

NEWS/POLITICS

Gays and Lesbians Boast Political Victories

WASHINGTON, DC - The Gay and Lesbian Victory Fund, the nation's largest gay and lesbian political action committee, announced in June that nine of its endorsed candidates won their elections or won enough votes to move on to a runoff. Many of the Victory Fund-endorsed candidates overcame vicious attacks by well-funded, anti-gay challengers. These wins from last month's races come on the heels of 11 wins earlier this year, three of which are outright wins.

One of the goals of the Victory Fund has been adding openly gay or lesbian elected officials in state legislatures where there are currently none - an effort the group refers to as the "Legislative Horizon States" Campaign. Three candidates have advanced to help the organization move closer to that goal:

- In Alabama, Patricia Todd fended off a last-minute smear campaign in order to make it to a July 13 runoff for a state

legislature seat in a Birmingham district.

- Matt McCoy won his primary in Iowa to defend his legislative seat in November even after repeated attacks from a "family values" opponent. This is McCoy's first race as an openly gay candidate.
- Kathy Webb won her Democratic primary in May for a seat in the Arkansas state legislature. She is poised to become the first openly LGBT legislator in the state's history.

"Increasingly, fairness trumps fear. Our candidates are winning because voters understand they care about issues that matter to them - the economy, schools, crime and health care. A candidate's sexual orientation is a nonissue among fair-minded Americans," said Chuck Wolfe, President and CEO of the Victory Fund. "Our successful candidates provide a compelling vision for advancing public policy on a wide range of issues voters care about - and, ultimately,

that's what resonates with the voter. Not whether or not the candidate is gay or lesbian."

Wolfe also noted that key wins in states whose legislatures have no openly LGBT representation present an opportunity for dialogue on issues important to all types of families.

"Other legislators respond to the courage and commitment demonstrated by their openly gay and lesbian colleagues. It's harder to be intolerant towards those you know and work with every day," he said.

A recent Zogby poll conducted for the Gay and Lesbian Leadership Institute found that more than 70% of respondents would vote for an openly gay or lesbian candidate for state legislature if the candidate shared their views on the issues.

The following are significant wins as of mid-June:

- Patricia Todd - Alabama State House, moves on to a runoff on July 13
- Ken Yeager - California, Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors, won his seat outright with more than 50% of the vote in a field of three candidates.
- Kevin Dowling - California, Hayward City Council, incumbent who was re-elected to his seat.
- David Rubin - California, San Diego Superior Court Judge, who was elected to his seat.
- Richard Gordon - California, San Mateo County Board of Supervisors, incumbent who retains his seat.
- John Laird - California State Assembly, incumbent with no general election opposition.
- Mark Leno - California State Assembly, incumbent advances to general election.
- Matt McCoy - Iowa State Senate, Incumbent - advances to general election Nov. 7.
- Christine Kaufmann, Montana State House, incumbent with no general election opposition. ▼

➔ From Gay and Lesbian Victory Fund press release. The Fund provides strategic, technical and financial support to openly LGBT candidates and officials. In 14 years, Victory has helped the number of openly LGBT officials grow from 49 to over 350. For more information, visit www.victoryfund.org

DEATHS

Dr. Fritz Klein Dies at 73

Founder of American Institute of Bisexuality Mourned

SAN DIEGO — Fritz Klein, chair and founder of the American Institute of Bisexuality, died in May following a cardiac arrest, according to the institute's website.

He was known for his pioneering sex research and development of the Klein Sexual Orientation Grid, which "measures the complexity and fluidity of sexual orientation." Klein deduced from his studies that "sexual orientations are too complex to be broken into simple, well-defined categories."

Born in Vienna in 1932, Klein and his family fled to New York City to escape anti-Semitism and the war. He was a psychiatrist for 30 years in San Diego and New York and published several books including *Life, Sex and the Pursuit of Happiness* in 2005. ▼ (From www.bisexual.org)

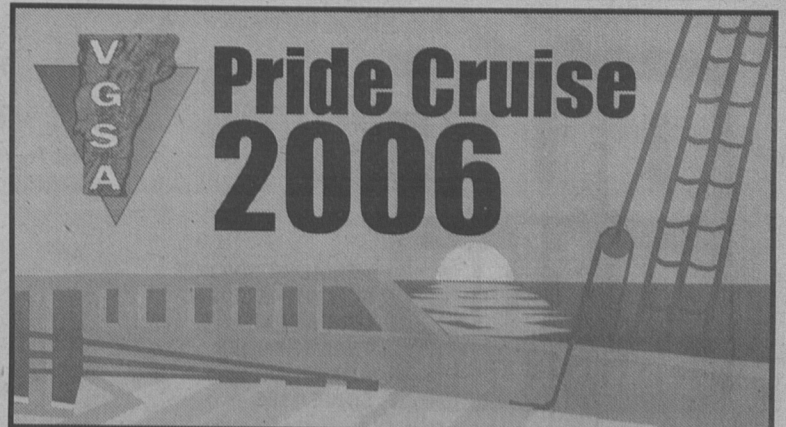
Rev. Canon Clinton R. Jones Dies at 89

Episcopal Priest Worked for Gays, Poor, Sex Offenders

HARTFORD, CT — The Rev. Canon Clinton R. Jones, who worked on behalf of many on the margins of society, died here in June. He had been recently diagnosed with pancreatic cancer, according to a report in the *Hartford Courant*.

Jones was a "legend" known for his outreach to many. He was especially known for his research in homosexuality and transsexuality, the *Courant* said. Jones counseled many people struggling with their sexual orientation as well as those undergoing sex change operations. He published three books and numerous articles regarding gender identification, the *Courant* said.

Jones served with the Christ Church Cathedral for 40 years, the newspaper said. ▼ (From www.courant.com)



Don't Miss Our Kick-Off Pride Party!
FRIDAY EVENING, JULY 7, 8PM SUNSET SAILING

Music by Superior Sounds DJ John Martin
Cash Bar with Free Appetizers
8pm the King St. Ferry Dock, Burlington

TICKETS: \$25 MEMBERS, \$30 NON-MEMBERS (BEFORE JUNE 23).
\$35 (AFTER JUNE 23). \$40 (AT BOARDING).

ALSO... **Post-Pride Picnic!**

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Consult your tax or legal advisor for specific advice.

07/05