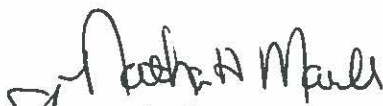


**Department of
Veterans Affairs**

Memorandum

Date: JUN 02 2017
From: Acting Assistant Secretary for Human Resources and Administration (006)
Subj: 2017 Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Pride Month (VAIQ 7797531)
To: Under Secretaries, Assistant Secretaries, and Other Key Officials

1. The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is pleased to observe the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT) Pride Month during its traditionally recognized month of June. This year's theme is "It Takes a Rainbow." LGBT Pride Month is observed to recognize the impact and contributions LGBT individuals have made and continue to make in society and in the workplace.
2. VA is committed to a diverse workforce and an inclusive workplace. 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 resources. To that end, VA has implemented several policies and programs that support our LGBT employees and Veterans. VA includes equal employment opportunity (EEO) protections for employees on the bases of sexual orientation and gender identity in the Secretary's Annual EEO, Diversity, and No FEAR Policy Statement.
3. The LGBT Pride Month committee will observe Pride Month on Thursday, June 22, 2017 in the G.V. "Sonny" Montgomery Veterans Conference Center, Room 230 at noon. This year's event, sponsored by the Office of Diversity and Inclusion (ODI), will feature keynote speaker Ms. Mary Ann Murdock, who will speak on the subject of transgender issues and related topics.
4. 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.
5. For more information about VA's LGBT Program, please contact Sterling Akins, LGBT Program Manager, ODI, at (202) 461-4145 or via e-mail at [Sterling.Akins@va.gov](mailto: Sterling.Akins@va.gov).


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