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**Testimony of State Senator Brad Hoylman Before the New York City Council  
Committee on Veterans Regarding Proposed Resolutions in Support of the New York  
Restoration of Honor Act and the Restore Honor to Service Members Act**

**December 14, 2015**

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today in support of two proposed resolutions under your consideration, one of which calls upon the State Legislature to pass and the Governor to sign S.6087, the New York Restoration of Honor Act, a bill that I introduced and sponsor in the New York State Senate. The accompanying resolution calls upon Congress to pass and the President to sign S.1766 and H.R. 3068, the Restore Honor to Service Members Act, introduced and sponsored by U.S. Representatives Charles Rangel and Mark Pocan in the House of Representatives and by Senators Kirsten Gillibrand and Brian Schatz in the U.S. Senate. I want to thank Council Member Eric A. Ulrich, Chair of the Committee on Veterans, for hosting today's hearing. I also want to thank Council Member Jimmy Van Bramer for proposing to introduce these resolutions in the City Council as prime sponsor, as well as City Council Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito for her committed co-sponsorship of both items.

For over two centuries, the experience of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) service members in the United States military was one of repression, deception, and fear. For the vast majority of our nation's history, patriotic service members willing to risk their lives in service of their country faced everything from criminal penalties to an unceremonious discharge solely due to their sexual orientation or gender identity.

LGBT veterans were often left out in the cold by the country they served. Depending on how service members were discharged, they could be stripped of benefits to which they would otherwise have been entitled, and left ineligible for a host of state and federal programs aimed at assisting veterans.

With the repeal of the military's Don't Ask, Don't Tell (DADT) policy in 2011, a bright new chapter has begun for gay, lesbian, and bisexual service members. Moreover, the Pentagon has now announced plans to allow transgender people to serve openly in the military as soon as 2016. For the first time in the history of the United States military, service members can or will be able to serve openly without fear of reprisal or discharge. While there are still major issues that need to be addressed to ensure the

equality and protection of LGBT service members, it is undeniable that four years after the repeal of DADT the United States military is more welcoming toward LGBT individuals today than at any point in its history. Even so, we cannot forget the generations of LGBT veterans who suffered through past institutional discrimination and were forced out of military service due to their sexual orientation or gender identity.

On Memorial Day this year, I released a report titled *Restoration of Honor: Expanding LGBT Veterans' Access to State Veterans' Benefits*. The report noted that over 114,000 U.S. service members have been discharged because of their sexual orientation or gender identity since World War II. It also identified at least 53 New York State benefits for veterans that are directly contingent upon the discharge status of the veteran, potentially disqualifying service members discharged because of sexual orientation or gender identity from access to these resources.

I am grateful to my colleagues at the federal level for introducing legislation that would restore federal benefits to service members discharged on the basis of their sexual orientation, and I encourage the City Council to pass a resolution in support of their efforts. Unfortunately, the current Congress is unlikely to move their important legislation forward. Moreover, the federal legislation focuses specifically on sexual orientation and would not restore benefits to service members expelled on the basis of their gender identity.

While we wait for Washington, D.C. to act, it is incumbent upon New York to lead the way. That's why on Veteran's Day, I introduced the New York Restoration of Honor Act, which will:

- Make clear that LGBT veterans are not to be considered ineligible to access state programs, services, or benefits due solely to their sexual orientation or gender identity;
- Establish a simple, streamlined certification process within the State Division of Veterans' Affairs for LGBT veterans to clarify their discharge status for the purposes of accessing state programs, services, or benefits;
- Place the burden on the state to prove that a veteran who has been discharged from the military because of their sexual orientation or gender identity is not otherwise eligible to receive state programs, services, or benefits.

The fact that generations of LGBT veterans were dismissed from service is an indelible stain on our nation's history. We shouldn't compound this historic injustice any longer by continuing to deprive these brave men and women of the benefits they rightfully earned by serving in the military. I respectfully ask my colleagues in the City Council to support the pre-considered resolutions today, which would establish New York City support for our state and federal efforts. I appreciate your time and consideration, and thank you again for the opportunity to comment.



**Restoration of Honor:  
Expanding LGBT Veterans' Access to State  
Veterans' Benefits**



**New York State Senator Brad Hoylman**

## Introduction

For over two centuries, the experience of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) service members in the United States military was one of repression, deception, and fear. For the vast majority of our nation's history, patriotic service members willing to risk their lives in service of their country faced everything from criminal penalties to an unceremonious discharge solely due to their sexual orientation or gender identity.

LGBT veterans were often left out in the cold by the country they served. Depending on how service members were discharged, they could be stripped of benefits they would otherwise have been entitled to, and left ineligible for a host of state and federal programs aimed at assisting veterans.

With the repeal of the military's Don't Ask, Don't Tell (DADT) policy in 2011, a bright new chapter has begun for LGBT service members. For the first time in the history of the United States military, service members can serve openly without fear of reprisal or discharge. While there are still major issues that need to be addressed to ensure the equality and protection of LGBT service members, it is undeniable that four years after the repeal of DADT the United States military is more welcoming toward LGBT individuals today than at any point in its history.

Even so, we cannot forget the generations of LGBT veterans who suffered through past institutional discrimination and were forced out of military service due to their sexual orientation or gender identity. An estimated 114,000 service members have been discharged because of their sexual orientation or gender identity since World War II, leaving many with tarnished military records and reputations that have unfairly jeopardized their ability to access jobs, scholarships, and vital services.

### Key Findings

- An estimated 114,000 U.S. service members have been discharged because of their sexual orientation or gender identity since World War II.
- At least 53 New York State programs, benefits, and tax breaks for military veterans are directly contingent upon the discharge status of the veteran.
- New York LGBT veterans who were discharged due to their sexual orientation or gender identity are potentially ineligible to access these state programs, depending on their discharge status.
- The federal government has not yet acted to comprehensively restore the discharge status of LGBT veterans who were discharged prior to the repeal of Don't Ask, Don't Tell.

A comprehensive survey of New York State's laws by my office found over 50 state programs, benefits, and tax breaks for military veterans that are directly contingent upon the veteran's discharge status. The benefits range in scope from general eligibility for the comprehensive services provided by the New York State Division of Veterans' Affairs to the issuance of commemorative license plates. The laws we identified touch virtually every aspect of veterans' lives, from scholarships to job opportunities to health screenings to reimbursement for burial costs. After demonstrating unparalleled service and risking their lives for our nation, it is our obligation to extend a hand to all of our distinguished veterans, many who experience great difficulty assimilating back into to civilian life.

The federal government is in the best position to act to once and for all restore LGBT veterans' discharge records to reflect their honorable service. Unfortunately, legislation to do this has stalled in Congress.

While we wait for Washington, D.C. to act, it is incumbent upon New York to lead the way. That's why I am introducing the *New York Restoration of Honor Act*. My legislation will ensure that veterans whose discharges were less than honorable due solely to their sexual orientation or gender identity are not impeded from receiving state programs, services, and benefits for which they would otherwise be eligible.

## **The History of Military Discharge for Sexual Orientation**

The history of discrimination against LGBT service members dates back as far as the history of our nation. In 1778, under an order from General George Washington, Lieutenant Gotthold Frederick Enslin of the Continental Army became the first enlisted service member to be dismissed from United States military service due to sexual orientation. In the two centuries to follow, the military would continuously clarify and strengthen policies that prohibited homosexuality.

Shortly after the conclusion of World War I, the United States Congress approved modified Articles of War that criminalized the act of sodomy, making it an offense subject to a court-martial. During World War II, even as the nation rallied around the war effort against the Axis forces, men with "homosexual proclivities" were disqualified from conscripted service and the military issued its first formal regulations stating that service members identified as homosexual could be discharged from service and denied benefits.

Over the course of the Cold War, the military's treatment of LGBT service members grew more complicated. Punishments ranging from court-martial to dishonorable discharge to compulsory general discharge depended on whether homosexual service members were determined to be "aggressive," "active," or merely "exhibiting homosexual tendencies."

In spite of military-issued reports finding that LGBT service members posed no significant security risk, federal courts repeatedly ruled in favor of the military's ban on homosexuality.

In 1993, President Bill Clinton entered the White House promising to end discriminatory practices by the military and allow anyone who qualified to serve, regardless of sexual orientation. Institutional opposition to the Clinton proposal proved too strong, and in November of that year President Clinton signed a compromise measure known as "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" (DADT).

DADT allowed LGBT individuals to serve in the military as long as they did not openly declare their sexual orientation. It included provisions to disallow pursuing or harassing individuals who may be gay, though investigations into someone's sexual orientation could occur in certain circumstances. In effect, the policy encouraged LGBT service members to remain closeted, under the constant threat of mandatory discharge.

In December 2010, after a relentless campaign by Democrats on Capitol Hill, including New York Senator Kirsten Gillibrand, President Barack Obama signed legislation repealing DADT. The policy officially came to an end in September 2011, establishing a new era in which the military would allow openly LGBT individuals to serve and be treated equally under the law.

## **The Legacy of 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell'**

Under 17 years of DADT, over 14,000 service members were dismissed from the military due to their sexual orientation. The law continued to criminalize homosexuality to the effect that many members who were dismissed earned an "other than honorable" (OTH) discharge, a category generally reserved for those who exhibit serious misconduct such as using deliberate force to harm another person. OTH status means that veterans are prohibited from receiving federal military benefits.

Some service members discharged under DADT received an honorable discharge. However, many of these service members may still have a narrative reason for

discharge listed on their discharge paperwork such as “Homosexual Conduct,” “Homosexual Act,” or “Homosexual Marriage.” These notices have the potential to affect future employment, housing, and other benefits. In addition, many of these members received a negative re-enlistment code, which bars them from re-enlisting in the military and unfairly stigmatizes them in their civilian life.

Unfortunately, the 2010 repeal of DADT did not include language to retroactively support the 14,000 service members who lost access to benefits under the law. Their OTH statuses, narrative reasons for discharge, and negative re-enlistment codes remain to this day, with the only mechanism in place to upgrade their discharge status being a burdensome, byzantine federal review process. The same holds true for the nearly 100,000 other men and women who were discharged from military service solely due to their sexual orientation between World War II and the enactment of DADT.

## **Federal Efforts**

In July 2013, U.S. Representatives Charlie Rangel of New York and Mark Pocan of Wisconsin introduced the *Restore Honor to Service Members Act*. In January 2014, U.S. Senators Kirsten Gillibrand of New York and Brian Schatz of Hawaii followed suit by introducing companion legislation in the Senate. The bill allows veterans who were discharged due to their sexual orientation to correct their military records to reflect their honorable service and therefore reinstate the benefits they rightfully earned.

While the bill boasts enviable goals, unfortunately it has stalled in committees and lost traction. In the absence of federal action, it is pertinent that we seek to restore LGBT veterans’ benefits and dignity at the state level.

## **Impact on New York State LGBT Veterans**

Searching through New York State’s Consolidated Law, my office identified 53 state programs, benefits, and tax breaks for military veterans that are tied to the discharge status of the veteran (see Appendix A for the full list). The benefits range in scope from general eligibility for the comprehensive services provided by the New York State Division of Veterans’ Affairs to the issuance of commemorative license plates.

The laws we identified touch virtually every aspect of veterans’ lives, from scholarships to job opportunities to health screenings to reimbursement for burial costs. As a result,

LGBT veterans with tarnished discharge records stand to lose out on credit toward their public pensions, targeted entrepreneurship training, and property tax breaks.

The repeal of DADT was a major step forward for LGBT service members, but we still have a long way to go to before we fully eliminate LGBT discrimination in the military. These lost benefits are the legacy of a failed policy and the need is clear for immediate state action. That is why I am introducing the *New York Restoration of Honor Act*, which will:

- Make clear that LGBT veterans are not to be considered ineligible to access state programs, services, or benefits due solely to their sexual orientation or gender identity.
- Establish a simple, streamlined certification process within the State Division of Veterans' Affairs for LGBT veterans to clarify their discharge status for the purposes of accessing state programs, services, or benefits.
- Place the burden on the state to prove that a veteran who has been discharged from the military because of their sexual orientation or gender identity is not otherwise eligible to receive state programs, services, or benefits.

## **Further Information**

For more information about the *New York Restoration of Honor Act*, please contact Burton Phillips, Chief Counsel & Policy Director for Senator Brad Hoylman, at (518) 455-2451.

## **Acknowledgements**

Thank you to Services and Advocacy for GLBT Elders (SAGE) for its insight into issues being faced by gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender veterans.

Special thanks to **Kendall Jacobsen**, **Tara Klein**, and **Burton Phillips** for their assistance in the research and preparation of this report.

*Cover:* Photo illustration "ROTC DADT" by Matt Radick. Available at <https://www.flickr.com/photos/mattradickal/6214765816/>. Used in accordance with a Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial 2.0 Generic license.



## APPENDIX A New York State Laws

Benefit	Section of Law	Condition of Discharge
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### NEW YORK STATE DIVISION OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

<p><b>General eligibility for the services, programs, activities, seminars, counseling, etc. provided by the New York State Division of Veterans' Affairs.</b></p>	<p>Executive Law § 353</p>	<p><i>Released from...service otherwise than by dishonorable discharge.</i></p> <p>Exec. L. § 350(3)</p>
<p><b>General eligibility for programs and services offered by the state veterans' services agency.</b></p>	<p>Executive Law § 356</p>	<p><i>Released from...service otherwise than by dishonorable discharge.</i></p> <p>Exec. L. § 350(3)</p>
<p><b>General eligibility for programs and services offered by local veterans' services agencies.</b></p>	<p>Executive Law § 357</p>	<p><i>Released from...service otherwise than by dishonorable discharge.</i></p> <p>Exec. L. § 350(3)</p>
<p><b>Health screening services for veterans who have been experiencing health problems.</b></p>	<p>Executive Law § 366</p>	<p><i>Released from...service otherwise than by dishonorable discharge.</i></p> <p>Exec. L. § 366(1)(b)</p>

### JOB OPPORTUNITIES

<p><b>Eligibility to gain official status as a service-disabled veteran owned business.</b></p>	<p>Executive Law § 369-I</p>	<p><i>Honorably discharged.</i></p> <p>Exec. L. § 369-I(5)(b)</p>
<p><b>Eligibility to benefit from the provisions of the Veterans Employment Act.</b></p>	<p>Executive Law § 369-C</p>	<p><i>Released from...service otherwise then by dishonorable discharge.</i></p> <p>Exec. L. § 369-b(3)</p>

**Eligibility for access to ESDC development centers targeted toward veteran-owned business ventures.**

Economic Development Law § 211

*Honorable or general discharge.*  
Ec. Dev. L. § 210(6)

**Eligibility for access to ESDC entrepreneurship support centers for training in all aspects of business development and small business management.**

Economic Development Law § 212

*Honorable or general discharge.*  
Ec. Dev. L. § 210(6)

**Veterans automatically receive additional points on civil service examinations.**

Civil Service Law § 85

*Honorably discharged or released under honorable circumstances.*  
Civ. Serv. L. § 85(a)

**Up to 500 noncompetitive civil service jobs are earmarked for disabled veterans and veterans with disabilities.**

Civil Service Law § 55-c

*Honorably discharged or released under honorable circumstances.*  
Civ. Serv. L. § 85(a)

**Protection from being discharged from public service if a veteran holds a civil service position that is abolished.**

Civil Service Law § 86

*Honorably discharged or released under honorable circumstances.*  
Civ. Serv. L. § 85(a)

**Veterans outside of New York City have the right to procure street vending licenses at no cost.**

General Business Law § 32

*Honorably discharged.*  
Gen. Bus. L. (1)

**Disabled veterans in New York City have the right to procure street vending licenses.**

General Business Law § 35-a

*Honorably discharged.*  
Gen. Bus. L. § 35-a(1)(a)

## EDUCATION

<b>Access to full tuition award scholarships for SUNY undergraduate and graduate degree programs.</b>	Education Law § 669-a	<i>Discharged...under honorable conditions, including but not limited to honorable discharge, discharge under honorable conditions, or general discharge.</i>
		Ed. L. § 669-a(1)
<b>Veterans may attend public schools free of charge at any age if they do not have a high school diploma.</b>	Education Law § 3202	<i>Discharged...under conditions other than dishonorable.</i>
		Ed. L. § 3202(1)
<b>Access to Regents scholarships for children of disabled or deceased veterans.</b>	Education Law § 668	<i>Honorably discharged.</i>
<b>Allows children of injured veterans to benefit from the Interstate Compact on Education Opportunity for Military Children.</b>	Education Law Article 66	<i>Discharged...under conditions other than dishonorable.</i>
		Ed. L. § 3302(19)
<b>Access to scholarships for children of Vietnam War veterans born with Spina Bifida.</b>	Education Law § 668-c	<i>Honorably discharged.</i>
		Ed. L. § 668-c(1)
<b>Exemption from parking or vehicle registration fees or fines on SUNY campuses while an enrolled student.</b>	Education Law § 360	<i>Honorably discharged or released under honorable circumstances from such service.</i>
		Ed. L. § 360(c)
<b>Participation in the Veteran Speaker Education Program.</b>	Executive Law § 353-A	<i>Released from...service otherwise than by dishonorable discharge.</i>
		Exec. L. § 350(3)

## PENSION & RETIREMENT

**Up to three years of credit for military service for the purposes of Public Retirement Systems.**

Retirement & Social Security Law § 1000

*Honorably discharged.*

Ret. Soc. Sec. L. § 1000

**Credit for certain military service in the New York State Employees Retirement System.**

Retirement & Social Security Law § 2

*Credit...shall not accrue to a person who is released from active duty under conditions other than honorable.*

Ret. Soc. Sec. L. § 2

**Credit for certain military service in the New York State Policemen's and Firemen's Retirement System.**

Retirement & Social Security Law § 302

*Honorably discharged or released...under honorable circumstances.*

Ret. Soc. Sec. L. § 302

**Credit for certain military service in the State Teachers' Retirement System for Public School Teachers.**

Education Law § 503

*Honorably discharged or released...under honorable circumstances.*

Ed. L. § 503

**Retirement allowances of certain war veterans who are members of the New York City Teachers' Retirement System.**

Military Law § 245

*Honorably discharged.*

Mil. L. § 245

## DEATH BENEFITS

**Eligibility to have up to \$2,500 in burial costs reimbursed through the New York State Veteran Burial Fund.**

Executive Law § 354-C

*Honorably discharged.*

Exec. L. § 354-C(2)

**Eligibility to be buried in a veterans cemetery or veterans section of a normal cemetery.**

Executive Law § 365

*Released from...service otherwise than by dishonorable discharge.*

Exec. L. § 350(3)

**County-funded purchase, care, and maintenance of burial plots in Dutchess County cemeteries, for veterans who were residents of the county at the time of their death.**

County Law § 831

*Discharged...honorably or under honorable circumstances.*

Co. L. § 831

### TRANSPORTATION BENEFITS

**Special identifying mark to denote veteran status on driver licenses.**

Vehicle & Traffic Law § 504

*Received an honorable discharge or was released...under honorable conditions.*

V. T. L. § 504(1)(a-1)

**Special identifying mark to denote veteran status on non-driver ID cards.**

Vehicle & Traffic Law § 490

*Received an honorable discharge or was released...under honorable conditions.*

V. T. L. § 490(3)(b)

**Distinctive license plates for U.S. Naval Armed Guard veterans.**

Vehicle & Traffic Law § 404-V\*2

*Honorably discharged.*

V. T. L. § 404-V\*2(1)

**Distinctive license plates for War on Terror veterans.**

Vehicle & Traffic Law § 404-W

*Discharged...under other than dishonorable conditions.*

V. T. L. § 404-W(1)

**Distinctive license plates for Persian Gulf veterans.**

Vehicle & Traffic Law § 404-W\*2

*Honorably discharged.*

V. T. L. § 404-W\*2(3)

## TAX BENEFITS

<b>Eligibility for real property tax exemptions for military or naval services.</b>	Real Property Tax Law § 458	<i>Honorably discharged.</i>  Real Prop. Tax L. § 458(2)
<b>Eligibility for real property tax exemptions for veterans.</b>	Real Property Tax Law § 458-A	<i>Discharged or released...under honorable conditions.</i>  Real Prop. Tax L. § 458-A(1)(e)
<b>Eligibility for real property tax exemptions for Cold War veterans.</b>	Real Property Tax Law § 458-B	<i>Discharged or released...under honorable conditions.</i>  Real Prop. Tax L. § 458-B(1)(a)
<b>Eligibility of businesses to receive "hire-a-vet" tax credit against franchise taxes on business corporations.</b>	Tax Law § 210-B	<i>General or honorable discharge.</i>  Tax L. § 210-B(29)(b)(1)
<b>Exemption from sales taxes on military decorations.</b>	Tax Law § 1115	

## APPOINTMENT OPPORTUNITIES

<b>Appointment as Director of Veterans Affairs</b>	Executive Law § 351	<i>Released from...service otherwise than by dishonorable discharge.</i>  Exec. L. § 350(3)
<b>Appointment to Veterans Affairs Commission</b>	Executive Law § 352	<i>Released from...service otherwise than by dishonorable discharge.</i>  Exec. L. § 350(3)
<b>Appointment as Women's Veterans Coordinator</b>	Executive Law § 361-B	<i>Released from...service otherwise than by dishonorable discharge.</i>  Exec. L. § 350(3)

## OTHER BENEFITS

<b>Eligibility for admission to the New York State Veterans' Home.</b>	Public Health Law § 2632	<i>Discharged under honorable conditions.</i>  Pub. H. L. § 2632(1)
<b>General eligibility for veteran assistance through social services districts.</b>	Social Services Law § 168-178	<i>Honorably discharged or released under honorable circumstances.</i>  Soc. Serv. L. § 168(1)
<b>Entitlement to an annuity paid to veterans.</b>	Executive Law § 364	<i>Honorable, general or ordinary discharge or any other form of release...except a dishonorable discharge, a bad conduct discharge, an undesirable discharge, a discharge without honor or a discharge for the good of the service.</i>
<b>Entitlement to an additional annuity paid to blind veterans.</b>	Executive Law § 362	<i>Released from...service otherwise than by dishonorable discharge.</i>  Exec. L. § 350(3)
<b>Eligibility to apply for the issuance or renewal of a gun license.</b>	Penal Law § 400.00	<i>Has not been discharged...under dishonorable conditions.</i>  Pen. L. § 400.00(1)(g)
<b>Exemption from age restriction for the issuance of a gun license.</b>	Penal Law § 400.00	<i>Honorably discharged.</i>  Pen. L. § 400.00(1)(a)
<b>Eligibility to receive the Conspicuous Service Cross award from the Governor.</b>	Military Law § 247	<i>Honorable service.</i>  Mil. L. § 247(1)
<b>Eligibility to receive the Conspicuous Service Star award from the Governor.</b>	Military Law § 247	<i>Honorable service.</i>  Mil. L. § 247(1-a)

**Eligibility to receive the Cold War Certificate from the New York State Adjutant General.**

Military Law § 247

*Honorably discharged or released under honorable circumstances.*

Mil. L. § 247(1-b)(iv)

**Paid leave for public employees who are veterans on Memorial Day and Veterans Day.**

Public Officers Law § 63

*Discharged or released...under honorable conditions.*

Pub. Off. L. § 63

**Paid leave for public employees who are veterans on July 4th.**

Military Law § 249

*Honorably discharged.*

Mil. L. § 249

**Exemption from licensing fees for insurance agents.**

Insurance Law § 2013

*Conditions other than dishonorable.*

Ins. L. § 2103(j)(11)



## **APPENDIX B**


### **Forms of Discharge**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Details</b>
<b>Honorable Discharge</b>	Administrative	The most common form of discharge. Given to those who have exhibited good or excellent service.
<b>General Discharge</b> <b>(a/k/a Discharge Under Honorable Conditions)</b>	Administrative	Given to those who have exhibited satisfactory service, but have had performance-related issues such as personal conduct infractions or failing to advance in training.
<b>Other Than Honorable Discharge</b>	Administrative	Given to those with serious misconduct issues such as abuse of authority, use of violence, or security violations.  Often given to LGBT service members under Don't Ask, Don't Tell.
<b>Entry Level Separation</b>	Administrative	Given to members who leave service prior to completing 180 days of service.
<b>Bad Conduct Discharge</b>	Punitive	A punishment given by a court martial to those who have committed a violation such as disorderly conduct, being absent without leave, or being drunk on duty.
<b>Dishonorable Discharge</b>	Punitive	A punishment given by a court martial to those who have exhibited reprehensible behavior, such as murder, sexual assault, or desertion.
<b>Dismissal</b>	Administrative	Commissioned officers cannot receive punitive discharges, and instead are issued dismissals if convicted by a court martial.  They are treated effectively the same as dishonorable discharges for enlisted service members.

## Senate Bill S6087

IN SENATE COMMITTEE

Enacts the New York State Restoration of Honor Act

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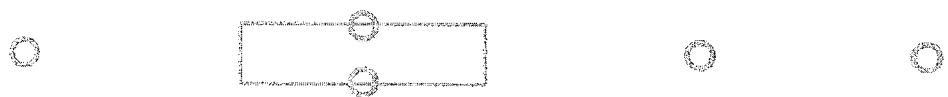


"We need to do all we can to look after the well-being of our veterans – including our LGBT vets..."



[Brad Hoylman \(/Senators/Brad-Hoylman\)](#)  
(D, WF) 27TH SENATE DISTRICT

BILL STATUS



[VIEW ACTIONS](#)



SUMMARY

Enacts the "New York State Restoration of Honor Act".

DO YOU SUPPORT THIS BILL?

[AYE \(/REGISTRATION/NOJS/LOGIN\)](#)

[NAY \(/REGISTRATION/NOJS/LOGIN\)](#)

BILL DETAILS

Versions:

[S6087 \(/Legislation/Bills/2015/S6087\)](#)

Legislative Cycle:

2015-2016

Committee:

Senate Rules (/Committees/Rules)

Law Section:

Executive Law

Laws Affected:

Add Art 17-C §§369-l - 369-o, and §353, Exec L

SPONSOR MEMO

BILL NUMBER: S6087

TITLE OF BILL: An act to amend the executive law, in relation to enacting the "New York State Restoration of Honor Act"

PURPOSE: This bill would create a streamlined process for LGBT veterans who had been discharged less than honorably from the United States military due solely to their sexual orientation or gender identity to restore their eligibility for New York State veteran benefits for which they would otherwise be entitled.

SUMMARY OF PROVISIONS: Section 1 of the bill states that the act shall be known and may be cited as the "New York State Restoration of Honor Act."

Section 2 of the bill creates a new article 17-c of the executive law entitled "New York State Restoration of Honor Act."

-New section 369-l of the executive law establishes definitions used throughout the article.

-New section 369-m of the executive law states that no veteran shall be denied eligibility for any program, service, benefit, or activity of New York state or local government agencies that provide services or facilities to veterans for which they would otherwise be eligible, solely on the basis of the veteran's status as a discharged LGBT veteran.

-New section 369-n of the executive law establishes a process through the New York State Division of Veterans' Affairs through which discharged LGBT veterans may obtain certificates of eligibility for state and local veterans' benefits.

-New section 369-o of the executive law states that the governor may direct any relevant state or local agencies to cooperate with and assist the Division of Veterans' Affairs to properly carry out the activities and effectuate its purposes under this new article.

Section 3 of the bill amends section 353 of the executive law to

require the Division of Veterans' Affairs toll-free veterans' hotline to include information about obtaining certificates of eligibility for discharged LGBT veterans.

Section 4 of the bill is the effective date.

JUSTIFICATION: With the repeal of the military's Don't Ask, Don't Tell (DADT) policy in 2011, a bright new chapter has begun for LGBT service members. For the first time in the history of the United States military, gay and lesbian service members can serve openly without fear of reprisal or discharge. While there are still major issues that need to be addressed to ensure the equality and protection of LGBT service members - including protections for transgender service members - it is undeniable that four years after the repeal of DADT the United States military is more welcoming toward LGBT individuals today than at any point in its history.

Even so, we cannot forget the generations of LGBT veterans who suffered through past institutional discrimination and were forced out of military service due to their sexual orientation or gender identity. An estimated 114,000 service members have been discharged because of their sexual orientation or gender identity since World War II, leaving many with tarnished military records and reputations that have unfairly jeopardized their ability to access jobs, scholarships, and vital services.

A comprehensive survey of New York State's laws by my office found over 50 state programs, benefits, and tax breaks for military veterans that are directly contingent upon the veteran's discharge status. The benefits range in scope from general eligibility for the comprehensive services provided by the New York State Division of Veterans' Affairs to the issuance of commemorative license plates. The laws we identified touch virtually every aspect of veterans' lives, from scholarships to job opportunities to health screenings to reimbursement for burial costs. After demonstrating unparalleled service and risking their lives for our nation, it is our obligation to extend a hand to all of our distinguished veterans, many who experience great difficulty assimilating back into to civilian life.

The federal government is in the best position to act to once and for all restore LGBT veterans' discharge records to reflect their honorable service. Unfortunately, legislation to do this has stalled in Congress.

While we wait for Washington, D.C. to act, it is incumbent upon New York to lead the way. This legislation will ensure that veterans whose discharges were less than honorable due solely to their sexual orientation or gender identity are not impeded from receiving state programs, services, and benefits for which they would otherwise be eligible.

PRIOR LEGISLATIVE HISTORY: New bill.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS: To be determined.

EFFECTIVE DATE: This act shall take effect on the ninetieth day after it shall have become a law; provided that effective immediately, the division of veterans' affairs is authorized to implement rules and regulations for the timely implementation of this act on its effective date.

**[VIEW BILL TEXT](#)**



## COMMENTS


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kiera — Shouldnt that already be on the physical form?

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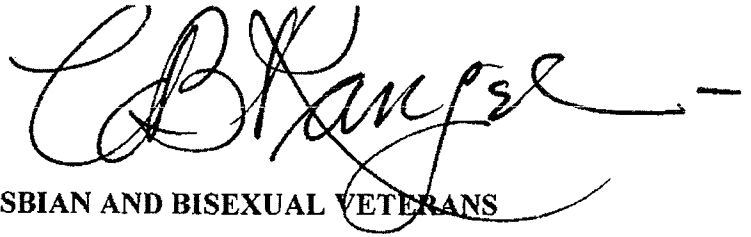
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William Wiley — I am in favor of this bill as there are many previous and ongoing issues with courts in New York providing Deaf and

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11 comments • 6 months ago

Tammy Brown — Everyone, please help to vote AGAINST this bill. I am personally a vaccine injured pharmacist and podiatrist.



**RESTORING HONOR TO GAY, LESBIAN AND BISEXUAL VETERANS**

**Testimony by Congressman Charles B. Rangel**

**The New York City Council Hearing**

**By Committee on Veterans**

**City Hall Committee Room**

**Monday, December 14, 2015**

**11:00 AM**

Thank you, Chairman Eric A. Ulrich of Committee on Veterans, for allowing me this privilege to speak on this critical issue of restoring honor to gay, lesbian and bisexual veterans.

As the author of H.R. 3068, the Restore Honor to Service Members Act, in the United States House of Representatives, I am proud to support Council Member Van Bramer and the Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito's efforts in calling for the enactment of this federal legislation and S.6087, the New York Restoration of Honor Act.

Congress's repeal of "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" was a watershed moment that ended institutionalized discrimination unjustly targeting gay, lesbian and bisexual service members. Yet thousands of service members who were discharged because of their sexual orientation still bear the scars of that discrimination.



Since the Second World War, more than 100,000 service members are estimated to have been discharged from the military because of their sexual orientation, many with less-than-honorable discharges that have barred them from the benefits that they earned. Without a bill to protect these veterans, thousands of Americans who risked their lives to serve this country will continue to be denied access to the GI Bill and veterans' health care, and they will have a more difficult time finding civilian employment. Even those whose discharges were deemed "honorable" still face a high risk of discrimination. Many times, the reason for their discharge may indicate their sexual orientation, threatening their privacy when they share their paperwork with employers and landlords who may use that information to deny them a job or housing, either overtly or under a false pretense.

For the tens of thousands discharged before "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" went into effect in 1994, it is nearly impossible to prove that they were discriminated against and discharged from the military because of their sexual orientation. The military did not openly admit its prejudice against gay, lesbian and bisexual service members, but it still used sexual orientation to decide that many service members were unfit to serve, and kicked them out. For many of these veterans, there was no additional aggravating circumstance surrounding their other-than-honorable discharge – only sexual orientation –yet since this discrimination is often not captured in a service member's record, it is difficult to correct.

The Department of Defense has already begun working to give service members who were discharged solely because of their sexual orientation the chance to restore their records to reflect their honorable military service. However, that process remains onerous for many service

members, often requiring them to retain legal counsel to navigate red tape, and produce paperwork that they may not have. Moreover, there is no legal requirement that the appeals process always remain available to gay, lesbian and bisexual veterans seeking corrective action.

To right this wrong, I have teamed up with Congressman Mark Pocan (D-WI), Chair of the LGBT Equality Caucus, and Senators Brian Schatz (D-HI) and Kirsten Gillibrand (D-NY), to introduce and pass the Restore Honor to Service Members Act.

Our bill would turn the Defense Department's temporary policy into permanent law. And while we believe that the bar to prove one's military service should remain high, it would simplify the paperwork requirement necessary for service members to initiate a review, making it clear that the lack of documentation cannot be used as the basis for denying a review. Finally, it would require the historians of each military service to review cases where service members were discharged for their sexual orientation before the repeal of "Don't Ask, Don't Tell." This would improve the historical record that the Defense Department can use to help gay, lesbian and bisexual veterans correct their records.

We are in the middle of a historic moment for gay rights in America. We have struck down "Don't Ask Don't Tell," and we have legalized same-sex marriage. I am proud that New York State has been at the forefront of our nation's fight for marriage equality. Now, let us restore the honor that is long overdue to our gay, lesbian and bisexual service members. I hope that the State Legislature's passage of the New York Restoration of Honor Act would urge Congress to follow lead and give our veterans the clean, honorable record they deserve.

**To: CBR**  
**From: Chris Capasso**  
**Through: Hannah Kim**  
**Re: New York State Restoration of Honor Act**  
**Date: 12/10/2015**

### **Background**

- New York State Senate Bill S. 6087, "New York State Restoration of Honor Act" was introduced by Sen. Brad Hoylman (D. WF-27) on November 6, 2015
  - 27th District covers most of Manhattan, including the neighborhoods of Clinton/Hell's Kitchen, Chelsea, Greenwich Village, the Upper West Side, Midtown/East Midtown, Columbus Circle, Times Square, Stuyvesant Town-Peter Cooper Village, the East Village and Lower East Side
  - Sen. Hoylman first elected to the State Senate in November 2012 after having spent more than 20 years as a Democratic grassroots activist
  - Hoylman was born and raised in rural West Virginia as the youngest of six children, attended public schools through college, graduated with honors, won a Rhodes Scholarship, and put himself through Harvard Law School
  - Hoylman is a former Democratic District Leader and three-term Chair of Manhattan Community Board 2; former Trustee of the Community Service Society, New York City's leading anti-poverty organization; former board member of the Empire State Pride Agenda, Tenants & Neighbors, Class Size Matters and Citizen Action
  - Past-president of the Gay & Lesbian Independent Democrats; he and his husband, David, and their young daughter, Silvia, are members of the LGBT synagogue, Congregation Beit Simchat Torah
- Cosponsors include: Joseph Addabbo Jr (D-15), Michael Gianaris (D-12), Ruth Hassell-Thompson (D.WF-36), George Latimer (D-37), Velmanette Montgomery (D-25), Bill Perkins (D.WF-30), Jose Serrano (D. WF-29), and Daniel Squadron (D-26)

- Status: In Committee (Senate Rules)

### **Summary**

- Creates a streamlined process for LGBT veterans who had been discharged less than honorably due solely to their sexual orientation or gender identity to restore their eligibility for NY State veteran benefits
  - State programs, benefits, and tax breaks for military veterans are directly contingent upon the veteran's discharge status
- No veteran shall be denied eligibility for any program, service, benefit, or activity of NY state or local government agencies that provide services or facilities to veterans, solely on the basis of the veteran's status as a discharged LGBT veteran
- Establishes a process through the NY State VA for LGBT veterans to obtain certificates of eligibility

### **NY Programs, Services, and Benefits (per [military.com/benefits](http://military.com/benefits))**

- Housing
  - State Veterans Home
  - NY State Homes for Veterans
- Financial Assistance
  - Property Tax Exemptions
  - Supplemental Burial Allowance
  - NY State Blind Annuity
  - NY State Gold Star Annuity
- Employment Benefits
  - Disabled Veterans Civil Service Preference
  - Civil Service Credit Preference
- Education Benefits
  - Veterans Tuition Awards
  - New York State Regents Awards (for children of deceased & disabled veterans)
  - Military Service Recognition Scholarship
  - Operation Recognition - High School Diplomas

- Other Benefits
  - Hunting Licenses & Permits
  - Customized Military and Veteran License Plates

\* Additional details on history, impact, and benefits are included in the NY State Senate Report, "Restoration of Honor: Expanding LGBT Veterans' Access to State Veterans' Benefits."

Preconsidered Res. No.

Resolution calling on the State Legislature to pass and the Governor to sign S.6087, the New York Restoration of Honor Act

By Council Member Van Bramer and the Speaker (Council Member Mark-Viverito)

Whereas, With the end of the military's "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy in 2011, Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) service members are now able to serve openly for the first time, but generations of veterans in New York and across the country continue to be ineligible for a host of state and federal programs; and

Whereas, More than 50 New York State benefits offered to veterans are contingent upon an honorable discharge status, according to a report from State Senator Brad Hoylman; and

Whereas, New York State benefits available to veterans with an honorable discharge status include access to educational and employment programs, property tax exemptions, pension credit for military service, and eligibility to be buried in a veterans' cemetery; and

Whereas, Roughly 114,000 United States (U.S.) service members have been discharged for their sexual orientation or gender identity since World War II, according to that report; and

Whereas, Veterans who were discharged for their sexual orientation or gender identity did not receive an honorable discharge status; and

Whereas The federal government has not yet acted to comprehensively restore the discharge status of LGBT veterans who were discharged prior to the repeal of Don't Ask, Don't Tell; and

Whereas, In November 2015, New York State Senator Brad Hoylman introduced S. 6087, The New York Restoration of Honor Act, which would make veterans who received a less than honorable discharge status due to their sexual orientation or gender identity eligible for New York State veterans' benefits; and

Whereas, According to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, more than 200,000 veterans reside in New York City; and

Whereas, All veterans who have honorably served their country, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity, should be entitled to programs, benefits, and services earned from their military service; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Council of the City of New York calls upon the State Legislature to pass and the Governor to sign S.6087, the New York Restoration of Honor Act.

RM/ENB  
LS 5463  
12/3/2015

**New York City Council Hearing  
Monday, December 14, 2015 - 11:00 a.m.**

**Testimony re: U.S Senate S. 1766 and U.S. House of Representatives H.R. 3068, the Restore Honor to Service Members Act and New York Senate S.6087, the New York Restoration of Honor Act**

My name is Audrey Carr. I am the Director of the Veterans Justice Project (VJP) at Legal Services NYC. Legal Services NYC (LSNYC) is the largest provider of free civil legal services in the nation with offices in all five boroughs of New York City where we serve over 60,000 New Yorkers annually. The VJP represents low-income veterans, active duty service members and their families who are in need of civil legal services in the areas of housing law, public benefits, family law and other essential needs. Our attorneys and paralegals answer calls from veterans on our city wide legal hotline and staff multiple legal clinics at VA facilities throughout the city. We provide free legal services to over a thousand of New York City's veterans, active duty service members and their dependents every year.

I am delighted to be here this morning to contribute to this Committee's and the City Council's efforts to encourage the U.S. Congress to pass the Restore Honor to Service Members Act and the New York State Senate to enact the New York Restoration of Honor Act.

As this Committee is well aware, the Department of Defense Form 214 ("DD 214") is the form that every service members receives upon separation from the military. The DD 214 contains a wealth of information, including what branch of the military a service member was in, the dates the service member served in the military, their rank, training received and their pay rate. In addition, the DD 214 contains what is called a "spin code" that lists the reason a service member left the military. The DD 214 is effectively a service members' resume that provides details about the service members' military service and many veterans provide their DD 214 to prospective employers. The DD 214 is crucial because depending on what it states about a service members' discharge, it either opens doors for veterans or effectively shuts off many opportunities to veterans. If the DD 214 states that a veteran was dishonorably discharged, then at the federal level she cannot become a U.S. citizen, get health care benefits from the Veterans Administration, receive a military pension, or qualify for the many existing educational benefits provided to veterans and their families. Likewise, at the state level, a veteran with a negative discharge status cannot obtain general vendors licenses, housing in Mitchell-Lama housing developments, credit on civil service job exams, access to state educational benefits and property tax exemptions.

Most veterans released from the military for a "homosexual act" received an Honorable or General Under Honorable Circumstances discharge. Those veterans with an honorable discharge who were



released from the military under “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell (DADT) might have “Homosexual Conduct,” “Homosexual Admission,” “Sodomy” or “Homosexual” listed on the narrative portion of the DD 214 as the reason for their discharge. Very many other veterans, however, were discharged from the military for homosexuality with an “aggravating factor.” This “aggravating factor” could include acts committed openly in public view or committed on base or on post. A discharge with “aggravating factors” results in an Other Than Honorable discharge. Regardless of whether the discharge was honorable or not, veterans, discharged from the military for their sexual orientation, are loathe to submit their DD 214 to potential employers because the narrative portion of the form does not only place a stigma on the veteran, it often leads to a veteran being discriminated and denied employment and other prospects.

In 2014, LSNYC’s Veterans Justice Project began working with Services and Advocacy for Gay Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Elders or “SAGE.” SAGE provides services to and engages in advocacy on behalf older Gay Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender persons. Its veterans program assists elderly veterans who left the military with a DD214 that make specific reference to their sexual orientation.

The VJP is currently working with a 76-year-old veteran who was referred to us by SAGE. This veteran enlisted in the U.S Air Force in 1956 at 18 years old, just after the end of the Korean War. He served in the military without incident until 1959 when he received an honorable discharge but the “spin code” on the veterans Form DD 214 states, “homosexuality acceptance of discharge in lieu of board action.” In other words, the veteran was forced to leave the military or face prosecution for homosexuality. The veteran’s sexual orientation has absolutely nothing to do with his military service, yet it is an official statement that has been part of his military record for 56 years. Moreover, because of his discharge record, he has been denied access to medical care and other services that someone his age desperately needs. The VJP, with the assistance of pro bono counsel, is currently petitioning the Air Force Discharge Review Board to remove the harmful notation from the veteran’s DD 214 Form.

This past June, the U.S. Secretary of Defense, Ashton Carter, announced that the DoD had completed its process for updating the Department’s military equal opportunity policy to include sexual orientation, thereby ensuring that the DoD, like the rest of the federal government, treats sexual orientation-based discrimination similarly to discrimination based on race, religion, color, sex, age, and national origin. Although admirable, a change in DoD policy is not enough. The legislation introduced in the New York State Senate by State Senator Brad Hoylman, in the U.S. Senate by Senators Brian Schatz and Kirsten Gillibrand and in the U.S. House of Representatives by Representatives Mark Pocan and Charles Rangel is essential to ensuring that gay veterans can change their discharge status and be truly recognized for their noble service to this country. Without this legislation, hundreds of veterans will continue to be cheated out of the benefits they are entitled to successfully reintegrate into civilian life.

M. Audrey Carr, Esq.  
Director Veterans Justice Project  
Legal Services NYC

## Written Submission to the New York City Council Veterans Committee

Amanda Spray, PhD  
December 14, 2015

Chairman Ulrich and members of the Committee:

Thank you for inviting testimony from our organization today at the NY Council Committee on Veterans. I am Dr. Amanda Spray, Clinical Psychologist and Assistant Director of the Steven and Alexandra Cohen Military Family Clinic at NYU Langone Medical Center. I am here today to testify on behalf of the leadership and staff of the Military Family Clinic in support of Proconsidered Resolutions calling upon Congress and the State Legislature to pass the Restore Honor to Service Members Act and the New York Restoration of Honor Act.

The Steven and Alexandra Cohen Military Family Clinic at NYU Langone provides high quality, free mental health treatment to veterans, active duty service members, and their families. Our clinicians have seen the negative impact on LGBT service members who have been dishonorably discharged because of who they are and whom they love. The lasting psychological impact is incalculable: To be discharged dishonorably is to be disowned, disenfranchised, and discarded. For many, serving in the military is to be welcomed as a family member; for those in the LGBT community to be told they have *not* served honorably is to have that family turn their backs on them. The implications of these feelings ripple throughout their lifetimes. A dishonorable discharge limits veterans' access to care, reinforcing the message to the LGBT warfighter that he or she is not worthy of the medical and mental health services others have earned. To be accepted by community is a fundamental human need. For those who risk their lives for our country, being honored as one who has served is a necessary component of healing.

These important resolutions are in keeping with nationwide efforts to right the wrongs of the past. In 1973, the American Psychiatric Association removed homosexuality as a mental disorder from the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual (DSM). In 2011, Don't Ask, Don't Tell was repealed. And on June 26, 2015, marriage equality became the law of the land. These resolutions are taking sledgehammers to walls built by discrimination while further solidifying the important institutions that make up the foundation of our society. As a country we are obligated to restore honor to those LGBT veterans who have served honorably. We at the Military Family Clinic are in favor of these preconsidered resolutions and thank the City Council Veterans Committee for supporting this extraordinarily important cause.

Thank you for the opportunity to present our testimony.

## AMERICAN VETERANS FOR EQUAL RIGHTS NEW YORK



AS 1A2

347 239-9201    averny.tripod.com    POB 150160, Kew Gardens, NY 11415    glbtvetsnyc@yahoo.com  
December 14, 2015

The Council of the City of New York Committee on Veterans  
Re: Resolution regarding the Congressional Restore Honor to Service Members Act  
Re. Resolution regarding NY State Restoration of Honor Act

Testimony by Denny Meyer  
National Public Affairs and Veterans Affairs Officer, American Veterans For Equal Rights  
President, American Veterans For Equal Rights New York

I am an American veteran who served for ten years in two services during and after the Vietnam Era, leaving the service honorably as a Sergeant First Class. I left by not reenlisting, in order to be able to live freely as a gay person, rather than continuing to hide my personal identity. I had volunteered to serve my country as a first generation American child of Holocaust refugees. My mother arrived at Ellis Island in 1938 as an illegal immigrant refugee. I wanted to pay my country back for my family's freedom and did so, in uniform, for over a decade, honoring my mother's rearing me to believe that there is nothing more precious than American Freedom.

From World War II through the repeal of Don't Ask Don't Tell in 2010, over 114,000 patriotic American volunteers were involuntarily discharged from our armed forces due to being gay; simply because of who they were. Many were fired with less than honorable discharges, dishonorably in disgrace due to a policy of prejudice. To this day, many of those patriots still are waiting to have their service recognized and honored, and to become eligible for the medical and other benefits that they earned serving our nation. The discrimination they suffered has not yet been rectified. Many had their working careers limited by their discharges and many continue to be denied the benefits they earned, both from the Veterans Administration and from the State of New York (as well as many other states in which they live).

The Congressional Restore Honor to Service Members Act would streamline the discharge upgrade process, which currently can take decades, enabling our patriotic Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender American veterans to at long last receive the honor dignity, respect and benefits that they earned serving our nation in World War II, Korea, Vietnam, Iraq and Afghanistan. The time is long past to rectify the prejudice they endured. This act was introduced by New York's own Kirstin Gillibrand and Charlie Rangel, as well as Sen. Shatz of HI, and Rep. Pocan of WI.

The NY State Restoration of Honor Act would assure that our LGBT veterans in NY State receive benefits equal to other patriotic veterans, regardless of their discharge status as it related to being gay.

Together, these two essential pieces of legislation will alleviate the ongoing discrimination from an outdated policy that American Veterans For Equal Rights has advocated against for 25 years. In 2005 this council passed the nation's first DADT repeal resolution. Once again, I thank the NY City Council for its enlightened consideration.

Denny Meyer, Gay Veteran

## AMERICAN VETERANS FOR EQUAL RIGHTS NEW YORK



2/2

718 849-5665    averny.tripod.com    POB 150160, Kew Gardens, NY 11415    glbtvetsnyc@yahoo.com

December 14, 2015

The Council of the City of New York Committee on Veterans  
Re. Resolution regarding NY State Restoration of Honor Act

Testimony by Denny Meyer  
National Public Affairs and Veterans Affairs Officer, American Veterans For Equal Rights  
President, American Veterans For Equal Rights New York

As a non-partisan national Lesbian, Gay Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT) Veterans Service Organization, American Veterans for Equal Rights (AVER) is dedicated to equality in all aspects of supporting our service members and veterans. As such, AVER is committed to ensuring that every person who selflessly serves in the armed forces is honored for their service regardless of their identity.

We therefore write in support of S.6087, the New York State Restoration of Honor Act, sponsored by State Senator Brad Hoylman. In the absence of a comprehensive federal law to restore the discharge status of LGBT veterans who were discharged from the military prior to the repeal of Don't Ask, Don't Tell, the Restoration of Honor Act ensures that the dozens of New York State benefits and programs available to veterans will not be denied to those whose status was less than Honorable due to solely to their sexual orientation or gender identity.

Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender military personnel have historically been disenfranchised by discriminatory policies and practices. For too long too many honorable service members have been wrongfully discharged or discharged with a less than honorable status due to their identity – claimed or perceived – as a member of the LGBT community. As a result, service members, veterans and families who sacrificed so much for the United States are denied the benefits they were promised. The New York State Restoration of Honor Act is one way that New York can make certain that its military personnel are honored with the pride they deserve.

**THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. \_\_\_\_\_ Res. No. \_\_\_\_\_

in favor  in opposition

Date: 12/14/15

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: State Senator Brad Hoylman

Address: 322 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Suite 1700, New York, NY 10001

I represent: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

**THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. \_\_\_\_\_ Res. No. 1766

in favor  in opposition

Date: Dec 14

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Dr. Amanda Spray

Address: One Park Ave, New York NY

I represent: NYU Langone

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

**THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. \_\_\_\_\_ Res. No. \_\_\_\_\_

in favor  in opposition

Date: 14 DEC 15

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Kristin Rouse

Address: Brooklyn NY

I represent: NYC Veterans Alliance

Address: PO Box 532 NY NY 10159

Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms

**THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. \_\_\_\_\_ Res. No. \_\_\_\_\_  
 in favor  in opposition

Date: 14 DEC 2015

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: DAN MCSWEENEY

Address: CENTRE ST #2208

I represent: UNITED WAR VETERANS COUNCIL

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms

**THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. \_\_\_\_\_ Res. No. \_\_\_\_\_  
 in favor  in opposition

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: AUDREY CARR

Address: 40 WORTH ST #606 NY, NY

I represent: LEGAL SERVICES NYC

Address: 40 WORTH ST #606 NY, NY

Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms

**THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. \_\_\_\_\_ Res. No. Restore  
Homer

in favor  in opposition

Date: Dec 14 15

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Denny MEYER, AMER. VETERANS FOR EQUAL RIGHTS

Address: POB 150160, Kew Gardens, NY 11415

I represent: AVER

Address: As Above

Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms

**THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. \_\_\_\_\_ Res. No. \_\_\_\_\_

in favor  in opposition

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Congress Charles R. Rangel

Address: 163 West 125th St.

I represent: Veterans

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms