



The Gender Connection by Silia Hurst

Hello Everyone! I like to share with what is going on with the Transgender Community. First I would like to inform you that **NTAC Lobby Days will be held in Washington, DC on May 18 - May 20, 2005**. Contact www.ntac.org for more information.

HRC will not endorse any ENDA bill unless it is TG Inclusive

I would like to also share our victory event that took place On August 7, 2004. Members and Activists, including myself with NTAC (National Transgender Advocacy Coalition) and Transsexual Menace to protest in front of the HRC (Human Rights Campaign) Building in Washington D.C. so they can support the transgender community. We protest to include the language of gender identity / expression to ENDA (Employment Non-Discrimination Act).

The results were rewarding when HRC's Executive Director, Cheryl Jacques came outside to greet and tell us that the Human Rights Campaign Board of Governors resulted in HRC's agreement that HRC would join with NGLTF, PFLAG and the hundreds of other national, regional and state LGBT organizations in telling the congressional sponsors of the Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA). It took ten years and nine days for HRC to agree.

Special Thanks to the team of Mara Keisling, Shannon Minter, Paisely Currah, Kylar Broadus, Diego Sanchez, Donna Cartwright, Donna Rose, Reed Vogle, Jamison Green and Lisa Mottet. Thanks also to the Transgender Menace protesters who were picketing outside of the meeting. And, thanks to the HRC staff and its Board of Governors!

Make sure you note of this day, August 7, 2004. On this day, we continued our civil rights struggle as ONE people.

Day of Remembrance

The Transgender day of Remembrance was begun as a reaction to the murder of Rita Hester; the Day was begun by transgender activist Gwendolyn Smith in 1999.

More than 180 cities nationwide will be observing the Transgender Day of Remembrance on November 20th, commemorating transsexuals, cross-dressers and otherwise gender-variant people who have been killed because of anti-transgender hatred or prejudice.

Too many families and friends have mourned a loved one's brutal and senseless murder this past year. As we reflect on the lost lives of transgender brothers and sisters, we must remain resolute and steadfast in our fight to ensure this violence ends.

The murders of Brandon Teena, Bella Martinez, Gwen Araujo, Stephanie Thomas, Ukea Davis and others left deep scars not only on their loved ones but on everyone who saw in them something of themselves. Living with the fear of attack takes the deepest toll one can imagine.

It's appalling that anybody can feel motivated to harm someone just because of who they are. Until those that are wrong is righted, America's promises will remain unfulfilled.

As GLBT Americans and our allies across the nation mark the sixth annual Transgender Day of Remembrance this Saturday, we must commit to do everything within our power to continue educating America about gender identity and __expression. We must act as one community in fighting the scourge of hate crimes and reaching out to engage more allies in the fight against them. Our work will not be done and our efforts will not cease until transgender Americans are free from the fear of discrimination and hate violence.

Sylvia Guerrero honored by foundation

Sylvia Guerrero, the mother of a transgender Newark youth who was killed after others at a Newark party discovered the 17-year-old was biologically male, is the recipient of a Special Courage Award presented by the Colin Higgins Foundation.

In awarding Guerrero a \$5,000 grant, the foundation cited her work as "a mentor to transgender youth" and her "travels around the country to educate communities about transgender issues and advocate change." Guerrero also will receive a scholarship to attend the 17th annual National Gay and Lesbian Task Force Creating Change Conference.

"Sylvia has endured unthinkable tragedy, yet still finds the strength to make a difference in the lives of others through her advocacy work," said Catalina Ruiz-Healy, manager of the foundation, established by screenwriter, director and producer Colin Higgins in 1986 to further his humanitarian goals.

Gwen Araujo, who was born Eddie Araujo but was living as a young woman at the time of the slaying, was killed in October 2002. Gwen Araujo was bludgeoned and strangled to death by three men who discovered she was biologically male at a party. Gwen's body was found in a shallow grave in the wilderness 150 miles from their Newark, CA home in the eastern San Francisco

Bay area. The murder trial of three men charged in the slaying ended in a hung jury last June, and a new trial is slated to begin in May 2005.