

NORTHWEST BRIEFS by Ryan J. Prado



Darcelle XV

Darcelle XV Honored as Trans Hero

Legendary drag pioneer Darcelle XV was honored June 10 by the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, in collaboration with the International Court System, as one of the "Stonewall 40 Trans Heroes" — a list of 40 impersonators, drag queens, transsexuals, drag kings and transgender individuals who have helped to shape the community. The iconic local personality is among a formidable group that includes progressive luminaries RuPaul and author Leslie Feinberg.

Darcelle was obviously overjoyed at the announcement.

"Wow! I guess if you live long enough, you get involved in everything. It's really lovely, I'm really proud," she said.

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Darcelle's activism in the gay, lesbian, bi and trans community spans the better part of four decades. Her namesake revue is noted as the longest running drag show in the country.

On June 25 a plaque, engraved with the names of all "40 Trans Heroes," will be placed at New York City's Stonewall Inn — the site of the infamous, groundbreaking riots.

"When I read what [the honor] was really, then it really hit home," said Darcelle. "It's marvelous to be recognized among 40 people in the United States of America, in our community all over! It's pretty prestigious to me. We've been to Stonewall many times, so it's kind of fun."

For more information, visit thetaskforce.org.

"Don't Ask, Don't Tell" Appeal Dismissal Prompts Response

The United States Supreme Court announced on Monday, June 8 that it would not listen to appeals in the case of *Pietrangelo v. Gates*. The decision marks a Supreme Court siding with the Obama administration regarding the Clinton-era gays in the military implementation of "Don't Ask, Don't Tell." Since the announcement, a nationwide cry from the sexual minorities community has been palpable, including outrage from local organizations.

"Basic Rights Oregon is disappointed that the Supreme Court refused to take up the case regarding the military's discriminatory



MARTY DAVIS

Veterans marching in Portland PRIDE. The United States Supreme Court refused to listen to appeals in the case of *Pietrangelo v. Gates*, because of its position on the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy.

ban on lesbian and gay service members," stated Frank Dixon, BRO board member and former military service member.

The appeal came from former Army Captain James Pietrangelo II, who was dismissed under "Don't Ask, Don't Tell." The Supreme Court had earlier thrown out a lawsuit by Pietrangelo and 11 other veterans, but he was the only one in the group to request the high court rule the policy as unconstitutional.

President Obama has indicated that he supports the eventual repeal of the policy, which prohibits homosexual conduct within the ranks of the United States Armed Forces, but has taken no specific action since taking

office in January.

"The Supreme Court's decision underscores the urgent need for Congress to repeal 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell,'" continued Dixon. "I hope this will spur more Oregonians to pick up the phone today and call their Representatives and Senators to ask them to support the Military Readiness Enhancement Act (HR 1283)."

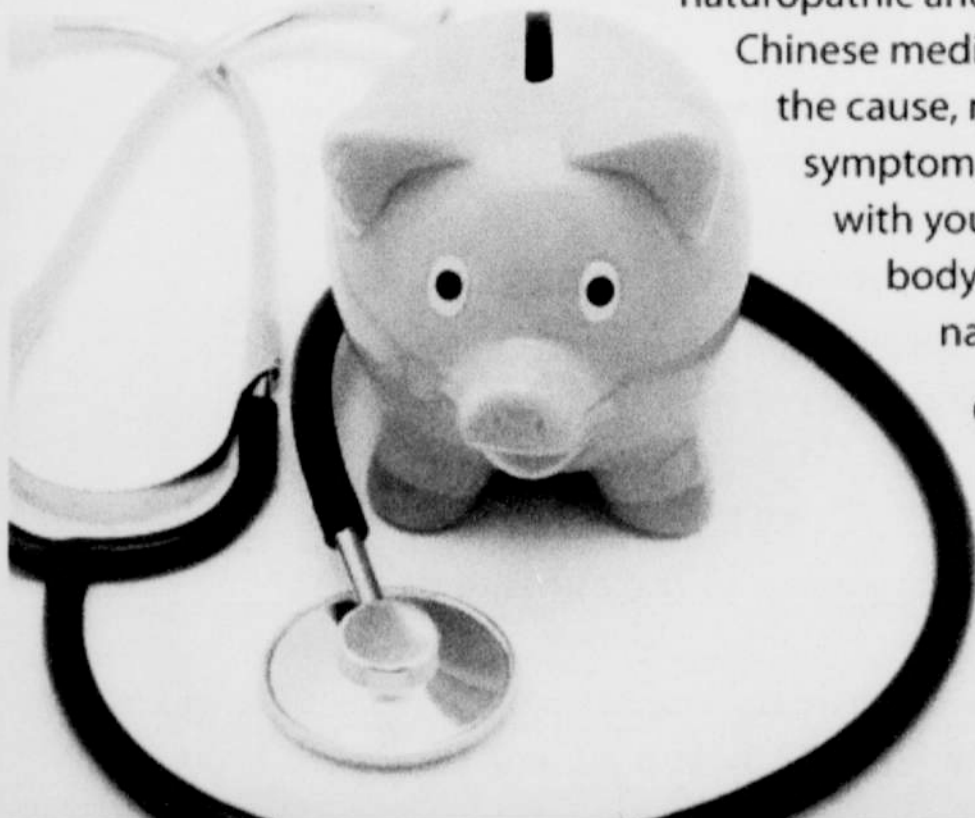
"Don't Ask, Don't Tell' is the only law in America that requires people to be dishonest about their personal lives or risk being fired or even put in prison. This kind of discrimination puts American soldiers and our national security at risk."

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From left to right: Sheila Bennett, DMD, Adrienne Fischl, DMD Diane Applegate, DDS, Clarice Johnston, DMD

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