



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
CITY OF CHICAGO

LORI E. LIGHTFOOT
MAYOR

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, throughout the history of America, Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT) Americans of diverse yet convergent backgrounds have fearlessly defended the principles of the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution of these United States through their service in the United States Armed Forces side by side with their heterosexual counterparts; and

WHEREAS, generally recognized as the catalyst for the modern gay civil rights movement, the Stonewall Uprising of 1969 sparked unified resistance to the widespread injustices faced by all in the greater LGBT community leading to a resurgence of political, economic, and community activism to gain basic rights; and

WHEREAS, in 1990, LGBT veterans formed a mutually beneficial organization, now called the American Veterans for Equal Rights (AVER), to more widely recognize the distinguished service of LGBTQ individuals for the purpose of recognizing and appreciating their distinguished military service which led to the formation of its Chicago Chapter two years later; and

WHEREAS, celebrating its *28th Anniversary* this year, the Chicago Chapter of AVER has remained steadfast in supporting and assisting lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender veterans in the Chicagoland area for over 27 years; and

WHEREAS, whilst making history day in and day out, American Veterans for Equal Rights has also witnessed extraordinary cultural shifts with the repeal of the Don't Ask, Don't Tell in 2010, allowing LGBT-identifying citizens to serve openly and proudly in the United States Armed Forces; and

WHEREAS, in their tireless work toward a more perfect union, affirming to all, the members of the Chicago Chapter of AVER persist in giving of their time, resources, and expertise to improve the lives of all veterans — bringing about the dedication of monuments to LGBTQ military service in recent years including one of the first federally approved LGBT Veterans Monument on federal land at Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery in Elwood, Illinois and honoring the military service of LGBT veterans on the corner of Halsted and Addison in the historic Lakeview neighborhood:

NOW, THEREFORE, I, LORI E. LIGHTFOOT, MAYOR OF THE CITY OF CHICAGO, do hereby proclaim June 25, 2019 to be LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL, AND TRANSGENDER VETERANS OF AMERICA DAY IN CHICAGO, and encourage all Chicagoans to acknowledge and salute these outstanding veterans for their brave sacrifice and unwavering dedication to our country, and ongoing contributions to the City of Chicago.

Dated this 25th day of June, 2019.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Lori E. Lightfoot".

Mayor