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Instructions

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In 1975, Air Force Sergeant Leonard Matlovich was discharged from the service after he appeared in uniform on the cover of Time magazine along with the headline “I am a Homosexual.” Matlovich, a decorated Vietnam War veteran, had his discharge upgraded from “general” to “honorable” after winning a case against the Air Force in 1979. In 1988, at age 44, he died of complications from AIDS and was buried with full military honors at the Congressional Cemetery in Washington, D.C.

http://www.history.com/this-day-in-history/gay-sergeant-challenges-the-air-force

Anthony Loverde had been an Air Force staff sergeant for seven years when he was discharged under the “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell” policy after telling his commander that he was gay in 2008. He then worked as a military contractor in Iraq and Afghanistan, and he took part in the legal battle challenging the constitutionality of DADT. In May 2012, he reentered the Air Force as a staff sergeant, becoming the second person and first gay Airman to return to active duty since DADT was repealed.

Frank Kameny was fired from the U.S. Army Map Service and banned from federal employment in 1957 because he was gay. He became the central figure in confronting the government’s policies against the employment of gays and lesbians, particularly in positions linked to national security. His collection of letters, government correspondence, testimony, photographs, and other memorabilia is perhaps the most complete record of the gay-rights movement in America.

http://loc.gov/lgbt/resources.html

Bayard Rustin was an openly gay civil rights activist, social reformer, pacifist, AIDS activist, and author. He was the chief organizer of the 1963 March on Washington. The papers of Bayard Rustin were presented to the Library of Congress between 1988 and 1994 as a bequest from Rustin via Walter Naegle, executor of Rustin's estate and his partner from 1977 until Rustin's death in 1987.

http://www.loc.gov/lgbt/resources.html

Harvey Milk was a civil rights pioneer and activist. In 1977, he became one of the first openly gay elected officials in the U.S. when he got a seat on the San Francisco Board of Supervisors.

http://milkfoundation.org/about/harvey-milk-biography/

When she was promoted to brigadier general on August 10, 2012, Army Reserve officer Tammy Smith became the first general officer in the U.S. military to be openly gay while serving. During Smith’s promotion ceremony, her wife, Tracey Hepner, pinned the general star onto her uniform. Smith, who had been in the military for 26 years at the time, served as the director for Army Reserve Human Capital.

http://www.npr.org/2012/08/14/158778052/tammy-smith-first-openly-gay-u-s-general
Pride Month

Events

Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT) Pride Month is currently celebrated each year in the month of June to honor the 1969 Stonewall riots in New York City. The Stonewall riots were a tipping point for the Gay Liberation Movement in the United States. The purpose of the commemorative month is to recognize the impact that lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender individuals have had on history locally, nationally, and internationally.

http://loc.gov/lgbt/about.html

The Stonewall Inn in New York was infiltrated by police officers on June 28, 1969 for suspicion of serving alcohol without a license. New York’s gay community had suspected the police were targeting gay clubs and broke out into a violent riot when the police began arresting employees as well as patrons. The number of protestors grew to over 1000, and the riot lasted for hours. The Stonewall riots are largely regarded as the beginning of the LGBT rights movement.

The first lesbian rights organization in the United States, the Daughters of Bilitis, was founded in San Francisco, California, on September 21, 1955. The Daughters of Bilitis hosted social functions in order to provide lesbians with an alternative to the bars and clubs that were often subjected to police raids.

http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/americanexperience/features/timeline/stonewall/

On July 4, 1965, at Independence Hall in Philadelphia, picketers began staging the first Reminder Day to call public attention to the lack of civil rights for LGBT people. The gatherings continued annually for five years.

http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/americanexperience/features/timeline/stonewall/

In honor of Pride month, the Library of Congress features works by notable LGBT writers such as Walt Whitman, James Baldwin, and Oscar Wilde; the manuscripts of the founder of LGBT activism in Washington, D.C., Frank Kameny; profiles of openly LGBT members of Congress such as U.S. Reps. Barney Frank, Tammy Baldwin, and Jared Polis; the stories of many LGBT individuals and couples; and many other resources.

http://loc.gov/lgbt/about.html

The last Sunday in June was initially celebrated as Gay Pride Day. In major cities across the nation, the day soon grew to encompass a month-long series of events. Today, these events attract millions of participants around the world. The purpose of the commemorative month is to recognize the impact that lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender individuals have had on history locally, nationally, and internationally.

http://loc.gov/lgbt/about.html

In November of 2015, President Barack Obama was on the cover of OUT Magazine as “Ally of the Year” in recognition of his progressive stance on LGBT issues throughout his presidency. In his interview with the magazine, he attributes his initiative to watching his daughters, Sasha and Malia, and learning how attitudes towards homosexuality have transformed across generations.

LGBT Pride quickly spread beyond the borders of the United States. Pride events have been held on every continent except Antarctica, and in countries as diverse as Australia, Argentina, Brazil, Greenland, India, Israel, Taiwan, South Africa, France, Poland, and the Netherlands. In 2003, Turkey became the first Muslim-majority country in which a Pride event was held when 30 people marched in Istanbul. By 2011, the Istanbul Pride event attracted 10,000 people.

On April 28, 2014, the Pentagon released an update to the Department of Defense Human Goals charter, which for the first time included language relating to sexual orientation in the section dealing with the military.


In December of 1993, the Department of Defense issued a directive prohibiting the U.S. military from barring applicants from service based on their sexual orientation. "Applicants...shall not be asked or required to reveal whether they are homosexual," stated the directive, which still forbade applicants from engaging in homosexual acts or making a statement that they were homosexual. This policy was known as "Don't Ask, Don't Tell."

http://www.whitehouse.gov/

In October 2009, the Matthew Shepard Act was passed by Congress and signed into law by President Barack Obama. The measure expanded the 1969 U.S. Federal Hate Crime Law to include crimes motivated by a victim's actual or perceived gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, or disability. Matthew Shepard was tortured and murdered near Laramie, Wyoming, in October 1998 because of his sexual orientation.

pbs.org/wgbh/americanexperience/features/timeline/stonewall/
On December 15, 1973, the board of the American Psychiatric Association voted to remove homosexuality from its list of mental illnesses.
http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/amERICANexperience/features/timeline/stonewall/

On June 28, 2015, the United States Supreme Court came to a decision with a five-to-four vote to grant the right to same-sex marriages in all 50 states.

In June 2000, President Bill Clinton signed Executive Order 13160, which prohibited discrimination on the basis of race, sex, color, national origin, disability, religion, age, sexual orientation, and status as a parent in federally conducted education and training programs. The order was issued to achieve equal opportunity in all federally conducted education and training programs.
http://www.justice.gov/crt/about/cor/Pubs/eo13160.php

On December 22, 2010, the “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell” (DADT) Repeal Act became law. It provided for the repeal of DADT to be effective 60 days after the President, the Secretary of Defense, and the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff certified to Congress that the armed forces were prepared to implement the repeal. Certification occurred July 22, 2011, and the repeal occurred September 20, 2011.
In February 2015, Defense Secretary Ashton Carter selected former acting Air Force Secretary Eric Fanning as his chief of staff, making him the first openly gay man to occupy the office. Fanning previously was a deputy undersecretary of the Navy, an associate producer at CBS News in New York City, a public relations executive, and a congressional and White House staffer in the administration of former President Bill Clinton. 

On November 11, 1950, the Mattachine Society, the first national gay rights organization in the U.S., was founded by Harry Hay in Los Angeles, California. The society sought to change the way homosexuality was viewed by the American public, to integrate homosexual people into mainstream society, and to “eliminate discrimination, derision, prejudice and bigotry.” 
http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/amERICANexperience/features/timeline/stonewall

On July 6, 2011, the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals ordered the government to stop enforcing the terms of the law that prevented openly gay service members from being in the military. 
http://www.army.mil/article/61190/Court_orders_halt_to_don_t_a sk_don_t_tell_enforcement
Pride Month
Quotes

“The Department of Defense has made a lasting commitment to living the values we defend – to treating everyone equally – because we need to be a meritocracy. We have to focus relentlessly on our mission, which means the thing that matter most about a person is what they can contribute to national defense.” – Secretary of Defense Ash Carter

The 2014 Human Goals Charter states, "Our nation was founded on the principle that the individual has infinite dignity and worth. The Department of Defense, which exists to keep the nation secure and at peace, must always be guided by this principle. In all that we do, we must show respect for the serviceman, the servicewoman, the civilian employee, and family members, recognizing their individual needs, aspirations, and capabilities."

In September 2011, President Obama said, "For more than two centuries, we have worked to extend America’s promise to all our citizens. Our armed forces have been both a mirror and a catalyst of that progress, and our troops, including gays and lesbians, have given their lives to defend the freedoms and liberties that we cherish as Americans. Today, every American can be proud that we have taken another great step toward keeping our military the finest in the world and toward fulfilling our nation’s founding ideals."
http://www.whitehouse.gov/
“It takes no compromising to give people their rights. It takes no money to respect the individual. It takes no survey to remove repressions.” – Harvey Milk
http://milkfoundation.org/about/harvey-milk-biography/

"Every generation of Americans has brought our nation closer to fulfilling its promise of equality. While progress has taken time, our achievements in advancing the rights of LGBT Americans remind us that history is on our side, and that the American people will never stop striving toward liberty and justice for all." —President Barack Obama (2012)
http://www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/pix/lgbt/2012/191062.htm

In a letter to the Services dated May 13, 2004, Mr. Clarence A. Johnson, Director of the Office of Diversity Management and Equal Opportunity wrote: “We recognize gay, lesbian and bisexual service members and LGBT civilians for their dedicated service to our country; the heroic contributions made by these Americans strengthen our national security. Whether officer, enlisted, civilian employee, or family member, their inclusion gives our Department greater promise and possibility.”

In response to the historic decision to grant same-sex marriages nation-wide in June of 2015, Supreme Court Justice Anthony M. Kennedy wrote, “No longer may this liberty be denied. No union is more profound than marriage, for it embodies the highest ideals of love, fidelity, devotion, sacrifice and family. In forming a marital union, two people become something greater than they were.”
“Celebrating Pride Month, like any other monthly observance, is validating that there is one inherent trait every Airman possesses and our institution benefits from ... and that’s the diversity in each Airman’s unique background and experience.” — Major General Patricia Rose, speaking at the Pride Month luncheon at Hanscom Air Force Base, Massachusetts.