

114TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. RES. 329

Encouraging the celebration of the month of June as LGBTQ Pride Month.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 18, 2015

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas (for himself, Ms. SINEMA, Mr. CICILLINE, Mr. POLIS, Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York, Mr. POCAN, Mr. TAKANO, and Ms. JACKSON LEE) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

RESOLUTION

Encouraging the celebration of the month of June as
LGBTQ Pride Month.

Whereas the Honorable Barney Frank, Member of Congress from 1981 to 2013, is recognized as an honorary cosponsor of this resolution;

Whereas Members of this Congress support the rights, freedoms, and equality of those who are lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ);

Whereas those who took a stand for human rights and dignity at the Stonewall Inn in New York City on June 28, 1969, are among the pioneers within this movement;

Whereas the LGBTQ Stonewall protestors were subject to police harassment and invidious discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity;

Whereas this decisive moment in history was followed by the creation of gay rights organizations in every major city in the United States within two years of the Stonewall uprising;

Whereas the Stonewall uprising has been followed by many positive progressive historic moments;

Whereas in December of 1973, the board of the American Psychiatric Association voted to remove homosexuality from its list of mental illnesses;

Whereas in 1974, Elaine Noble became the first openly LGBTQ candidate elected to a State legislature in the United States when she won a seat in the Massachusetts House of Representatives;

Whereas in 1975, the Civil Service Commission eliminated the ban on the employment of homosexuals in most Federal jobs;

Whereas, on January 8, 1978, Harvey Milk made national news when he was sworn in as an openly gay member of the San Francisco Board of Supervisors;

Whereas in October of 1979, 75,000 people participated in the National March on Washington for Lesbian and Gay Rights to demand equal civil rights;

Whereas in 1980, Democrats took a stance in support of gay rights at the Democratic National Convention;

Whereas in October of 1987, thousands of activists took part in the National March on Washington to demand that President Reagan address the AIDS crisis;

Whereas in 1987, Congressman Barney Frank of Massachusetts became the first Representative to voluntarily come out as an openly gay Member of Congress;

Whereas in May of 1996, in *Romer v. Evans*, the United States Supreme Court decided that a Colorado constitutional amendment preventing the enactment of protections for gays and lesbians in that State was unconstitutional;

Whereas at the turn of the century in 2000, Vermont became the first State in the country to legally recognize civil unions between gay and lesbian couples;

Whereas, on June 26, 2003, the Supreme Court of the United States ruled in *Lawrence v. Texas*, that under the 14th Amendment, States could not criminalize the private, intimate relationships of same-sex couples;

Whereas, on October 28, 2009, the Matthew Shepard and James Byrd, Jr. Hate Crimes Prevention Act was passed by Congress and signed into law by President Obama. The bill expanded existing Federal hate crimes laws to include crimes motivated by a victim's actual or perceived gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, or disability;

Whereas, on January 4, 2010, Mayor Annise D. Parker was sworn in as Houston's first openly gay Mayor;

Whereas in December of 2010, Congress approved and President Obama signed the repeal of the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" law, allowing gays, lesbians, and bisexuals to serve openly in the United States Armed Forces;

Whereas the year 2012 marked the first year that all 50 States in the United States had at least one openly LGBTQ elected official;

Whereas, on January 3, 2013, Tammy Baldwin of Wisconsin was sworn in as the first openly gay United States Senator;

Whereas, on June 26, 2013, the United States Supreme Court ruled, in *United States v. Windsor*, that section three of the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) was unconstitutional and that the Federal Government cannot discriminate against married lesbian and gay couples for the purposes of determining Federal benefits and protections;

Whereas the inclusion of our transgender brothers and sisters into United States society continues to expand every day, with an understanding that we will remain steadfast in pursuing the goal of complete equality, respect, and tolerance for all, regardless of the gender a person is assigned at birth; and

Whereas, as of June 2015, 37 States and the District of Columbia grant same-sex marriage: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

2 (1) recognizes that all Americans should be
3 treated fairly and equally regardless of sexual ori-
4 entation or gender identity;

5 (2) acknowledges the struggle of the Stonewall
6 protestors and countless other lesbian, gay, bisexual,
7 transgender, and queer people for equality;

8 (3) encourages the celebration of LGBTQ Pride
9 Month to provide a continuing opportunity for all
10 people in the United States to learn about the dis-
11 crimination and inequality that has faced, and con-
12 tinues to face, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender,
13 and queer people; and

1 (4) agrees that the United States must continue
2 to strive to ensure that the promise of equality is re-
3 alized for all Americans.

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