

A Sampling of Pride History



1924

The **Society for Human Rights** was founded by Henry Gerber in Chicago. It was the **first documented gay rights organization**.

1920s

1950s



L to R: Mattachine Society Founders Paul Bernard, Chuck Rowland, Bob Hull, Stan Witt, Rudi Gernreich, Harry Hay (top), Dale Jennings.
Photo: Jim Gruber

1950

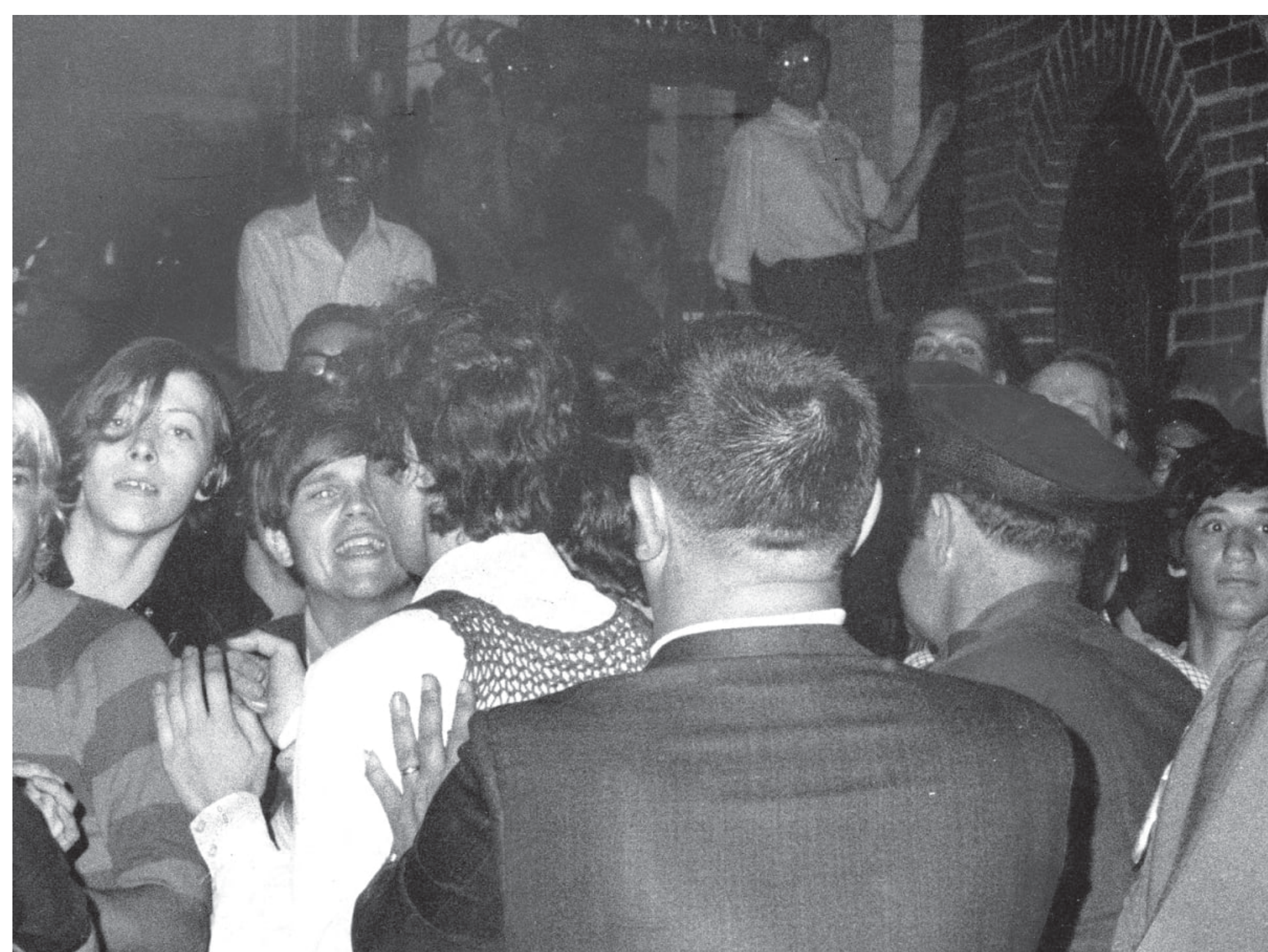
The **Mattachine Society**, formed by activist Harry Hay, was the **first sustained gay rights groups** in the United States. It focused on social acceptance and other support resources for homosexuals.

1961

Illinois became the first state to **decriminalize homosexuality**.



1960s



Police force people back outside the Stonewall Inn as tensions escalate.
Photo: Joseph Ambrosini of the New York Daily News

June 28, 1969

The Stonewall Riots, also known as the Stonewall Uprising, began in the early hours as NYPD raided the Stonewall Inn—a gay club located in Greenwich Village, New York City. On the one-year anniversary of the riots, thousands of people marched in the streets of Manhattan from Stonewall Inn to

Central Park, which marked **America's first gay pride parade**.

The parade's official chant was: "Say it loud, gay and proud."

1970s

1975

Tech. Sgt. Leonard Matlovich, a recipient of the Purple Heart and the Bronze Star, became the **first openly gay service member of the military** to fight the ban against gays. He appeared on the cover of Time magazine on September 8, 1975.



Leonard Matlovich | Ron Gilbert | Flickr

"Maybe not in my lifetime, but we are going to win in the end."

Technical Sergeant Leonard Matlovich, United States Air Force.

January 9, 1978

Harvey Milk was inaugurated as San Francisco City Council Supervisor, and the **first openly gay man to be elected to a political office** in California.



Photo: Ludovic Bertron from New York City, Usa

June 25, 1978

The **first rainbow flag**, created by **Gilbert Baker**, was raised in San Francisco's United Nations Plaza at the San Francisco Gay Freedom Day Parade

1980s

1980s

AIDS spread across the U.S., which caused for awareness as well as misconception about the disease. Writer and film producer **Larry Kramer** co-founded a nonprofit organization called the **Gay Men's Health Crisis (GMHC)**, which was dedicated to serving the community throughout the emerging crisis. HIV vaccine research would later help lead to the COVID-19 vaccine.

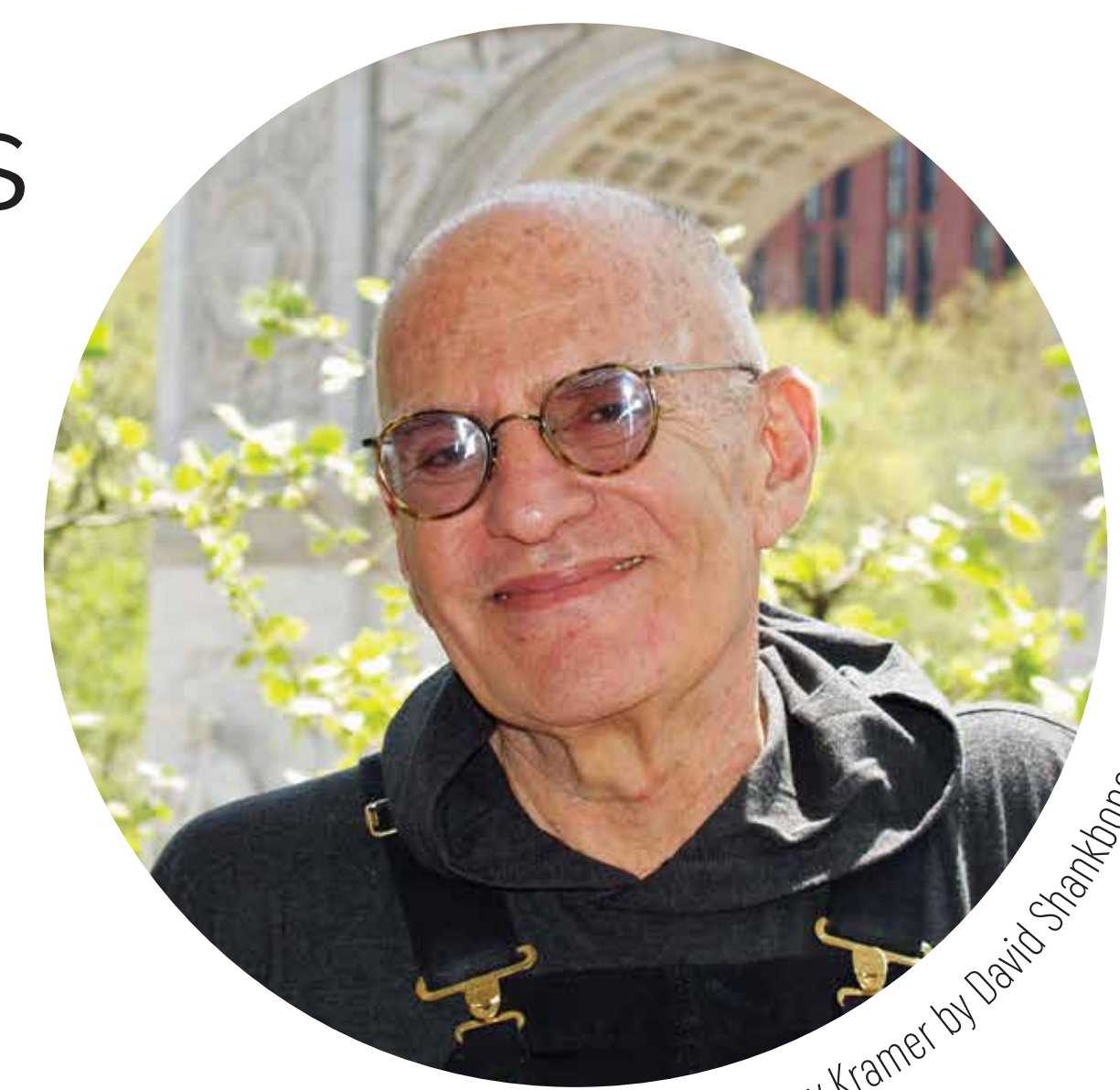


Photo: Larry Kramer by David Strykowski

March 1982

Wisconsin became the **first state to outlaw discrimination** based on sexual orientation.



1990s

November 30, 1993

President Clinton signed a military policy called "**Don't Ask, Don't Tell**," that prohibited openly gay and lesbian Americans from serving in the military, along with the harassment of "closeted" homosexuals.



Photo: Bob McNeely, The White House

September 21, 1996

President Clinton signed the Defense of Marriage Act, banning federal recognition of same-sex marriage, stating marriage is a legal union between one man and one woman as husband and wife.

April 1997

Comedian **Ellen DeGeneres** came out as a lesbian on the cover of Time Magazine, stating, "Yep, I'm Gay." DeGeneres became the **first leading television personality to come out** on a prime-time network television show.



Photo: Alan Light / Flickr



Photo: Zoe Reeves / US Embassy Sweden

December 1998

The Matthew Shepard Foundation, an LGBT nonprofit organization, was **created and founded** by Dennis and Judy Shepard in memory of their son.

June 1999

President Bill Clinton declared June 1999 **"Gay and Lesbian Pride Month,"** President Barack Obama proclaimed June to be **"LGBT Pride Month,"** and President Joe Biden further expanded the observance to **"Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer (LGBTQ+) Pride Month."***

May 2004

Massachusetts became the first U.S. state to **legalize same-sex marriage.**



2000s

October 28, 2009

President Obama signed the **Matthew Shepard and James Byrd Jr. Hate Crimes Prevention Act** into law.



President Barack Obama greets Louvon Harris, left, Betty Byrd Boatner, right, both sisters of James Byrd, Jr., and Judy Shepard, center, mother of Matthew Shepard. Photo: Official White House Photo by Pete Souza

September 20, 2011

"Don't Ask, Don't Tell" is repealed, ending the ban on gay men and lesbians from serving openly in the military.

2010s

May 9, 2012

In an ABC interview, President Obama become the **first U.S. President to publicly support** the freedom for LGBTQ couples to marry.

November 6, 2012

Tammy Baldwin became the first openly gay politician and the first Wisconsin woman elected to the U.S. Senate.



Photo: Senator Tammy Baldwin / AP/CE



Demonstration in favour of same sex marriage about Obergefell v. Hodges in front of Supreme Court.
Photo: jordanuhl7

June 26, 2015

This date marks a major milestone as the U.S. Supreme Court announced its decision in **Obergefell v Hodges**. The court ruled that **same sex marriage cannot be banned** in the United States and must be recognized nationwide, granting same sex couples **equal rights** to heterosexual couples under the law.

June 24, 2016

President Obama announced the **first national LGBTQ monument Stonewall National Monument** at the Christopher Park (Central Park), The Stonewall Inn and the surrounding streets and sidewalks that were the sites of the 1969 Stonewall Uprising.



"Gay Liberation" by George Segal, Christopher Park.
Photo: Ted Eytan

April 4, 2017

The Seventh Circuit Court of appeals ruled that the Civil Rights Act **prohibits workplace discrimination against LGBTQ employees**, after Kimberly Hively sues Ivy Tech Community College for violating Title VII of the act by denying her employment.

June 2020

The Supreme Court ruled a federal law to **protect LGBTQ workers from discrimination**.

2020s



January 2021

President **Joe Biden** signed an executive order repealing the 2019 Trump-era ban on most transgender Americans joining the military.

President Joe Biden signs an executive order rescinding a ban on transgender individuals serving in the military Monday, Jan. 25, 2021, in the Oval Office of the White House.
Photo: The White House

June 2021

The State Department announced an updated procedure to **allow applicants to self-select their sex marker** for passports and no longer require medical certification.