

DADT



I'm not gonna be happy until we get 100 percent equality. It's a damn shame that this all takes so long."

-TERRY BEAN, PRESIDENT, HRC'S PORTLAND STEERING COMMITTEE

DADT during his administration, the Uniform Code of Military Justice (UCMJ) was used to dismiss gays and lesbians. Dr. Mary Ann Humphrey-Keever—author of *My Country, My Right to Serve* and faculty member at Portland Community College—was very familiar with this removal policy; under the UCMJ in 1987, she was forced to resign her long-held commission of nearly nine years. As a newly promoted major in the U.S. Army Reserve, she was interrogated because of a complaint started by a fellow faculty colleague at PCC in 1985. Humphrey-Keever's book is considered a legitimate resource on the subject of DADT and was distributed to President Obama, Secretary Gates, Admiral Mike Mullen and others as the debates surrounding repeal heated up.

"I'd like to think I played some small part in helping dispose of this discriminatory policy," explained Humphrey-Keever, who was also one of the founding members of the Portland-based Veterans for Human Rights. "While the final effects of this new policy ... won't be totally felt for the next few months, no more will someone like the man who destroyed my military career be able to use the 'lesbian card' to do so.

"I planned on retiring from my many years in the reserves, but that was not to be for me. However, [my] other contributions, the political involvement and the book will hopefully provide far more illumination to the issue

and, in some way, make the path for other gays and lesbians, whether in the closet or in the military, a bit easier."

Terry Bean, co-founder of HRC and president of HRC's Portland Steering Committee, expressed kudos for the Obama administration and the country for the passage of the bill while offering a reminder that there is more work to be done for equality.

"We exult in this achievement," said Bean. "Then, we come together, use this momentum and redouble our efforts to move on to equally important arenas where we are treated like second-class citizens, like enacting ENDA, partnership rights, marriage and overturning DOMA. I'm not gonna be happy until we get 100 percent equality. It's a damn shame that this all takes so long."

As for the expected few months of implementation of the repeal, Bean felt much more than optimistic.

"I think there will be an adjustment period," said Bean, "but I think six or eight months from now, we'll say, 'Wow, that was easy.' And I think the military will say, 'Wow, that was easy.'" ☐

JUST OUT contacted Oregon Republican Party Chairman Bob Tiernan, Vice Chairman Tim Smith, Congressman Greg Walden (Ore.-Dist. 2), and Congresswoman Jaime Herrera (Wash.-Dist. 2) for their reactions to the repeal. We did not receive any responses.



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