



United States Department of Agriculture

2010 Gay & Lesbian Pride Observance

“You Ain’t Seen Nothing Yet”



Thursday, June 17, 2010

10:00 a.m.

Jefferson Auditorium - South Building

**Sponsored by:
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights
and
Food Safety and Inspection Service**

Guest Speaker



John Berry is the Federal Government's Chief People Person. As the Director of the United States Office of Personnel Management, he is responsible for recruiting, hiring, and setting benefits policies for 1.9 million Federal civilian employees. Calling this a new day for the civil service, he is reinvigorating the Federal workforce to meet the challenges of the 21st century.

John is working closely with partners both inside and outside of government to fulfill President Obama's charge to "make government cool again by developing flexible, results-oriented HR policies and working to change how Americans view their public servants. His goal: build a workforce of dynamic innovators who put serving the American people at the heart of everything they do.

With over twenty years of experience in the Federal government, Berry is a passionate and aggressive advocate for public service and Federal workers. He first developed expertise in Federal employee and retirement issues during ten years as Legislative Director for Congressman Steny Hoyer of Maryland, now the Majority Leader.

During the Clinton Administration, Berry served as Deputy Assistant Secretary and Acting Assistant Secretary for Law Enforcement at the Department of the Treasury, where he had direct-line authority over 40% of the Federal law enforcement community, including the Secret Service and the ATF. He then served as Assistant Secretary for Policy, Management and Budget at the Department of the Interior.

From 2001 to 2008, Berry pursued his interest in conservation as Director of the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and then as Director of the National Zoo.



Entertainment



Sabrina Matthews is an openly lesbian comic who relates the absurd in everyday life in a witty anecdotal style. "Sabrina's brand of comedy is infectious," says afterellen.com, and she "regularly draws out big laughs from both gay and straight audiences."

Sabrina appears regularly at clubs, colleges, cruises, and festivals around the world. Her credits include her own hilarious half-hour comedy special, "[Comedy Central Presents Sabrina Matthews](#)", a starring role in 2006's hit documentary, [Laughing Matters...More!](#), an appearance on [Comics Unleashed](#) and as a semi-finalist on NBC's [Last Comic Standing](#). After her television acting debut in "[America's Most Wanted](#)" (yes, really), she has moved on to appear with Laura Kightlinger in IFC's [The Minor Accomplishments of Jackie Woodman](#), and in Margaret Cho's 2007 film release, [Bam Bam and Celeste](#).

She began her comedy career in the San Francisco Bay Area, and now, having survived a decade amidst the doughnut shops and dude-speak of Los Angeles, Sabrina now resides on the east coast, where she spends her days scuba diving, teaching her dog not to eat furniture, engaging in her favorite game (Point and Laugh), and generally doing anything else to avoid rifling through the heap of papers teetering on her desk in search of tiny, hastily scribbled comedy notes....all in comfortable shoes.



Program

Introduction of Video
Montage

Dr. Maurice Dorsey
GLBT SEPM - NIFA
Program Moderator

Video

You Ain't Seen Nothing Yet

Welcome and Introduction
of the Secretary

Carole Jett
Deputy Chief of Staff

Opening Remarks

Tom Vilsack
Secretary of Agriculture

Introduction of Guest Speaker

Alfred Almanza
Administrator, Food Safety and
Inspection Service

Guest Speaker

John Berry
Director, OPM

Entertainment

Sabrina Matthews
Comic

Awards

Perry Stevens
GLBT SEPM - NRCS

Blake Velde
Vice President - GLOBE

GLBT SEP Award Recipient:

Dr. Sharon Nance, NRCS

GLOBE Award Recipient:

TBD

Closing Remarks

Dr. Joe Leonard, Jr.
Assistant Secretary for Civil
Rights



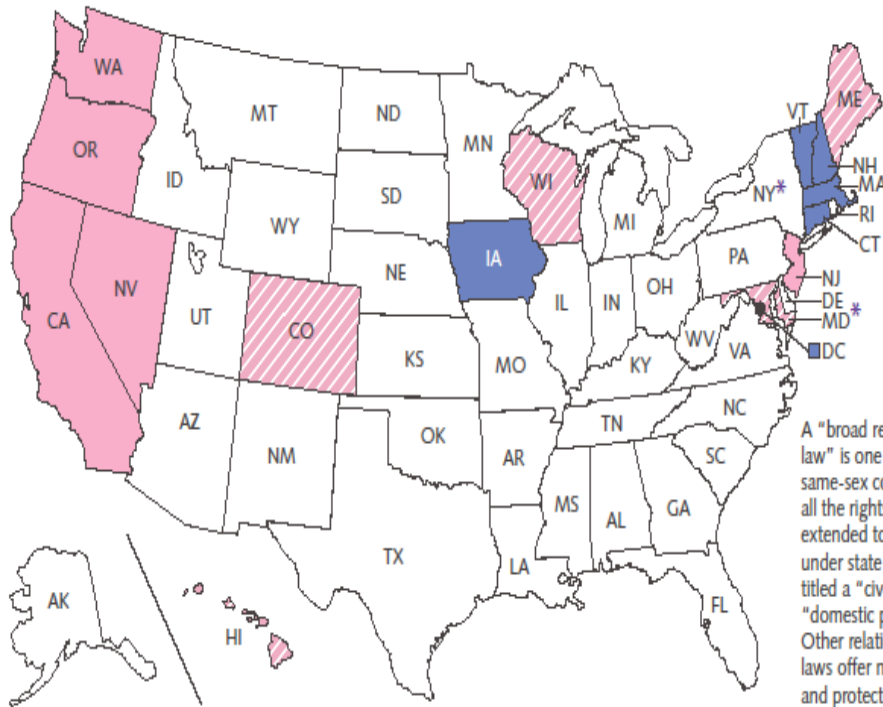
LGBT Fact Sheet: Did you know....

- Everyone has a sexual orientation.
- Sexual orientation is not a choice. According to the American Psychological Association, sexual orientation is not a conscious choice that can be voluntarily changed.
- Homosexuality is not a mental illness (American Psychiatric Association 1973 and American Psychological Association 1975).
- No federal law prohibits employment discrimination based on sexual orientation. Workers in 29 states can be fired because of their sexual orientation. Workers in 38 states can be fired because of their gender identity or expression.
- Executive Order 13087, issued in 1998, prohibits discrimination based on sexual orientation for civilian employment within the Executive Branch of the federal government.
- The USDA Civil Rights Policy Statement has prohibited discrimination based on sexual orientation since 1993.
- Eighty eight (88) percent of Fortune 500 companies have policies prohibiting discrimination based on sexual orientation.
- Federal law treats same-sex couples as strangers, thereby denying them 1,138 federal rights, benefits and protections available to different-sex married couples.
- Fourteen (14) states and DC provide state employees with domestic partner benefits.
- Fifty seven (57) percent of Fortune 500 companies offer domestic partner benefits to their employees.
- In October 2009 the federal hate crimes law was expanded to include crimes motivated by a victim's actual or perceived gender, sexual orientation, gender identity or disability.



Relationship Recognition for Same-Sex Couples in the U.S.

This map was last updated on: **March 17, 2010**



A "broad relationship recognition law" is one that extends to same-sex couples all or nearly all the rights and responsibilities extended to married couples under state law, whether titled a "civil union" or "domestic partnership" law. Other relationship recognition laws offer more limited rights and protections.

States with full marriage equality

Massachusetts (2004); Connecticut (2008); Iowa (2009); Vermont (2009); New Hampshire (2009); District of Columbia (2010)

States with broad relationship recognition laws

civil unions: Vermont (2000); New Jersey (2006); New Hampshire (2007)
domestic partnerships: California (2005)²; Oregon (2007); Washington (2008); Nevada (2009)

States with limited relationship recognition laws

designated beneficiaries: Colorado (2009)
domestic partnerships: Maryland (2008)¹; Wisconsin (2009); Maine (2004)
reciprocal beneficiaries: Hawai'i (1997)

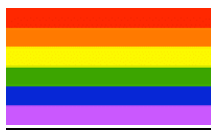
*** States which recognize same-sex marriages performed in other states**

New York (2008); Maryland (2010)

¹In 2008, the Maryland Legislature established "domestic partnerships" granting minimal benefits but the state does not maintain a domestic partner registry. In 2010, the attorney general determined out-of-state marriages should also be recognized.

²California recognizes same-sex marriages legally registered inside or outside of CA prior to November 5, 2008 as marriages. CA recognizes same-sex marriages registered outside of CA on November 5, 2008 or after as domestic partnerships.

National Gay and Lesbian Task Force
www.theTaskForce.org





THE WHITE HOUSE

For Immediate Release

May 28, 2010

Presidential Proclamation--Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Pride Month

As Americans, it is our birthright that all people are created equal and deserve the same rights, privileges, and opportunities. Since our earliest days of independence, our Nation has striven to fulfill that promise. An important chapter in our great, unfinished story is the movement for fairness and equality on behalf of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) community. This month, as we recognize the immeasurable contributions of LGBT Americans, we renew our commitment to the struggle for equal rights for LGBT Americans and to ending prejudice and injustice wherever it exists.

LGBT Americans have enriched and strengthened the fabric of our national life. From business leaders and professors to athletes and first responders, LGBT individuals have achieved success and prominence in every discipline. They are our mothers and fathers, our sons and daughters, and our friends and neighbors. Across my Administration, openly LGBT employees are serving at every level. Thanks to those who came before us—the brave men and women who marched, stood up to injustice, and brought change through acts of compassion or defiance—we have made enormous progress and continue to strive for a more perfect union.

My Administration has advanced our journey by signing into law the Matthew Shepard and James Byrd, Jr., Hate Crimes Prevention Act, which strengthens Federal protections against crimes based on gender identity or sexual orientation. We renewed the Ryan White CARE Act, which provides life saving medical services and support to Americans living with HIV/AIDS, and finally eliminated the HIV entry ban. I also signed a Presidential Memorandum directing hospitals receiving Medicare and Medicaid funds to give LGBT patients the compassion and security they deserve in their time of need, including the ability to choose someone other than an immediate family member to visit them and make medical decisions.

In other areas, the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) announced a series of proposals to ensure core housing programs are open to everyone, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity. HUD also announced the first ever national study of discrimination against members of the LGBT community in the rental and sale of housing. Additionally, the Department of Health and Human Services has created a National Resource Center for LGBT Elders.

Much work remains to fulfill our Nation's promise of equal justice under law for LGBT Americans. That is why we must give committed gay couples the same rights and responsibilities afforded to any married couple, and repeal the Defense of Marriage Act. We must protect the rights of LGBT families by securing their adoption rights, ending employment discrimination against LGBT Americans, and ensuring Federal employees receive equal benefits. We must create safer schools so all our children may learn in a supportive environment. I am also committed to ending "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" so patriotic LGBT Americans can serve openly in our military, and I am working with the Congress and our military leadership to accomplish that goal.

As we honor the LGBT Americans who have given so much to our Nation, let us remember that if one of us is unable to realize full equality, we all fall short of our founding principles. Our Nation draws its strength from our diversity, with each of us contributing to the greater whole. By affirming these rights and values, each American benefits from the further advancement of liberty and justice for all.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, BARACK OBAMA, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim June 2010 as Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Pride Month. I call upon all Americans to observe this month by fighting prejudice and discrimination in their own lives and everywhere it exists.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this twenty-eighth day of May, in the year of our Lord two thousand ten, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirty-fourth.

BARACK OBAMA

Acknowledgements

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