

Out in the Mountains

established in 1986

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To Submit Articles and Letters

We encourage and implore our readers to do what they can to make OITM a paper both for and by gay, lesbian, and bisexual Vermonters. Please assist us by typing your articles and letters double-spaced and including your name and phone number in case we have any questions. Your submission should be received by OITM no later than the 1st of the previous month. Thank you for helping out!

Veterens Return Medals

Lesbian, gay and bisexual veterans marked the July 4th holiday by participating in the official Independence Day Parade in Washington, D.C. A contingent of vets and their supporters, including Gene Barfield of Vermont, marched through the nation's capital to display their patriotism and their pride in having served their country. Thousands of spectators lining the parade route cheered the gay and lesbian veterans, who passed the reviewing stand chanting, "Lift the Ban, Now!"

After the parade, a military color guard led the gay and lesbian contingent around Lafayette Park to a rally in front of the White House. Veterans who had served in the Army, Navy and Air Force attempted to present their service medals to President Clinton, as a protest, against, the military's antigay policy. Despite a prior agreement with

White House police, guards refused to accept the medals from the veterans, who then left them at the White House gate.

"Those medals represent some of my greatest achievements and most cherished moments of my adult life," said Tanya Domi, director of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF) Military Freedom Initiative, and one of the veterans who returned her medals to the President. "The gay and lesbian contingent being included in the parade for the first time was historic, and the crowd support was thrilling. We clearly have the hearts and minds of millions of Americans with us on ending this discrimination."

The July 4th actions kicked off the National Mobilization Against the Ban, sponsored by NGLTF and the Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Veterans of America (GLBVA). ▼

Letters to the Editor

Dear OITM,

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Jean ▼

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