

JUNE is Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender (LGBT) Pride Observance Month

On June 2, 2000, President Bill Clinton declared June "Gay and Lesbian Pride Month." The month was chosen to remember the 1969 Stonewall riots in Manhattan, NY. Patrons of a gay bar, Stonewall Inn, fought back against a police raid, sparking three days of riots. It is considered to be the start of the gay liberation movement in the U.S. On June 2012, President Barack Obama declared June as Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) Pride Month.

"I'd rather not be the first but someone has to be."

Amanda Simpson is the Special Assistant to the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Acquisition, Logistics and Technology in the U.S. Department of Defense. She is the first openly transgender female presidential appointee. Born in the Chicago area, Simpson grew up in Southern California. She holds a bachelor's degree in physics, and master's degrees in engineering and business administration.



As an undergraduate, Simpson trained as a pilot. "I quickly realized this was a way to use all the sciences and technology I had been exposed to in the classroom," she says. "I've been lucky to incorporate my love of flight into my career." Simpson is a certified flight instructor, and has her airline transport pilot (ATP) certificate.

In 2004, Simpson became the first openly transgender person in the United States to win a contested primary by securing a Democratic nomination for the Arizona House of Representatives. In 2008, she was a delegate for Hillary Clinton at the Democratic National Convention. Simpson has served on the boards of numerous organizations, including the Arizona Human Rights Fund, the Tucson Corporate LGBT Coalition, Out and Equal Workplace Advocates and the National Center for Transgender Equality.

Before she was appointed to her current position, Simpson was Senior Technical Advisor in the U.S. Commerce Department's Bureau of Industry and Security. As the highest-ranking technical member, she advised on policy issues and monitored the export of weapons technology.

Source: <http://www.lgbthistorymonth.com/amanda-simpson?tab=biography>. LGBT History Month is a project of Equality Forum

