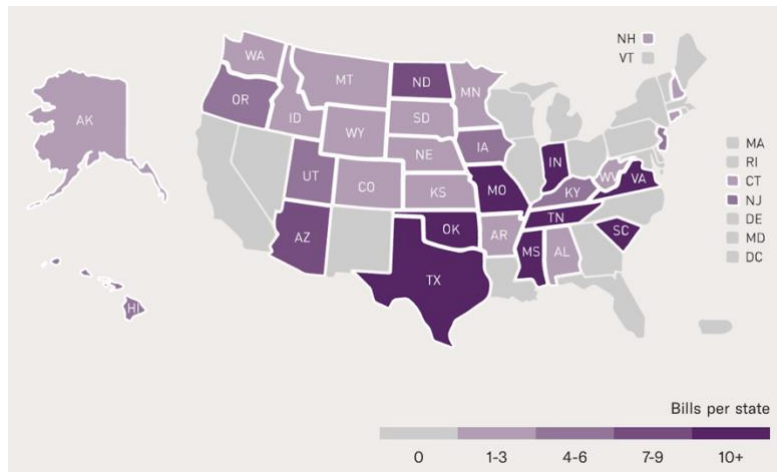


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LGBTQ Rights under Attack in 2023

In the last few years, there has been a record number of state bills that attack LGBTQ rights, especially those rights of transgender youth. While more states work to pass laws to protect LGBTQ people, many states are drafting bills that target transgender people, limit local protections, and allow the use of religion to discriminate. At present, there are over 230 anti-LGBTQ bills being considered in state legislatures. Some bills (e.g., Indiana HB 1524 or SB 351, Texas SB 162, Utah SB93, Tennessee HB 239) attempt to limit the ability to update gender information on IDs, birth certificates, and driver's licenses, and puts transgender people at risk of losing jobs and facing harassment. Others attempt to undermine or weaken nondiscrimination laws by allowing employers, businesses, and hospitals to turn away LGBTQ people (e.g., Arizona SB 1001, Oklahoma HB 2186, Texas HB 319, New Jersey A 328), prevent trans students from participating in school activities, force teachers to out students, and censor any in-school discussions of LGBTQ people and issues (e.g., Connecticut HB 6213, Arkansas HB 1156), prohibit transgender people from using public facilities like bathrooms and locker rooms, and other bans. (Map courtesy of aclu.org.)



The Mighty 25



Since 2014, “We Are The Mighty” (<https://www.wearethemighty.com/>) has recognized and honored the top 25 individuals who have gone above and beyond in serving those who wear the uniform and their families and have created an undeniable ripple of extraordinary impact across the world. Included in that list was Jennifer Dane, Executive Director of Modern Military Association of America. As an Air Force veteran, she spearheaded groundbreaking work on changing policy for the LGBTQ community, advocates for the rights of those discharged under “Don’t Ask Don’t Tell,” and is a Service Leadership Corps and Veterans in Global Leadership fellow. She served as an intelligence analyst focusing on geopolitical, terrorism, and threat vulnerability issues in the Air Force. She earned an A.A. degree in intelligence studies from the Community College of the Air Force, her B.S. degree in Criminal Justice from Bethel University, a M.A. degree in Criminal Justice from Arizona State University, M.A. degree in Education Policy

from the Ohio State University, and a Diversity and Inclusion certificate from Cornell University. Upon her appointment as Executive Director, he noted that “We’ve come so far and achieved so much thanks to the selfless advocates who never gave up in their fight to overturn discriminatory policies and ensure today’s modern military families have the support they deserve. With so much left to accomplish, I’m proud to lead this organization forward and double down in our incredibly important work to support and defend the LGBTQ military and veteran community.” Check out <https://modernmilitary.org/>.

Chicago Veterans Coffee Socials

Build your own social support system with veterans in your community to improve and maintain your overall mental health. Veterans Coffee Socials enhance communication and foster bonds among Veterans and others in the community. They are a place to meet friends, find resources, and have fun with other veterans and community members. In Chicago, check out the Blue Door Neighborhood Center.



VETERANS COFFEE SOCIAL

family and supporters welcome



COME AND FILL YOUR CUP

10am till 12pm Thursdays
Blue Door Neighborhood Center
2551 W Cermak Rd
Chicago, IL 60608

*free parking, CTA accessible

Monthly In-person AVER Meetings for the Chicago Chapter • Join Us!

We meet up every month on **First Thursdays** at 7pm (Chicago, Central time zone) at the **Center on Halsted**. **Everyone** is welcome to attend our monthly Board meetings **in-person** or via Zoom!! For Zoom, check the averchicago.org website for the active link (click on the highlighted "Zoom" link near the bottom of the webpage) to get into the Zoom meeting. To join via audio: call 312-626-6799 with ID 488-863-384 and passcode 328090.

International Holocaust Remembrance Day

On January 27, the German Parliament focused, for the first time, on people persecuted and killed over their sexual or gender identity during World War II. Germany's Lesbian and Gay Association rights group welcomed Friday's ceremony, calling it an "important symbol of recognition" of the "suffering and the dignity of the imprisoned, tortured, and murdered victims." Chancellor Olaf Scholz noted that "The suffering of six million innocently murdered Jews is unforgotten—as is the suffering of the survivors."

Upcoming Events

Play Attention – Military Day at Kohl Children's Museum. A free Sunday afternoon play session provided exclusively for military and veteran families, including Guard and Reserves, to have fun together at the museum on Sunday, February 5, 2-5pm. Hosted by local military and VSOs, the museum is located at 2100 Patriot Blvd., Glenview, IL. Go online at <http://www.kohlchildrenmuseum.org/outreach-programs> to register.

BSF at the Bronzeville Children's Museum. February is designated as Black History Month, and the Bronzeville Children's Museum is the first and only African American children's museum in the nation. Join Blue Star families of Chicago for a visit to the museum on Saturday, March 4, 12noon-2pm. Located at 9301 S. Stony Island Ave., Chicago. Register for this and other events by going online at <https://community.bluestarfam.org>.

Third Annual Women Veterans Stand Down Event. A number of partner organizations will host the event across the state of Illinois on Saturday, March 25. All women who are currently serving or have served in the U.S. Military, Guard, and Reserves are invited to these events. Workshops will be held from 10am-2pm, and are focused on the needs of women veterans, including education, employment, healthcare, housing, and legal services. Attendees may choose to attend both sessions. Complimentary food will be provided. Locations hosting the event include Harold Washington College, 30 E. Lake St.; Volunteers of America Illinois at Hope Manor II, 6002 S. Halsted St., Chicago; National Women Veterans United, 8620 S. Pulaski Rd., Chicago; Salvation Army Kroc Center, 1250 W. 119th St., Chicago, JIC Development Corp., 202 S. Genesee St., Waukegan; or Veteran's Assistance Commission of Stephenson County, 210 N. Spring St., Freeport, IL.

Spring Fling: Bingo and Egg Hunt. Join Blue Star families and the American Legion Auxiliary for a fun Spring event featuring bingo and an egg hunt at the Forrestal Village Chapel on Saturday, April 1, 12noon-3pm. There will be games, prizes, and lunch provided. The chapel is located at 2630 Ohio Ave., Great Lakes, IL, and you can register through the <https://community.bluestarfam.org> website.

MOTMC Celebration – FUNTOPIA. In celebration of April's Month of the Military Child, join Blue Star families at Funtopia in Glenview for a fun night with food, wall rock climbing, obstacle ropes course, underground tunnel caving system, and jungle gym (ages 0-8) on Friday, April 28, 5:30-8pm. The address is 2050 Tower Dr., Glenview, IL, and you can register through the <https://community.bluestarfam.org> website.

VA Online Outreach. The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs offers dozens of online webinars and sessions to help veterans and their families buy homes, earn degrees, start careers, stay healthy, and more. For more information, check out the <https://www.va.gov/outreach-and-events/events/> website.

= Chicago Chapter 2022-2023 =

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Parliamentarian: Larry Simpson

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American Veterans for Equal Rights, Chicago Chapter, P.O. Box 29317, Chicago, IL 60629, Telephone: 773-752-0058, www.aver.us and www.averchicago.org. You can email any of the Chicago Chapter officers with the following address: president@averchicago.org, secretary@averchicago.org, or treasurer@averchicago.org.

Federal Evidence Agenda on LGBTQI+ Equity

In late January, the White House released the first-ever *Federal Evidence Agenda on Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, and Intersex (LGBTQI+) Equity*, a roadmap that federal agencies will use to ensure they are collecting the data and evidence they need to improve the lives of LGBTQI+ Americans. This Evidence Agenda (EA) delivers on the commitment made by President Biden in a June 2022 Executive Order on LGBTQI+ equality, and is an important step forward in the Administration's work to expand the federal collection of data about sexual orientation, gender identity, and sex characteristics—so-called "SOGI data"—and advance equity for LGBTQI+ Americans. The Biden Administration has made significant progress to advance full inclusion and equal protection for LGBTQI+ Americans but has been hampered by incomplete information on the number of LGBTQI+ people in the U.S., their experiences engaging with federal agencies, and the disparities they face in their daily lives. The EA includes an overview of the impact of gaps in SOGI data, specific questions to consider that will improve the health and well-being of LGBTQI+ people, and guidelines on collecting SOGI data. This builds on efforts by the WH to augment the Census Bureau's American Community Survey with questions about LGBTQI+ Americans, release of a survey on the high rates of economic, housing, and food insecurity that LGBTQI+ households faced during the COVID-19 pandemic, and offering passports with "X" gender markers and allowing all Americans to accurately provide personal gender identity information on federal forms.

You are cordially invited to

THE UNION LEAGUE CLUB OF CHICAGO'S
134TH ANNUAL GEORGE WASHINGTON'S BIRTHDAY
A CELEBRATION OF PATRIOTISM

featuring keynote speaker

Admiral Lisa Franchetti
Vice Chief of Naval Operations



Friday, February 17, 2023

Union League Club of Chicago
65 West Jackson Boulevard
Chicago, Illinois

Reception: 6:00 p.m. | Dinner: 7:00 p.m.

Dress Code: Business attire or Service Dress
Cost: \$125.00 per person

Please join us on Friday, February 17, as we welcome Admiral Lisa Franchetti, Vice Chief of Naval Operations, as the keynote speaker for the 134th George Washington's Birthday Celebration. Admiral Franchetti is a Northwestern University graduate; only the second woman to be promoted to the rank of four-star admiral; and, the second woman to hold the second highest ranked commissioned officer position in the U.S. Navy.

The evening will begin with sumptuous hors d'oeuvres and signature bar reception at 6:00 p.m., followed by a dinner at 7:00 p.m. (including a complimentary glass of wine) and our program. In addition to our keynote speaker's address, our patriotic celebration will feature musical performances by the U.S. Navy Band, Great Lakes! After dinner, guests are invited to an Afterglow with music by the Mark Stredler Jazz Quartet, coffee, desserts, and a signature bar.

Advanced registration is required: non-Club members can register for the event using the following Eventbrite link [HERE](#). Club members can register [HERE](#).

The cost of this event is \$125.00 per person (inclusive of tax and service charge) and the Club's reservation policy is in effect—cancellations cannot be accepted after noon on Tuesday, February 14, 2023.