Observing Tucson And The Greater Arizona Community

OBSERVER

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Tucson Observer Archives

WEEKLY OBSERVER JANUARY 12, 2011 ISSUE1380

# Gabrielle Giffords Shot At Tucson Event

## Suspect Arrested And Charged, Investigton Continues

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ARIZONA CONGRESSWOMAN GABRIELLA GIFFORDS

TUCSON (Observer Update) - Arizona Congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords was among several others who was shot at close range at a public event at a Safeway grocery store at Ina and Oracle, on Saturday, January 8. At last report the 40-year-old Giffords was in critical condition and recovering from surgery.

The suspect, 22-year-old Jared Lee Loughner, is believed to have shot at least 12, killing at least six, according to NPR. Among the dead is U.S. district court chief justice John Roll, who was first appointed to the federal bench by President George H.W. Bush in 1991.

The suspect is currently in custody and was charged intially for the killing of Judge Roll, Gabriel Zimmerman - a Gifford's aide, the attempt assassination of Congresswoman Giffords and of two of her aides, Ron Barber and Pamela Simon. Loughner will be charged by state prosecutors of the murders of Dorwan Stoddard, Christina Taylor-Green, Dorothy Morris

The event was the first leg of Giffords' "Congress on Your Corner" event of the year. She was talking to a couple when the gunman approached, and then shot her. The suspect ran off, but was tackled by a bystander.

Giffords, a Democrat, was first elected to the House in 2006. She scored a 92% on the Human Rights Campaign's Congressional Scorecard during the 111th session of Congress. She voted to repeal "don't ask, dont' tell," and was a cosponsor on several gay rights bills, including the Employment Non-Discrimination Act, the Tax Equity for Health Plan Beneficiaries Act, and the Matthew Shepard and James Byrd Jr. Hate Crimes Prevention Act, which passed in 2009.

According to theNew York Times, Giffords' office was vandalized in March hours after the House approved major the health care reform vote. After the vote, she was one of the 20 Democrats targeted for defeat by Sarah Palin's takebackthe20 campaign. According to the Washington Post, the campaign's website included a map showing gun-like cross hairs over each targeted Congressmember's district. Takebackthe20.com has been taken down as of Saturday afternoon.

Giffords has two step-children with her husband, astronaut Mark Kelly.

Reaction from the LGBT rights groups was swift.

"The Tucson GLBT Chamber of Commerce is shocked and saddened at the news of the shooting of Congresswoman Giffords today along with 17 other people. It is a sad day in Tucson as we mourn the death of at least 6 people who have died. Gabrielle Giffords was a classmate of mine, and has been a good friend to the GLBT community. Our thoughts and prayers go out to her, her family and the families of the other victims," said Melissa Griebel, president of the Tucson GLBT Chamber of Commerce.

"Gabby is a Champion of Equality and our LGBT community. Gabby demonstrates tireless commitment for our rights, our healthcare, and our safety. We at Equality Arizona are horrified by this senseless attack and act of Hate. Please join us as we pray for AZ Rep Gabby Giffords, the others who have been shot, and their loved ones. Equality Arizona will not tolerate any act of violence or hate. An attack on one is an attack on us all," Tom Mann, Chair of Equality Arizona.

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# Navy Commander Looses Carrier Job Over Lewd Videos

NORFOLK (Observer Update) - The Navy permanently removed a senior officer from command of an aircraft carrier Tuesday because of raunchy comedy videos he made and showed to the crew several years ago. The videos, which included anti-gay slurs and sexual innuendo, showed extremely poor judgment by Capt. Owen Honors, said the commander of U.S. Fleet Forces, Adm. John C. Harvey Jr., reports 365Gay.com.

"While Capt. Honors' performance as commanding officer of USS Enterprise has been without incident, his profound lack of good judgment and professionalism while previously serving as executive officer on Enterprise calls into question his character and completely undermines his credibility to continue to serve effectively in command," Harvey said in a statement read to reporters in Norfolk. Harvey did not take questions, including why Honors is just now being relieved of command when the videos were made several years ago. They surfaced when the Virginian-Pilot reported on them.

Honors has been reassigned to an administrative role. Harvey said the Navy continues to investigate the case of the videos from 2006 and 2007 and will look into what other officers aboard the USS Enterprise knew about them.

The videos feature Honors using gay slurs, pantomiming masturbation and staging suggestive shower scenes. They were played on the shipwide television system during weekly movie night when Honors was executive officer, or second in command, of the Enterprise. Honors had since become commander of the ship. Over the weekend, the Navy at first downplayed the videos as "humorous skits," then called them "not acceptable" and said they were under investigation.

The videos' existence was not news to Navy higher-ups. In a statement to the Virginian-Pilot on Friday, the Navy said its leadership had put a stop to videos with "inappropriate content" on the Enterprise about four years ago.

Some sailors who served on the Enterprise have taken to Facebook to defend Honors and his video skits for providing a much-needed morale boost during long deployments at sea.

They portrayed Honors as a man who genuinely cared about his sailors and helped them blow off steam with corny and occasionally outrageous videos he concocted every week during six-month tours of duty in the Middle East at the height of the Iraq War. Maintaining morale is typically part of the XO's job.

"He was a caring professional and, yes, he has a sense of humor, but you need that on a boat," said Misty Davis, who served on the Enterprise from 2006 to 2010. The offending video was shown in 2007, and was a compilation of previous videos he had shown, she and others said.

Language and faces masked by The Virginian-Pilot

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GIFFORDS CONTINUED

"We are shocked and saddened by the events involving Congresswoman Giffords and our hearts go out to her and the other victims of this awful tragedy. Gabby Giffords is a champion for LGBT equality and a principled leader for Arizona. Our thoughts and prayers are with her family as well as with the families of all of those touched by today's horrific violence," Joe Solmonese

President of the Human Rights Campaign.

"Congresswoman Giffords' support for our LGBT family has never faltered. After coming off of one of the closest races in the most recent election cycle, one in which she was criticized for her support of equality issues, she didn't hesitate for a moment to support the repeal of 'Don't Ask Don't Tell'. She has stood with us unrelentingly and in this sad time we stand with her. Our thoughts and prayers go out to the Congresswoman, her staff and their families," said LGBT Congressional Staff Association President, Chris Crowe.

# UPDATE

## Chuzapalooza January 14-16

TUCSON (Observer Update) - Chuzapalooza, Tucson's stop on the International Gay Bowling Organization (IGBO) tournament schedule will take place on January 14-16.

IGBO, the Radisson Suites Hotel, Storm Bowling, Budweiser and LEFX are sponsors for the tournament.

This will be the fourth year for this event, being held at Tucson Bowl, 7020 E. 21st Street. There are nine games of bowling in singles, doubles and team. There will also be a scratch masters event broken down by averages and divisions.

More information and registration forms are at chuzapalooza.com. Registration Forms should be mailed to: Chuzapalooza, 410 S. Harvard Ave., Tucson, AZ 85710.

Registrations postmarked after January 3, 2011, will be charged a $10.00 late fee. All entries must be received by January 7, 2011. Payment can be in the form of check or credit card. There will be a 3% processing fee for all credit card payments.

To volunteer or for more information, either email at: info@chuzapalooza.com or phone at 520-495-0143.

## New Mexico AG Gary King Concludes Gay Marriages Likely Valid

SANTA FE (Observer Update) - New Mexico Attorney General Gary King announced on Wednesday that the out-of-state marriages of gay and lesbians couples are likely valid in New Mexico, the AP reported.

King's nonbinding legal opinion was at the request of state Rep. Al Park, a Democrat from Albuquerque. "Without an identifiable adverse public policy in this area, we conclude that a court addressing the issue would likely hold ... that a valid same-sex marriage from another jurisdiction is valid in New Mexico," King said, reports ontopmag.com.

New Mexico is one of only two states - the other being Rhode Island - whose laws are completely silent on the subject. In recent years, Democratic lawmakers have attempted to approve legislation that would recognize gay and lesbian couples with domestic partnerships, while Republicans have worked on placing a gay marriage ban in the New Mexico Constitution, but neither has won passage.

King's opinion is expected to unite gay marriage foes. Another bill that would ban the institution is expected to be introduced in the upcoming legislative session. "I believe that the citizens of New Mexico, not only have a right, but have an obligation to define their own culture," state Senator William Sharer, the bill's primary sponsor, said. "Culture should not be defined by a judge or an attorney general. This is something that the citizens of New Mexico ought to have a right to vote on."

## Gay Teen: Stop Bullying Or I'll Sue

TEMPE (Observer Update) - Gay teen activist Caleb Laieski has notified officials at every school in Arizona that they must put a stop to bullying, or else he plans to file a lawsuit.

The Arizona Republic reports that the Phoenix-area teen e-mailed a letter to more than 5,000 school administrators and elected officials in early December. "The letters warn school officials that they must institute policies specifically prohibiting gay harassment by students, teachers and administrators," reports the Republic. "Schools that fail to stop bullying will encounter 'legal ramifications.'"

Laieski, 15, founded Gays and Lesbians United Against Discrimination two years ago. Prior to making his demand of every school in Arizona, he successfully prompted the Dysart Unified School District, where he had endured antigay bullying, to revise its handbook to include language that prohibits bullying on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity.

Now pursuing his high school equivalency diploma, Laieski runs his organization with a friend, Casey Cameron of Chicago.

Thus far, the Republic reports that the letter campaign has generated responses from only a handful of officials, most of whom have not expressed plans to take further steps. The Arizona School Boards Association, whose handbook recommends policies and language to many districts, plans to release new policy advisories this month, but a spokeswoman would not say whether antigay bullying was included among the revisions.

## Chief David Dominguez Steps Down After Apologizing To Gay Community

PALM SPRINGS (Observer Update) - A week after apologizing to the gay community, Palm Springs Police Chief David Dominguez has decided to step down form his post, the Los Angeles Times reported.

On Top Magazine reported that on December 28, the city released its findings of a probe into the police department's handling of a June 2009 undercover sex sting operation that targeted gay men in the Warm Sands neighborhood, prompting Dominguez to apologize for making an "inappropriate comment."

Dominguez said "what a bunch of filthy motherfuckers" and told officers participating in the raid that they "should get paid extra for this," according to a complaint filed by an officer who took part in the sting.

According to the complaint, handsome and muscular young police officers dressed in tight jeans and wifebeaters lured gay men by rubbing their crotches. The sting netted 19 men. In delivering his report, City Manager David Ready called the operation unprofessional.

"Portions of the operation were not conducted according to the professional standards that are expected of our police department," he said. "As a result, appropriate disciplinary correction action has already been taken."

"After careful consideration of the events surrounding the Warm Sands undercover operation, I believe this decision is in the best interest of my family, the city and the police Department," Dominguez said in announcing his retirement.

Mayor Steve Pougnet, an openly gay 2010 congressional candidate, said Dominguez's decision will allow Palm Springs to "begin the healing process."

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# Gay Intern Credited With Saving Gifford' Life

TUCSON (Observer Update) - Daniel Hernandez Jr., a 20-year-old University of Arizona student who'd been working as an intern for Congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords for only five days, is being credited with saving her life after she was shot on Saturday, reported the Dallas Voice.

Hernandez, who confirmed that he is gay in an interview with Instant Tea on Sunday morning, is a member of the City of Tucson Commission on Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Issues. "She's been a great ally to the LGBT community," Hernandez said of Giffords during the brief interview across a bad connection.

According to the Arizona Republic, Hernandez was standing about 30 feet from Giffords during the "Congress on Your Corner" event outside a Safeway store near Tucson. When the gunshots began, Hernandez ran toward them and began checking the pulses of people who'd been hit. When Hernandez got to Giffords, he used his hand to apply pressure to the entry wound on her forehead. He pulled her into his lap and held her upright so she wouldn't choke on her blood.

Daniel Hernandez is shown with Giffords in this image from his Facebook page.

Hernandez used his hand to apply pressure to the wound until someone brought clean smocks from the meat department of the grocery store. He stayed with Giffords until paramedics arrived

I, then climbed into an ambulance

CONGRESSWOMAN GABRIELLA GIFFORDS AND DAVID HERNANDEZ WHO WHO IS CREDITED WITH SAVING HER LIFE.

with her. On the way to the hospital, he squeezed her hand and she squeezed back. From the Republic:

When they arrived at the hospital, Hernandez was soaked in blood. His family brought him clean clothes because the FBI took his for evidence.

He waited at the hospital while she went into surgery. He needed to tell police what had happened. He overheard people walking by talking about how Giffords had died. He also heard this on NPR. Later, he learned she had lived.

"I was ecstatic," he said. "She was one of the people I've looked up to. Knowing she was alive and still fighting was good news. She's definitely a fighter, whether for her own life, or standing up for people in southern Arizona."

The fact that Hernandez was nearby and able to react quickly probably saved Giffords' life, said state Rep. Matt Heinz, D-Tucson, and a hospital physician. He talked to Hernandez at the hospital after the shooting.

Eight hours after the shooting, Hernandez stood with Giffords' friends and staff and told them what had happened. The tall, strong 20-year-old said, "Of course you're afraid, you just kind of have to do what you can."

They hugged and thanked him. Later, he sat with his mom and sisters and told them about his friends and the staffers who had died that day.

"You just have to be calm and collected," he said. "You do no good to anyone if you have a breakdown. … It was probably not the best idea to run toward the gunshots, but people needed help."

# Outside Groups Gird For Gay Marriage Fight In NH

CONCORD (Observer Update) - The Family Research Council in Washington, D.C., has vowed to do "whatever it takes" to repeal gay marriage in New Hampshire. Gay & Lesbian Advocates & Defenders in Boston is promising to do "whatever it takes" to stop them, reported the Concord Monitor.

From Massachusetts to Maine, Washington to New York, gay marriage activists have their eye on New Hampshire, where lawmakers this session will consider whether to repeal the year-old law permitting same-sex marriage.

As local activists pay homage to the idea of a "New Hampshire discussion," both sides are preparing for a deluge of outside money and support. "There's national implications on the line," said Kevin Smith, executive director of Cornerstone Action, a Manchester-based conservative advocacy group. "(Outside groups) have a vested interest."

Mo Baxley, executive director of New Hampshire Freedom to Marry, pointed out that groups like the Washington-based National Organization for Marriage already participated in the New Hampshire elections. "Whether we choose to or not, I think we're going to be a battleground state," Baxley said.

Same-sex marriage was passed by a Democratic-led Legislature in 2009, mostly along party lines. Democratic Gov. John Lynch signed it into law that June, and the first couples were married Jan. 1, 2010. When the gay marriage bill was first introduced, few expected it to pass, and the stunning votes in the Legislature gave activists little time to prepare.

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# COMMENTARY. . . .

BY STEVE BUCKLEY

## Welcome To My Coming Out Party

A candid admission: There was a time when I hated it when my mother would call with an urgent request that I drop everything to take her shopping. These trips often involved the pursuit of trivial items – shoes, a table lamp, frozen strawberries. Or scatter rugs: In any given year, my mother would acquire enough scatter rugs to cover every inch of the playing field at Fenway Park [map], including the bullpens.

I, on the other hand, had much more important things to do – such as go on the radio to share my concerns about the depth of the Patriots [team stats]' special teams, or take Dan Duquette to task over his stated belief that Jose Offerman was going to replace Mo Vaughn's on-base capabilities.

But my mother's calls were not really about shopping, of course, but about enjoying life – getting out of the house, hearing news about what's going on with the family, maybe even quizzing me about my job, though she was no sports fan at all and didn't know Johnny Damon from Johnny McKenzie.

And the truth of the matter is that, as my mother aged, even as she was being treated for cancer, she had become wonderfully anecdotal, using her sharp mind to share stories about her younger days that might otherwise have been lost to the passage of time were it not for these midweek Scatter Rug Adventures.

Just over seven years ago, before Thanksgiving, we were getting into the car outside of a CVS when my mother said, "I think you should go ahead and do that story you've been talking about."

"Really?"

"Yes," she said. "Just go ahead and do it. And then we'll have a party."

She was talking about the story in which I would say that I am gay.

(I guess I've kind of buried the lead here, which, I admit, has been a common complaint about my writing over the years. But what the heck: The headline has already given away the story, and, anyway, what happened that day seven years ago is central to why I am writing today.)

My mother and I had already had the gay talk, during which she had told me that nothing had changed, that she loved me, asked if I was seeing anybody, and so on. What she didn't like was the idea of me coming out publicly; she was of the opinion that it was really nobody's business, and she worried that prejudice might disrupt my career.

But like an NFL referee, she had overturned the original call. "Do it," she said. I thanked her. She smiled. And then I made the biggest mistake of my life: With a vacation lined up for the first week of December, I told her I'd get to it when I returned to Boston – just before Christmas.

The vacation came and went. The day after I returned to Boston, I received a call from the Lifeline people telling me my mother was being rushed to Mount Auburn Hospital, where she had undergone radiation therapy during the summer. The family gathered at her side. The next morning, she suffered a heart attack. She died a few days later.

There was a funeral at Doherty's, and then a very soulful, reflective Christmas. And then a Super Bowl, and then spring training. The story didn't get done. Whenever I revisited the idea of coming out, I'd foolishly dwell on how it was to have been a big family event, my mother pulling everyone together. When that was lost, I guess I lost my way.

Now I'm not going to suggest that these past seven years have been filled with sadness and dread, for the reality is that I'm a pretty happy guy – great family, great friends and a job I truly enjoy, even if, OK, I probably talk too much about the '67 Red Sox [team stats], the "Godfather" movies ("I" and "II," but never "III") and postseason pitching rotations.

But I've put this off long enough. I haven't been fair to my family, my friends or my co-workers. And I certainly haven't been fair to myself: For too many years I've been on the sidelines of Boston's gay community but not in the game – figuratively and literally, as I feel I would have had a pretty good career in the (gay) Beantown Softball League.

Over the past couple of months I have discussed the coming-out process with my family and a few friends, and have had sit-downs with Herald editor-in-chief Joe Sciacca and sports editor Hank Hryniewicz, as well as with WEEI's Glenn Ordway. They've been great, as have my friends and family.

But during this same period, I have read sobering stories about people who came undone, killing themselves after being outed. These tragic events helped guide me to the belief that if more people are able to be honest about who they are, ultimately fewer people will feel such devastating pressure.

It's my hope that from now on I'll be more involved. I'm not really sure what I mean by being "involved," but this is a start: I'm gay.

(Buckley is a sports writer and columnist for the Boston Herald, from which this is reprinted from its January 7, 2011 edition.)

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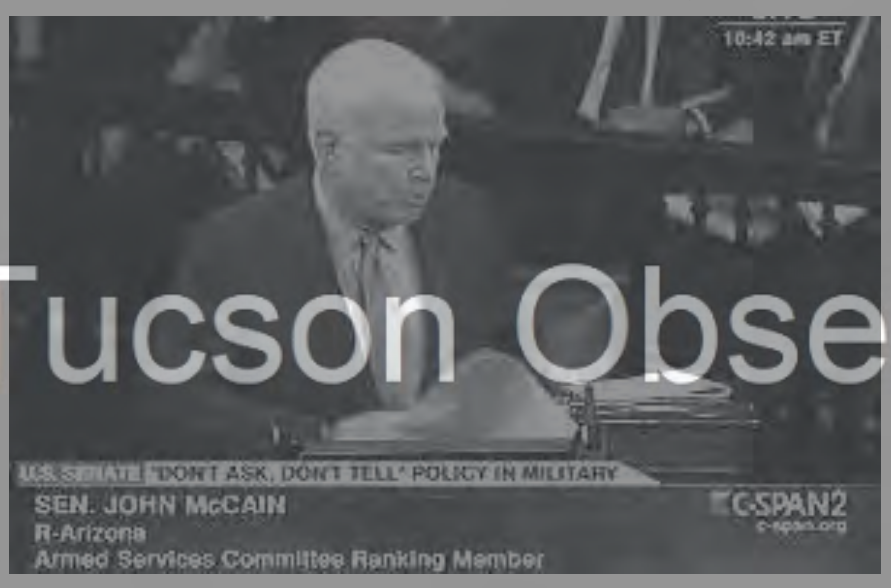
# John 'Sad Day' McCain Alters Course On DADT Repel

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WASHINGTON, DC (Observer Update) - Arizona Senator John McCain has altered course on repeal of "Don't Ask, Don't Tell," the law that bans gay and bisexual troops from serving openly, ontopmag.com reports.

McCain, the ranking Republican on the Senate Armed Services Committee, led the GOP in opposition to repeal of the 17-year-old law. He twice united Republicans in blocking repeal of the law.

When it became clear that several Republicans had defected to support its repeal, McCain, sensing defeat, said on the Senate floor: "Today is a very sad day."

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But in a Fox News interview, McCain altered course, saying he was prepared to work on the implementation of repeal.

"I think I have to do everything I can to make sure that the impact on the morale, retention, recruitment and battle effectiveness of the military is minimized as much as possible," McCain said. "It is a law and I have to do whatever I can to help the men and women who are serving, particularly in combat, cope with this new situation. I will do everything I can to make it work."

# Gates Pushes For Training ASAP

PENTAGON (Observer Update) - Defense secretary Robert Gates says he wants training for troops on the lifting of "don't ask, don't tell" to begin within the next few weeks, Stars and Stripes reports, advocate.com reports.

The Pentagon had not provided details to the public about how it would implement the training and implementation in relation to the repeal of the ban. However, on Thursday, Gates told reporters in a press conference the three-step plan was to finalize and clearly define the changes in the law; prepare training materials for chaplains, lawyers, commanders, and troops; and then train all military personnel.

Gates said implementing the first two tasks on the list could be accomplished within weeks, but the real challenge, he said, will be executing training for 2.2 million personnel.

# MSNBC Ad Includes Marriage Of Gay Couple

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NEW YORK Among the imagery included in a new MSBNC ad is a gay couple exchanging vows, reports ontopmag.com.

The ad is part of the network's new Lean Forward campaign.

The 60-second spot begins with a YouTube clip of young people enjoying a day at the lake, a marching band, a child sledding in the snow, the space shuttle hurling into space and a woman playing Wii.

After a male announcer says, "We hold these truths to be self-evident. That all men and women have certain unalienable rights," an opposite-sex couple is seen kissing at their wedding, followed by two men in dark suits exchanging vows.

"Life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness," the announcer adds. "And the freedom to believe that while history has gotten us this far, our best days are still ahead."

"We are the United States of come as you are. Our differences are what unite us."

Several MSNBC personalities are vocal advocates for gay rights. The cabler is also home to openly lesbian Rachel Maddow, who stars five days a week on The Rachel Maddow Show.

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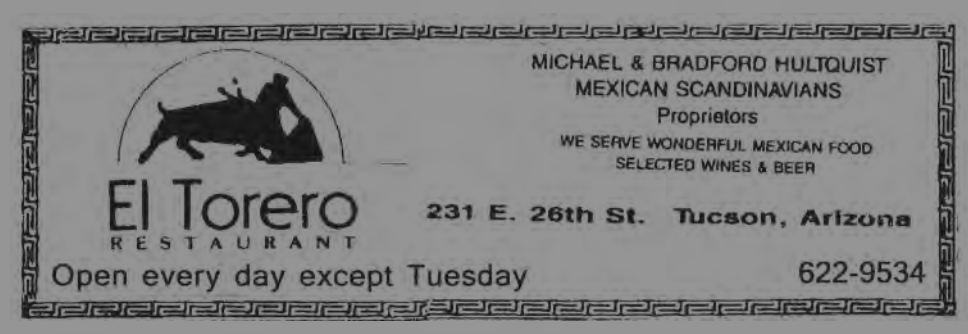

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# Ogden Utah Readying Gay Protection Ordinance

OGDEN (Observer Update) - Ogden is the latest Utah municipality to consider gay protections measures, reported ontopmag.com.

Nine municipalities have already followed Salt Lake City's lead in approving legislation protecting gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people from discrimination.

In October 2009, Salt Lake City approved two groundbreaking ordinances that make it illegal to discriminate based on sexual orientation or gender identity (transgender protections) in the areas of employment and housing. The laws exempt religious organizations, employers with 15 or fewer employees and landlords with fewer than four rental units. A surprise eleventh-hour endorsement from the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (the Mormons) helped advance the legislation past the finish line.

According to the Standard-Examiner, Ogden City Attorney Gary Williams began drafting similar ordinances after the issue was discussed at a 90-minute meeting between gay activists and city officials.

"It was quite a productive meeting," Brandie Balken, executive director of Equality Utah, the state's largest gay rights advocate, told the paper "It's definitely our intention to work with local governments to have an ordinance that represents the best policy for each municipality."

Other municipalities that have approved similar measures include Park City – home of the Sundance Festival – Logan, West Valley, Taylorsville, Murray, Moab, Salt Lake County, Summit County and Grand County.

# In Florida, A Discriminatory Anti-Discrimination Measure

TALLAHASSEE (Observer Update) - Florida Republican governor Rick Scott, who recently took office, has signed an executive order addressing diversity in state employment but did not include protections against discrimination based on sexual orientation, gender identity, or disability, reports advocate.com.

Wonk Room reports that the order sets the tone of Scott's administration, which has equality advocates duly disappointed. "It's a message to us that it's not going to be a gay-friendly administration in Tallahassee," said Rand Hoch, president of the Palm Beach County Human Rights Council, which had lobbied for a comprehensive antidiscrimination order.

Florida has no protections for LGBT people against discrimination in employment.

# R.I. Moving Forward On Gay Marriage

PROVIDENCE (Observer Update) Days after new Rhode Island Gov. Lincoln Chafee called on lawmakers to swiftly legalize gay marriage, a House lawmaker says he'll introduce a bill to do so.

Rep. Art Handy says he'll reintroduce legislation that died last year. He says he has at least 27 co-sponsors, including House Speaker Gordon Fox, a fellow Democrat, and is more optimistic than in previous years, when Republican Gov. Don Carcieri was in office and opposed such legislation. Handy says a similar bill will be introduced in the Senate.

Democratic Senate President Teresa Paiva Weed opposes gay marriage, but her spokesman, Greg Pare, said on Thursday she would not block a vote on the legislation, and would allow it to go through the normal committee process.

# Chick-Fil-A Responds To Anti-Gay Event

ATLANTA, GA -(Observer Update) - The restaurant chain Chick-Fil-A has responded to outcries about its sponsorship of a rally supporting traditional marriage in Pennsylvania, saying it provides food for several kinds of events, reports advocate.com.

The statement confirmed that a Pennsylvania franchisee was sending food to an event for the Pennsylvania Family Institute as its members work to protect "traditional marriage" in the state.

"As our fans, you know we do our best to serve our local communities, and one of the ways we do that is by providing food to schools, colleges, civic groups, businesses, places of worship, not-for-profit groups, etc." The group posted Thursday on its Facebook page. "At his discretion, the local operator agreed to simply provide a limited amount of food. Our Chic-Fil-A Operators and their employees try very hard every day to go the extra mile in serving ALL of our customers with honor, dignity and respect."

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It's More Than You Think. . . . .

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# Looking Forward: What's Ahead For Wingspan?

## by Progrm Director Linda Thomas

TUCSON (Observer Update) - What a year! Thanks to our tremendous community, Wingspan began the year on solid footing and never looked back. The beginning of the year saw us still settling into our new digs, and in April we got together to recognize all our fabulous volunteers. Then we celebrated by dancing a jig or two at the Eon and Senior Proms before heading into the heat of the summer.

Before we knew it, Latin Gay Pride was upon us, along with the rest of the Pride celebrations in October. The Wingspan Classic, in its second year, was a smashing success and looks to be a regular part of our annual program going forward. Transgender Remembrance Week followed soon thereafter and gave us the opportunity to remember those who are no longer with us.

With the president's gift of the repeal of Don't Ask, Don't Tell, we have much to celebrate!

Yes, 2010 was a great year, but 2011 holds promises of much more! As we enter the New Year, we are looking forward. Forward to seeing implementation of open service for gay and lesbian service members. Forward to advocating for and gaining passage of a trans-inclusive Employment Non-Discrimination Act. Forward to continuing to advocate for our at-risk and homeless youth, survivors of violence and the transgender community. Forward to building upon this incredible partnership of community partners and supporters, volunteers, staff and Board members we call Wingspan.

We began 2010 with the tag line "Together We Are Wingspan." Later this year we added "Together We Are Strong." We made this change to recognize the power we have as a community . . . as a family. In 2011, we will build on that strength by continuing to improve our processes, expanding our outreach, increasing our collaborations and solidifying our presence.

We don't want to spoil any surprises, but suffice it to say that 2011 will bring significant improvements to our space, a new look to our online presence and innovative programming on all fronts. One area we'll be focusing on is our outreach to LGBT elders, and we'll kick this effort off with our LGBT Elders Open House on Jan. 26.

Additionally we are committed to:

Expanding our outreach to the Latino community through our recently reinvigorated Puertas Abiertas program, which will lead the charge in that area;

Increasing visibility and support of LGBT people, especially young people, living in rural southern Arizona;

Providing more for those in their 20s and 30s, the people who will lead us in the future.

Of course, none of this can happen without significant resources, and we'll be working on all fronts to ensure they are available. As Wingspan is about 60 percent grant funded, and many of those grants will end in mid-2011, applying for new grants will be a priority.

Grants are not, however, what provides a stable funding stream. That comes in the way of regular giving by people like you. People committed to the mission of Wingspan: "promoting the freedom, equality, safety and well-being of LGBT people in Southern Arizona."

So, in answer to the question I heard earlier in the year (but not so much lately), YES, Wingspan is alive and well. Our eight-person staff is seasoned and committed and ready to tackle a new year of challenges and opportunity.

We find ourselves at a unique time in the LGBT movement for equality with the repeal of DADT – federal recognition that it's okay to be gay. The floodgates have opened (if only a small crack), and there will be no closing them again. As in the past 23 years, Wingspan will continue to be at the forefront of advocating for our community, caring for those in need and being a part of what makes Tucson a great place to live.

We look forward to you being part of the team and part of the dream. The dream that one day, we won't need to hold anti-LGBT bullying rallies. That one day, there won't be a need for a Tucson Police Department detective assigned to work hate crimes. That one day, transgender people won't have to worry about receiving good medical care.

Together We Are Wingspan. Together We Are Strong. Together We CAN Make a Difference.

Tucson Observer Archives

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## The Kids Are All Right Meeting Their Sperm Donor

NEW YORK (Observer Update) - Two new studies published by the journal Human Reproduction find that a majority of sperm donors who contact their biological offspring have positive interactions, reports advocate.com.

"There is considerable debate about the potential impact of having been conceived by a known or unknown sperm donor on an offspring's psychological adjustment, especially during the vulnerable period of adolescence," said Henny Bos of the University of Amsterdam in the Netherlands, according to Reuters.

But in studies involving 78 teenagers born to lesbian parents, Bos and colleagues found no significant difference in mental health between those who had met their sperm donor and those who had not.

Egg and sperm donors who have met their biological offspring reported to researchers that "it was a good experience – and most saw their offspring regularly."

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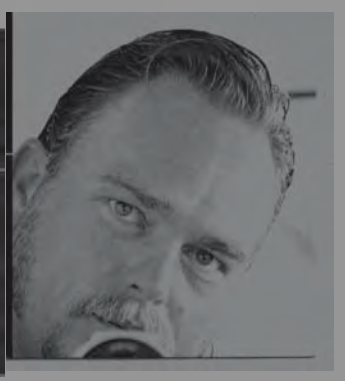

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# COMMENTARY. . . .

Obama says he is struggling with whether to endorse same-sex marriage. We say, support marriage equality.

We can't peer into President Obama's soul, but his statement last week that he is "struggling" with whether to endorse same-sex marriage is open to an unedifying interpretation. Given the president's support of gay rights in other contexts, his opposition to marriage equality raises the question of whether the struggle Obama referred to is between politics and principle. If so, we hope principle will prevail.

At a news conference, Obama was asked if it is "intellectually consistent to say that gay and lesbians should be able to fight and die for this country but they should not be able to marry the people they love." Obama, rightly, took the question as a reference to his opposition to same-sex marriage. His answer was awkward and unsatisfying:

"As I've said, my feelings about this are constantly evolving. I struggle with this. I have friends, I have people who work for me, who are in powerful, strong, long-lasting gay or lesbian unions. And they are extraordinary people, and this is something that means a lot to them and they care deeply about. At this point my baseline is a strong civil union that provides them the protections and the legal rights that married couples have, [but] this is something that we're going to continue to debate and I personally am going to struggle with going forward."

The president could spare himself that struggle if he would analyze the issue logically. If he did, he would recognize that it's irrational, once same-sex couples are given the practical advantages of marriage, to deny them married status. Civil unions, while a vast improvement over the absence of any recognition of same-sex relationships, are almost by definition second-class arrangements.

The temptation is to think that Obama knows this, and that his reluctance to endorse marriage equality is more political than personal. When he ran for the presidency in 2008, it was the conventional wisdom that supporting gay marriage would be politically fatal. With shifts in public attitudes, that probably will not be the case in 2012. According to the Pew Forum on Religion and Public Life, 42% of adults now favor same-sex marriage, compared to 37% in 2009. The trend seems clear.

We'd prefer to think that such considerations wouldn't be uppermost in Obama's mind. What should determine his position is logic and the fact that same-sex couples across America, not just those in his circle, yearn for recognition of their relationships. Enough agonizing, Mr. President. Support marriage equality.

(This was an editorial in the Dec. 30, 2010 editorial of the L.A. Times, from which this is reprinted from.)

# COMMENTARY. . . .

BY JAMES WITHERS

## Right Wing Groups Hate Right Wing Gays

Looks like a few conservative groups are whining about GOProud, the gay Republican organization.

The Family Research Council and Concerned Women for America are dropping out of February's Conservative Political Action Conference. A few of the organizations don't lay all the blame at GOProud (an FRC spokesperson offered something about CPAC's alleged money mismanagement ). However, CWA was mighty clear about why they were staying home.

"CWA has decided not to participate in part because of GOProud," said Penny Nance, the groups' chief executive.

GOProud is standing tall, asking all conservatives to comes together.

"We hope that all conservative organizations would participate, because it takes a broad-based conservative organization to come together to work, to offer solutions to the problems facing our country, and we think it takes everybody," GOProud's executive director Jimmy LaSalvia said. "And we hope all conservatives will participate in CPAC. It's an enormous event, and it brings people from all over the country, and we're excited to be a part of it."

The support gay conservatives get here will be counterproductive, but I can't understand the disregarding of the big tent theory. Pro and anti-DADT repeal Republicans have little to say to each other, yet there must be other things out there. Taxes? The "lamestream" media? Our Muslim/Kenyan/Socialist/Fascist/Racist President? Blame America first liberals? The intellectual acumen of Sean Hannity? Saint Ronald Reagan? Isn't coming together with people who share the majority of your values a good thing? When did it become anathema to gather with those whose conservative vision does not exactly match your own?

(Withers is an editor of the website 365Gay.com, from which this is reprinted from.)

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# Poet's Corner

A CHRISTMAS STORY
by Ron Rose - Tucson

Twas the night before Christmas, Down on the border
They fled through the fence in single file order.
Straight for the trees,. they crept in the dark
Huddled behind the wrinkled old bark.
Coyotes ahead, already paid
Say hurry amigos, there's water, let's wade
A gift on this Christmas, is freedom itself.
Please Santa, Please Santa, Just find a kind elf.
Border Patrol, don't find us tonight
For prison awaits if we're captured in flight.

## The Way I Saw It. . .by Gary Clark

NOTE: Before his untimely death, Gary Clark had worked on this newspaper for nearly 40 years as graphic artist and Entertainment Editor. Part of his heritage was producing a weekly humorous drawing of life 'as he saw it'. It is amazing that most of these drawings are as funny and entertaining today as they were in past years. We have decided to open the 'vaults' on these faultless viewpoints. Enjoy!

# Shameless Gay Teen
## The Anti-Kurt

LOS ANGELES (Observer Update) - As gay teen Ian Gallagher on the new Showtime series Shameless, 17-year-old Cameron Monaghan says his character is the anti-Kurt Hummel. His character smokes pot, is obsessed with porn, and occasionally screws his married, Muslim boss.

"He's the anti-stereotype," Gallagher says. "He never does anything that's stereotypically perceived as 'gay.' He's tough, he's street smart, and he's pretty much unlike any gay teenager on television right now."

The show, about a lower-income family including William H. Macy as the alcoholic father and Emmy Rossum as the smart, slutty sister, is raising eyebrows before premiering for its provocative content. But Monaghan says as an actor – even one who's not yet legal – he had no qualms about taking on such an in-your-face role.

"I'm always happy to support the gay community. Ian's a really fantastic part. A non-stereotypical part. And I think a lot of teens – and a lot of gay teens, especially – will really relate to the role." Shameless premiered January 9 on Showtime.

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# Close: Use Of Her Image Deeply 'Offensive And Insulting

NEW YORK (Observer Update) - Actress Glenn Close is speaking out about appearing briefly in one of the raunchy comedy videos made by a senior officer on a nuclear-powered aircraft carrier a few years ago.

The award-winning actress said she appeared in a video clip after a "seemingly innocent request" made during a visit to the USS Enterprise more than four years ago. In a statement, Close called the use of her image deeply offensive and insulting.

The Navy permanently removed Capt. Owen Honors from command of the carrier Tuesday for the videos that included anti-gay slurs and sexual innuendo. In 1995, Close appeared in a TV movie, "Serving in Silence," a true story about Army officer Margarethe Cammermeyer, who was discharged for admitting she was a lesbian.

# DAILY BAR CALENDAR

## SUNDAY

THE BIZ - Closed Sunday , Monday, Tuesday

BRODIES - Open 10am - 2am. Happy Hour 4-7.

COYOTE MOON PUB - Open 11am. Beer Bust Sunday - $1 draft beers (12 oz), domestic only; $2.25 domestic long necks. Hair of dog special $1.50 well bloody mary, screwdriver,,Cape Cod, salty dog or margarita.

IBT's - Open Noon. Happy Hour Noon-8pm $2 Well or Domestic Beer. Karaoke on the Patio 4-8:30pm. Burger BBQ 5-8pm + $1 pint draft. 9pm-close Karaoke inside with Troy & $1.50 Well or Domestic Beer, $2.50 Call or Premium Beer. DJ Hurricane on the Patio.

WOODY'S - Open 11am-2am. Beer specials and Trailer Trash Martini's All Day. Check our Ad for Special Events or Parties

## MONDAY

THE BIZ - Closed Mondays

BRODIES - Open 10am-2am. Happy Hour 4-7.

COYOTE MOON PUB - Open 8pm.- 1am

IBT's -Open Noon. Happy Hour Noon-8pm $2 Well or Domestic Beer. 8pm-close $5 Scratch Long Island Varieties. 9pm-close DJ Hurricane with "All Request Music".

WOODY'S - Open 11am-2am. Service Industry Night - Employee prices all day..

## TUESDAY

THE BIZ - Closed Tuesdays

BRODIES - Open 10am - 2am.

COYOTE MOON PUB - Open 4pm - 1am. Happy Hour 4-8. $2.50 well, domestic longnecks & pints. Girlz Nite .75 for your favorite well drink or domestic drafts 6-8pm. Ladies only Texas Hold 'Em Poker 6 p.m. Y-Not Karaoke with Anna at 8pm. - Drink specials during karaoke $1 Michelob Ultra or Bud Light.

IBT's - Open Noon. Happy Hour Noon-8pm, $2 Well or Domestic Beer. 8pm-close "2'sDay" - $2 Well or Domestic Beer. DJ Q 9pm-close.

WOODY'S - Open 11am- 2am. 2-4-1 Night

## WEDNESDAY

THE BIZ - Open 5pm-2am. Happy Hour 5-9pm (2 for 1). College Night 18 & Over. Drink & Shot specials every half hour.

BRODIES - Open 10am - 2am.

COYOTE MOON PUB -Open 4pm - 1am. Happy Hour All Day $2.50 well, domestic longnecks & pints, $3.50 sm. Pitcher/$5.50 lg. Pitchers. Boyz Night - .75 for your favorite well drink or domestic draft beer for men 6-8pm. Karaoke with Anna at 8pm drink specials during karaoke $1 Michelob Ultra or Bud Light..

IBT's - Open Noon. Happy Hour Noon-8pm, $2 Well or Domestics.. 11pm - -close "Reverse Happy Hour".

WOODY'S - Open 11am-2am;. Happy Hour Prices all day.

## THURSDAY

THE BIZ - Open 5pm-2am. Happy Hour 5-9pm. 2 for 1 All Night Long.. Karaoke 9pm. Come out and play.

BRODIES - Open 10am - 2am.

COYOTE MOON PUB - Open 4pm.- 1am. Happy Hour 4 - 8 pm, $2.50 well, domestic longnecks & pints, $3.50 sm. Pitcher/$5.50 lg. Pitcher. Latin Thursday: Latin music 8pm to close. $2,50 well margaritas. $3 Mexican beers, $3.50 Jose Cuervo.

IBT's -Open Noon. Happy Hour Noon-8pm, $2 Well or Domestics. 10pm-close "Boyz Nite Out" w/Bartenders in their underwear. DJ Hurricane spinning Top 40 & DJ Mike Lopez on the patio. $1.75 Long Island, $1.50 Tequila Shots, $3 Skyy Cape Cods and $4 Skyy Cosmos.

WOODY'S - Open 11am-2am; Free pool and Happy Hour prices all day.

## FRIDAY

THE BIZ - Open 5pm-2am. Happy Hour 5-9 pm (2 for1) Latino Night. $2 Tequila, $1.50 Tecate. $5 Buckets of Beer.

. BRODIES - Open 10am - 2am. Karaoke 9pm.

COYOTE MOON PUB - Open 4pm. Happy Hour 3 - 8 pm, $2.50 well, domestic longnecks & pints. $3.50 Sm. Pitcher/$5.50 lg. Pitcher. Shots shot specials 8-close.. Dance lessons with Lawrence at 7pm $5 per person, Country Dancing 8:30 p.m. to close with DJ Pat.

IBT's - Open Noon. Happy Hour Noon-8pm, $2 Well or Domestics. 9pm -close DJ Hurricane inside. 10pm-close DJ Mike Lopez with "I'm a Sexy Bitch Night" on the patio.

WOODY'S - Open 11am-2am; Happy Hour 11am-8pm (excl spec events). Full Menu Kitchen open 11am-11pm Back Pocket Patio Bar open 5pm-close. Enjoy the Live vocals and piano stylings of Susan Artemis 6-9pm. Tori Steele Show 10pm

## SATURDAY

THE BIZ - Open 5pm - 2am. $10 and drink for pennies. All night long.

BRODIES - Open 10am - 2am. Happy Hour 4-7.

COYOTE MOON PUB - Open at 2pm. Happy Hour 2-8pm, $2.50 well, domestic longnecks & pints. $3.50 sm. Pitcher/$5.50 lg. Plus check out the bartenders choice of shot specials. $5.00 cheeseburger & fries OR two chicken tenders & fries. Check our calendar for the Saturday Night Special Entertainment.

IBT's - Open Noon. Happy Hour Noon-8pm, $2 Well or Domestics. 5-8pm Karaoke on the patio $1Draft Pints. 9pm "Saturday Starrlett's" w/Bunny FuFu & Janee Starr. After the show, DJ Q spinning inside & 10pm-close, DJ Mike Lopez with the "Party on the Patio".

WOODY'S - Open 11am-2am; Happy Hour 10am-8pm (excl spec events); Full Menu Kitchen open11am-11pm. .

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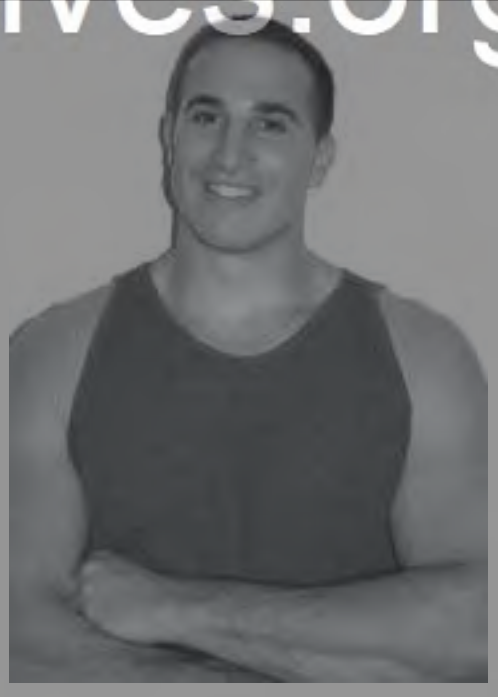

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# Scalia Says Constitution Doesn't Protect Women And Gays

U. S. Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia

Tucson Observer Archives

SACRAMENTO (Observer Update) - The online newssite, 365Gay.com reports that in an interview with California Lawyer commemorating his 24th anniversary on the U.S. Supreme Court, Justice Antonin Scalia said this:

Q: In 1868, when the 39th Congress was debating and ultimately proposing the 14th Amendment, I don't think anybody would have thought that equal protection applied to sex discrimination, or certainly not to sexual orientation. So does that mean that we've gone off in error by applying the 14th Amendment to both?

A: Yes, yes. Sorry, to tell you that. … But, you know, if indeed the current society has come to different views, that's fine. You do not need the Constitution to reflect the wishes of the current society. Certainly the Constitution does not require discrimination on the basis of sex. The only issue is whether it prohibits it. It doesn't. Nobody ever thought that that's what it meant. Nobody ever voted for that. If the current society wants to outlaw discrimination by sex, hey we have things called legislatures, and they enact things called laws. You don't need a constitution to keep things up-to-date. All you need is a legislature and a ballot box. You don't like the death penalty anymore, that's fine. You want a right to abortion? There's nothing in the Constitution about that. But that doesn't mean you cannot prohibit it. Persuade your fellow citizens it's a good idea and pass a law. That's what democracy is all about. It's not about nine superannuated judges who have been there too long, imposing these demands on society.

That he doesn't think gay people have a Constitutional right to not be discriminated against isn't surprising. But women?

Said Marcia Greenberger, co-president of the National Women's Law Center, to the Huffington Post:

"In these comments, Justice Scalia says if Congress wants to protect laws that prohibit sex discrimination, that's up to them," she said. "But what if they want to pass laws that discriminate? Then he says that there's nothing the court will do to protect women from government-sanctioned discrimination against them. And that's a pretty shocking position to take in 2011. It's especially shocking in light of the decades of precedents and the numbers of justices who have agreed that there is protection in the 14th Amendment against sex discrimination, and struck down many, many laws in many, many areas on the basis of that protection."

As a refresher, this is what the 14th Amendment actually says:

Section 1. All persons born or naturalized in the United States, and subject to the jurisdiction thereof, are citizens of the United States and of the State wherein they reside. No State shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States; nor shall any State deprive any person of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws.

Section 2. Representatives shall be apportioned among the several States according to their respective numbers, counting the whole number of persons in each State, excluding Indians not taxed. But when the right to vote at any election for the choice of electors for President and Vice President of the United States, Representatives in Congress, the Executive and Judicial officers of a State, or the members of the Legislature thereof, is denied to any of the male inhabitants of such State, being twenty-one years of age, and citizens of the United States, or in any way abridged, except for participation in rebellion, or other crime, the basis of representation therein shall be reduced in the proportion which the number of such male citizens shall bear to the whole number of male citizens twenty-one years of age in such State.

Section 3. No person shall be a Senator or Representative in Congress, or elector of President and Vice President, or hold any office, civil or military, under the United States, or under any State, who, having previously taken an oath, as a member of Congress, or as an officer of the United States, or as a member of any State legislature, or as an executive or judicial officer of any State, to support the Constitution of the United States, shall have engaged in insurrection or rebellion against the same, or given aid or comfort to the enemies thereof. But Congress may, by a vote of two-thirds of each House, remove such disability.

Section 4. The validity of the public debt of the United States, authorized by law, including debts incurred for payment of pensions and bounties for services in suppressing insurrection or rebellion, shall not be questioned. But neither the United States nor any State shall assume or pay any debt or obligation incurred in aid of insurrection or rebellion against the United States, or any claim for the loss or emancipation of any slave; but all such debts, obligations and claims shall be held illegal and void.

Section 5. The Congress shall have power to enforce, by appropriate legislation, the provisions of this article.

Thoughts?

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