



## Memorial Service for **LEONARD MATLOVICH & DADT Protest**

SATURDAY – OCTOBER 10 – 2 PM  
CONGRESSIONAL CEMETERY – WASH DC

### PARTICIPANTS

**FRANK KAMENY**, the chief architect of the modern gay rights movement, has been fighting for our equality for over half a century. “As a gay veteran of World War II combat I didn’t come back to America for second-class citizenship.” He first led demonstrations against the ban on gays in the military forty-four years ago. He sued the federal government who’d fired him for being gay, one of thousands during the decade-long “purge of the perverts,” his efforts finally leading to the Civil Service Commission abandoning their ban 18 years later. He challenged harassment of gays by DC’s “morals squad,” founded the first gay group in the nation’s capital, and cofounded the National Gay & Lesbian Task Force [NGLTF]. Over the objections of some of our own, he coined the slogan “Gay Is Good,” and was one of those who forced the American Psychiatric Association to declare that homosexuality is not a mental illness—the first major victory in the movement’s history. In 1965, four years before Stonewall, he led the first gay protests at the White House, which President Obama recently declared, “an act of conscience but also an act of extraordinary courage.” Despite outrage from the American Taliban, some of those picket signs have been embraced by the Smithsonian, joining one of George Washington’s uniforms, the writing desk of Thomas Jefferson, and the first “Whites Only” lunch counter blacks protested. His personal papers now reside at the Library of Congress along with those of Lincoln, Frederick Douglass, and Susan B. Anthony. They include campaign materials from when he was the first out gay person to run for Congress in 1971, and documents related to his most famous protégé—Leonard Matlovich.

[www.kamenypapers.org](http://www.kamenypapers.org)

**REV. TROY PERRY** created a revolution within a revolution a year before Stonewall when he began to save countless LGBT lives by building them a welcoming place for their spiritually homeless souls: the Metropolitan Community Churches [MCC] which now has congregations in 26 countries, despite fire bombings of many of its sanctuaries and even murder of some of its clergy. In 1977, he was among the first gays to meet in the White House and his 16-day fast on the steps of the Federal Building in Los Angeles raised the first \$100,000 to fight the 1978 Briggs Initiative which sought to ban gay teachers in California, after which he and Leonard toured the country to raise more. He was one of the organizers of the first national gay march on Washington in 1979, and has been an organizer or featured speaker at every march since. During the 1993 march weekend, he wed 2600 gay couples at once in front of IRS headquarters after having performed the first public same-gender wedding ceremony in the United States in 1969. He filed the first-ever lawsuit seeking legal recognition for same-gender couples a year later, and he and his partner were among the plaintiffs in last year’s California Supreme Court ruling recognizing marriage equality, then overridden by Prop 8. A leader on every issue important to LGBTs, at a 1987 White House protest of President Reagan’s willful negligence on AIDS he was arrested with—Leonard Matlovich.

[www.revtryperry.org](http://www.revtryperry.org)

**DAVID MIXNER** was also one of those arrested that day. To date, his arrests for nonviolent civil disobedience number more than a dozen, and his activist resume spans a variety of issues beyond LGBT equality including union organizing, peace, and fighting racism. He was involved in the campaign of Sen. Eugene McCarthy for President that helped force Lyndon Johnson to withdraw from seeking reelection, was clubbed by Chicago police at the 1968 Democratic National Convention, and, as one of the organizers of the 1969 Vietnam Moratorium which involved millions protesting across the country, helped eventually end that war. In 1978, he convinced Presidential candidate Ronald Reagan to publicly oppose the antigay Briggs Initiative which, more than anything else, led to its defeat. He was instrumental in turning gay voters into a national political force, but has never hesitated in critiquing those he has helped elect. After being the spokesperson for the 1993 effort to end the military ban on gay servicemembers, he was arrested at the White House protesting its transformation into DADT. He was the first this year to publicly call for a march on Washington.

[www.davidmixner.com](http://www.davidmixner.com)

**TRACY THORNE-BEGLAND** was only 25 but already a highly rated Navy Lt. and “Top Gun” when he stood next to the jet he’d flown so often in May of 1992 and realized it was the last time. “I knew I was not going to fly again”—for six days later he outed himself on national TV to fight the ban on gay servicemembers, and within hours the Navy erased his “call sign” from the side of the plane. Like Leonard years before, he was one of the few to ever volunteer to challenge the policy, and the first officer. Though Gov. Bill Clinton had yet to secure the Party’s presidential nomination, efforts were already underway in Congress to overturn the ban, and Tracy and Navy Petty Officer Keith Meinhold came forward on the same day. The next spring he was one of several gay vets on the five-week, 32-city cross-country bus Tour of Duty to drum up public support for lifting the ban. He was one of two against the ban out of 17 witnesses that Sen. Sam Nunn allowed to testify before a Senate Armed Services Committee hearing at Norfolk Naval Base, a process Tracy aptly characterized as Nunn’s dog and pony show where his heroic testimony was jeered by 1000 sailors and Marines. To wild applause and laughter, infamous racist Senator Strom Thurmond told him, “Your lifestyle is not normal. It’s not normal for a man to want to be with a man or a woman with a woman,” asking if he had ever “considered getting help from a medical or psychiatric standpoint.” A court reins-

tated him after his pre-DADT discharge but, despite his exemplary record and the millions of dollars spent to train him, he was discharged again under DADT, the Supreme Court refusing to hear his appeal.

**RANDY WICKER** was active in Mattachine New York in the late 50s and 60s with a gift for generating media attention the movement had not previously had and demanding greater militancy many were not ready for. He was one of the organizers of the very first gay demonstration in the U.S.—a protest against antigay military policies in 1964—five years before Stonewall.

**JOSE ZUNIGA.** At 23, he was a veteran of Desert Storm and Sixth Army Soldier of the Year when he walked onto the stage in his dress blues at a huge celebration the night before the 1993 gay March on Washington and announced that he was gay in order to help the lift the ban effort initiated by President Clinton. To thunderous applause, he moved many in the stunned crowd to tears when he expressed what they were all feeling: "I urge you, Mr. President, lead the way, show us the courage and conviction to guide our country, and specifically the military, into a new era of understanding." Army command responded angrily, discharging him in near record time—in less than a month—and brutally demoting him after falsely accusing him of wearing a decoration he had not earned. His battalion commander melodramatically threw newspapers in which his story had appeared into a trash can during the hearing. But he continued to speak out all across America until the DADT charade was a fait accompli. He is now on the Board of Directors of SLDN.

**LT. DAN CHOI** recently extended the arc toward justice for gay servicemembers initiated in 1975 by Leonard Matlovich by stating "I am gay" on national television. An Arabic speaker, infantry officer, and Iraq combat veteran, he is awaiting the final decision of the commander of the U.S. 1st Army after being recommended for discharge under DADT. As a West Point graduate, he is a cofounder of Knights Out, an organization of Academy alumni, faculty, and staff working to overturn DADT. Before coming out publicly as a gay servicemember, he campaigned against passage of California's Proposition 8 and continues to advocate for state and federal marriage equality. He is on the Steering Committee for the National Equality March and will lead the gay veterans delegation solemnly laying a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Arlington National Cemetery at noon on Saturday, October 10th.

[www.ltdanchoi.com](http://www.ltdanchoi.com)

**ALEX NICHOLSON**, already fluent in four languages, was training to be an Army intelligence officer and had served less than a year when a female fellow soldier outed him, resulting in his discharge under DADT. He has since led several efforts to overturn the ban including founding the 2006 cross-country educational Call to Duty tour similar to the tour Tracy Thorne-Begland and Tanya Domi participated in during 1993 and featured in the recent documentary ASK NOT. He and his Army vet partner, Jarrod Chlapowski, did another tour the next year, and are currently leading the Voices of Honor tour. In 2007 he conceived of a dramatic way to illustrate the toll of DADT, and soon a field of 12,000 American flags covered the National Mall in Washington for all to see—one for each of the servicemembers discharged under DADT by that time. A prayer service and educational events were also included in the week's events. Alex is a plaintiff in a lawsuit challenging DADT, and is the cofounder and executive director of Servicemembers United, a group of Iraq & Afghanistan-era gay veterans and their allies fighting for the end of DADT.

[www.servicemembersunited.org](http://www.servicemembersunited.org)

**MIKE RANKIN**, MD, US Navy Captain, [Ret]. Annapolis graduate and Vietnam veteran; retired after over three decades of service. Experienced support from some superior officers who learned he was gay and subtle but unmistakable discrimination from others. Former Chief of Psychiatry, Oakland VA Medical Center, and member of the President's Advisory Council on HIV & AIDS, he cofounded the Gay and Lesbian Medical Association. A frequent lecturer on the ban, a counselor and mentor to gay active duty servicemembers, and on the Military Advisory Council of Servicemembers Legal Defense Network. For several years, he organized a n annual Veterans Day observance for all LGBT veterans next to Leonard's gravesite.

**CHIP ARNDT**, CFO of the National Equality March, President of Freedom Democrats, Miami's LGBT Democratic association, member of the Board of Directors of the State of Florida LGBT Democratic Caucus, cofounder and board member of Gay American Heroes Foundation, and the first out gay male member of the Electoral College from Florida.

**DAVID ADDLESTONE**, has been an attorney representing the rights of servicemembers for nearly half-a-century. In addition to representing Leonard before his Air Force administrative discharge board and in federal court, David has helped thousands of veterans secure their civil rights in a variety of ways, including upgrading countless unfair discharge designations to Honorable [thus making them eligible for VA medical care and educational financial aid] and defeating a Veteran's Administration ruling that denied Agent Orange-related disability and death benefits to Vietnam veterans and their survivors.

**POTOMAC FEVER**, made up of members of the Gay Men's Chorus of Washington DC, and led by Jeff Buhman. [www.gmcw.org](http://www.gmcw.org)

**COLOR GUARD** led by gay veterans Jim Darby and Patrick Bova. [www.averchicago.org](http://www.averchicago.org)

DADT Protest and Memorial Service for Leonard Matlovich.  
Congressional Cemetery, 1801 E Street SE, Washington, DC.