

# Pride Day 1990

## Pride Day Greeting from Governor Kunin

I'm very sorry that I can't be with you today, but I am speaking at an event which parallels your concern for human rights: the rally to welcome Nelson Mandela.

What I would like to share with you is my observation that this coalition of Vermonters made a breakthrough a wall of prejudice this year. Most particularly, your ability to gather wide support for the Hate Crimes bill heralds a new level of understanding of these issues.

In addition, the ability for all of us to coalesce around this legislation provided a healing mechanism following the brutal assault which took place in Burlington last spring.

While the legislation won't single-handedly eliminate hatred and bias, it does provide an important affirmation of our shared values and makes it clear that anyone who deviates from these standards will be punished.

I am also pleased to note that the political "fallout" from publicity affirming your cause has declined. When I first attended your rally on Gay Pride Day, I was the lone politician to speak. Today, I am far from alone, and more importantly, you are not alone.

With best wishes,  
Madeleine M. Kunin  
Governor, State of Vermont

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