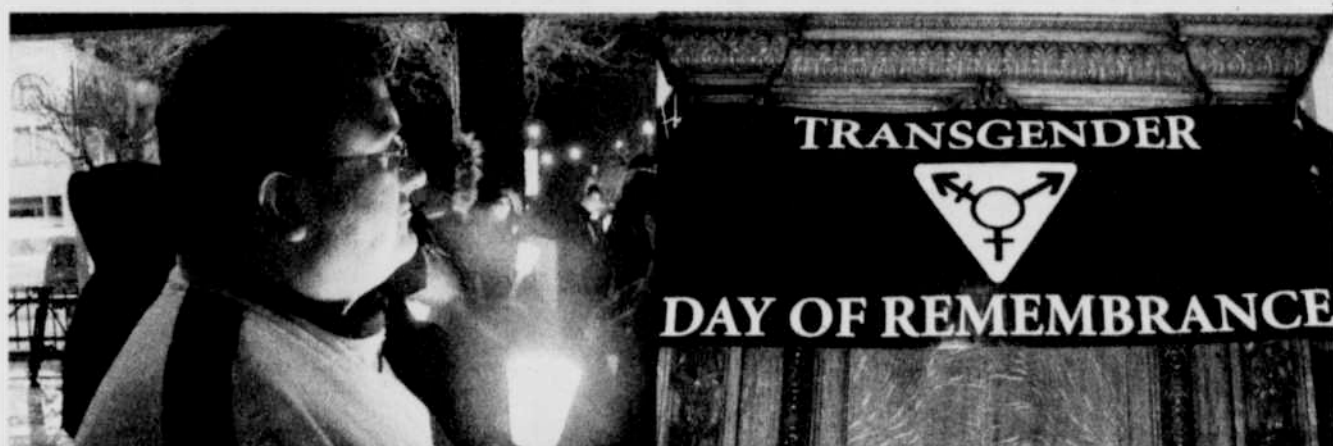


NORTHWEST BRIEFS



TRANSGENDER DAY OF REMEMBRANCE

Supported by organizations such as Equity Foundation and the Oregon Stonewall Democrats, a proclamation to officially declare November 20, 2009 as Transgender Day of Remembrance in Oregon was signed by Governor Ted Kulongoski and Secretary of State Kate Brown on October 23, 2009.

membrance in Oregon was signed by Governor Ted Kulongoski and Secretary of State Kate Brown on October 23, marking a huge step forward in the effort to end discrimination and violence against transgendered persons.

The proclamation was supported in its infancy by organizations including Equity Foundation and the Oregon Stonewall Democrats, also known as the Democratic Party of Oregon GLBT Caucus.

"Hopefully the precedent set by the proclamation will bring not just more recognition of the plight of transgender individuals," said chair of the Multnomah County Democratic Party's GLBT Caucus Joey Kerns, "but also more enforcement of Oregon's hate crimes and discrimination laws in respect to gender identity."

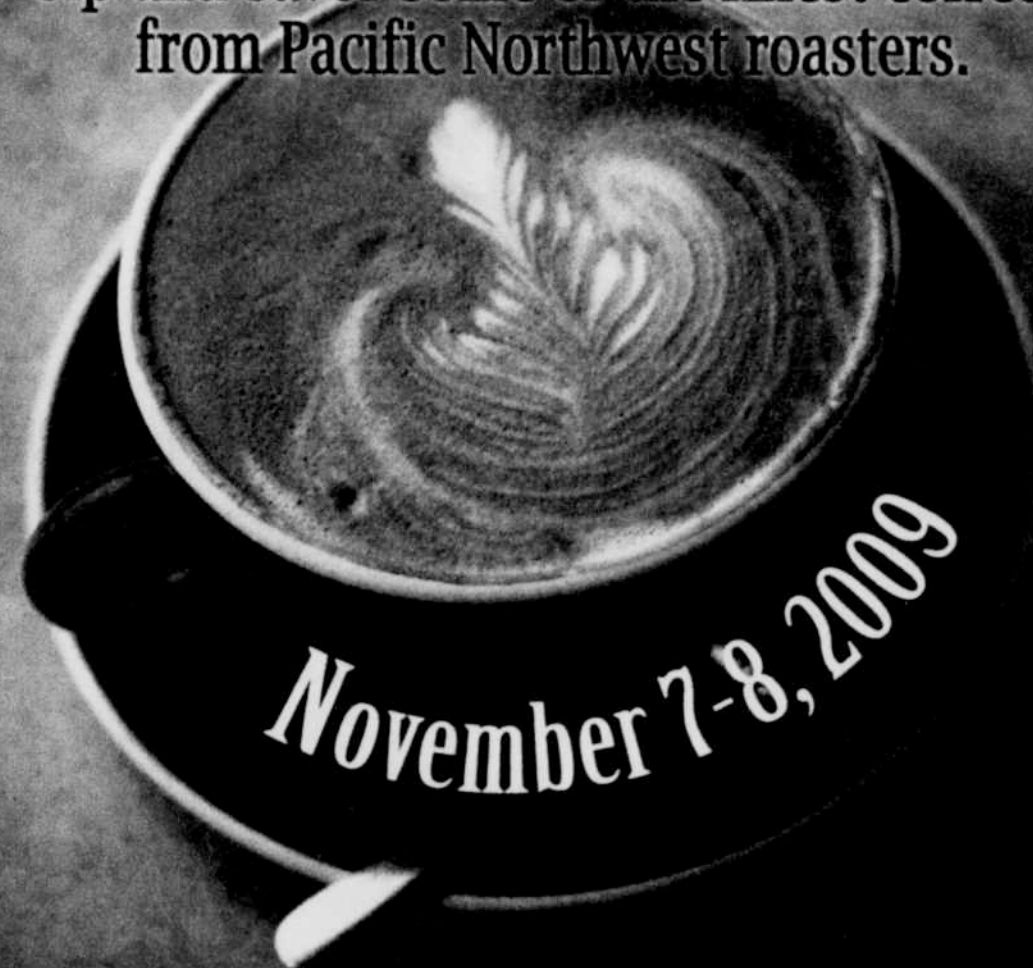
The Transgender Day of Remembrance was initially forged to memorialize those killed due to anti-transgender hatred or prejudice. The event is held in November to honor Rita Hester, whose November 28, 1998 murder kicked off the "Remembering Our Dead" Web project and a San Francisco candlelight vigil in 1999. Hester's murder has yet to be solved.

"An official proclamation by both the Governor as well as Portland Mayor Sam Adams brings important recognition to a cause that is often overlooked," continued Kerns. "Transgender individuals are too frequently the subject of violence and general ignorance."

For more information on the Transgender Day of Remembrance, please visit www.transgenderdor.org.

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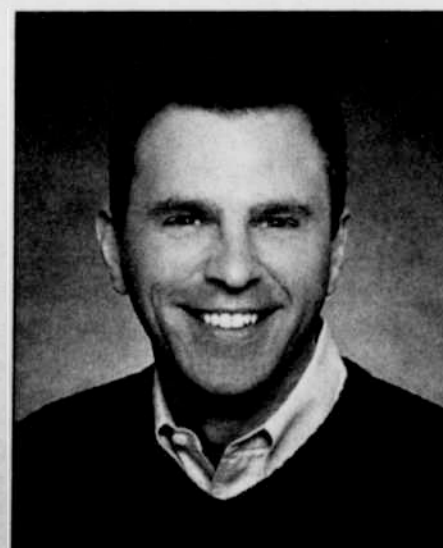
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