

NGLTF honors activists

The first of several events honoring NGLTF's 30th Anniversary year

WASHINGTON, DC — Each year NGLTF honors leaders who have made a significant difference in promoting equal rights for lesbian, gay, bisexual and/or transgender people at the annual Leadership Awards. Past recipients of Leadership Awards have included Coretta Scott King, Senators Ted Kennedy and Carol Mosely-Braun, film producer Bruce Cohen, editorial director of *The Advocate* Judy Wieder, comedian Margaret Cho, actors Mathew St. Patrick and Alec Mapa, DC Black Pride and parents Roger Croteau and Steve Lofton, who are suing the state of Florida to overturn the Florida ban on gay adoption.

In this, the 14th Annual Leadership Awards season, events will be held in Washington, DC in May and Los Angeles, CA in September. The annual event includes an awards ceremony, silent auction and VIP reception.

Washington DC Honorees

Ambassador Michael Guest and Alexander Nevarez



Michael Guest

Michael Guest was sworn in by Secretary of State Colin Powell as the US Ambassador to Romania in September 2001, the second openly gay ambassador in history. His partner, school teacher Alexander Nevarez, was at his side — a fact explicitly recognized by the Secretary. Ambassador Guest and Mr. Nevarez reside in the embassy residential quarters in Bucharest and have set an extraordinary example of accomplishment and honesty as an openly gay ambassadorial couple, thereby advancing the cause of equality for all same-sex couples.

see HONORS on 30

Operation Lift the Ban begins

SLDN wants Congress to repeal "Don't Ask, Don't Tell, Don't Harass, Don't Pursue;" to host first annual training and education session

WASHINGTON, DC — Servicemembers Legal Defense Network announced plans for *Operation Lift the Ban*, the first annual legislative training and education event aimed at repealing the military's gay ban. SLDN sup-

Activists from around the nation are invited to join SLDN on Capitol Hill and meet with Congressional staffers about "Don't Ask, Don't Tell, Don't Harass, Don't Pursue." Participants will also receive legislative training with information on continuing their advocacy on behalf of men and women in uniform after the conclusion of the event in Washington.

SLDN Executive Director C. Dixon Osburn

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porters from across the country will visit members of Congress to explain the failure of the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell, Don't Harass, Don't Pursue" law, which bans lesbians, gays and bisexuals from serving in the military. The event, which takes place June 2-3 in Washington, DC, is co-sponsored by American Veterans for Equal Rights.

said, "Now, more than ever, it is vitally important that members of Congress hear from constituents who support lifting the ban on lesbian and gay service members. The campaign to repeal 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell, Don't Harass, Don't Pursue' begins in Congress and those joining us in Washington are sending a clear, important message that the days of federally sanctioned discrimination must end now."

"Don't Ask, Don't Tell, Don't Harass, Don't Pursue" is the only US law that authorizes the firing of an American for being gay. The law forces the Pentagon to discharge vital personnel critical for national security, including linguists, doctors, paratroopers and pilots. Since the law was implemented in 1994, the Pentagon has discharged almost 9000 service members.

info:

American Vets: www.aver.us
Servicemembers: www.sldn.org
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