

Williamson L. Henderson

A Very, Very Brief G.L.B.T. Biography

In 1968, Williamson and friends from all five N.Y.C. boroughs formed the fun-filled Imperial Queens & Kings of New York ("LQ.K.N.Y."). Williamson was elected its Director. The following year, Williamson, drove with friends from Long Island to Manhattan to Judy Garland's funeral. Williamson was arrested after a N.Y.C.P.D. police invasion at The Stonewall Club that night, Friday, June 27, 1969, on the first night of The Stonewall Civil Rights Rebellion. His new 1969 blue Cadillac convertible (with the top down) was impounded by the police and held overnight at The 6th Precinct. The hip parents of a Stonewall friend, Sonia Jane Attkiss, from Brooklyn, vouched for Williamson's release from The Tombs the following evening. Civil rights attorney Hal Weiner subsequently met and represented Williamson on some of his many appearances at the Criminal Court building regarding five trumped-up charges by the police. Reactively, Williamson formed the Stonewall Veterans' Association ("S.V.A.") in the Summer of 1969 for the "Veterans" (a term coined by Williamson) of The Stonewall Rebellion. Three years after Stonewall, in 1972, he testified on behalf of a Gay rights law before the N.Y.C. Council. In 1977, Williamson founded D.A.B.E. ("Dethrone Anita Bryant, Etc.") to actively fight a national anti-Gay campaign. In 1979, he opened a business. In 1984, when Williamson bought his second (but not last) new Cadillac convertible, he formed the Stonewall Car Club for Gay owners of classic cars. Williamson was a consultant on the movie "Stonewall" (with film credits). When the political arm of S.V.A. had to separate as its own entity, Williamson formed Pride Democrats in the 1990s. In 1998, Williamson organized, promoted and hosted the largest political candidates' forum in N.Y.S. history. Thanks largely to Williamson, S.V.A. is still very active over 31 years later as a historical, cultural, educational, advocacy and politically-involved organization in the G.L.B.T. communities and the public-at-large. Its most recent successes under Williamson's leadership include having the "Stonewall Historic Site" designated as both a state and a national (G.L.B.T.) landmark and professionally restoring the 1969 "Stonewall Car". Williamson is currently the Executive Director of S.V.A. and LQ.K.N.Y. and the re-elected President of Pride Democrats and the Stonewall Car Club.