

OFFERED BY COUNCILOR ED FLYNN



CITY OF BOSTON IN CITY COUNCIL

RESOLUTION CELEBRATING ALWAYS ASK, PROUD TO TELL DAY

- WHEREAS:** This September 20th marks the 10th anniversary of the repeal of “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell”. Between 1993 to 2011, “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell” was the official U.S. policy regarding the service of gay men, bisexuals and lesbians in the military; *and*
- WHEREAS:** This policy prohibited LGBTQIA+ service members from sharing their sexual orientation, and commanding officers were not allowed to question military personnel about their sexual orientation; *and*
- WHEREAS:** At the time of the policy’s introduction, although some saw it as an improvement to the ban on the LGBTQIA+ community from serving in the military that had been in effect since World War II, others criticized the lack of full acceptance of LGBTQIA+ military personnel. LGBTQIA+ service members continued to be discharged from service, and by the time of the policy’s repeal in 2010, over 13,000 military personnel had been discharged for their sexual orientation; *and*
- WHEREAS:** In 2010, the Pentagon reevaluated the policy of “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell” in a study, which found that repealing the policy would pose little risk to military effectiveness. In December 2010, Congress voted to repeal the policy, and President Obama signed the legislation which came into effect on September 20th, 2011; *and*
- WHEREAS:** We must recognize the work, mental and physical challenges, and sacrifice that our LGBTQIA+ veterans and service members have made in order to serve our country, and ensure that their right to live and to love who they want is protected, and that they are being treated equally and fairly in and out of the military; *and*
- WHEREAS:** Although progress was made, protections for our LGBTQIA+ military personnel can unfortunately still be taken away. In 2019, a transgender military ban was implemented under the Trump administration, effectively banning transgender people from enlisting. Although this ban was eventually repealed by the Biden administration in January 2021, this speaks to the importance and need to have ingrained policies and measures in place to ensure we have long lasting protections for our LGBTQIA+ service members who face discrimination; *and*
- WHEREAS:** All who are willing to serve, sacrifice, and risk their lives for the love of their country deserve to be honored and treated with dignity. While policies of inclusion and diversity are not only the right thing to do, they make us stronger and more secure as a country; *and*

NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDERED:

That the Boston City Council honors and celebrates our LGBTQIA+ military personnel and veterans by designating September 20th as Always Ask, Proud to Tell Day.

Filed on: September 15th, 2021