

LESBIAN, GAY,
BISEXUAL, AND
TRANSGENDER
PRIDE
MONTH
PROGRAM 2012

PRIDE LINKS US TOGETHER

THURSDAY, JUNE 27, 2012, 10:00 A.M. – 11:00 A.M.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AUDITORIUM

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PROTECTION AGENCY, U.S. AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT,
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PROGRAM

GREETINGS

MASTER OF CEREMONIES

CRAIG HOOKS

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

PRESENTATION OF COLORS

U. S. ARMED FORCES COLOR GUARD

NATIONAL ANTHEM

JOHNATHAN WALKER

INTRODUCTION OF PANELISTS

CRAIG HOOKS

KEYNOTE ADDRESS

CHAI FELDBLUM

COMMISSIONER, EQUAL OPPORTUNITY COMMISSION

AUDIENCE QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

CLOSING REMARKS

CRAIG HOOKS



Craig E. Hooks

Craig E. Hooks currently serves as the Assistant Administrator for the Office of Administration and Resources Management (OARM) at the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). On May 13, 2009, he was nominated by President Obama to serve in this role and was confirmed on August 7, 2009. OARM provides national leadership, policy, and management of many essential support functions for the Agency, including human resources management, acquisition activities (contracts), grants management, and management and protection of EPA's facilities and other critical assets nationwide. As the agency's Chief Sustainability Officer, Mr. Hooks is responsible for providing leadership in implementing Executive Order 13514 which is aimed at improving Federal environmental, energy and economic performance. He also serves as EPA's Senior Accountable Official for the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act by managing over \$7 billion in projects and programs aimed at spurring technological advances in science and health and investing in environmental protection and other infrastructure that will provide long-term economic benefits.

Prior to joining OARM, Mr. Hooks served as the Director of the Office of Wetlands, Oceans and Watersheds (OWOW) within EPA's Office of Water. OWOW promotes a watershed approach to manage, protect, and restore the water resources and aquatic ecosystems of the nation's marine and fresh waters. Before that, he served as the Acting Principal Deputy Assistant Administrator in the Office of Environmental Information (OEI). OEI supports the Agency's mission to protect public health and the environment by integrating quality environmental information to make it useful for informing decisions, improving management, documenting performance, and measuring success. Before joining OEI, Mr. Hooks served as the OWOW Deputy Director.

He also served as the Director of the Federal Facilities Enforcement Office within the Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance (OECA). There, he was directly responsible for ensuring that Federal agencies meet multi-billion dollar cleanup commitments which are under EPA's oversight and comply with environmental law. Mr. Hooks was also the Associate Director of the Administration and Resource Management Support Staff within OECA where he managed a wide range of administrative functions. Mr. Hooks spent two years as the Special Assistant to the Assistant Administrators for OARM and OECA. OECA is responsible for managing a national criminal enforcement, regulatory, site remediation, Federal facilities enforcement and compliance assurance programs, and the Federal activities program responsible for implementing the National Environmental Policy Act.

Before joining EPA, Mr. Hooks worked at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration as a physical scientist. Mr. Hooks received a Masters degree in Oceanography from the Texas A&M University in 1987, and a Bachelor's degree in Zoology from the University of Florida in 1982. Mr. Hooks is married and the father of three girls.

Chai Feldbaum

Chai Feldblum was nominated to serve as a Commissioner of the EEOC by President Barack Obama, and was confirmed by the Senate, for a term ending on July 1, 2013.

Prior to her appointment to the EEOC, Commissioner Feldblum was a Professor of Law at the Georgetown University Law Center where she has taught since 1991. At Georgetown, she founded the Law Center's Federal Legislation and Administrative Clinic, which represented clients such as Catholic Charities USA, the National Disability Rights Network, and the Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law. She also founded and co-directed Workplace Flexibility 2010, a policy enterprise focused on finding common ground between employers and employees on workplace flexibility issues.

As Legislative Counsel at the American Civil Liberties Union from 1988 to 1991, Commissioner Feldblum played a leading role in helping to draft and negotiate the ground-breaking Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. Later, as a law professor representing the Epilepsy Foundation, she was equally instrumental in the drafting and negotiating of the ADA Amendments Act of 2008.

Commissioner Feldblum has also worked to advance lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender rights, has been one of the drafters of the Employment Nondiscrimination Act, and is the first openly lesbian Commissioner of the EEOC. She clerked for Judge Frank Coffin of the First Circuit Court of Appeals and for Supreme Court Justice Harry A. Blackmun after receiving her J.D. from Harvard Law School. She received her B.A. degree from Barnard College.





Photo: Manan Vatsyayana/AFP



Presidential Proclamation — Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Pride Month, 2012

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

A PROCLAMATION

From generation to generation, ordinary Americans have led a proud and inexorable march toward freedom, fairness, and full equality under the law — not just for some, but for all. Ours is a heritage forged by those who organized, agitated, and advocated for change; who wielded love stronger than hate and hope more powerful than insult or injury; who fought to build for themselves and their families a Nation where no one is a second-class citizen, no one is denied basic rights, and all of us are free to live and love as we see fit.

The lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) community has written a proud chapter in this fundamentally American story. From brave men and women who came out and spoke out, to union and faith leaders who rallied for equality, to activists and advocates who challenged unjust laws and marched on Washington, LGBT Americans and allies have achieved what once seemed inconceivable. This month, we reflect on their enduring legacy, celebrate the movement that has made progress possible, and recommit to securing the fullest blessings of freedom for all Americans.

Since I took office, my Administration has worked to broaden opportunity, advance equality, and level the playing field for LGBT people and communities. We have fought to secure justice for all under the Matthew Shepard and James Byrd, Jr., Hate Crimes Prevention Act, and we have taken action to end housing discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity. We expanded hospital visitation rights for LGBT patients and their loved ones, and under the Affordable Care Act, we ensured that insurance companies will no longer be able to deny coverage to someone just because they are lesbian, gay, bisexual, or transgender. Because we understand that LGBT rights are human rights, we continue to engage with the international community in promoting and protecting the rights of LGBT persons around the world. Because we repealed "Don't Ask, Don't Tell," gay, lesbian, and bisexual Americans can serve their country openly, honestly, and without fear of losing their jobs because of whom they love. And because we must treat others the way we want to be treated, I personally believe in marriage equality for same-sex couples.

More remains to be done to ensure every single American is treated equally, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity. Moving forward, my Administration will continue its work to advance the rights of LGBT Americans. This month, as we reflect on how far we have come and how far we have yet to go, let us recall that the progress we have made is built on the words and deeds of ordinary Americans. Let us pay tribute to those who came before us, and those who continue their work today; and let us rededicate ourselves to a task that is unending — the pursuit of a Nation where all are equal, and all have the full and unfettered opportunity to pursue happiness and live openly and freely.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, BARACK OBAMA, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim June 2012 as Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Pride Month. I call upon the people of the United States to eliminate prejudice everywhere it exists, and to celebrate the great diversity of the American people.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this first day of June, in the year of our Lord two thousand twelve, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirty-sixth.

BARACK OBAMA

SPECIAL THANKS

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