



## Former Sen. Goldwater Dead at 89

PHOENIX (AP) - Barry Goldwater, the fearlessly blunt Republican conservative who lost the 1964 presidential election in a landslide after being portrayed as a nuclear war-monger but whose ideas were later embraced during the Reagan years, died Friday, May 29. He was 89.

Instantly recognizable because of his white hair and black horn-rimmed glasses, Goldwater espoused a fiercely individualistic - even libertarian - brand of conservatism.

During the 1990s, his support for abortion and gay rights alienated some conservatives so much that a few GOP activists in Arizona talked openly about removing his name from state Republican headquarters. He was contemptuous of the Christian right.

"He had no use for religious conservatives," said Bruce Merrill, a friend and former pollster for Goldwater's Senate campaigns. "He felt the true conservative should defend the individual from government intrusion."

In 1993, Barry Goldwater came out in support of allowing openly gay people to serve in the military. During the controversy he called his party's opposition "just plain dumb."

"You don't need to be 'straight' to fight and die for your country," he said. "You just need to shoot straight."

Goldwater, whose grandson is gay, continued his support for equal rights by publishing a July 1994 *Washington Post* editorial asking Congress to pass the Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA), which would protect gay Americans from job discrimination.

"Barry Goldwater envisioned an

able conservative principles such as respecting individual rights. Many of today's right-wing politicians, who mistakenly call themselves conservatives, can learn a lot about true conservatism by studying Barry Goldwater," said Human Rights Campaign (HRC) Executive Director Elizabeth Birch.

"It's time America realized that there was no gay exemption in the right to 'life, liberty and the pursuit to happiness' in the Declaration of Independence. Job discrimination against gays - or anybody else - is contrary to each of these founding principles," Goldwater wrote in his editorial.

## Carpenter Defeated in Oregon

PORTLAND - Rep. Chuck Carpenter, the first openly-gay Republican to win office in history, narrowly lost his re-election bid to Bill Witt, an anti-gay right wing Republican. Carpenter lost by 54 votes out of more than 6,000.

"This is a wake up call for the whole gay and lesbian community across the country, despite their political affiliations," said Richard Tafel, executive director of Log Cabin Republicans. "The gay community cannot let one more gay Republican be outspent by the far right ever again. You have to support the troops at the front."

Carpenter was known nationwide for his leadership as a state representative, particularly in pushing the Oregon Employment Non-Discrimination Act through the House by shutting down the chamber for three days in 1997. The measure failed to be enacted into law by only one vote in the state Senate.

Tafel praised the strong support Carpenter received from the Gay and Lesbian

ted to Chuck, and they set an example for every other non-partisan gay organization to follow," Tafel said. "They recognized the crucial importance of this race, and we were proud to be partners with them in this effort."

## California Assembly Passes Transgender Crime Bill

SACRAMENTO - California lawmakers passed legislation that promises to strengthen prosecution of gender-related hate crimes. The bill's language makes clear that hate crimes will include victims who dress like or behave like the opposite sex.

Lawmakers sent the bill by Assemblywoman Sheila Kuehl (D-Santa Monica), to the Senate on a 49-11 vote, according to UPI.

In related news, the Assembly also passed another hate crimes bill, by Assemblyman Wally Knox (D-Los Angeles), on a 53-6 vote. It would require mandatory life imprisonment without parole in murders related to victims' gender, sexual orientation or disability. Currently the law grants them parole after 17 years.

The bill is sponsored by the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office, which says hate crimes against homosexuals have been increasing in recent years, and tend to be more violent than those against others.

## ACT UP Founder Dies of AIDS Related Complications

WASHINGTON - The Founder of ACT UP (AIDS Coalition To Unleash Power), Steve Michael, died last week of AIDS relat-

the intensive care unit at Washington Hospital Center, according to Wayne Turner, his partner of seven years. Turner said he gave the order to disconnect Michael from life support after his condition severely worsened.

"A political funeral will be held on Thursday, June 4, in Lafayette Park in front of the White House at 12:30 p.m.," said Turner, who made arrangements with federal authorities. "This will be his last White House protest."

In lieu of flowers, donations and condolences, which are much appreciated, should be sent to ACT UP/Washington, 408 "H" Street, NE, Washington, DC 20002.

## Des Moines Denies Gays Legal Protection

DES MOINES, - The Des Moines City Council rejected by a margin of 4-3 a proposal that would have added sexual orientation to the city's human rights accord, which bans discrimination based on race, gender and religion.

"This isn't about what's right or wrong," Councilman Chris Coleman said in voting against the proposal. "It's about what's appropriate for us to pass in a law that affects our entire community. And I don't think this reaches the level of the other protected classes."

Council's vote came after several months of debate between council members and members of the city's Human Rights Commission, who first recommended the change last February

"It means that we just start over again," said John Schmacker, a Human Rights Commission member and president of the Gay and Lesbian Resource Center. "City