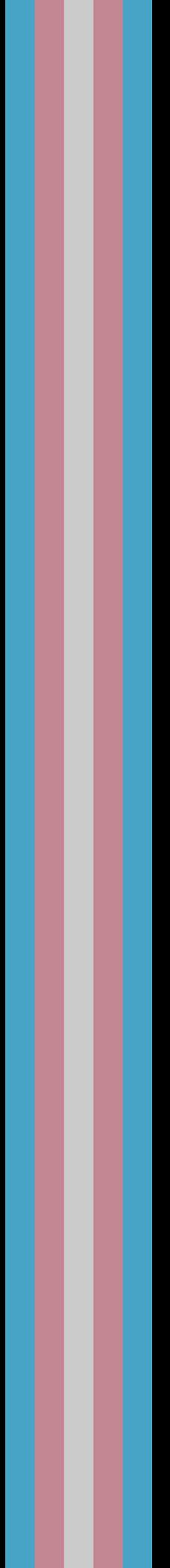
Modern pride is organizations such as SPARTA fighting the good fight on Capitol Hill, advocating for our rights. It's TMH, building a community and promoting strength and support as the "shield" of the community. Modern pride is not giving up. Modern pride is remembering who we are, what we accomplished in the past, and knowing we can do it again and again.

# QUEER HISTORY

PRIDE MONTH

Modern pride is this newsletter. It's the localization channels, SPARTA's Plume partnership, the *people*.

We *are* history. We continue to thrive under the pressure, the shunning, the rejection. Diamonds aren't made without pressure.



# QUEER HISTORY

## PRIDE MONTH

- **Hannah Moushabeck (1987 - Present):** Born in the same year as the Interlink Publishing (by her parents) and a second-gen author. Her parent emigrated from Palestine, and her book, “Homeland: My Father Dreams of Palestine”, focuses on her queer love story during the pandemic, and how it feels/what it was like to come out as an adult.
- **Kiyoshi Kuromiya (1943 - 2000):** One of the Founders of the Gay Liberation front. Born in a Japanese American internment camp and would go on to become a civil rights activist and anti-war activist, and served as an openly gay delegate to the Black Panther Convention. Involved in ACT-UP, PWA, We the People Living with HIV/AIDS.

# QUEER HISTORY

## PRIDE MONTH

- **Monica Helms** (1951 - Present): Transgender veteran that enlisted at age 19 and attended Naval Nuclear Power School. Monica began her transition in 1997 and fought to gain acceptance in the US American Submarine Veterans Group. She became the first woman to be admitted entry, ever. 1999 saw her creation of the Transgender Pride Flag, and in 2003, she co-founded the Transgender American Veterans Association (TAVA). Her flag resides in the Smithsonian.
- **Frida Kahlo** (1907 - 1954): Openly bisexual artist who produced roughly 150 paintings, mostly self-portraits. She served as a pioneer for the gender-nonconforming.

# Community Spotlight:

## HIV Walk in Honolulu, Hawai'i

2025 marks the 34th annual Honolulu AIDS Walk. Formed in 1991, the organization/event was created to raise awareness, connect with the community, and meet the needs of Hawai'i's LGBTQ+ community, as well as those with HIV/AIDS. It is the largest fundraising event in the state for those with HIV/AIDS, and all proceeds Go to Hawai'i Health and Harm Reduction Center (H3RC). This year, they raised \$126,837, meeting 126% of their goal!

This year, TMH held a table, hosted by our very own Robin and Catie! (Shoutout Mom and Dad!)

“We were sat between Hawai'i's LGBTQ Rights Commission and Planned Parenthood, across from the VA. All 16ish 'zines about trans service were effectively distributed and we consolidated resources with the VA and Planned Parenthood personnel alike. Gained a new new friend for Hawai'i's localization group. 34th annual AIDS Walk fun by [H3RC]. [It] was a wonderful launch pad for us to have lessons learned for subsequent community events.” - Robin

[For Additional Information:](#)  
[The Walk for Life](#)

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

# Community Spotlight: HIV Walk in Honolulu, Hawai'i



# Kitra's Corner

## Forced to Transition Again: Health, Safety & Life After the Transgender Ban

On June 5, 2025, the Coast Guard issued ALCOAST 257/25, adopting the DoD's new directive under Executive Order 14183: a policy that reimposes the ban on open transgender military service. This change halts access to transition-related care within the military system and directs members to serve according to their "biological sex." Members diagnosed with gender dysphoria or undergoing gender-affirming treatment are now subject to separation.

For the Coast Guard, the 30-day window for voluntary separation has just opened. For the rest of the armed forces, that window has already closed, and involuntary discharges are underway.

This isn't just a career change. It's a health crisis, a logistical disruption, and for many—a sudden unraveling of carefully managed life plans. We can't reverse this policy ourselves, but we can protect each other in the fallout. Here's what to know now:

# Kitra's Corner

## Healthcare & Transition Continuity

 Request your records. Ask for your full medical record—especially anything related to transition care, mental health, and diagnoses. If you've had military-provided HRT, surgeries, or counseling, get a detailed treatment history and care plan.

 Plan continuity. Many providers can give referral letters for civilian care. Hormone prescriptions may need to be reestablished under civilian standards. Don't wait until you're separated—start now.

**!** TRICARE coverage post-separation is limited. TAMP (Transitional Assistance Management Program) coverage may not include transition-related services under this policy. Apply for ACA plans, Medicaid (if eligible), or connect with LGBTQ-focused community clinics in your area.

 Don't neglect mental health. Whether it's grief, anxiety, depression, or trauma—this policy impacts you deeply. Resources:

CG SUPRT / Military OneSource (free confidential support)

The Trevor Project (for LGBTQ youth & young adults):  
<https://www.thetrevorproject.org>

Trans Lifeline (CA): 877-565-8860

# Kitra's Corner

 Transitioning Out: Life Balance & Planning

 Housing stability: If you're in government or BAH-based housing, check timelines for move-outs. Start discussing housing plans with family or chosen family now.

 Finances & benefits:

Use your TAP (Transition Assistance Program) benefits early.

Apply for unemployment as needed after discharge.

Ask base legal about VA eligibility for any service-connected care or transition procedures completed prior to discharge.

# Kitra's Corner

 For All of Us, From All Services

Whether you served in the Coast Guard, Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, or Space Force—this policy change is unjust. It will strip most of us of our uniforms, but not our pride. The fact remains: You served. You sacrificed. You belonged.

Now you deserve care, closure, and support.

We cannot undo the harm of this policy, but we can support each other through it. Don't isolate. Reach out. Share resources. Grieve when you need to—and plan for a life beyond what's been taken.

# Kitra's Corner

## Quick Links & Support

- DoD TAP Guide:  
<https://www.dodtap.mil>
- VA LGBTQ+ Health Program:  
<https://www.patientcare.va.gov/LGBT>
- National Center for Transgender Equality - Military Transition Guide:  
<https://transequality.org/issues/resources>
- OutServe-SLDN (legal support):  
<https://outserve-sldn.org>
- Lambda Legal (discrimination & separation rights):  
<https://lambdalegal.org>

# Taking STOCC

(Summarized Totality of Community Circumstances)

Topic: Passports

Source: From Reddit so low quality source but supposedly a plaintiff from Orr v Trump gives recommendation to wait until DoS responds with how they will comply and updated forms are released.

Recommendation for those needing to update passports: Collect required supporting documentation and be prepared to file asap when the window opens. ACLU will release guidance when it is safe to file.

Source link:

<https://www.reddit.com/r/Passports/s/LrKHsOWZrD>

# Taking STOCC

(cont.)

J2 Team

## Topic: Passports

Source: 2nd post from Reddit so low quality source but a supposed passport office employee notes that their offices are still operating under anti trans policies. Computer systems already had purged X marker as an option.

Assessment: Not safe to renew passport for those wanting an X marker until DoS systems and forms are updated to comply with the Orr v Trump preliminary injunction. For transgender passport holders submitting for a M or F gender marker change or renewal, they currently risk having their application held in pending stay/frozen or even denied at this time until official DoS policies are implemented to comply with Orr v Trump preliminary injunction. Attaching the PI to the renewal/correction application does not guarantee compliance from the passport acceptance facilities. Note DoJ has already filed for an appeal requesting a stay the PI.

Source link:

<https://www.reddit.com/r/Passports/s/XOCVuV1g5q>

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

# Legal Update

No updates/news pushed form Legal this publication.

***This is not intended as legal advice. Please consult an attorney, your local Military Legal Assistance Office, or email [trp@nimj.org](mailto:trp@nimj.org) to find a pro bono military attorney.***

# 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
  - 28JUN25 @ 1530 EST (Stonewall Day)
  - 26JUL25 @ 1530 EST
  - 23AUG25 @ 1530 EST
  - 27SEP25 @ 1530 EST
  - 25OCT25 @ 1530 EST
  - 22NOV25 @ 1530 EST
  - 27DEC25 @ 1530 EST
- Director's Commentary Night: 29 JUN @ 1500 EST  
TMH VC (Check TMH Discord Calendar)

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

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

## How to Exercise Your Rights

- 1) Stop answering Questions and Volunteering Information.
- 2) Say “I am exercising my 5th Amendment Rights.”
- 3) Say “I want to speak with a lawyer before any further questioning.”
- 4) Say “I want to want to end the interrogation now.”
- 5) Stop Talking and remove yourself from the situation.

### WARNINGS:

- Ask a military attorney if they are a defense attorney and if your conversation is confidential. If “Yes,” you can trust them; if “No,” you cannot.
- Command Legal Officers work for the commander, not you- anything you say to them may be used against you.
- Anything you say to military doctors and psychologists may be used against you. Know who you can trust: Do Not Make Assumptions About Confidentiality, but seek mental health as needed and rely on your support systems.
- Some military chaplains leak personal information that can be used against service members. See a defense attorney, not a chaplain, for legal issues.
- Statements to friends, family, civilian, and military police can be used against you.
- Computer based systems, texts, chats, workplace emails may be used against you. They are not confidential. Personal use of work computers violates most policies and is a bad practice.
- Personal items at work, such as diaries, letters, photos, and computer files may be used against you.

## Know Your Rights - Protect Yourself

If you are questioned about your gender identity, medical history, or any related matter, remember that you have rights under the Uniform Code of Military Justice (UCMJ). You are not obligated to answer questions that could incriminate you or lead to disciplinary action.

- **You Have the Right to Remain Silent and Not Sign Any Document**
  - Under Article 31 of the UCMJ, you have the right to remain silent or decline to sign any statement if your answers could be used against you in a court-martial or other proceedings.
  - You have the right to consult with a lawyer (Defense Attorney), or civilian counselor any time.
- **You Have the Right to Legal Counsel**
  - You have the right to consult with a military defense attorney or civilian counsel before answering any questions or making any statements.
  - **Waiving your rights** may have significant or adverse consequences.
  - Under Article of the UCMJ, you have the right to remain silent if investigated.
- **You have the Right to not Consent to Search or Seizure**
  - If asked to provide access to personal medical records, electronic devices, or other private information, do not consent without consulting legal counsel.
- **Do Not Make Assumptions About Confidentiality**
  - Conversations with your chain of command, medical professionals, or peers may not be confidential. Exercise caution when discussing sensitive matters.

 This is not an exhaustive list of all of your rights  
<https://modernmilitary.org/report-an-incident/>

# VA Claim Document Requirements

- Service Connection or NEXUS
  - Soldier Treatment Records, ETC
- Medical Diagnosis
- Treatment History
- OPTIONAL/AS NEEDED
  - Personal Statements (FORM 21-4138)
  - Buddy Statements (FORM 21-10210)
  - Priority Processing Request (FORM 20-10207)
    - (This requests a quicker turnaround due to a particular situation)
  - Authorization of Release of Non-VA Medical information (FORM 21-4142)

# VA Claim Basic Steps

1. File an intent to file (FORM 21-0966)
  - a. This intent to file is good for year and the first claim you make will be backdated to this date
2. File the disability claim (FORM 21-526EZ)
  - a. Submit any medical documentation in support of your claims at this time
3. Wait for development letters to come
  - a. These development letters will outline the course of your claim
4. Attend the requested Compensation and Pension exams
  - a. These may be with several different contractors
  - b. ATTEND YOUR EXAMS, THIS IS CRUCIAL
5. The Process can take a long time, be patient your claims will get resolved