



DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
Assistant Secretary for Human Resources and Administration
Washington DC 20420

JUN - 5 2014

**MEMORANDUM FOR UNDER SECRETARIES, ASSISTANT SECRETARIES,
OTHER KEY OFFICIALS, AND FIELD FACILITY DIRECTORS**

SUBJECT: 2014 Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Pride Month

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is proud to observe the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT) Pride Month during its traditionally recognized month of June. This year's theme is "One VA - We Serve with Pride." LGBT Pride Month is observed in order to recognize the impact and contributions LGBT individuals have had and continue to have in society and in the workplace.

VA is committed to a diverse workforce and an inclusive workplace. We understand that diversity and inclusion are essential for a high performing organization that delivers the best service to our Veterans. The LGBT community is an integral aspect of our human diversity. To that end, VA has implemented several policies and programs that support our LGBT employees and Veterans, and VA includes equal employment opportunity protections for employees on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity in the Secretary's Annual EEO, Diversity, and No FEAR Policy Statement.

VA must have a workforce reflective of society, where all persons are valued and respected, so that VA maintains the highest quality of care to our Veterans, including LGBT Veterans. This very sentiment was recently acknowledged by President Obama in his Presidential Proclamation dated May 30, 2014 (<http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2014/05/30/presidential-proclamation-lesbian-gay-bisexual-and-transgender-pride-mon>). Please join us for the PRIDE Month Observance on June 12, 2014, at VACO in the G.V. "Sonny" Montgomery Veterans Conference Center, Room 230, from noon – 1 p.m. The LGBT PRIDE Month Committee will host a panel guest discussion as it relates to this year's theme.

All managers and supervisors are encouraged to support attendance at events and activities to recognize and honor the contributions of members of the LGBT community. We need the support of each employee, if we are to create an organization that fosters diversity and practices inclusion. For more information about the VA's LGBT Program, please contact Mr. Michael Youngblood, LGBT Program Manager, ODI, at (202) 632-7614 or via e-mail at Michael.Youngblood@va.gov.


Gina S. Farrisee