



United States  
of America

# Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE *112<sup>th</sup>* CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

---

## *House of Representatives*

### REMARKS OF HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES THURSDAY, APRIL 14, 2011

Ms. Norton. Mr. Speaker,

I rise today to ask the House of Representatives to join me in celebrating the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Gay and Lesbian Activists Alliance of Washington, DC (GLAA), a valued organization that has become a local leader in the struggle for equal rights for the gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender (GLBT) community.

Since its founding in April 1971, GLAA has been a respected and tireless advocate for full and equal rights for the District of Columbia, and has been at the forefront of efforts to strengthen enforcement of the landmark D.C. Human Rights Act of 1977. One of GLAA's most significant achievements, on which it worked with coalition partners, D.C. elected officials, and District residents, was the enactment of the District of Columbia Religious Freedom and Civil Rights Equality Amendment, which permits same-sex couples to marry in the District of Columbia.

In addition to its leadership on GLBT rights in the District, GLAA has always provided leadership on a wide range of civil rights issues, such as family rights, police accountability, and access to condoms in prisons and D.C. public schools. GLAA also emphasizes effective public health strategies and accountability in the fight against HIV/AIDS in the District.

At GLAA's 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary reception on April 20, 2011, the recipients of its 2011 Distinguished Service Awards will be recognized, including **The Right Reverend John Bryson Chane**, an Episcopal Bishop of Washington since 2002, a leader on issues of faith, politics and religion, an advocate for seniors, homeless and GLBT citizens, and a leader on interfaith dialogue and study; **Sharon Farmer**, a native of the District of Columbia and the first African American and woman to serve as Director of White House Photography, where she shot news stories, political campaigns, cultural events, conferences and portraits, including of President Bill Clinton and First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton; **David Friedman**, Director of the D.C. Regional Office of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, a co-founder of the Bias Crimes Task Force, and a longstanding ally of the GLBT community who advocates for victims of hate crimes and legislation to address bullying and harassment of GLBT students in D.C. public schools;

**Theodore “Teddy” Guerrant**, the longest serving accompanist in the gay and lesbian choral movement, including with the Gay Men’s Chorus of Washington, DC since 1983, an accompanist for the Central Maryland Chorale for eleven years, a member of the National Philharmonic Chorale at Strathmore Music Center for twenty-nine years, and an Organist-Choirmaster at St. Margaret's Episcopal Church in Washington, DC for thirteen years; **Ronald King**, a longtime public servant in the District of Columbia who served as a Director of Prevention and Intervention Services for the HIV/AIDS Administration, a Government Co-Chair of the D.C. HIV Prevention Community Planning Group, a manager of the first Centers for Disease Control & Prevention-funded outreach program in the District of Columbia for Black and Latino sexual minorities and of several HIV/AIDS programs, and co-founder of the DC Needle Exchange Coalition and the award-winning AIDS Program of the National Basketball Players Association; and **David C. Ward**, co-curator, with Jonathan Katz, of the National Portrait Gallery's landmark “Hide/Seek” exhibition who defended the integrity of the show in the face of censorship and controversy, an author, poet, and literary critic, as well as an historian at the Smithsonian’s National Portrait Gallery.

I ask the House to join me in honoring the recipients of GLAA’s 2011 Distinguished Service Award and celebrating GLAA’s 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of contributions to the GLBT community in the District of Columbia.