

In Honor of Pride Month, IAVA Highlights Importance of Diversity for National Security

New York, NY (June 22, 2018) – As a next-generation veterans empowerment organization, IAVA is proud of our long record of standing with our LGBT brothers and sisters in arms. For many years, our courageous LGBT members and allies have led the charge for equality within VA, the Department of Defense and beyond.

It is IAVA's belief that diversity is a force multiplier for our armed forces as well as for our nation. That equality and inclusion are good for our national security.

IAVA stepped forward to back [repealing Don't Ask Don't Tell](#), to [fight against DOMA](#), and to vigorously oppose the [transgender ban in the military](#). We will always be proud of these moments in IAVA's history when we stood, often alone, on the right side of history. When every other national veterans group was silent, IAVA was a lone voice of leadership, reason and courage.

And IAVA is continuing the fight to ensure LGBT service members veterans and families are treated with the same dignity and respect afforded to all members of the military. [See our Policy Agenda \(p. 67\) to learn more.](#)

Equality for all is an essential American value. And key to a stronger, modern military.