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STATEMENT OF HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON
OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 30, 2014

Ms. Norton. Mr. Speaker,

I rise today to ask the House of Representatives to join me in celebrating the 43rd anniversary of the Gay and Lesbian Activists Alliance of Washington, DC (GLAA). GLAA is a valued organization that has become a local leader in the struggle for equal rights for the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) community.

Since its formation in April 1971, GLAA has been a respected and tireless advocate for full and equal rights for the residents of 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.

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 34rd anniversary reception on April 30, 2014, the recipients of its 2014 Distinguished Service Awards will be recognized, including:

Jerry Clark, Chair of the D.C. Statehood Coalition, political director of D.C. for Democracy, and a board member of the Coalition to Stop Gun Violence. He has served as a trustee for the Law and Society Association, a co-chair of the Whitman-Walker spring gala, and as a member of the Democratic National Committee's Gay and Lesbian Leadership Council. He has served on the board of directors of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, including as co-chair. He was appointed to the Mayor's Committee on the 15th Anniversary of the

March on Washington. He earned his J.D. from the University of Chicago and his undergraduate degree from Princeton. He is a health benefits consultant.

Earl D. Fowlkes, Jr., President and CEO of the Center for Black Equity, Inc. (originally known as the International Federation of Black Prides), the only Black LGBT international organization in the world. He founded IFBP in 1999 as a coalition of Black Pride organizers in the United States, Canada, United Kingdom and South Africa to promote a multinational network of LGBT Pride and community-based organizations. There are over 30 Black Pride events with over 450,000 attendees each year. IFBP became the Center for Black Equity in 2012 with an expanded mission "to promote a multinational LGBT network dedicated to improving health and wellness opportunities, economic empowerment, and equal rights while promoting individual and collective work, responsibility, and self-determination." He previously served as executive director of the DC Comprehensive AIDS Resources and Education Consortium (formerly known as the DC CARE Consortium) and Damien Ministries. He was licensed as a Social Worker in New Jersey, and has worked on HIV/AIDS and LGBT issues for 25 years. He serves on seven nonprofit boards, and is chair of Mayor Vincent Gray's LGBT Advisory Committee. He attended Rutgers University with degrees in history and business.

Alison Gill, Government Affairs Director at The Trevor Project, the leading national organization providing crisis intervention and suicide prevention services to lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender queer (LGBTQ) youth, where she coordinates advocacy for LGBTQ youth mental health and well-being through policy initiatives at the federal, state, and local level. Prior to joining The Trevor Project, Alison was Public Policy Manager at the Gay, Lesbian & Straight Education Network, where she focused on state and local safe schools policy issues. Alison also engages in local transgender advocacy in Washington, DC, through Trans Legal Advocates of Washington. Alison is a graduate of Rutgers University, and received her J.D. from The George Washington University Law School.

I ask the House to join me in honoring the recipients of GLAA's 2014 Distinguished Service Award and in celebrating GLAA's 43 years of contributions to the LGBT community in the District of Columbia.