

STATEMENT OF 28 GENERALS AND ADMIRALS:

We respectfully urge Congress to repeal the "don't ask, don't tell" policy. Those of us signing this letter have dedicated our lives to defending the rights of our citizens to believe whatever they wish. As General Colin Powell, Former Chairman of the Joint Chiefs said when the "don't ask, don't tell" policy was enacted, it is not the place of the military or those in senior leadership to make moral judgments.

Scholarly data shows there are approximately one million gay and lesbian veterans in the United States today, as well as 65,000 gays and lesbians currently serving in our armed forces. They have served our nation honorably.

We support the recent comments of another former Chairman of the Joint Chiefs, General John Shalikashvili, who has concluded that repealing the "don't ask, don't tell" policy would not harm, and would indeed help our armed forces. As is the case in Britain, Israel, and other nations which allow gays and lesbians to serve openly, our service members are professionals who are able to work together effectively despite differences in race, gender, religion, and sexuality. Such collaboration reflects the strength and the best traditions of our democracy.

Lieutenant General Jerry Hilmes, USA (ret.)
Vice Admiral Harold Koenig, USN (ret.)
Vice Admiral James Zimble, USN (ret.)
Major General Leslie Burger, USA (ret.)
Major General Alexander Burgin, USANG (ret.)
Major General Michael Conrad, USA (ret.)
Major General James Delk, USA (ret.)
Major General Jack Farris, USAF (ret.)
Major General Fred Forster, USANG (ret.)
Major General David Hale, USA (ret.)
Major General Randy Jayne, USANG (ret.)
Major General Lawrence Johnson, USA (ret.)
Major General Dennis Laich, USA (ret.)
Major General Dennis Malcor, USA (ret.)
Major General Michael Scotti*, USA (ret.)
Major General Harry Sieben, USANG (ret.)
Brigadier General Clara Adams-Ender, USA (ret.)
Brigadier General Dale Barber, USA (ret.)
Brigadier General Harold Bowman, USANG (ret.)
Brigadier General Douglas Bradley, USA (ret.)
Brigadier General William Colvin, USANG (ret.)
Brigadier General Bob Hardy, USA (ret.)
Brigadier General JD Johnson, USA (ret.)
Brigadier General Phil Peay, USANG (ret.)
Brigadier General Robert Poirot, USA (ret.)
Brigadier General Philip Pushkin, USANG (ret.)
Brigadier General Donald Schenk, USA (ret.)
Brigadier General Daniel Wardrop, USA (ret.)

*General Scotti passed away in September, 2007. His widow asked that his name remain on this statement.

**Rear Admiral William Retz was incorrectly listed as a signatory on a previous version of this statement.