

AN OVERVIEW OF LGBTQ+ HISTORY

August 7, 1915—First lecture on homosexuality given in the USA by Emma Goldman.

December 1924—The Society for Human Rights is formed. It is the first gay rights organization in the USA.

1936—Nazis began rounding up homosexual men and sending them to concentration camps. Later some lesbians were also imprisoned. Homosexual men were marked with upside down pink triangles, lesbians with black triangles.

June 1947—Edythe Eyde began publishing the gay magazine, *Vice Versa*.

January 1948—The Kinsey Report by Alfred Kinsey is published.

November 11, 1950—Harry Hay and others formed the Mattachine Society.

1951—*The Homosexual in America* by Donald Webster Cory is published.

April 27, 1953—President Dwight Eisenhower signed an executive order that barred homosexuals from government service. The Lavender Scare (simultaneous with the Red Scare) began.

October 19, 1955—The Daughters of Bilitis is formed.

October 1956—The first issue of *The Ladder* is released by the Daughters of Bilitis.

May 1959—The first documented LGBTQ+ riot took place at Cooper's Donuts, Los Angeles, CA.

April 17, 1963—The East Coast Homophile Organization (ECHO) picketed outside the White House protesting the U.S. government's treatment of homosexuals.

April 18, 1963—ECHO picketed outside U.N. protesting Castro's treatment of homosexuals.

April 25, 1965—Dewey's Deli sit-in, Philadelphia, PA.

1966—Compton Cafeteria Riots, San Francisco, CA.

October 8, 1968—Troy Perry held the first service in what would become the Metropolitan Community Church (MCC).

June 28, 1969—Stonewall Uprising, Greenwich Village, New York City, NY

December 1969—The Gay Activist Alliance (GAA) is formed. In 1970, GAA secured its own building in SOHO, New York City, NY.

June 28, 1970—The Christopher Street Liberation Day march (precursor to Pride Marches to honor and remember the Stonewall Uprising) is held.

May 18, 1970—Jack Baker and Mike McConnell applied for a marriage license in Minneapolis, MN. It was the first challenge to same-sex marriage laws. They were denied.

1971—McConnell changed his name to Pat Lynn McConnell. A license was issued thinking McConnell was female. They were married, becoming the first same-sex couple married in the USA. The state of Minnesota chose to ignore the marriage rather than fight it.

March 11, 1973—The first meeting of what would become PFLAG (Parents, Families, and Friends of Lesbians and Gays).

December 1973—The leadership of the American Psychiatric Association (APA) voted unanimously to remove homosexuality from the organization's list of disorders.

April 1, 1974—Ann Arbor, MI citizens elected Kathy Kozachenko to the city council. She was the first openly gay person elected to public office in the USA.

1974—Voters in Massachusetts sent Elaine Noble to the state senate. She was the first openly gay person elected to statewide office.

1976—The Gay Rights National Lobby (later the Human Rights Campaign) was formed in Washington, D. C.

January 18, 1977—Dade County, Florida passed a civil rights ordinance.

June 7, 1977—Led by Anita Bryant, the Dade County ordinance is overturned.

March 26, 1977—Members of President Jimmy Carter's administration met with a delegation of gays and lesbians. This was the first such meeting ever in the White House.

November 8, 1977—Harvey Milk was elected to the San Francisco Board of Supervisors.

April 1978—Mayor George Moscone signed a San Francisco gay rights ordinance.

June 25, 1978—The Rainbow or Pride Flag, designed by Gilbert Baker, flew for the first time in the San Francisco Gay Freedom Day Parade.

November 1978—Proposition 6 was defeated in California.

November 27, 1978—Harvey Milk and Mayor George Moscone were assassinated.

October 14, 1979—The first National March on Washington for Lesbian and Gay Rights.

July 3, 1981—A story appeared in the *New York Times* about a rare cancer found in homosexual men.

1982—Wisconsin was the first state to pass a law banning lesbian and gay discrimination.

December 1984—Berkeley, CA became the first city to offer domestic partner benefits.

November 27, 1985—Cleve Jones had the idea for a quilt to remember those who died of AIDS.

June 30, 1986—In *Bowers vs. Hardwick*, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled lesbians and gays had no constitutional rights in their private, personal lives.

March 12, 1987—Larry Kramer formed ACT UP (AIDS Coalition to Unleash Power).

October 11, 1983—The NAMES Quilt was displayed on the National Mall for the first time.

1993—Don't Ask, Don't Tell, an initiative of President Bill Clinton, was passed into law.

September 21, 1996—The Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) was passed and then was signed by President Bill Clinton. It defined marriage as being between a man and woman. States followed with their own DOMA laws.

October 12, 1998—Matthew Shepard was murdered. His was one victim of a growing number of hate crimes against members of the LGBTQ community.

July 1, 2000—Civil Unions began in Vermont.

June 26, 2003—In *Lawrence vs. Texas* the United States Supreme Court ruled homosexuals' privacy is constitutionally protected.

November 18, 2003—The Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court ruled that gay and lesbian couples should have the right to marry.

May 17, 2004—752 same-sex couples are wed in in Massachusetts.

February 12, 2004—After a ruling by San Francisco mayor Gavin Newsom, Phyllis Lyon and Del Martin received the first same-sex marriage license in California and were married. Others followed. Twenty-nine days later, a judge ruled that marriages across the state be halted.

August 12, 2004—The California Supreme Court ruled all same-sex marriages were invalid.

August 30, 2007—Iowa Judge Robert Hanson declared the state ban on same-sex marriages was unconstitutional.

May 15, 2008—The California Supreme Court ruled the state's ban on same-sex marriages was unconstitutional.

June 16, 2008—Phyllis Lyon and Del Martin again are the first same-sex couple married in California.

November 2008—Prop 8 passed in California. Same-sex marriages were halted and the rights of same-sex married couples were taken away.

Spring 2009—John Berry, an openly-gay man, was appointed by President Barack Obama as director of the Office of Personnel Management.

April 2009—Vermont legislators passed a marriage equality bill. That state was followed by Connecticut, New Hampshire, and the District of Columbia.

October 28, 2009—President Barack Obama signed the Matthew Shepard and James Byrd Jr. Hate Crimes Prevention Act into law.

August 8, 2010—Judge Vaughn Walker ruled California’s Prop 8 was unconstitutional. The decision was immediately appealed.

September 9, 2010—Don’t Ask Don’t Tell was declared unconstitutional by a federal judge in California. Congress repealed the law later that year.

July 24, 2011—New York began same-sex marriages.

2011—Secretary of State Hillary Clinton declared, “Gay rights are human rights, and human rights are gay rights.”

March 27, 2013—The Supreme Court of the United States heard Edith Windsor’s case against the Defense of Marriage Act.

2013—Three more state legislatures voted for same-sex marriage: Rhode Island, Delaware, and Minnesota.

June 26, 2013—The Supreme Court of the United States struck down the Defense of Marriage Act. Two days later, marriages resumed in California.

September 27, 2013—New Jersey was the first state where the ban on same-sex marriage fell. Other states followed.

June 26, 2015—The Supreme Court of the United States ruled that same-sex couples have the right to be married.

June 24, 2016—President Barack Obama declared the Stonewall Inn a nation monument making it America’s first LGBT national park site.

June 30, 2016— Under President Barack Obama, the ban on transgender service in the military is lifted.

July 27, 2017—Under President Donald Trump, the Justice Department declared that the Civil Rights Act of 1964 does not protect workers on the basis of sexual orientation.

July 27, 2017—President Donald Trump tweeted that he would ban transgender people from military service.

August 2018—Federal judges rule against Baltimore and Washington blocked Trumps order.

January 1, 2018—The Defense Department began to accept open transgender recruits.

Source: *Gay & Lesbian History for Kids: The Century-long Struggle for LGBT Rights* by Jerome Pohlen.
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