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SUMMARY KEYWORDS

lesbian, gay, april, homosexuals, pride, switchboard, call, norma, pflag, years, point, houston, plays, birthday, military, day, discrimination, proudly, starred, birthdate

This is a Point of Pride, a minute of gay and lesbian history. In December 1981, the Gay and Lesbian Switchboard of Houston went online to give out information and referrals within our community. Over the years, hundreds of volunteers spent thousands of hours answering questions or providing a sympathetic ear to some people who just wanted to talk to another gay or lesbian person. The Switchboard acts as an information center for gay and lesbian visitors to Houston and the referral source to organization social groups and medical and business professionals call the Switchboard at 529-3211 Any day from three until midnight for more information or specific questions, 529-3211. This has been a Point of Pride, a public service announcement from the Gay and Lesbian Switchboard of Houston, proudly on the line for you since 1981.

This is a Point of Pride, a minute of gay and lesbian history. April hosts the birthdays of talented and historical gays and lesbians. The Danish storyteller Hans Christian Andersen was born on April 2. Almost 400 years apart, Leonardo da Vinci and American novelist Henry James share a birthdate on April 15. Playwright Thornton Wilder, creator of Our Town has his birthday on the 17th and on April 25, in 1284, Edward the second king of England was born. The last day of April marks the birthday of a woman best known for her lover Gertrude Stein. April 30 is the birth date of Alice B Toklas. This has been a Point of Pride, written by Mike Joswick[?]. For information on gay and lesbian groups or activities, call the Gay and Lesbian Switchboard of Houston at 529-3211.

This is a Point of Pride, a minute of gay and lesbian history. In April 1927, the Padlock Law was used to close Broadway theaters that showed plays with gay and lesbian themes. A year earlier under the name of Jane Mast movie star Mae West wrote and starred in a play called The Drag. Basil Rathbone, later best known as Sherlock Holmes, starred in The Captive. West and Rathbone had been arrested a year earlier, but the plays were granted protection by the Supreme Court. The Padlock Law was directed against theater owners and used to suppress gay and lesbian creativity on stage. It lasted for 40 years and was only repealed in 1967. This has been a Point of Pride, written by Mike Joswick[?]. For information on gay and lesbian groups or activities, call the Gay and Lesbian Switchboard of Houston at 529-3211.

This is a Point of Pride, a minute of gay and lesbian history. April 7 marks the 81st birthday of Harry Hay, a leader of the modern American gay and lesbian liberation movement. He founded the Mattachine Society, one of the first groups to call for an end to discrimination. Over 500 gays and

lesbians attended its 1953 convention. The first public convention for homosexuals in the United States. Armed Services Day in 1966, was a nationwide day of protest calling for an end to discrimination in the military. Harry Hay led the Los Angeles parade and called for gays to reject negative stereotypes. Happy birthday, Harry Hay. This has been a Point of Pride, written by Mike Joswick[?]. For information on gay and lesbian groups or activities, call the Gay and Lesbian Switchboard of Houston at 529-3211.

This is a Point of Pride, a minute of gay and lesbian history. In April 1989, shotgun blasts roared into the Dallas home of Norma McCorvey. She found her place in history in a 1973 decision of the US Supreme Court, but it was not under her real name. Norma McCorvey was the plaintiff under the alias Jane Roe in the monumental Supreme Court decision Roe vs. Wade, which guaranteed a woman's right to an abortion. The shotgun blasts of April 89 again demonstrated that intolerance hatred and bigotry can be dangerous. Fearing for her life, Norma McCorvey, the Jane Roe of Roe v Wade moved to California, where she felt safer living openly as a lesbian. This has been a Point of Pride, written by Mike Joswick[?]. A public service message from the Gay and Lesbian Switchboard of Houston.

This is a Point of Pride, a minute of gay and lesbian history. May holds the birth dates of gay and lesbian poets, painters, performers and politicians. The first is the birthdate of Italian American Romaine Brooks, best known for her portraits of European and American socialites. Russian composer Peter Tchaikovsky was born on the seventh in 1840. Openly gay Congressman Gary Studds celebrates his 56th birthday on May 12. And on May 15, that great military leader Alexander would be over 2300 years old. That celebrated gay American poet Walt Whitman came into this world on the last day of May in 1819. This has been a Point of Pride, written by Mike Joswick[?]. For information on gay and lesbian groups or activities, call the Gay and Lesbian Switchboard of Houston at 529-3211.

This is a Point of Pride, a minute of gay and lesbian history. May 1933 saw the start of Nazi book burnings. Though few realize one of the first book burnings targeted homosexuals. The Institute for Sexual Research directed by Magnus Hirschfeld, a Jewish homosexual physician was the target. Nazis later returned and torched the whole building. The festering hate of Nazism played a sad but significant part in our history. For from it we rescued the symbol of the pink triangle. Today, lesbians and gays take the pink triangle as a symbol of pride. But Nazis used it to label homosexuals in the concentration camps. This has been a Point of Pride, written by Mike Joswick[?]. For information on gay and lesbian groups or activities, call the Gay and Lesbian Switchboard of Houston at 529-3211.

This is a Point of Pride, a minute of gay and lesbian history. In May 1990, First Lady Barbara Bush sent a letter of support to the National Federation of Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays, known by its acronym PFLAG. The letter from Barbara Bush reaffirmed her belief that discrimination and bigotry cannot be tolerated. In that, quote, it brings with it pain and perpetuates hate and intolerance, unquote. Today in many cities across America, PFLAG continues to foster understanding between parents and their lesbian or gay children. This has been a Point of Pride, written by Mike Joswick[?]. For information on gay and lesbian groups or activities, call the Gay and Lesbian Switchboard of Houston at 529-3211.

This is a Point of Pride. a minute of gay and lesbian history. Gays and lesbians in the military fill

This is a Point of Pride, a tribute to gay and lesbian history. Gays and lesbians in the military are headlines today. But the controversy goes back centuries. Gays have been in the military and led armies since Alexander the Great 2200 years ago. In May 1782, during the final years of the American Revolution, a woman named Deborah Sampson disguised herself as a man, took the name Robert Shurtleff, and enlisted in the Continental Army. She served proudly for a year and a half before being wounded and discovered. She received an honorable discharge from General Henry Knox at West Point in 1783. And Deborah Sampson received the full army pension for proudly serving her new nation. This has been a Point of Pride, written by Mike Joswick[?]. A public service message of the Gay and Lesbian Switchboard of Houston.