

CITY COUNCIL  
CITY OF NEW YORK

-----X

TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

of the

COMMITTEE ON VETERANS

-----X

June 26, 2013  
Start: 1:23 p.m.  
Recess: 1:54 p.m.

HELD AT: 250 Broadway  
Committee Rm, 14<sup>th</sup> Fl.

B E F O R E:  
MATHIEU EUGENE  
Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS:  
Council Member Fernando Cabrera  
Council Member Daniel Dromm  
Council Member Lewis A. Fidler  
Council Member Vincent J. Gentile  
Council Member David G. Greenfield  
Council Member Donovan Richards

## A P P E A R A N C E S (CONTINUED)

William Martin  
Committee Clerk  
New York City Council

1  
2 CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: [off mic] Good  
3 afternoon. I'm Council Member Mathieu Eugene,  
4 Chair of the Council Committee on Veterans. I  
5 want of offer, first and foremost let me  
6 acknowledge my colleges, the Council Members who  
7 are Members of the Veteran Committee for joining  
8 us and we have with us Council Member Cabrera,  
9 Council Member Greenfield and Council Member  
10 Richards. Thank you very much gentlemen. Today  
11 we're going to vote, we will be voting on a  
12 resolution that will have LGBT veterans that were  
13 discharged from the military. Resolution 1842,  
14 Introduced by Council Member Van Bramer and the  
15 Speaker calls on the Congress to pass, To Restore  
16 Members to Service Members Act, sponsored by  
17 Congress Member Mac - - and Charlie Reyna  
18 [phonetic]. Veterans have earned many benefit  
19 because of their service yet thousands of veterans  
20 who had to leave the military because of their  
21 sexual orientation with less than honorable  
22 discharges cannot access those benefits. It is  
23 estimated that 114,000 veterans were discharged  
24 because of their sexual orientation between 1945  
25 and 2011. The Restore Honor to Service Members

1  
2 Act would provide for the upgrade of discharge  
3 classifications that were other than honorable or  
4 dishonorable to more accurately reflect the  
5 veterans service. The act would remove any  
6 reference to service members sexual orientation  
7 from their military record, in order to protect  
8 veterans privacy and to prevent possible  
9 discrimination. These men and women serve out  
10 country bravely and they should have the same  
11 access to healthcare, pensions, home loans, help  
12 with education, burials benefit as all other  
13 honorably serving members. I want to thank our  
14 colleagues in Congress, particularly Charlie Reyna  
15 and Steve Israel [phonetic] for their work on this  
16 legislation. I also have a very brief statement  
17 for the record for Danny Mayer [phonetic]  
18 President of Ever New York [phonetic]. I read,  
19 Ever thanks Speaker Quinn, Council Member Van  
20 Bramer as well as Congressman - - and Congress  
21 Member Reyna for introducing this resolution. And  
22 we endorse and support it. Since the repeal of  
23 DADT, Ever has made the streamlining of discharge  
24 a great one of our main advocacy issues. Many  
25 thousand of LGBT service members were dishonorably

1  
2 discharged from World War II to 1994, prior to  
3 DADT or D-A-D-T, and thousand more under the DADT  
4 policy. The current process of discharge - - is  
5 extremely cumbersome and bureaucratic, and can  
6 take a decade in many cases. With the resolution  
7 no doubt advocates this process should be almost  
8 automatic for those discharged purely for being  
9 LGBT as well as being indicated on their  
10 discharge, DD214 paper. Please call the roll.

11 MR. WILLIAM MARTIN: William  
12 Martin, Committee Clerk, I--

13 CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: [interposing]  
14 Before you call the roll let me mention that we  
15 have been joined by Council Member Gentile also.  
16 Will you please call the roll?

17 MR. MARTIN: Roll call, Committee  
18 on Veterans, Resolution 1842, Council Member  
19 Eugene?

20 CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: I vote aye.

21 MR. MARTIN: Gentile?

22 COUNCIL MEMBER GENTILE: I vote  
23 aye.

24 MR. MARTIN: Cabrera?

25 COUNCIL MEMBER CABRERA: Aye.

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23

MR. MARTIN: Greenfield?

COUNCIL MEMBER GREENFIELD: Aye.

MR. MARTIN: Richards?

COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARDS: Aye.

MR. MARTIN: By a vote of five in the affirmative, zero in the negative and no abstentions, item has been adopted. Members, please sign the Committee Report.

CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: Yes, are we going to keep the vote open for a few minutes?  
[off mic]

MR. MARTIN: Council Member Fidler?

COUNCIL MEMBER FIDLER: Aye.

MR. MARTIN: The vote now stands at six in the affirmative, zero in the negative and no abstentions. [pause] Council Member Dromm?

COUNCIL MEMBER DROMM: I vote aye.

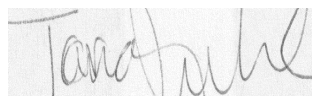
MR. MARTIN: Final vote on the Committee on Veterans at seven in the affirmative, zero in the negative and no abstentions. [pause]

MALE VOICE 1: We will, this meeting is adjourned.

C E R T I F I C A T E

I, Tara Juhl certify that the foregoing transcript is a true and accurate record of the proceedings. I further certify that I am not related to any of the parties to this action by blood or marriage, and that I am in no way interested in the outcome of this matter.

Signature

A rectangular box containing a handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Tara Juhl".

Date 7/17/13