

## Tucson Observer Archives

### DADT Repeal Certified By Obama, Waiting Period Begins

### Military Prepared For DADT Repeal To Go Into Effect Sept. 20



WASHINGTON, DC (Observer Update) - President Barack Obama formally signed off on ending the ban on gays serving openly in the military, doing away with a policy that's been controversial from the day it was enacted and making good on his 2008 campaign promise to the gay community, reported the AP on 365Gay.com.

The president joined Defense Secretary Leon Panetta and Adm. Mike Mullen, the joint chiefs of staff chairman, in signing a notice and sending it to Congress certifying that military readiness would not be hurt by repealing the 17-year-old "don't ask, don't tell" policy.

That means that 60 days from now the ban will be lifted.

The move was expected under the repeal law Congress passed in December. Before "don't ask, don't tell," the military did not allow gays to serve. But in 1993 Clinton said gays would be discharged only if their sexual orientation became known.

Repeal has drawn strong opposition from some in Congress, and there was initial reluctance from military leaders who worried it could cause a backlash and erode troop cohesion on the battlefield. But two weeks ago, the chiefs of the military services told Panetta that ending the ban would not affect military readiness.

The Pentagon is expected to spend the next 60 days preparing the troops for the change, and ironing out legal and technical details, including how it will affect housing, military transfers and other health and social benefits.

In most cases, the guidelines require that gays and lesbians be treated like any other member of the military. There will be differences, however. Same sex partners will not get the same housing and other benefits as married couples. Instead, they are more likely to be treated like unmarried couples.

Once the repeal is final, service members can no longer be discharged for openly acknowledging they are gay. That's the key change. And those who have been discharged previously based solely on the gay ban may apply to re-enter the force.

Service members may also designate their same-sex partners as beneficiaries for insurance and other benefits - something they may have avoided earlier for fear it would cause

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ASHINGTON, DC (Observer Update) - The repeal of Don't Ask, Don't Tell has been certified, and after a 60-day waiting period, the policy banning gays and lesbians from serving in the military will be entirely nullified, reported advocate.com.

In one of the final steps of repealing Don't Ask, Don't Tell, President Obama, Secretary of Defense Leon Panetta and Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Admiral Michael Mullen issued their certification to the Armed Services committees of both houses of Congress that the military is ready to complete the repeal.

Senator Carl Levin, chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, confirmed the certification in a statement, complete with the document signed by Obama.

"Today's certification for all practical purposes marks the end of a discriminatory policy," said Levin. "There is no way to justify a policy that requires our young men and women in uniform to lie about who they are in order to defend their fellow citizens."

A mandatory 60-day waiting period must lapse before the policy is officially dropped. A recent ruling by the ninth circuit court of appeals already bars any further discharges or investigations of gay or lesbian soldiers for the time being. The ban will be made permanent September 20 when the Don't Ask, Don't Tell repeal is final.

### PRESIDENT OBAMA'S STATEMENT ON REPEAL OF DADT

"Today, we have taken the final major step toward ending the discriminatory 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell' law that undermines our military readiness and violates American principles of fairness and equality. In accordance with the legislation that I signed into law last December, I have certified and notified Congress that the requirements for repeal have been met. 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell' will end, once and for all, in 60 days—on September 20, 2011.

"As Commander in Chief, I have always been confident that our dedicated men and women in uniform would transition to a new policy in an orderly manner that preserves unit cohesion, recruitment, retention and military effectiveness. Today's action follows extensive training of our military personnel and certification by Secretary Panetta and Admiral Mullen that our military is ready for repeal. As of September 20th, service members will no longer be forced to hide who they are in order to serve our country. Our military will no longer be deprived of the talents and skills of patriotic Americans just because they happen to be gay or lesbian.

"I want to commend our civilian and military leadership for moving forward in the careful and deliberate manner that this change requires, especially with our nation at war. I want to thank all our men and women in uniform, including those who are gay or lesbian, for their professionalism and patriotism during this transition. Every American can be proud that our extraordinary troops and their families, like earlier generations that have adapted to other changes, will only grow stronger and remain the best fighting force in the world and a reflection of the values of justice and equality that define us as Americans."

# UPDATE

## RainbowCONNECT Operator Training Aug. 6

TUCSON (Observer Update) - RainbowCONNECT is the new warm line for LGBT youth to discuss how bullying and other forms of violence affect their lives. This is a community response developed due to increased incidents of anti-LGBT bullying and harassment happening in our community.

RainbowCONNECT is operational Monday through Saturday from 3:00 pm-8:00 pm. Youth are encouraged to utilize this line to talk to an operator that can offer support, resources, and information. Training for RainbowCONNECT, will take place August 6th, 9:00 am to 3:00 pm at Wingspan, 430 East Seventh Street.

The toll free number for RainbowCONNECT is 1-855-805-1991. Want to be a warm line operator and help youth in your community? This training will teach you how. Snacks and Lunch provided. Contact Kristi Smith at [ksmith@wingspan.org](mailto:ksmith@wingspan.org) or (520) 624-1779 ext 119.

## Colorado Gay Marriage Proponents Begin New Push To Overturn Ban

DENVER (Observer Update) -A push to legalize gay marriage in Colorado took a big step when a proposed ballot measure cleared the state title board, the AP reported at ontopmag.com. The 3-member board charged with approving proposed ballot questions voted unanimously in favor of the measure. Proponents now must collect roughly

86,000 signatures to secure a spot on the 2012 ballot.

If approved, the measure would strike the state's 2006 voter-approved constitutional amendment banning gay marriage and replace it with new language that defines marriage as the union of two people. Nineteen-year-old political science student Mark Olmstead is one of the sponsors of the proposed change.

"I feel like it's time to start fighting for it here," said Olmstead, who is gay but does not have any immediate plans to marry. "I think Colorado has changed from then to now. I'm not entirely sure it's changed enough, but it's about time to start talking about it."

A civil unions bill died in a House committee earlier this year after passage in the Senate. Opponent of marriage equality said they believe voters will retain the law.

"We have every confidence that the people of Colorado would affirm that vote again if an attempt to repeal marriage comes to the ballot," said Carrie Gordon Earll of Focus on the Family.

## Josh Strickland: Vegas Pride Grand Marshal

LAS VEGAS (Observer Update) - Las Vegas's LGBT community this week named a local gay multi-hyphenate as grand marshal for their Pride celebration on September 16: Broadway and reality TV star Josh Strickland, [advocate.com](http://advocate.com) reports.

Strickland lives in Vegas and is one of the stars of Peepshow, the burlesque show at the Planet Hollywood Casino. Strickland also stars on the E! reality show Holly's World, with

friend and Peepshow star Holly Madison. Strickland previously starred as Tarzan on Broadway, was a finalist on the second season of American Idol, and is currently pursuing a singing career; he's already released two dance singles.

"I feel so honored and privileged to be chosen as the 2011 Pride Celebrity Grand Marshal," the 27-year-old said in a release. "I'm so proud to be a part of the Las Vegas GLBT community, and this year's PRIDE will be the best yet!"

## N.Y. Marriage Windfall: \$155M

LOS ANGELES (Observer Update) - The Williams Institute, an LGBT-related think-tank at the University of California, Los Angeles, has the latest estimate on how many marriage equality-related tourism dollars will roll into New York State in the first year gay couples can marry there: \$155 million, [advocate.com](http://advocate.com) reports.

"The estimate is based on the experience of the five previous states that have extended marriage to same-sex couples and new Census 2010 data for New York released just last week," according to a release from the think-tank.

New York is already a huge magnet for domestic and international tourism, and its new policy should only add to its allure.

The Empire State tourism boom would be greater than that experienced from the other five marriage equality states combined. When California voters narrowly banned marriage equality in 2008, the wording of the ballot initiative warned that the state could lose out on tens of millions of tourism dollars should Prop. 8 pass.

## Military Prepared For DADT Repeal To Go Into Effect

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their dismissal.

One of the thornier issues is gay marriage. An initial move by the Navy earlier this year to train chaplains about same-sex civil unions in states where they are legal was shelved after more than five dozen Congress members objected.

The training, lawmakers told Navy Secretary Ray Mabus, violated the 1996 Defense of Marriage Act by appearing to recognize and support same-sex marriages.

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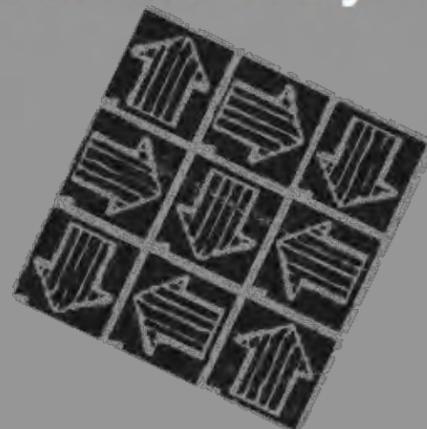
**WOW What a weekend!**  
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# Gay Immigrant Jose Antonio Vargas Can't Drive



NEW YORK (Observer Update) - When gay Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist Jose Antonio Vargas came out in The New York Times Magazine in June as an undocumented immigrant, he knew the repercussions could come swiftly, reports ontopmag.com. "The moment I decided to do this," Vargas said, "I had to be prepared for anything and everything that can happen - whatever those things may be."

investigation and concluded that he wasn't residing at the address he provided us," she said.

The Licensing Department sent Vargas a letter requesting proof of residency, says HuffPo, and when the letter was returned unread, the state canceled his license. In the Times Magazine, Vargas wrote about the anxiety over his driver's license: "Early this year, just two weeks before my 30th birthday, I won a small reprieve: I obtained a driver's license in the state of Washington. The license is valid until 2016. This offered me five more years of acceptable identification - but also five more years of fear, of lying to people I respect and institutions that trusted me, of running away from who I am."

Turns out Washington State officials were quick on the draw. According to The Huffington Post, the state has canceled his driver's license. Officials opened an investigation after Vargas's essay was published, Department of Licensing spokeswoman Christine Anthony said. "We conducted in an

## Students Sue Minn. District Over Gay Policy

CHAMPLIN (Observer Update) - Several current and former students sued Minnesota's largest school district, saying its policy requiring staff to remain neutral when sexual orientation is discussed in the classroom prevents teachers from effectively protecting kids perceived as gay from bullying and harassment, reports advocate.com.

lockers, desks and walls, just because they say I am different," 14-year-old Kyle Rooker, one of the plaintiffs, told reporters outside Jackson Middle School. "It got so bad that every day when the bus would arrive at the school, I would want to hide under the chair so I wouldn't have to go into school, so I wouldn't be called names or be pushed around and so I wouldn't have to hear the rumors other kids were spreading about me."

Sam Wolfe, lead attorney on the case for the center, said his group's efforts over the last 10 months to resolve dispute with the district failed. The policy came under criticism after six students in the district committed suicide in less than two years. A parent of one of those students says her son was bullied for being gay, and gay advocacy groups say some of the other students were also bullied. The district says its internal investigation found no evidence that bullying contributed to the deaths, but it changed its anti-bullying and anti-harassment policies last October.

The five plaintiffs contend the Anoka-Hennepin School District failed to protect them from severe bullying and harassment, including physical abuse and verbal slurs. Three of the plaintiffs identify themselves as gay or bisexual and two do not. "This policy sends the message to kids that who they are is not OK," said Mary Bauer, legal director of the Southern Poverty Law Center, one of two advocacy groups that filed the lawsuit in federal court in Minnesota.

The students are asking the court to block the policy, order effective protections including better training and award them unspecified damages. "For the last three years kids have been calling me names and shoving me into



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## After Long Wait, Gay Couples Marry In New York

NEW YORK (Observer Update) - Hundreds of gay and lesbian couples

The weddings - businesslike ceremonies in fluorescent-lighted city

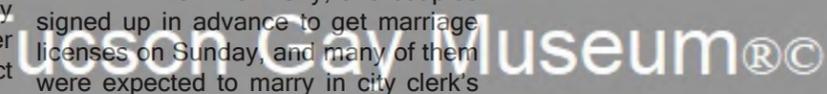
across New York State began marrying on Sunday (July 24) - the first taking their vows just after midnight - in the culmination of a long battle in the Legislature and a new milestone for gay rights advocates seeking to legalize same-sex marriage across the nation, nytimes.com reports.

equal rights for everybody."

Against a cascade of rainbow-colored falls, and with cicadas humming in the background, Kitty Lambert and Cheryl Rudd married at the first possible moment in Niagara Falls. After a bell tolled 12 times to ring in the new day, Ms. Lambert, 54, and Ms. Rudd, 53, held hands and kissed in front of more than 100 friends and family members.

In New York City, 823 couples signed up in advance to get marriage licenses on Sunday, and many of them were expected to marry in city clerk's offices across the five boroughs. Officials from more than a dozen cities and towns from Buffalo to Brookhaven said they would open their offices to issue marriage licenses on Sunday, and more than 100 judges across the state have volunteered to officiate at the couples' weddings on the spot.

"This is long overdue," said Mayor Matthew T. Ryan of Binghamton, who planned to preside at the wedding of at least two local couples, and who invited same-sex couples from Pennsylvania to come to his city to be married. "It really is a great day for all of us who believe in inclusiveness and



offices for some, lavish catered affairs for others – represent the end of a political campaign that lasted for years. On June 24, the State Senate voted 33 to 29 to approve same-sex marriage, and Gov. Andrew M. Cuomo signed it into law that night. But the law did not take effect for 30 days, which is why July 24 is the first day that clerk's offices were permitted to issue marriage licenses to gay couples.

“As the hours tick by, we’re getting more and more excited,” Brian Banks, a 33-year-old middle-school special-education teacher from Albany, said on Friday after going to City Hall there to fill out paperwork. Mr. Banks planned to marry his partner of seven years, Jon Zehnder, 37, a high school math teacher, at the midnight ceremony in Albany on Sunday. “Even though we’ve always viewed ourselves as married, to have there be no asterisk next to it, it’ll just feel really good,” he said.

# Tucson Observer Archives

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## One of Tucson's Biggest Shows of the Year Sunday, September 4

Turnabout for TIHAN" is an annual show put on by Tucson's GLBT clubs and their bar staff. The staff request donations from their friends and customers in order to do a "turn-about" from male to female (or vice versa) and put on a fabulous show to benefit the work of TIHAN, the Tucson Interfaith HIV/AIDS Network ([www.tihan.org](http://www.tihan.org))

Tickets go on sale this week, so get yours now! We are pleased to announce that our emcees for the show will be Janee Starr and Tempest DuJour, along with a special guest appearance by Celia Putty, Miss Gay Arizona America 2011. These stars will join your favorite bar staff from Ain't Nobody's Bizness, Brodie's Tavern, Colors, IBT's, New Moon, and Woodys in a spectacular show, with this year's theme "FIESTA!"

Get ready for the glitz and glamour, the pumps and passion for this year's "Turnabout for TIHAN" benefit show! It's one of the biggest drag shows of the year, and takes place on Sunday, September 4 at the Doubletree Hotel at Reid Park (445 South Alvernon Way, Tucson, Arizona). The doors open at 5:00pm, and the show starts at 6:00pm. Advance tickets are only \$10.00 per person, or \$100 for a table of 10. Tickets at the door will cost \$15.00 each (if available). The evening also features a raffle with some great prizes.

## Lesbian Couple Claim Dollywood Discriminated Over "Marriage Is So Gay" Shirt

OLLYWOOD (Observer Update) - Dolly Parton has a history of pro-equality politics. The employees at her Tennessee-based amusement park? Not so much, reports [towleroad.com](http://towleroad.com).

Lesbian couple Olivia Odom and Jennifer Tipton took their children to Dollywood's Splash park earlier this month and found themselves stopped at the gate for Odom's "Marriage is So Gay" t-shirt, which employees told her to remove or turn inside out.



"I looked at him and I was like really? He said 'This is a family park,'" Odom told local NBC affiliate WBIR. "I was in disbelief. I didn't think it was the policy of Dollywood to discriminate against the LGBT community," she said. "I was curious what he found offensive about the shirt. If it was the fact that it had the word gay on it or that it was in conjunction with the word marriage." Odom also pointed out that at least one other patron was wearing a t-shirt bearing a Confederate flag, but in the end, she turned her shirt inside out, lest she ruin the children's trip.

A park spokesperson explained to The Advocate that the park's "front gate hosts are asked to enforce our dress code policy."

"It doesn't have anything to do with who the people are or what their belief system is or with anything other than the fact that we try to prevent as best as we can upon entry of the park one of our guests being offended by something someone else is wearing," said Pete Owens. He also described the incident as a "misunderstanding" and vowed to call Odom and Tipton to further discuss the situation.

Parton was not available for comment, but something tells me she'll be less than pleased by the news.

## California Gay History Bill: Conservatives Begin Push To Overturn Teaching Law

SACRAMENTO (Observer Update) - A conservative advocacy group is already challenging a new California law that adds lessons about gays to social studies classes, reports [sfgate.com](http://sfgate.com).

Paulo Sibaja of the Sacramento-based Capitol Resource Institute said he started the process for a statewide vote to overturn the bill signed by Gov. Jerry Brown a day earlier. Brown, a Democrat, signed SB 48, making California the first state in the nation to teach about gays and lesbians in a public school curriculum.

Advocates say the new law will teach students to be more accepting in light of the bullying that happens to gay students. It also ensures that students are taught about the contributions of people who are gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender in social studies. Conservatives opposed the law, saying it would teach children to accept homosexuality.

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February 20, 1978, Tucson Gay Community (T.L.G.B.T.M.) protest Anita Bryant's anti-Gay Crusade at Tucson Convention Center

The Tucson LGBT Museum (T.L.G.B.T.M.) Cordially invites all LGBT-related businesses, groups, individuals and organizations to share their written histories, stories, photos, videos, memorabilia and other historical items for inclusion into the Gay, Lesbian, Bi-Sexual, Transgendered online historical exhibits.

Exhibits to be shown are between the years 1700 to 2011 with the museum set to open up to the public later this year. The group has been collecting Tucson LGBT history for 44 years in an effort that began in the summer of 1967 with a small group of 'sexually liberated' high school students from two local area schools.

E-mail: [TucsonLGBTMuseum@live.com](mailto:TucsonLGBTMuseum@live.com)

(Attn: Exhibits)

# Churches Debate Whether To Marry Gays

NEW YORK (Observer Update) - With same-sex marriage becomes legal in New York, gay priests with partners in the Episcopal Diocese of Long Island will head to the altar. They have to. Their bishop set a nine-month deadline for them to marry or stop living together, advocate.com reports.

that pastors can choose to solemnize same-sex marriages in individual churches that give their approval. The Upstate New York Synod, which oversees Lutheran churches in the Albany area, distributed that document to local leaders ahead of an upcoming discussion on the gay marriage law. The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America formally abolished a celibacy requirement for gay and lesbian clergy more than a year ago, but still defines marriage as between one man and one woman.

Next door, meanwhile, the Episcopal bishop of New York says he also expects gay clergy in committed relationships to wed "in due course." Still, this longtime supporter of gay rights says churches in his diocese are off limits for gay weddings until he receives clearer liturgical guidance from the national denomination.

The Rev. David Preisinger, an assistant to the Upstate New York bishop, said the bishop has indicated that she will not take action against clergy who perform the ceremonies. He said churches in his region have already received several requests for weddings and believes they will take place soon. "There are some congregations that are very open to it and others that don't want anything to do with it," Preisinger said.

As more states legalize same-sex marriage, religious groups with ambiguous policies on homosexuality are divided over whether they should allow the ceremonies in local congregations. The decision is especially complex in the mainline Protestant denominations that have yet to fully resolve their disagreements over the Bible and homosexuality. Many have taken steps toward acceptance of gay ordination and same-gender couples without changing the official definition of marriage in church constitutions and canons. With the exception of the United Church of Christ, which approved gay marriage six years ago, none of the larger mainline churches has a national liturgy for same-sex weddings or even blessing ceremonies.

The Episcopal Church blazed a trail, and enraged fellow Anglicans worldwide, in 2003 by consecrating the first openly gay bishop, V. Gene Robinson of New Hampshire. On same-sex marriage, Episcopal dioceses have been guided by a 2009 resolution from the General Convention, the church's top national policy body, that asked for a "generous pastoral response" to gay couples, especially in states with same-sex marriage or civil unions.

The result is a patchwork of church policies in states where gays can civilly wed - not only for lay people, but also for gay clergy who want to marry their partners.

However, bishops disagree about what the resolution means. Each has cited the measure when issuing dramatically different policies. Even before the New York legislature had passed the gay marriage bill last month, Bishop Gladstone Adams, who leads the Syracuse-based Episcopal Diocese of Central New York, had asked the local liturgy committee to draft a rite for same-gender marriage. Adams said individual priests and parishes could decide whether to conduct the ceremonies. He has not yet set a policy on marriage for clergy living with same-gender partners.

"It's a challenge for us," said Tony De La Rosa, administrator of the Presbytery of New York City, a regional body of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). "I think this is a moment of great tumult in the sights of the church." The New York regional body of the United Methodist Church issued a statement reminding local congregations that the Methodist Book of Discipline bars any celebration of same-gender unions, but encouraged congregants to "extend God's love" to each other, "particularly those with whom we disagree."

In the Diocese of New York, Bishop Mark Sisk said local priests could bless couples who marry elsewhere in a civil ceremony, but could not solemnize the marriages. "I do not believe that resolution ... empowered bishops to authorize clergy to perform such marriages," Sisk wrote in a statement. "Nor do I believe that it is appropriate for clergy to circumvent the vows we have taken by becoming separately licensed by the state to perform such marriages."

The Presbyterian Church formally lifted barriers to ordination for gays and lesbians who are not celibate, although individual congregations had been hiring gay pastors and conducting same-sex blessing ceremonies for years. De La Rosa expects a similar mix of responses to gay marriage laws, even though a minister who conducts a same-gender marriage is at risk of possible disciplinary action by the denomination since the ceremonies are not officially authorized. De La Rosa, who is gay, said he does not plan to wed because the marriage would not be recognized in California, where he and his partner are residents.

His position stunned many Episcopalians. The New York diocese is considered so gay-friendly that the local chapter of the national Episcopal gay advocacy group, Integrity, focuses instead on outreach to other gay and lesbians seeking a religious community, according to Mary O'Shaughnessy, New York City coordinator for the organization. Sisk's spokesman said the bishop won't move forward without an approved liturgy. Episcopalians are drafting prayers for blessing same-gender couples that advocates hope will be accepted next year by the General Convention.

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# Churches Debate Whether To Marry Gays

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O'Shaughnessy said she was disappointed by Sisk's decision, but said he has "unequivocally" supported gay and lesbian rights and she understands that he has a broad constituency to consider, including parishes in the diocese that lie outside of Manhattan.

Long Island Episcopal Bishop Lawrence Provenzano said there is nothing "punitive" about the nine-month period he set for clergy to marry their partners - a length of time he said was similar to an academic year. No one will be disciplined for failing to meet the deadline. Instead, he said he would handle each priest's situation on a case-by-case basis. He noted that some private employers are considering restricting domestic partner benefits to those who are legally married.

"I need to be mindful that the church has always asked people to live in committed monogamous, faithful relationships," Provenzano said. "I won't allow heterosexual clergy to live in a rectory or church housing without the benefit of marriage. When one puts it in that context, then you see how it all begins to make sense."

The Rev. Christopher Hofer, pastor of the Episcopal Church of St. Jude in Wantagh, on Long Island, said he has heard no complaints from other gay or lesbian clergy about the policy. Hofer plans a "big" August wedding in his parish with his partner of 17 years, Kerry Brady. They live in the church rectory, where on a recent evening they waited together for a messenger to deliver their wedding rings.

"I think Bishop Provenzano's statement was not only fair, but beyond generous. It gives people time, acknowledging that there's a financial

component involved, and recognizing that some may not choose to live together," Hofer said. "Now that the state is recognizing civil marriage, we as priests, perhaps deacons too, who are in committed relationships, have a choice: We either live what we preach, to become civilly married, or we choose to live apart."

No other Episcopal dioceses in states with same-gender marriage have set an explicit deadline for gay clergy to marry their live-in partners. Episcopal Bishop John Chane, of the Diocese of Washington, allowed local priests to perform same-sex marriages in parishes that approved the ceremonies, but did not ask clergy to marry or live alone. He said it wouldn't be fair, since so few states recognize the marriages, and state and federal laws like the Defense of Marriage Act are still in effect and "deny the human rights and disrespect the orientation" of gays and lesbians. He said five gay clergy have married in the Diocese of Washington since same-sex marriages started last year.

At St. James Episcopal Church, Fordham, in the Diocese of New York, the Rev. Tobias Haller, plans to wed his male partner of more than three decades at the end of this month, but not in his parish. The couple plans a civil ceremony only. "We had our church wedding 31 years ago," Haller said, of a private blessing they had received from a rector. Haller said he understands and accepts Sisk's approach to the issue. The bishop meets with gay and lesbian clergy in the diocese every few months and had previously discussed his hope that they would marry their partners if they had the chance, Haller said. "It makes sense to me," Haller said. "It's certainly a standard bishops would expect of heterosexual clergy."

6-9pm Jazz & favorites by Melody Louise

5-8pm Rosemary Snow at the piano  
8pm Tempest DuJour hosts Guys & Dolls

6:30-8:30pm Rosemary Snow at the piano  
9pm-close Retro/Active 80s & 90s Dance

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# Obama Nominates Michael Fitzgerald To The Federal Bench

WASHINGTON, DC (Observer Update) - President Barack Obama on Wednesday nominated Michael Fitzgerald to the U.S. District Court, his fourth openly gay judicial nominee to date, reported ontopmag.com. The 51-year-old Fitzgerald has been nominated to the U.S. District Court for the Central District of California, advocate.com reports.



"I am honored to nominate Michael Walter Fitzgerald to the United States District Court," President Obama said in a statement. "His impressive career stands as a testament to his formidable intellect and integrity. I am confident he will serve the people of California with distinction on the District Court bench."

Law.

Fitzgerald's nomination follows

Fitzgerald has been named a partner at the Los Angeles-based law firm of Corbin, Fitzgerald and Athey LLP since 1998. He's a graduate of Harvard University and the University of California at Berkeley's School of

the Senate confirmation of Paul Oetken to the Federal District Court for the Southern District of New York. Two additional out judges, Alison Nathan and Edmund Dumont, have also been nominated by Obama to serve on federal benches.

## First Gay Federal Judge Gets Appointed



WASHINGTON, DC (Observer Update) - The first federal judge to be an openly gay man was confirmed July 18 by a vote of 80 to 13, reports advocate.com. J. Paul Oetken will take his seat as a federal judge in Manhattan after President Obama signs his commission.

Oetken, 45, graduated from Yale Law School and formerly worked as a lawyer for the Clinton administration. "The old barriers that existed in society are crumbling. That's what this will say," said Sen. Charles Schumer in a New York Times article. Schumer recommended Oetken's appointment to President Obama last year.

"It would be premature to believe that Oetken's easy confirmation

heralds some new post-sexual era in American politics; the fight over gay marriage continues undiminished. But it was a signal moment nonetheless." Opinion Dana Milbank said in a Washington Post piece.

The vote and approval of Oetken went over with little fanfare - social conservatives like Tom Coburn, John Cornyn, Jeff Sessions, Jon Kyl voted for him. Sen. Chuck Grassley, an Iowa Republican, spoke in favor of Oetken without mentioning his sexual orientation.

Oetken follows in Judge Deborah Batts' footsteps. Batts, an out lesbian, was confirmed in 1994. They are the only two openly LGBT federal judges.

## Chairman of Joint Chiefs Issues Statement On Repeal of DADT

WASHINGTON, DC (Observer Update) - The Chairman of the Joint Chiefs Mike Mullen released the following statement:

"I believe the U.S. armed forces are ready for the implementation of the repeal of Don't Ask, Don't Tell. I conveyed that opinion yesterday to the President and to the secretary of defense, and today we certified this to Congress.

"My opinion is informed by

close consultation with the service

The Tucson LGBT Museum is asking the LGBT Community's help in finding issues of the 'Arizona Gay Newsletter' between January 1, 1982 and December 31, 1982  
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accomplish this work rests primarily on the fact that our people are capable, well-led and thoroughly professional. I have never served with finer men and women. They will, I am certain, carry out repeal and continue to serve this country with the same high standards and dignity that have defined the U.S. military throughout our history.”

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# Poet's Corner

MAIDENFORM TO THE RESCUE  
by Ron Rose - Tucson

Sinking to a new low  
Our boobs have finally drooped  
Like our worldly economics  
Economics all pooped.  
Maidenform to the rescue  
With cups all laced with gold  
Please stabilize our appendages  
Don't let our world just fold.

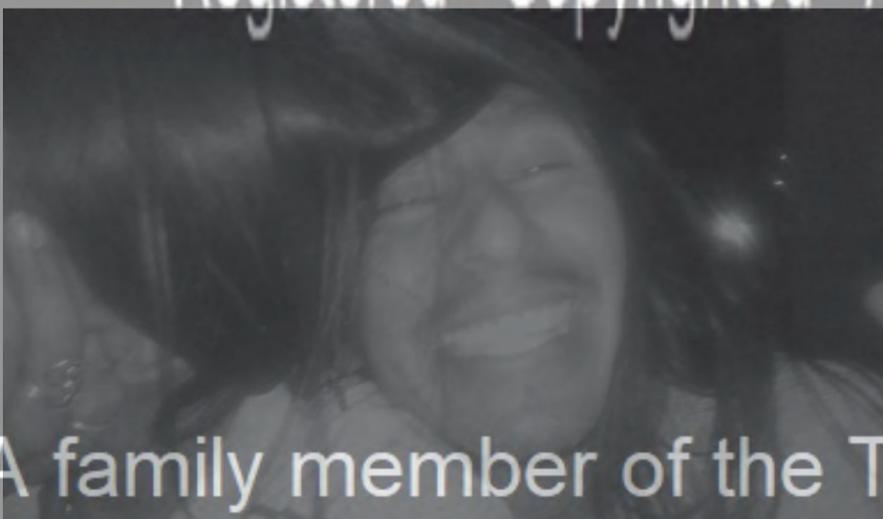
Keep us a-breast of progress  
And fill each tiny cup  
Make sure they're filled with Trillions  
And make my Dow go up.

## 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!

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## Study Finds Alarming Number Of Gay Teens Are Homeless

BOSTON (Observer Update) - A first-of-its-kind study released found that an alarming number of gay teens are homeless, with one in four gay students left alone on the streets, reports advocate.com.

are a minority.

Less than 5% of the more than 6,000 high school students surveyed identified themselves as gay, lesbian, or bisexual. But those students accounted for 19% of the homeless. Among straight students, 3.2% were homeless.

Gay youth are far more likely than their straight counterparts to be homeless, according to the Children's Hospital Boston study, whose author warns of "a serious problem requiring immediate attention."

"This suggests that they may be more likely to be mistreated or rejected by their families and more likely to leave home," Corliss concludes.

"These teens face enormous risks and all types of obstacles to succeeding in school and are in need of a great deal of assistance," said Heather Corliss, whose findings show for the first time the magnitude of the homeless gay youth population. Corliss said these are "much higher numbers than we'd expect" given that gay youth

Because the research was done only in Massachusetts, where gay marriage is legal and where researchers believe homosexuality might be more accepted, they warn it's possible that the rate of homelessness is actually higher in other parts of the country.

## Wildflower Inn Owners Admit To Anti-Gay Discrimination

BURLINGTON (Observer Update) - The owners of the Wildflower Inn in Vermont, Jim and Mary O'Reilly, have admitted to anti-gay discrimination. Lesbian couple Ming Linsley and Kate Baker have sued the innkeepers for refusing to host their wedding reception, reports ontopmag.com.

feelings, they do not host gay receptions at our facilities," an employee told Peters in an email titled "bad news"

The lawsuit, filed by the American Civil Liberties Union's (ACLU) Vermont chapter, claims the 24-room inn violated Vermont's Fair Housing and Public Accommodations Act, which prohibits establishments with five or more rooms from discrimination based on sexual orientation. Religious organizations are exempt from the law. According to the lawsuit, Linsley's mother, Channie Peters, was told the inn does not host gay events.

"After our conversation, I checked with my Innkeepers and unfortunately due to their personal



after she had contacted the inn. The O'Reillys said in a statement released to the AP that their faith prevented them from holding such ceremonies. "We have never refused rooms or dining or employment to gays or lesbians. Many of our guests have been same-sex couples. We welcome and treat all people with respect and dignity. We do not however, feel that we can offer our personal services wholeheartedly to celebrate the marriage between same- sex couples because it goes against everything that we as Catholics believe in."

"This case is about discrimina- tion, plain and simple," the ACLU said in a statement. "When a business that is open to the public refuses to serve two people and their guests solely because the two people are a same sex couple, it is no different than restaurants not serving individuals because they were black, or other businesses keeping out women or Jews. It is discrimination and it is illegal."

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# Daily Bar Calendar

## SUNDAY

THE BIZ - Closed Sunday, Monday, Tuesday  
 BRODIES - Open 10am - 2am. Happy Hour 10am-8pm  
 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.  
 NEW MOON - Open 4pm. Happy Hour 4-8 = \$2 well, dom longnecks, dom pints, or New Moon shots. Kitchen open 5-9pm. Check our calendar for special events.  
 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  
 BRODIES - Open 10am-2am. Happy Hour 10am-8  
 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".  
 NEW MOON - Closed Mondays  
 WOODY'S - Open 11am-2am. Service Industry Night - Employee prices all day..

## TUESDAY

THE BIZ - Closed Tuesdays  
 BRODIES - Open 10am - 2am. Happy Hour 10am - 8pm.  
 IBT's - Open Noon. Happy Hour Noon-8pm, \$2 Well or Domestic Beer. 8pm-close "2'sDay" - \$2 Well or Domestic Beer. DJ 9pm-close.  
 NEW MOON - Open 4pm. \$2 well, dom. Long necks, pints New Moon Shots. Kitchen open 5-9. Women's Texas Hold 'em poker 6pm. Karaoke 8pm.  
 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. Happy Hour 10am - 8pm.  
 IBT's - Open Noon. Happy Hour Noon-8pm, \$2 Well or Domestic.. 11pm - -close "Reverse Happy Hour".  
 NEW MOON - Open 4pm. \$2 well, dom. Long necks, pints New Moon Shots. Kitchen open 5-9. \$2 off appetizer menu items\* with drink purchase (priced \$4 or higher).  
 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. Happy Hour 10am - 8pm.  
 IBT's - Open Noon. Happy Hour Noon-8pm, \$2 Well or Domestic. 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.  
 NEW MOON - Open 4pm. \$2 well, dom. Long necks, pints New Moon Shots. Kitchen open 5-9. Free Nachos 5-7. New Babies Drag Show 8pm. Check out the new talent!  
 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. Happy Hour 10am-8pm. Karaoke 9pm.  
 IBT's - Open Noon. Happy Hour Noon-8pm, \$2 Well or Domestic. 9pm-close DJ Hurricane inside. 10pm-close DJ Mike Lopez with "I'm a Sexy Bitch Night" on the patio.  
 NEW MOON - Open 4pm. \$2 well, dom. Long necks, pints New Moon Shots. Kitchen open 5-9. Women's Texas Hold 'em poker 6pm. Karaoke 8pm. First and Third Fridays are country, with dance lessons at 7pm and country DJ 8:30.  
 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 styling 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 10am-8pm.  
 IBT's - Open Noon. Happy Hour Noon-8pm, \$2 Well or Domestic. 5-8pm Karaoke on the patio \$1Draft Pints. 9pm "Saturday Starlett's" w/ Bunny FuFu & Janee Starr. After the show, DJ Spinning inside & 10pm-close, DJ Mike Lopez with the "Party on the Patio".  
 NEW MOON - Open 4pm. \$2 well, dom. Long necks, pints New Moon Shots. Kitchen open 5-9. Cheeseburger & Fries \$5.  
 WOODY'S - Open 11am-2am; Happy Hour 10am-8pm (excl spec events); Full Menu Kitchen open 11am-11pm. .

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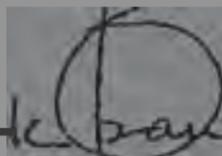
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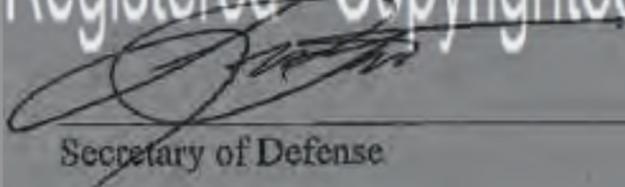
## CERTIFICATION

I, [Signature], pursuant to section 2(b)(2) of the Don't Ask, Don't Tell: Repeal Act of 2010, Public Law 111-321 (10 U.S.C. 654 note) (the "Act"), we hereby certify the following:

- (1) That we have considered the recommendations contained in the Report of the Commission on the Status of the Military Profession, referred to in section 2(a) of the Act, namely, the Report of the Commission on the Status of the Military Profession, titled "Don't Ask, Don't Tell: A New Plan of Action."
- (2) That the Department of Defense has prepared the necessary policies and regulations, within the discretion provided by the amendments made by section 2 of the Act.
- (3) That the implementation of the necessary policies and regulations pursuant to the discretion provided by the amendments made by section 2 of the Act is consistent with the standards of military readiness, military effectiveness, unit cohesion, recruitment and retention of the Armed Forces.

   
 President of the United States

22 July 2011  
 Date

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 Secretary of Defense

July 21, 2011

  
 Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff

21 July 2011  
 Date

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