



DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR HUMAN RESOURCES AND ADMINISTRATION
WASHINGTON, DC 20420
MAY 28 2010

**MEMORANDUM FOR UNDER SECRETARIES, ASSISTANT SECRETARIES,
OTHER KEY OFFICIALS, AND FIELD FACILITY DIRECTORS**

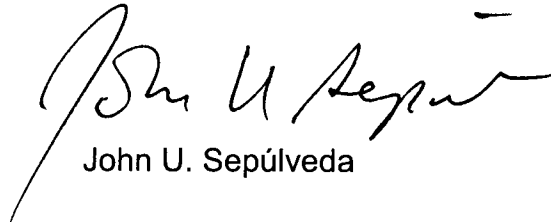
SUBJECT: 2010 Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Pride Month

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is proud to celebrate Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT) Pride Month during its traditionally recognized month of June. The VACO theme for this year is "The Way Forward, Helping to Build a More Inclusive VA." LGBT Pride Month is meant to recognize the impact and contributions LGBT individuals have had and continue to have on the world and in the workplace.

The gay rights movement began over forty years ago in June 1969, in New York City when gays and lesbians demanded an end to the persecution they had long endured. Today, the movement is recognized world-wide as we strive to create a world in which all people live free from violence and fear, regardless of their sexual orientation or gender identity.

VA LGBT employees are a diverse group whose contributions should be fully embraced and appreciated in the workplace. VA must have a workforce reflective of society, where all persons are valued and respected so that VA is a 21st Century Employer of Choice and maintains the highest quality of care to our Veterans. We need the support of each employee if we are to create a high performing organization at VA that fosters diversity and practices inclusion.

Managers and supervisors are encouraged to plan meaningful activities during the month of June, and throughout the year, to recognize and appreciate the contributions of LGBT Americans. For more information, please contact Durodgio Peterson, LGBT Program Manager, Office of Diversity and Inclusion, at (202) 461-4034.


John U. Sepúlveda