



Dr. Mary Ann Humphrey-Keever presents the American flag during the 2011 Pride Parade.

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-DR. MARY ANN HUMPHREY-KEEVER

sexuality already, says she hopes that young gay soldiers will use their heads when disclosing their identities.

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Perhaps most importantly, Humphrey-Keever explains that for those Midwestern gays and lesbians seeking a sense of purpose in unforgiving, rural towns—outside of the more liberal East and West coasts—the military is now a much more viable option for a career than it was under DADT. She reiterates, however, that simply because the policy has been repealed doesn't mean that deep-seated prejudices will be erased.

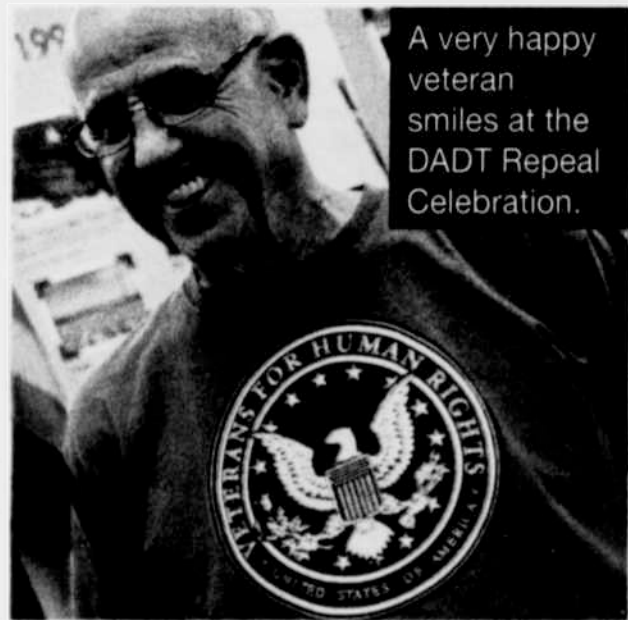
"[Potential enlistees] may feel that they can find more people in the military that they can feel comfortable with because they're coming from all over the country," Humphrey-Keever says. "That's opened up an opportunity for that gay person who's isolated somewhere. It doesn't mean it won't be homophobic. If you're a homophobic asshole in society, you're gonna be the same way in there. You just have to follow regulations."

Logic—as well as top officials in the U.S. military—tells us that the repeal of DADT will have an inconsequential effect on military readiness and overall morale in the ranks. As Humphrey-

Keever puts it, this crucial step forward is "chipping away at the inconsistencies in our humankind."

"The more we stand there and don't stand down, that's the important part about what we're doing," she says. "We've been [in the military] all along. Now we can just be real. It's a win-win for everyone." ☐

Dr. Humphrey-Keever, who as of press time reported that 600 copies of the 21-year-old My Country, My Right to Serve have sold in the last 6 months, is starting a new book, focusing on marriage equality. For more information on her life, visit drhkzsite.com.



A very happy veteran smiles at the DADT Repeal Celebration.



The LGBTQ History Timeline is updated at the DADT Repeal Celebration at the Q Center.

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