



PRESS ADVISORY - FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MARRIAGE EQUALITY USA APPLAUDS PRESIDENT OBAMA'S CERTIFICATION OF DON'T ASK, DON'T TELL REPEAL

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Marriage Equality today applauds President Obama's certifying the repeal of Don't Ask, Don't Tell.

"Today, the nation sees the beginning of the end of the costly and discriminatory policy known as 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell.' For over 17 years, we've seen our military discharge the brave and the willing by the thousands just because of who they are. For those service members who were discharged under this costly policy, today opens up the door to the chance of getting back to serving. For those serving in silence, it lights a beacon of hope. For those who want to serve their country, today brings their freedom to serve even closer. We are on the path to equality and we will not turn back, not after 17 years," said Ty Redhouse, Marriage Equality USA's Military/Veterans Community Liaison.

"'Don't Ask, Don't Tell' is now on its way out and will no longer be the law of the land come late-September. Between now and then, repeal advocates will urge the military to begin addressing issues regarding service members and their loved ones. Today's huge step forward is a significant stride toward equality inside the ranks and out. But the military still does not recognize same-sex civil unions and marriages because of the Defense of Marriage Act. This will be the next step," continued Redhouse.

"Now that Don't Ask, Don't Tell is finally coming to an end, it's time for full equality nationwide for LGBTTIQ people in all aspects of their lives. With the end of exclusion in our military, it's time to end the exclusion of loving, committed same-sex couples from marriage," said John Lewis, Marriage Equality USA's Legal Director.