

# *The Lamp Post*

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



Issue No.

**21**

**APR 2026**



# Addressing the Community

Last month, I talked about the wave of victories we started seeing. We're still seeing them all around the country. But we're also having to fight some heavy battles at other levels.

First & foremost: the preservation of life. 23APR marked 1 year since we lost one of our own to suicide. Look out for each other. We are each other's keepers. If you're in crisis, reach out to somebody. There are plenty of people and resources available to listen.

We're also heavily focusing in on states like Tennessee where extremely hostile bills are going through that affect large numbers of our population. In the case of TN, National-level TMH basically acted as the standalone roadbump in opposition to the "list law" and got things at least slowed down a bit. Our main efforts there, though, will be through the localization system: community networking, alternate infrastructure, and mutual aid. Right now, Tennessee is the flashpoint. We are tracking other states and will respond accordingly. For example, Florida is looking to be another key area of interest for us.

As I always say: expect the worst, hope for the best, and fight to bridge the gap.

-Catie

# TMH Town Hall



April 2026

# Agenda

- Piper Spencer - In Memoriam
- News Updates
- Advice by Status
- Localization
- Org Overview
- Staff Updates
- Q&A

# Piper Spencer - In Memoriam | 12DEC83 - 23APR25

Honor the fallen;  
Fight for the living



## Crisis Resources

- Call 988 (Press 1 for Veterans)
- Text 838255
- <https://www.veteranscrisisline.net/Chat>
- TMH “Need to Chat” volunteers
- Friends/Family
- Localization
- ***Anybody you trust and/or can confide in.***

# News

- **Hawaii**
  - Shield Law package success
  - Pending Governor Signature
  - TMH in the Shield Law Coalition
    - ACLU, Stonewall Caucus, HI LGBTQ Commission
- **California**
  - AB 1775 is awaiting a hearing in early May
  - TMH Co-Sponsor
- **Tennessee (Activity Flashpoint)**
  - SB0676 (Hostile; “List Law”) is moving forward
  - Friendly legislators ID’d; Grassroots response in the works
- **Federal**
  - Class Action: Pending Class Certification
  - 2 Victories in ADSEP/INVOL Boards
- **Other**
  - Tracking KS Copycat legislation in: IN, TN, MO
  - Report hostile policies to: [tmhj2submissions@gmail.com](mailto:tmhj2submissions@gmail.com)
  - J2 in-depth product in the works; separate publication
  - Canada: MND working on pathway



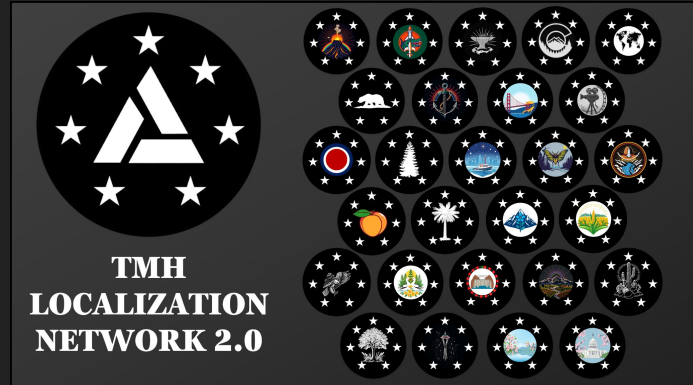
# Advice by Status

*This slide will be repeated & updated as necessary*

- Closeted (Pre-Transition)
  - Stay in touch with the community
  - Carve out places to be yourself
    - Get a hotel off base for a long weekend
    - Make your home a safe space (if possible)
    - Stay active in queer digital spaces
  - Utilize off-base civilian BH resources
  - Find supportive people & build your network
  - ***This is not permanent. One day the ban will be lifted.***
- Stealth (Transitioned)
  - Stay in touch with the community
  - Advocate “as an ally”
    - Utilize a medic/corpsman for drug tests
    - You don’t owe details for why
    - It is your right
    - Medical personnel are HIPPA-bound
  - Have a discovery plan
    - Fight for admin leave
    - Stay informed on court cases & other INVOL boards
    - Have legal contacts on stand-by
- Board Process
  - Stay in touch with the community
  - Connect w/ TMH/Coalition Lawyers
    - Priya Rashid - Trans Rep. Project
    - Ryan Gunderman - TMH Staff & Frmr JAG
    - Others in the network
- Veterans
  - VA Issues
    - Be persistent with the VA for everything
    - Use appeals & supplemental claims
    - Ensure your dependents are listed (as necessary)
    - Do NOT post about your rating online
  - Employment
    - LinkedIn Skills Verification Initiative
    - Temp Agencies
    - Localization Networking
    - References for volunteering
  - Benefits
    - Check your GI Bill
    - No more SMCRA
  - Activism
    - Separates
      - No more UCMJ restrictions
      - Make them feel the mistake
    - Retirees
      - Some UCMJ restrictions
      - More than while a current SM
    - All Vets
      - Integrate into local queer and/or veteran groups
      - Leverage their resources for our community
      - Capitalize on our national reach and military skills for communicating, organizing & executing.

# Localization

- Main POC: Tristan
- Don't be afraid to ask for more granular groups as needed
  - Florida
  - Minnesota
- Goals
  - Socialization
  - Community Support
  - Advocacy
- Localization → Grassroots Action
  - States: "Laboratories of Democracy"
- You'll get out what you put into them



Staging Area QR Code

# Organizational Overview



## LEGEND

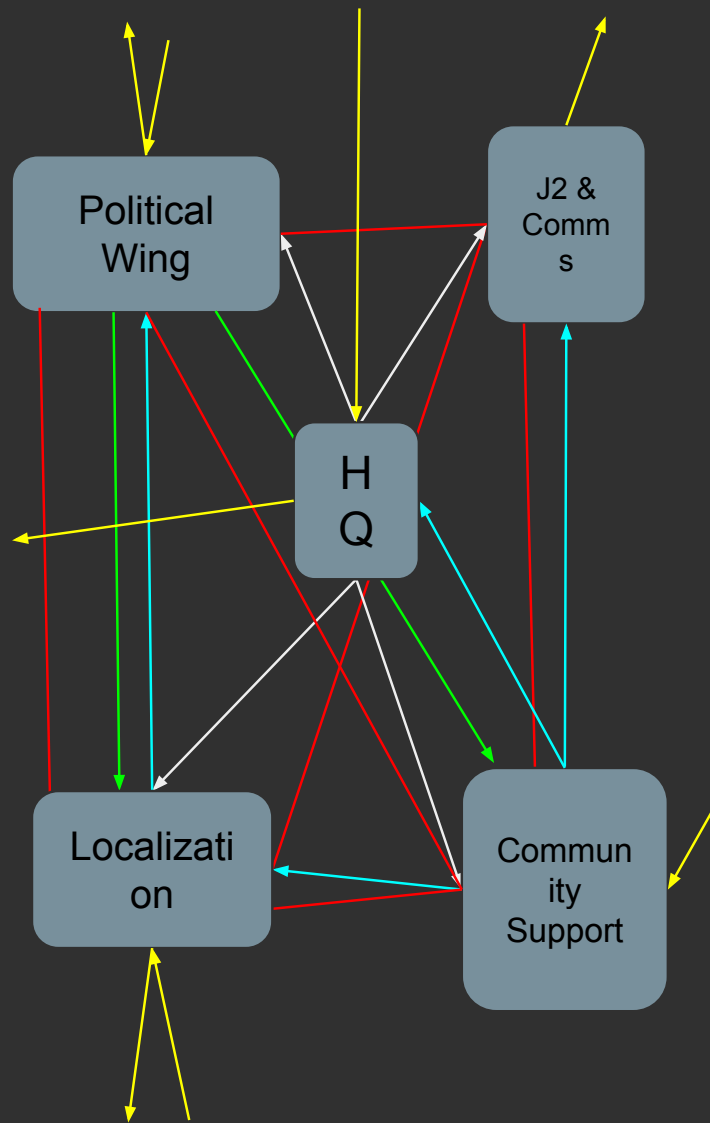
Coordination

Information

Personnel

Action (Protests,  
Policies, Networking,  
Legal Action)

Outside Engagement



# CONTACTS/LINKS

Berry Law: [andy.blevins@berrylaw.com](mailto:andy.blevins@berrylaw.com)

[PTSDlawyers.com](http://PTSDlawyers.com)

Benefits Delivery at Discharge:

<https://www.benefits.va.gov/BENEFITS/benefits-delivery-discharge-program.asp>

TLP Submissions: [marcie.kulp.tmh@gmail.com](mailto:marcie.kulp.tmh@gmail.com) /  
[marcie.kulp.tmh@proton.me](mailto:marcie.kulp.tmh@proton.me)

Q'mmunity House: <https://minorityvets.my.canva.site/qhouse>

Volunteer Recruitment Form: <https://wkf.ms/4o68Xq8>

Teepublic Merch Page:

<https://www.teepublic.com/user/sudden-sentience>

TMH Stickers/Patches/Coins:

<https://forms.gle/MPpcJZSAa6wDdhjk7>

Project Ember: <https://forms.gle/Qiu38P8TEUGrz9VZ7>

LinkedIn Skill Endorsement/Matching :

<https://wkf.ms/49iGxVH>



Out and Out Anthology  
Submissions

Signal Staging Area



# Advocacy Corner

Over the next few weeks, look at the local orgs where you live that are helping the community. Identify at least 2 organizations doing local support that are inclusive to trans individuals. Then make a connection with the organization in some way. Offer to volunteer with them, suggest an idea, or ask them how you can help. If you're having trouble locating an organization that is trans inclusive, connect with an organization helping in your community and suggest ways they can be more inclusive.

As always, your safety should stay your primary concern. You also don't have to out yourself if you don't feel comfortable. You're always able to do things under the umbrella as an ally. Share the orgs you've identified and/or help with!

# OUT AND OUT

Call for Submissions **STILL OPEN:** "Out and Out" Anthology

We are working on the critical project, "Out and Out," a curated anthology of poetry, short fiction, and creative non-fiction/essays from Trans and GNC folks impacted by the US Military Trans Ban along with LGBTQ+ service members and veterans, Trans and GNC veterans, and Trans military spouses.

Your Story Matters. Join us in creating a powerful collection that documents and honors your experiences.

# OUT AND OUT

## What We're Seeking

We are looking for creative written work from service members (current or former) affected by the ban, LGBTQ+ service members, and trans spouses:

- Poetry
- Short Fiction
- Creative Nonfiction / Essays
- Artwork

## How to Submit

The submission period is OPEN! Please choose the method that works best for you:

## Submission Method Details

Google Form (Preferred):

<https://forms.gle/TfaqTY9LyEPRzjDk9>

Submission Email: [westillexist.project@outlook.com](mailto:westillexist.project@outlook.com)

# OUT AND OUT

## Project Impact & Credit

Fundraising: 100% of proceeds from books sold via Trans Military Hub (TMH) will be returned to the organization for community support.

Credit & Anonymity: You can choose to remain completely anonymous, OR If you include your name with your work, you will be credited in the book.

Don't wait! Submit your powerful work today!

# Volunteers

With some great goals for TMH in 2026, we'll need more volunteers to help with everything we hope to achieve. If you'd like to help in any way, ping Kilele in the #general-chat channel. She'll get you added to the Volunteer Signal chat.



# Piper's Day - April 23rd

One year ago, we lost a kind and caring soul.

Piper Spencer, PO1, USCG.

Pilot. Volunteer radio host. Friend. Family member.

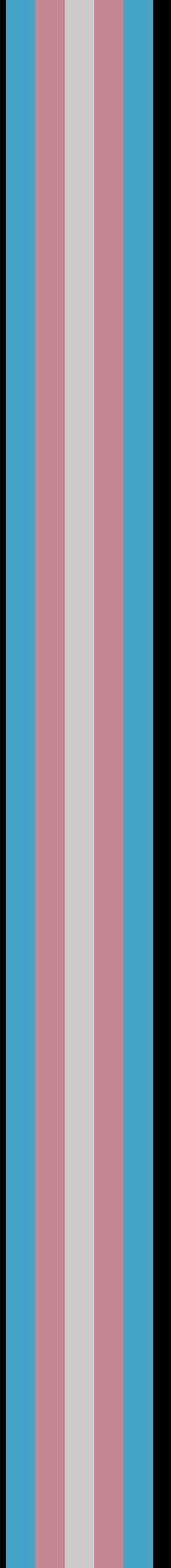
Take the time to remember, to send love, and carry their legacy forward by continuing the fight and being there for each other.

If you're in crisis. Reach out to someone. Call 988.  
Text a hotline.

We weren't meant to do live life alone. Every day is a victory.

# Queer History

This page has been left blank, so that we may remember a fallen TMH member(s)'s history.



# COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT

For this issue's community spotlight, we have a couple people we'd like to highlight:

We also see the return of Sunny in the CS section, as she was retained by a board!

We have Ryan Gunderman routinely engaging with media, partner organizations, and politicians. We are proud of the work you have done and the connections you have been making!

We also have two members have been featured in a New York Times article. Shoutout to Katie Benn and Clara Davis for sharing their stories!

A link to the article can be found here:

[https://www.nytimes.com/2026/04/13/us/trump-military-transgender-ban-paychecks.html?smid=nytcor-e-ios-share&fbclid=PAAdGRleARKvCZleHRuA2FlbQIxMQBzcnRjBmFwcF9pZA8xMjQwMjQ1NzQyODc0MTQAAadL9EIDfBZSL5drjjNAVJA6twtqP52CB40S--xpMd6YGwk7vooMuYBXw4-DsQ\\_aem\\_rdDsnTeKLkW3LAY9aBbA](https://www.nytimes.com/2026/04/13/us/trump-military-transgender-ban-paychecks.html?smid=nytcor-e-ios-share&fbclid=PAAdGRleARKvCZleHRuA2FlbQIxMQBzcnRjBmFwcF9pZA8xMjQwMjQ1NzQyODc0MTQAAadL9EIDfBZSL5drjjNAVJA6twtqP52CB40S--xpMd6YGwk7vooMuYBXw4-DsQ_aem_rdDsnTeKLkW3LAY9aBbA)

(If you have a way to bypass the paywall, feel free to do so if you don't currently pay for NYT, I just don't have a link handy!)

# COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT

- CA AB1775 (enshrining veteran's rights for trans vets) passed committee unanimously. TMH is one of the cosponsors on the bill & submitted testimony. HI HB1875 (part of the Shield Law package; protecting access to healthcare in the state) passed committee with amendments per Planned Parenthood's request regarding abusive litigation. TMH had several individuals submit written testimony in addition to our sponsorship/official testimony. In other news, J2 & Localization are monitoring the situations on the ground in Tennessee & Ohio. If you're on the ground in either area, come up on the net and we'll get you into the local chats where we can begin coordinating a defensive response to the bills that are coming down.
- Georgia had its final day of legislation. Zero anti-trans bills passed. The community there now has a reprieve, but it's also a chance for both sides to re-up.
- Good news out of Hawaii - HB 1875 (the state's shield law & one that TMH was part of the drafting coalition for) has passed the Senate! The State House now just has to align its version or kick the senate's version back for administrative corrections before a unified bill is presented to the governor for approval.
- Some good news out of Hawaii The Gender Affirming Healthcare bill that we helped on is now on its way to the governor's desk for approval

# Upcoming Events

- Friday Night Gaming
  - **TMH Discord - Every Friday @ 1800 EST**
- TMH Town Hall Schedule  
(1530EST)
  - **25APR26**
  - 23MAY26
  - 27JUN26
  - 25JUL26
- The Lamp Post Publications
  - **26APR26**
  - 24MAY26
  - 28JUN26
  - 26JUL26
- **TMH Day Activities**
  - **04 January 2027 1500**
- Power Point Party
  - **23 MAY 2026 @ 2000 EST**
- **SPARTA TOWN HALL Q&A**
  - **4 MAY 2026 @ 1900 EST**