

**L2013.45**  
**San Diego LGBT Veterans**  
**Collection, 1989-2009**

**FINDING AID AUTHOR**

Gabrielle Garcia

**ACQUISITION INFORMATION**

This collection was donated to Lambda Archives by Ben Gomez on behalf of American Veterans for Equal Rights (AVER), San Diego Veterans Association (SDVA), and Gay Lesbian Bisexual Veterans Association (which later became AVER) in August 2013.

**PROCESSING INFORMATION**

This collection was processed by Gabrielle Garcia as part of the 2020 CSL Project.

**EXTENT**

Number of containers: 3

Linear feet of shelf space: 2

**ABSTRACT**

**BIOGRAPHY OR HISTORY**

Gay Lesbian Bisexual Veterans of America (GLBVA) / American Veterans for Equal Rights (AVER)

“American Veterans for Equal Rights (AVER) is a non-profit, non-partisan, chapter-based Veterans Service Organization of active, reserve, and veteran service members dedicated to full and equal rights and equitable treatment for all present and former members of the U.S. Armed Forces, especially the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender current and prior military personnel who have been historically disenfranchised by armed forces policy and discriminatory laws governing military service and benefits.

American Veterans for Equal Rights is the oldest and largest chapter-based, all-volunteer national Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT) Veterans Service Organization in the United States, and the nation’s only LGBT VSO recognized by the Veterans Administration.”

- <https://aver.us/about>

### Ben Gomez

“Former Petty Officer Ben Gomez graduated from high school in 1987 and enlisted in the United States Navy. His last assignment was in San Diego, where he was involved with several San Diego LGBT community organizations and events. His strongest passion was to help repeal “don’t ask, don’t tell” (DADT). He worked as a paralegal at Stokes Roberts & Wagner in San Diego for several years and recently moved back to his hometown in New Mexico.”

- <https://thecentersd.org/2013-veterans-wall-honorees/>

Ben was the head of the San Diego chapter of American Veterans for Equal Rights (AVER) and a member of the board of directors for The Center, Momentum San Diego, Servicemembers Legal Defense Network, and an original organizer of the Stonewall Citizens Patrol.

- "Ben Gomez Joins the Center's Board of Directors." *Gay and Lesbian Times*, no. 1000, 22 Feb. 2007, p. 20. *Archives of Sexuality and Gender*, link.gale.com/apps/doc/QJRAUW086084086/AHSI?u=lambda&sid=bookmark-AHSI&xid=47e36bc1. Accessed 20 Aug. 2021.

## **COLLECTION SCOPE AND CONTENT**

This collection contains materials pertaining to the Gay Lesbian Bisexual Veterans of America (GLBVA), American Veterans for Equal Rights (AVER), San Diego Veterans Association (SDVA), Servicemembers Legal Defense Network (SLDN), military history and policies related to LGBTQ servicemembers, the efforts to repeal Don’t Ask Don’t Tell, and various veterans conventions and events in San Diego and in other locations in the U.S. The materials in this collection include organizational constitutions, by-laws, newsletters, manuals, mailers, forms, applications, press releases, flyers, cards, certificates, emails, agendas, website printouts, reports, notes, receipts, invoices, brochures, clippings, newspapers, membership and mailing lists, meeting minutes, ads, signs, invites, tickets, event programs, policy, bill summaries, timelines, photographs, a GLBVA bag, letter stamps, business cards, stickers, handouts, flash lights, dog tags, a patch, a CD, and two floppy disks. This collection also contains materials pertaining to the homophobic murder of Allen Schindler.

## **ARRANGEMENT**

This collection consists of 3 boxes divided into 5 series:

- Series I: Organizations [Box 1]
- Series II: Events [Box 1]
- Series III: Military History and Politics [Box 1]
- Series IV: Awards and Publications [Box 2]
- Series V: Memorabilia and Ephemera [Box 2-3]

**SEPARATED MATERIAL**

In this field, list any materials that have been removed from the collection and transferred to another collection, department (e.g., the library), or institution.

1. Photos
  - a. P337.001-.141
2. Mini-Cassettes
  - a. C431-C438
3. CD-R
  - a. D239-D240
4. T-Shirts
  - a. Box 50, T1014-T1015
5. Posters
  - a. Q0615-Q0618
6. Banners
  - a. Folded banner: B0072
  - b. Rolled Banner: B0080
7. Proclamation
  - a. L2013.45.07

**SUBJECTS**

Gay Lesbian Bisexual Veterans of America (GLBVA), American Veterans for Equal Rights (AVER), San Diego Veterans Association (SDVA), Servicemembers Legal Defense Network (SLDN), Nancy Russell, Craig Musser, Ben M. Gomez, Allen Schindler, Don't Ask Don't Tell, Veterans, Military, Hate crimes

**CONDITIONS GOVERNING ACCESS**

This collection is open and available for research use. Copyright restrictions may apply.

**PREFERRED CITATION**

The suggested citation for the collection is:

[Item Description]  
San Diego LGBT Veterans Collection, 1989-2009  
Lambda Archives of San Diego  
San Diego, California

**RELATED MATERIAL**

L2013.71

## LOCATION NOTE

C.4.1.2

## LANGUAGES

English

## CONTAINER LIST

Box	Folder	Description	Date(s)	
1	1	Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual Veterans of America (GLBVA) 1990-2002	1990-2002	
1	2	American Veterans for Equal Rights (AVER) 2002-2004	2002-2004	
1	3	American Veterans for Equal Rights (AVER) Newsletters 2002-2007	2002-2007	
1	4	American Veterans for Equal Rights (AVER) Controversies 2002-2004	2002-2004	
1	5	American Veterans for Equal Rights (AVER) Financials 2002-2004	2002-2004	
1	6	San Diego Veterans Association (SDVA) 1984-1993	1984-1993	
1	7	Servicemembers Legal Defense Network (SLDN) 2002-2008	2002-2008	
1	8	Momentum San Diego 2006-2007	2006-2007	
1	9	Veterans History Project		
1	10	Other Organizations		
1	11	Membership (restricted)		
1	12	National Convention 2002	2002	
1	13	National Convention 2002	2002	
1	14	National Convention 2003-2004	2003-2004	
1	15	Operation Mid-America Conference 2002	2002	
1	16	Veteran's Day Weekend 2007	2007	
1	17	Veteran's Day Weekend 2007 Financials (restricted)	2007	
1	18	Veteran's Day Weekend 2008	2008	
1	19	Memorial Day and Veteran's Day Parade 1992-2008	1992-2008	
1	20	Haircut Party 2008	2008	
1	21	Other Events 2001-2008	2001-2008	
1	22	Military Policy, Politics, History 1989-	1989-2005	

		2005		
1	23	Allen Schindler Murder 1992-2002 (restricted)	1992-2002	
1	24	Correspondence and Emails		
2	1	Certificates and Awards 1991-2009	1991-2009	
2	2	Clippings 1992-2009	1992-2009	
2	3	Magazines and Newspapers 1993-2007	1993-2007	
2	4	Miscellany 1992-2005	1992-2005	
3	1	2002 National Convention GLBVA souvenir bag	2002	
3	2	Business cards		
3	3	Letter stamps (Army, Navy, Coast Guard, Air Force)		
3	4	“What does that pink triangle mean?” Info sheets		
3	5	2 pink triangle stickers		
3	6	4 Stonewall Citizens Patrol whistles		
3	7	1 Stonewall Citizens Patrol carabiner flashlight		
3	8	3 “End the Ban” postcards		
3	9	3 Christian President Clinton postcards		
3	10	1 postcard photo of a brick wall with text		
3	11	4 “I Support the Military Readiness Enhancement Act” cards		
3	12	3 tickets for Veteran’s Day Weekend at The Center		
3	13	3 “Lift the Ban” stickers		
3	14	3 Military Ball 2002 tickets	2002	
3	15	1 San Diego Veterans Association patch		
3	16	3 mini cards “Military Members Have the Right to:”		
3	17	3 American flag dog tags		
3	18	1 HRC “Repeal Don’t Ask Don’t Tell” dog tag		
3	19	6 photos		
3	20	1 CD “AVER National Minutes”		
3	21	1 1.44mb floppy disk “AVER Mailing List” 2003	2003	
3	22	1 1.2mb floppy disk “A: 1 Decl. JJ 2 Decl. CT [WP5.0]”		