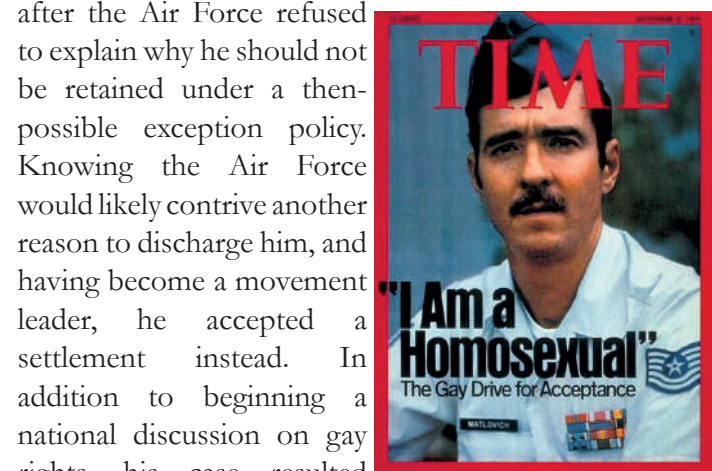


one of his three tours of duty. In 1975, Technical Sergeant Matlovitch challenged the military's ban on gay service members by purposefully revealing his homosexuality to his commanding officer, setting off a legal battle over his subsequent discharge. A former race relations instructor for the Air Force, he and other activists applied techniques learned from the Black Civil Rights Movement to advocating for gay people in American society. While Matlovich's lawsuit failed to end the ban, the court ordered his reinstatement in 1980



Matlovich on the Sept. 8, 1975, cover of TIME, Cover Credit: TED THAI

after the Air Force refused to explain why he should not be retained under a then-possible exception policy. Knowing the Air Force would likely contrive another reason to discharge him, and having become a movement leader, he accepted a settlement instead. In addition to beginning a national discussion on gay rights, his case resulted in a new Pentagon policy that those dismissed for their sexual orientation should receive an honorable discharge and the benefits included. His brave example inspired many gay service members to come out to file discrimination lawsuits of their own. Before his death in 1988, he attempted to create a memorial to Harvey Milk in Congressional Cemetery. Believing that individuals should be advocates in death as much as in life, he designed his gravestone as a memorial to all gay veterans. His epitaph has been repeatedly quoted in the long battle to end the military ban on LGBTQ+ service members, which finally ended in 2011. His presence at Congressional directly led to others selecting burial plots near him, creating the affectionally nicknamed "Gay Corner" at the cemetery. His memory and legacy lives on, as his grave is the site of numerous events including protests, Veterans Day observances, the DC Front Runners annual Pride Run, and other Pride events. **R20/S162**

11. WILLIAM BOYCE MUELLER (1942–1993) served as a choir boy at Bethesda by the Sea Episcopal Church in Palm Beach, Florida, and was educated at the church's day school. He also received instruction at St. George's Academy in Newport, Rhode Island, and the University of North Carolina. He later worked at the San Francisco division of Flur Daniels as a project cost analyst. The grandson of Boy Scouts of America

(BSA) founder William D. Boyce, he fought to make the organization more inclusive. In 1991 he co-founded Forgotten Scouts, the first lobby organization dedicated to ending the BSA's ban of homosexuals. Decades after Mueller's death, BSA lifted its blanket bans on gay scouts (2013) and leaders (2015). **R19/S60**

12. FRANK O'REILLY (1921–2001) A World War II veteran, O'Reilly held a Ph.D. in International Relations. He wrote as a music critic for *The Washington Times*, contributed to *Musical America* magazine and *American Record Guide*, and was

a founder of the Charles Ives Centennial Festival and the American Chopin Foundation, the sponsor of an annual Chopin piano competition. He once said, "During my eventful lifetime the only honest and truthful ending of the Pledge of Allegiance was 'with Liberty and Justice for SOME.'" **R19/S161**

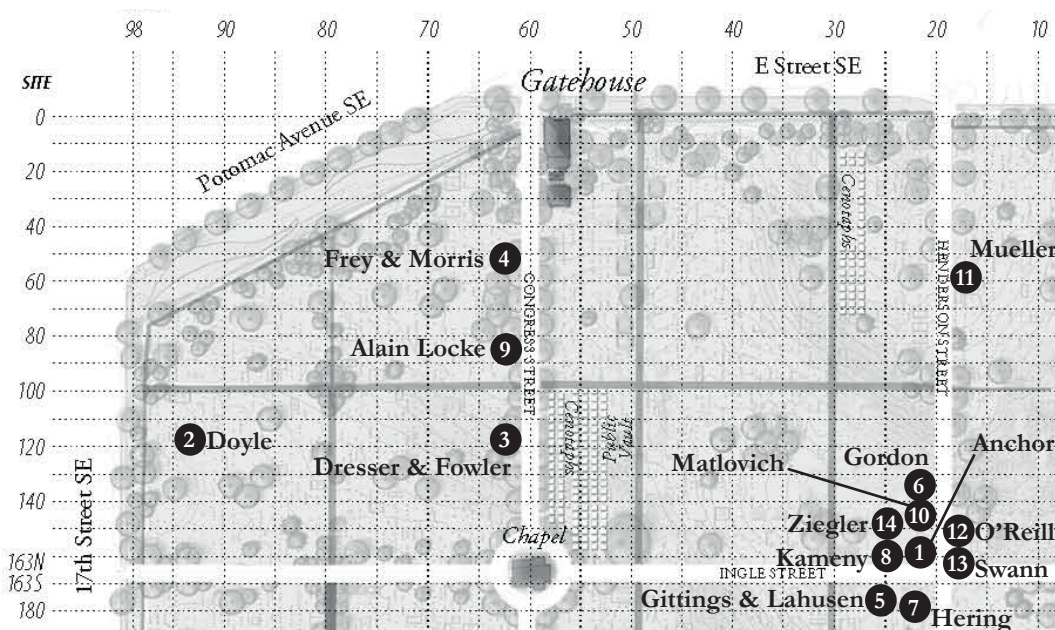
13. THOMAS "GATOR" SWANN (1958–) served in the Marine Corps and, beginning in 1972, advanced civil rights and political causes. Blind as a result of complications from AIDS, he fought against the military's "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy and works for AIDS awareness. Swann won a discrimination lawsuit against the U.S. Navy that now protects gay civilian employees of the military. In addition, he helped create the first memorial dedicated to LGBT veterans, located in Desert Memorial Park near Palm Springs, California. On the

A WORD OF CAUTION: The centuries have made many grave markers and sites unstable. Please be careful near grave markers and watch where you step: depressions and sink holes lie hidden in grass, and footstones and corner markers can trip the unwary.

Revised 4.23.2024

Join us!

The Association for the Preservation of Historic Congressional Cemetery is a private, nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization established in 1976 and dedicated to the restoration, interpretation, and management of Congressional Cemetery. It is predominantly a volunteer-based organization relying on over 400 neighbors, history buffs, conservators, dogwalkers, and armed forces personnel each year to help restore and maintain this national treasure. In 1979, the Association succeeded in having Congressional Cemetery listed on the National Register of Historic Places. It became a National Historic Landmark in 2011. Please join the Association or make a donation to help the Cemetery in its third century of service to the Nation's Capital.



75th anniversary of the liberation of Dachau Nazi concentration camp, he organized a wreath laying ceremony at Congressional Cemetery involving the military unit that liberated Dachau. His nickname is based on his love for the University of Florida Gators. **R18/S164**

14. EMANUEL "BUTCH" ZIEGLER (1951–2009) worked as an elementary school teacher in Bel Air, MD, for 12 years before joining his friend John Heikel as a co-owner of a teleprompting company, Capitol Prompting Service. Thanks to Ziegler's work ethic and ability to put clients at ease, he became one of the most popular prompters in the nation. The company has served Heads of State, major corporations, and others in the Washington, D.C. metro area since 1979. **R21/S164**



Association for the Preservation of
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Funding for the preservation and maintenance of Historic Congressional Cemetery is provided in part by the Congressional Cemetery Endowment, which was created with matching funds provided by the Congress of the United States and administered by the National Trust for Historic Preservation. The property is owned by Christ Church Washington Parish.



DC's Greatest
Undertaking

ESTABLISHED 1807

Walking Tour
LGBTQ+ COMMUNITY

History comes to life in Congressional Cemetery. The creak and clang of the wrought iron gate signals your arrival at a one-of-a-kind window into the past.

Congressional Cemetery is proud to be the final resting place of hundreds of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer people. Their stories help texture the American experience, illustrating how LGBTQ+ people have contributed to the history of the United States while battling against discrimination and bigotry. Although LGBTQ+ individuals are buried throughout cemetery, many are located at "Gay Corner," an affectionate nickname for the cemetery's LGBTQ+ section. Believed to be the first LGBTQ+ section of a cemetery in the nation, it began with activist Leonard Matlovich's death in 1988 when the AIDS epidemic gripped the gay community. His example inspired others to be buried near him, including many leaders of the modern gay rights movement. Today, members of the LGBTQ+ community and their friends gather at the cemetery near Matlovich to celebrate Pride and help educate about the legacies of LGBTQ+ activists.



This LGBTQ+ COMMUNITY TOUR highlights just a few of the over 65,000 people buried in Congressional Cemetery. As you embark on the trail of this self-guided tour, we invite you to admire the artistry of the stone carvings, appreciate the beauty of the environment, and examine the diverse historical narratives and legacies of those interred here.

The following are numbered to correspond with the map on the back. There is no fixed tour route. Refer to the Range (R) and Site (S) grid numbers and the map on the back to help locate each grave site.

1. CLIFF ANCHOR (1936–2000) was born in Walton, Waterloo, England. He immigrated to Canada at age 17 and changed his name to Michael Erickson. In the early 1960s, he became a U.S. citizen and moved to San Francisco to work in radio. He created KRJB-FM radio in Monte Rio, CA, the first station in the country to air National Gay Network News. Anchor joined the California National Guard in 1973, reaching the rank of Lt. Colonel. In 1979, he met his friend **Leonard Matlovich (#10)** and moved to Guerneville, CA. Anchor publicly came out as gay and reclaimed his birth name in 1988. He advocated for gay rights within the U.S. Military, worked with American Veterans for Equal Rights and San Francisco's Alexander Hamilton American Legion Post 448, and was featured in the books *One Million Strong* and *Conduct Unbecoming*. **R20/S163 (cenotaph)**

2. PETER DOYLE (1843–1907) was a veteran of the Confederate Army who is believed by historians to have been American poet Walt Whitman's lover. He and Whitman met in Washington, D.C. on a horse-drawn streetcar where Doyle was the conductor. He later recalled, "We were familiar at once—I put my hand on his knee—we understood. He did not get out at the end of the trip—in fact went all the way back with me." They exchanged several letters and postcards. In his notebooks, Whitman referred to Doyle using the code "16.4," a reference to the numerical order of Doyle's initials. Whitman wrote in one letter to him, "I will imagine you with your arm around my neck saying Good night, Walt—& me—Good night, Pete." **R91/S118**



Whitman & Doyle, ca. 1869
Ohio Wesleyan University,
Bayley Collection

3. KEN DRESSER (1938–1995) was considered by many to be one of the best large-scale graphic designers in the world. Best known for his work with Disney, he designed SpectroMagic night parade, Main Street Electric Parade, and Epcot's Electric Water Pageant. He also worked with Dennis Despie as part of the company

Select Productions, which was involved with events such as presidential inaugurations and Super Bowl half-time shows. Dresser also wrote an episode of *Homicide* in 1973. He is buried with his life partner, **CHARLES FOWLER (1931–1995)** who was an arts educator, prolific writer, and the director of National Cultural Resources. He was also a guest professor at several American universities and consistently urged teachers to experience their work with students as creative encounters: alive, inventive, and filled with mutual discovery. Fowler served as editor of the *Music Educators Journal* from 1964 to 1971. He donated his papers to the University of Maryland, stating, "I was not satisfied as a teacher with merely passing on the culture. I wanted a role in creating it. The classroom is not just a place for learning about yesterday, but a laboratory for inventing tomorrow." **R61/S116**

4. JOHN FREY (1929–1997) & PETER MORRIS (1929–2010) met as students at Catholic University at the piano bar/restaurant called the Chicken Hut on H Street near Lafayette Park, then a popular establishment for gay men. Frey was a Fulbright Scholar, a professor of Romance Languages at George Washington University, and an author of books on Victor Hugo and Emile Zola. Morris worked as an expert French cook and served on the Board of Directors of the gay Catholic organization Dignity, for which he coauthored a community cookbook. They utilized their monument for frequent picnics, and encouraged others to continue to do so after their deaths. **R62/S63**

5. BARBARA GITTINGS (1932–2007) & KAY TOBIN LAHUSEN (1930–2021) were partners in life and activism for 46 years. Gittings was known as the mother of the modern gay rights movement for her tireless work that included founding the New York chapter of the Daughters of Bilitis, the first U.S. lesbian rights organization, in 1958; editing its pioneering magazine, *The Ladder*, between 1963 and 1966; leading the first gay caucus of a national professional organization, the American Library Association; creating the first widely distributed bibliography of gay-positive books; and helping convince the American Psychiatric Association that homosexuality was not a mental illness.



Gittings picketing the White House in 1975, photo by Lahusen

NY Public Library, Manuscripts and Archives

Together, they participated in several of the earliest gay rights demonstrations and were especially close to **Frank Kameny (#8)** as evidenced by inclusion of his famous slogan "Gay Is Good" on their memorial bench. Lahusen was the first publicly gay photojournalist, documenting many of those historic events. She cofounded New York's Gay Activists Alliance, wrote for several gay periodicals, and authored 1972's *The Gay Crusaders*, the first book profiling movement leaders. **BENCH S25B**

6. HENRY A. GORDON (1947–1993) held a Bachelor's Degree in sociology from George Washington University, a Master's Degree in sociology from the University of North Carolina, and a Doctorate in the same discipline from the University of Maryland. He worked for Radio Free Europe, spending a year as a public opinion researcher in Munich, and worked for the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights from 1978–1983. He was employed at the U.S. Department of Education beginning in 1984 as a statistician in the department's National Center for Education Statistics, where he worked with information regarding the Office of Civil Rights. He was a member of both the American Sociological Association and the Association of Applied Sociology. **R20/S159**

7. DANDRIDGE FEATHERSTON HERING (1924–2012) graduated from the United States Military Academy at West Point in 1947, serving 20 years in the U.S. Army. He, along with his partner of 43 years, **Joel Leenaars (1935–2023)**, was a member of one of San Francisco's earliest gay rights groups, the Society for Individual Rights. Hering and Leenaars were founding members of the earliest known gay boat club, San Francisco's Barbary Coast Boating Club. Hering was also a member of Service Academy Gay & Lesbian Alumni, and Knights Out, the association of gay West Point graduates. Hering and Leenaars are interred together at this plot. **R22/S166**

8. FRANKLIN E. KAMENY (1925–2011) was known as the father of the modern gay rights movement. A friend and fellow activist, **Kay Lahusen (#5)**, once said, "We all did a lot, but all roads led to Frank. He was behind everything." In 1957, after his sexuality was discovered, Kameny, a World War II combat veteran, was fired from his job as a U.S. Army Map Service astronomer. He became the first known gay person to legally fight his dismissal by the federal government when he appealed to

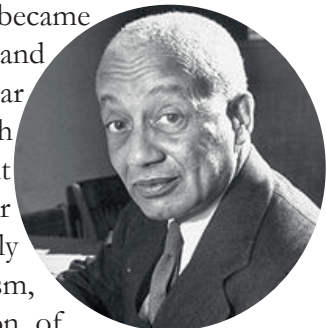


Kameny at Liberation Day Parade in New York City, 1970, photo by Lahusen

NY Public Library, Manuscripts and Archives

the Supreme Court, which refused to review his case. Kameny was a cofounder of the Mattachine Society of Washington, the Gay and Lesbian Activists Alliance, and the Gertrude Stein Democratic Club. He led the first gay rights protests at the White House, Pentagon, State Department, Civil Service Commission, and Independence Hall. He was also the first openly gay congressional candidate, was involved in the declassification of homosexuality as a mental illness, and assisted in **Leonard Matlovich's (#10)** case against the military's ban on gay service members. He often said he most wanted to be remembered for coining the then-unprecedented slogan "Gay Is Good" in 1968. **R21/S165 (cenotaph)**

9. ALAIN LOCKE (1885–1954) was a prominent African American philosopher. Known as the "Dean of the Harlem Renaissance," he became the first African American and first-known gay Rhodes Scholar in 1907. Locke went on to teach in the philosophy department at Howard University for over four decades. One of the early founders of cultural pluralism, Locke advocated for a vision of American society in which all cultures are valued and recognized. His work, including the seminal *The New Negro*, influenced an entire generation of African Americans, including Martin Luther King Jr., and helped pave the way for the Civil Rights Movement. He never publicly disclosed his sexuality, but confided to friends that it was both a vulnerability and invulnerability. Thanks to the efforts and donations of African American Rhodes Scholars, Locke's remains were interred at Congressional Cemetery on September 13, 2014, sixty years after his death. The symbols on his gravestone were carefully chosen to reflect his life's work and beliefs: the nine-pointed Baha'i star represents his faith; the Zimbabwe bird is an emblem of the former African country Rhodesia, which was adopted by the American Rhodes scholars; the lambda symbolizes gay and lesbian rights; and Phi Beta Sigma represents Locke's fraternity at Howard University. **R62/S90**



Photograph by Alfred Eisenstaedt, circa 1946.

10. LEONARD MATLOVICH (1943–1988) volunteered to serve in the Air Force during the Vietnam War, receiving the Bronze Star for personal valor and a Purple Heart for wounds sustained during