

ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Eleanor Holmes Norton
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ENVIRONMENT

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515-1501

**STATEMENT OF HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON
OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 17, 2013**

Ms. Norton. Mr. Speaker,

Every spring since 1991, when I became a member of Congress, remind the House of Representatives I have the honor and pleasure of representing the oldest continually functioning lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) organization in the United States, the Gay and Lesbian Activists Alliance of Washington, DC (GLAA). I rise today to ask the House of Representatives to join me in celebrating GLAA's 42nd anniversary and to wishing it well as it continues in the struggle for equal rights for the LGBT community.

Since its founding in April 1971, GLAA has been a respected and tireless advocate for full and equal rights for the LGBT community in 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 enactment of the Religious Freedom and Civil Marriage Equality Amendment Act of 2009, which permits same-sex couples to marry in the District.

In addition to its leadership on LGBT 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 42nd anniversary reception on April 25, 2013, the recipients of its 2013 Distinguished Service Awards will be recognized, including:

Diana Bruce is Director of Health and Wellness for the District of Columbia Public Schools (DCPS), and leads DCPS's school health office, developing policies, programs, systems and partnerships that enable local schools to provide school health services and supports for students. In this capacity, Diana initiated the development of DCPS's efforts to make its schools welcoming and inclusive of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and questioning students, staff and families. She also leads the community engagement process to develop DCPS's framework and approach to preventing, identifying and responding to bullying.

Clarence J. Fluker is the editor of Substanceandstyle.com, an art, culture, entertainment and lifestyle blog. Clarence's articles have been featured in *SWERV* and *The Life* magazines, and he has served as the Next Generation editor for *Arise*. He served as Program Manager of the D.C. Office of Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Affairs from 2008 to 2012, and previously served on its Advisory Committee. In 2002, he was elected the youngest member of the Board of Directors of Black Lesbian & Gay Pride Day, Inc., and served as its board president in 2006.

Brent Minor is executive director of Team DC, established in 2003 to educate the LGBT community on the benefits of individual and team sports. Brent chaired the Metropolitan Washington Gaymes bid committee for the 2014 Gay Games. He is a member of the Alexandria Commission on HIV/AIDS. He served on the President's Advisory Council on HIV/AIDS under Presidents Bill Clinton and George W. Bush. He also served as Director of Public Policy at the Whitman-Walker Clinic of Northern Virginia and as Director of Community Relations at Food & Friends.

Peter Rosenstein has been a tireless activist in politics, government affairs, and the arts for more than 30 years. He is president of the Campaign for All DC Families. He is founder and president of Arts in Action, and was Vice Chair of the Board of Trustees of the University of the District of Columbia. He served on Whitman-Walker Clinic's Health Development Committee, and chaired the host committee for the Food & Friends annual dinner for 9 years. He writes regularly for many publications, including the *Washington Blade*.

Jason A. Terry is a conflict resolution and human rights advocate dedicated to educating others about how to build a more peaceful world, locally and globally. He is training manager at the National Council for International Visitors, with responsibilities for regional and national meetings, webinars, and curriculum design. He is also an anti-violence organizer with the DC Trans Coalition, coordinating advocacy and educational campaigns to reduce anti-transgender violence, and serves as treasurer on the board of the Association for Gender Research, Education, Academia and Action.

I ask the House to join me in honoring the recipients of GLAA's 2013 Distinguished Service Award and in celebrating GLAA's 42nd anniversary of contributions to the LGBT community in the District of Columbia.