

**PRESS RELEASE**



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## Gay, Lesbian & Bisexual Veterans of America, Inc.

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### **NANCY RUSSELL RECEIVES RECOGNITION FOR SERVICE**

Members from across the country converged on Corpus Christi, Texas for the biennial convention of the GAY, LESBIAN & BISEXUAL VETERANS OF AMERICA (GLBVA) over the Presidents Day weekend. And for the first time in history a gay, lesbian and bisexual veterans service organization used the facilities aboard a U.S. Naval vessel, the USS Lexington which is now anchored in Corpus Christi Bay, for their plenary session. The Officers Ward Room aboard the World War II aircraft carrier was decked out in the finest of military tradition with the American flag, the rainbow flag, several military banners and the flags of all branches of the U.S. Armed Forces.

During the session a special award was presented to outgoing President Nancy Russell honoring her for all her hard work over the past four years in building the organization and establishing a viable presence on the national political scene. Under her administration the organization saw a significant increase in membership, obtained its 501(c)3 status, testified before numerous committees during the 1993 LIFT THE BAN campaign and established a solid financial footing which will ensure the organizations long-term survival.

A plaque was presented as a small token of the groups appreciation and a standing ovation demonstrated the respect and admiration the members have for Ms. Russell and her dedication to their cause.

Ms. Russell, who attained the rank of Lieutenant Colonel during her 20 years in the U.S. Army, spoke to the group after receiving the award. She thanked them for the special honor and in encouraging them to continue the struggle for the right to serve said, "One of these days, and its not too far off, we are going to see our efforts pay off and I think that justice is eventually going to be done." She encouraged the group to work on and build a better and stronger organization.

**GLBVA, Inc.** is the only national non-profit organization for gay, lesbian and bisexual active duty, reserve and veteran members of the United States Armed Forces, their families, friends and supporters.