



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
CITY OF CHICAGO

RAHM EMANUEL
MAYOR

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, throughout the history of America, lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender Americans of diverse yet convergent backgrounds have fearlessly defended the principles of the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution of these United States through their service in the United States Armed Forces side by side with their heterosexual counterparts; and

WHEREAS, generally recognized as the catalyst for the modern gay civil rights movement, the Stonewall Uprising of 1969 sparked unified resistance to the widespread injustices faced by all in the greater LGBT community leading to a resurgence of political, economic, and community activism to gain basic rights; and

WHEREAS, in 1990, lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender veterans formed a mutually beneficial organization, now called American Veterans for Equal Rights (AVER), for the purpose of recognizing and appreciating their distinguished military service; and

WHEREAS, the Chicago Chapter of AVER has remained steadfast in supporting and assisting lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender veterans in the Chicagoland area for over 20 years; and

WHEREAS, whilst making history day in and day out, American Veterans for Equal Rights has also witnessed extraordinary cultural shifts with the rolling out of the Don't Ask, Don't Tell Repeal Act of 2010, allowing LGBT-identifying citizens to serve openly and proudly in the United States Armed Forces; and

WHEREAS, as the members of the Chicago Chapter of AVER persist in their tireless work toward a more perfect union, affirming to all, they continue to selflessly give of their time, resources, and expertise to improve the lives of all veterans:

NOW, THEREFORE, I, RAHM EMANUEL, MAYOR OF THE CITY OF CHICAGO, do hereby proclaim June 30, 2015 to be LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL, AND TRANSGENDER VETERANS OF AMERICA DAY IN CHICAGO, and encourage all Chicagoans to acknowledge and salute these outstanding veterans for their brave sacrifice and unwavering dedication to our country, and ongoing contributions to the City of Chicago.

Dated this 30th day of June, 2015.


Mayor