

Proclamation

*from Supervisor Linda Mussmann,
Columbia County Board of Supervisors, June 9, 2021*

A PROCLAMATION IN HONOR OF LGBTQ+ PRIDE MONTH, JUNE 2021, IN COLUMBIA COUNTY, NEW YORK

WHEREAS, our nation, called America, was founded on the principle of equal rights for all people and that the fulfillment of this promise for some is yet to be realized. Many of us who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, and questioning people still wait for “equal and fair” to be served at our table and to be included in this quest for EQUALITY; AND

WHEREAS, on the historic day of June 28th, 1969, in the City of New York at an INN named STONEWALL, the LGBTQ community fought back against, yet, another brutal police raid and the discriminating criminal laws that have since been declared unconstitutional; AND

WHEREAS, on June 28th, 1970, one year after blood was shed at STONEWALL, the first LGBTQ Pride parade took place and now commemorates Pride celebrations across this nation; AND

WHEREAS, on June 11, 1999, to commemorate the 30th anniversary of the Stonewall Uprising, President Bill Clinton declared June "Gay & Lesbian Pride Month;" and on June 1, 2009, President Barack Obama expanded the commemoration further by declaring June to be Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Pride Month; AND

WHEREAS, on June 24, 2016, President Barack Obama designated the Stonewall Inn as a national monument, forever preserving this historic site where the modern LGBTQ civil rights movement began; AND

WHEREAS, we remember that the uprising at Stonewall was led by people of color and Black trans members of the LGBTQ community, and that past and present battles for racial and

LGBTQ justice in this country were built on the shoulders of courageous change makers like José Sarria, Maxine Perkins, Donna Burkett, Manonia Evans, Marsha P. Johnson, Sylvia Rivera, and many others; AND

WHEREAS, we acknowledge that, amidst the backdrop of the COVID19 pandemic and the country's continuing struggle to seek justice for Black lives, our current Pride Month celebrations underscore the critical role that intersectionality plays in the fight for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer and questioning justice; AND

WHEREAS, even though actions to prevent the spread of COVID19 have cancelled some traditional Pride Month celebration events, our deep pride for the LGBTQ+ community, their great diversity, their invaluable contributions to our communities, and their ultimate triumph over discrimination and hate, can never be cancelled or forgotten; AND

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that on this 9th day of June, 2021, the Columbia County Board of Supervisors joins me in supporting this Proclamation and do hereby proclaim June 2021 as Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, and Questioning Pride Month; and urge all community residents to eliminate discrimination and injustice wherever it exists, to celebrate the lives of our LGBTQ neighbors and friends, and to work together to create a more inclusive community that respects and values all people, no matter who they are and who they love, extending the promise of “equal and fair” to all people.

Love is what holds hope in the hearts of everyone who breathes the same air and dreams the dreams of justice and fairness.