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GAY AND LESBIAN ACTIVISTS ALLIANCE OF WASHINGTON, D.C.
33RD ANNIVERSARY RECEPTION HONORING
DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD RECIPIENTS

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 20, 2004

- **Ms. NORTON.** Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a Washington, D.C. institution that has been in the forefront of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgendered civil rights movement, and that I have the distinct honor and pleasure of representing in this body: the Gay and Lesbian Activists Alliance of Washington, D.C. (GLAA), the oldest continuously active gay and lesbian rights organization in the United States.
- Since its founding in April 1971, GLAA has been a respected and persistent advocate in District politics tirelessly asserting equal rights and social equality for lesbians and gay men living in the city through peaceful participation in the political process.
- GLAA has long fought to improve relations among the District's gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered communities and the D.C. Government. GLAA has taken the lead in advocating better training for the D.C. Metropolitan Police Department and Fire and Emergency Medical Service employees. GLAA persuaded the D.C. Public Schools to implement and enforce an effective, anti-harassment policy established to protect all students. GLAA advocated effective public health strategies in the fight against AIDS. GLAA fought to insure that treatments and medicine are available to those in need and that the District's spending on HIV/AIDS services be both open and transparent.
- GLAA also has long been at the forefront of the efforts to strengthen enforcement of the D.C. Human Rights Act of 1977 by demanding all anti-discrimination policy statements in the D.C. government reflect the full range of classes protected by that law.
- On April 20th, GLAA held its 33rd Anniversary Reception honoring the 2004 recipients of its Distinguished Service Awards: Sarah Kellogg, Deacon MacCubbin, The Mautner Project, Cheryl Spector, and Nadine Chandler Wilburn.
- Sarah Kellogg is a director of D.C.'s Reel Affirmations film festival and a member of the board of its parent organization, One In Ten.
- For 35 years Deacon MacCubbin has been a model community activist and business leader. He created the first D.C. Gay Pride celebration, the gay switchboard, the first D.C. gay youth support group, and his bookstore, Lambda Rising, serves as a de facto community center.
- Since its founding in 1990, the Mautner Project has been the only national organization dedicated to lesbians with cancer, their partners and caregivers. Its mission is to improve the health and well-being of lesbians and their families by: delivering services and support to lesbians with cancer, their families and caregivers; educating lesbians about important health issues; educating healthcare providers about the needs and concerns of their lesbian clients; and promoting lesbian health through research, advocacy, and activism.
- For over two decades Cheryl Spector has been a community activist. She has documented gay and lesbian life in Washington with her still and video photography.
- Nadine Chandler Wilburn who performed excellent service to the LGBT community while she was interim director of the D.C. Office of Human Rights from 2002 – 2003.
- GLAA's thirty-three year fight to secure equal rights for the LGBT citizens of Washington, D.C. is more poignant as United States Citizens living in our nation's capital, who have fought in every American war, including the present war in Iraq, are taxed without representation. Furthermore, GLAA's open and forthright advocacy for rights reminds us that LGBT soldiers, who have sworn to protect our country with their lives, must serve in silence, without the open support of their chosen families and communities, neither asking nor telling.
- I ask the House to join me in congratulating the Gay and Lesbian Activists Alliance and its honorees.