



#PRIDEANDHONOR
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— THE MISSION CONTINUES —

PRIDE AND HONOR

CELEBRATING NATIONAL LGBTQ+ PRIDE MONTH

2019 IMPACT REPORT



WHO WE ARE

At The Mission Continues, we empower veterans to continue their service and empower communities with veteran talent, skills and preparedness to generate visible impact. We're investing in veterans, equipping them with the tools and resources to lead a growing veteran volunteer movement. Through networks, training, and pathways, veterans can continue to serve while creating meaningful impact in under-resourced communities.

WHY WE REPORT FOR DUTY DURING LGBTQ+ PRIDE MONTH

LGBTQ+ individuals, especially youth, are at increased risk for homelessness, bullying, discrimination, harassment, and even becoming victims of violence. For this reason, veterans have united to support organizations like The LGBT Center OC and Metro Trans Umbrella Group through service.

The number of LGBTQ+ individuals that have served and continue to serve in the military is uncertain, but their commitment to serve here at home is not. The Mission Continues includes and welcomes volunteers who identify as LGBTQ+ and strives to create equal and inclusive communities for veterans and civilians alike. As part of the Pride and Honor service campaign, veteran leaders across the country participated in parades, celebrations, memorials, and community impact to honor the service of LGBTQ+ veterans and show our support for LGBTQ+ communities.

OUR IMPACT

11

CITIES PARTICIPATED IN

SERVICE PROJECTS

PARADES

COMMUNITY CELEBRATIONS

MEMORIALS



"Twenty years ago, I was being discharged under "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" after being sexually assaulted. I struggled with my identity, drugs, and alcohol for a decade before getting assistance. Twenty years later, no longer homeless, proud of my service, and my advocacy work with survivors and victim advocates.

Being able to walk in my first Pittsburgh Pride parade with my partner made my dreams come true. We have come so far. We must continue to stand for equality and love of all. Love heals...It was the love of my veteran community and family that saved my life."

— TIMOTHY JONES,
PITTSBURGH SERVICE PLATOON VOLUNTEER

"Being part of The Mission Continues gave me the courage to buy a bus ticket to Boston and march in Boston Pride with veterans and allies I had not yet met before. I went due to the community I felt with The Mission Continues in New York City and through the Service Leadership Corps. In my service with The Mission Continues, I am able to form bonds with veterans who are open-minded and feel safe in a community I call family."

— BRE GAUDIT,
NEW YORK SERVICE PLATOON VOLUNTEER,
SERVICE LEADERSHIP CORPS ALUM



PRIDE IN SAN FRANCISCO, CA



WE SERVED ALONGSIDE: National AIDs Memorial Grove

Our San Francisco 1st Platoon engaged in a day of service at The National AIDs Memorial Grove, a 10-acre monument dedicated to those who lost their lives to the AIDs epidemic. The grove honors over 1,500 names and growing each year. We chose to partner with this site because the grove is run entirely by volunteers, and the space itself sends a message that all people deserve to live with respect and dignity. Our platoon members joined forces with volunteers from organizations across the bay area to beautify the grove, including removing weeds and invasive species from the Hematology Garden and ended the day with an open discussion and moment of silence.

PRIDE IN ORANGE COUNTY, CA

WE SERVED ALONGSIDE: The LGBT Center OC

In honor of LGBTQ+ Pride Month, our Orange County 1st Platoon made us the first veteran service organization to partner with the LGBT Center OC for a day of impact along with our friends at CarMax. The center's mission is to empower the local LGBTQ+ community through support and programming. Our veteran-led volunteers spent the day improving the outside of the facility with fresh coats of paint around the facility, a new rainbow mural, and garden cleanup.

"It's important to recognize and show support to populations who are repressed and who still are. It's why we're here. We're here for pride. This raises community awareness and is so good."

— **CHELSEA JOHNSON**
CARMAX VOLUNTEER, ORANGE COUNTY





PRIDE IN ST. LOUIS, MO

WE SERVED ALONGSIDE: Metro Trans Umbrella Group

Our St. Louis Service Platoons celebrated while making a positive community impact by hosting a booth at the Tower Grove Pride Festival. They partnered with the Metro Trans Umbrella Group (MTUG), an organization that brings together the LGBTQ+ community in the St. Louis area via community, visibility, advocacy, and education. Throughout the festival, our veteran-led volunteers connected with the LGBTQ+ community about work in the community and built furniture for MTUG's outdoor space including ADA accessible picnic tables, benches, and chairs.

"Participating in Pride is visibility to me. I feel it's very important for veterans—especially those who look like me—to know that they have a support system that also intersects with other portions of their identity."

— JENNIQUAL JOHNSON
ST. LOUIS 1ST SERVICE PLATOON LEADER

MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS





REPORT FOR DUTY WITH US IN YOUR CITY:
Get involved by visiting www.missioncontinues.org/events

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