

Resolution to Change the Characterization of Discharge of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer (LGBTQI+) Veterans Discharged Before September 20th, 2011

Whereas many LGBTQI+ veterans honorably served The United States of America; and

Whereas the Clinton Administration enacted the Don't Ask, Don't Tell (DADT) policy on December 21, 1993, a homophobic policy which prevented soldiers from being asked about their sexuality and did not honorably discharge LGBTQI+ soldiers if outed; and

Whereas before September 20th, 2011, LGBTQI+ soldiers were not granted an Honorable Discharge from the military for identifying as LGBTQI+; and

Whereas between the enactment of the DADT policy and 2009, more than 13,000 LGBTQI+ soldiers were discharged¹; and

Whereas not honorably discharged veterans lose many veteran's benefits and are forbidden from working for the government, taking out bank loans, often lose voting rights, and face major obstacles obtaining federal assistance as a civilian; and

Whereas some LGBTQI+ veterans who were not honorably discharged are not aware that they may be able to appeal their discharge; and

Whereas if the veterans are aware and apply, they still may not get their discharge approved as DADT was a law at the time of their discharge²; and

Therefore be it resolved that the LD 48th Democrats calls on Washington State Elected Officials to support the honorable discharge of all veterans discharged due to the Don't Ask Don't Tell policy; and

Be it further resolved that the LD 48th Democrats call on our congressional representatives and senators to support a bill to restore honor to certain previously discharged members of the Armed Forces; and

Be it finally resolved that the LD 48th Democrats call on the King County Democrats and Washington State's Congressional representatives to support this resolution.

LD 48th Democrats

Approved and adopted (?) at the LD 48th General Membership meeting,
12-8-2021

¹Pruitt, Sarah. "Once Banned, THEN Silenced: How Clinton's 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell' Policy Affected LGBT MILITARY." *History.com*, A&E Television Networks, 25 Apr. 2018, www.history.com/news/dont-ask-dont-tell-repeal-compromise.

²Army Review Boards Agency. "Don't Ask, Don't Tell." *The United States Army* | Army Review Boards Agency, Army Review Boards Agency, arba.army.pentagon.mil/dadt.html.