

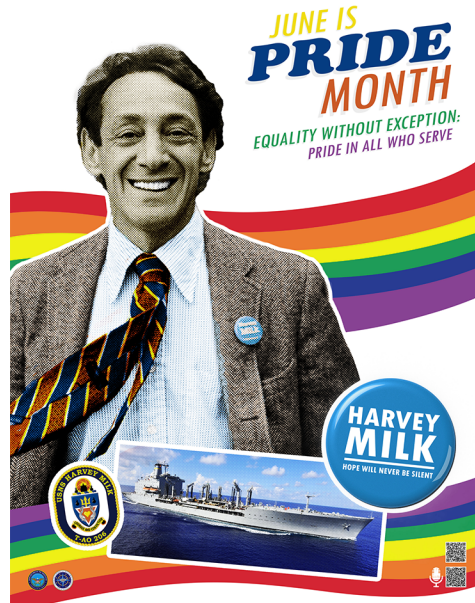
CULTURAL  
AWARENESS

# OBSERVANCE



JUNE IS PRIDE MONTH

EQUALITY WITHOUT EXCEPTION:  
PRIDE IN ALL WHO SERVE



The Department of Defense recognizes June as Pride Month, celebrating LGBTQI+ Service members who have courageously served and sacrificed in the U.S. military. The Department is committed to creating an environment that maximizes individual talents, increases morale, and enhances military effectiveness.

The Stonewall Riots, also called the Stonewall Uprising, began on June 28, 1969, when New York City police raided the Stonewall Inn, a gay club located in Greenwich Village in New York City. The Stonewall Riots served as a catalyst for the gay rights movement in the United States and around the world.

Harvey Milk was an American politician and the first openly gay man to be elected to public office in California, as a member of the San Francisco Board of Supervisors. He was instrumental in the struggle for gay rights.

After college graduation, he joined the U.S. Navy during the Korean War. He served aboard the submarine rescue ship USS Kittiwake as a diving officer. He later transferred to Naval Station, San Diego to serve as a diving instructor. In 1955, he was discharged from the Navy at the rank of lieutenant, junior grade.

On November 27, 1978, Milk's political nemesis, Supervisor Dan White, confronted and killed Mayor George Moscone, then walked into Milk's office, and murdered Milk, his former colleague.

In August 2009, President Barack Obama honored Milk posthumously with America's highest civilian medal, the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

*"Harvey Bernard Milk dedicated his life to shattering boundaries and challenging assumptions...Throughout his life, he fought discrimination with visionary courage and conviction. Before his tragic death in 1978, he wisely noted, "Hope will never be silent," and called upon Americans to stay true to the guiding principles of equality and justice for all..."*

In November 2021, the USNS Harvey Milk was launched in San Diego, in a service attended by Navy Secretary Carlos Del Toro.

Diversity is more than race, gender, and ethnicity—it means diversity of thought, ability, background, language, culture, and skill. As we celebrate Pride Month, let us take pride in all who serve.