



SANDY HOOK PARENTS URGE DELAWARE TO TAKE ACTION

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73 cents

Delaware State News

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A narrow vote for equality



Peterson comes out as gay in Senate speech

By Jen Rini
Delaware State News

DOVER — Marriage equality is a reality in Delaware.

Gov. Jack A. Markell signed legislation to legalize gay marriage in Delaware just over 30 minutes after the state's Senate passed the bill by a vote of 12-6.

"You may be wondering why we are doing this bill signing right now, instead of a few days or a week from now, and the reason is simple — I don't intend to make any of you wait one moment longer," Gov. Markell said, as thunderous applause erupted from the crowd gathered around him on the steps of the grand staircase inside Legislative Hall.

With the governor's signature, Delaware became the 11th state, along with Washington, D.C., to legalize same-sex marriage, joining the ranks of Massachusetts, Connecticut, Iowa, Vermont, New Hampshire, New York, Maine, Washington, Maryland and as of May 2, Rhode Island.

Gov. Markell has been advocating for marriage equality on the legislative front since the state passed civil union legislation with the 148th Gen-

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On the steps inside Legislative Hall Tuesday afternoon, Gov. Jack A. Markell holds a signed House Bill 73, making Delaware the 11th state to legalize same-sex marriage after a three-hour debate Tuesday in the state Senate. For a gallery and a video of the historic occasion, visit DelawareStateNews.com.

Delaware State News photo editor Dave Chambers earned a first-place award at Friday's 2013 Maryland-Delaware-D.C. Press Association luncheon for this photo of Delaware Gov. Jack Markell raising the signed same-sex marriage bill in May 2013.

Delaware State News

Updated October 30, 2014

BALTIMORE — Delaware State News managing editor Andrew West won two first-place awards, including a Best of Show, for columns and the newspaper's advertising teams were honored with the Advertising Sweepstakes Award in the 2013 Maryland-Delaware-D.C. Press Association contests.

In addition to Mr. West's honors, the newspaper had four other newsroom staff members receive honors.

The Maryland-Delaware-D.C. Press Association has 113 daily and weekly newspapers among its membership.

The awards were announced Friday during a luncheon at the BWI Westin Hotel in Linthicum Heights, near Baltimore.

Mr. West won Best of Show in the category of "Local Column: Feature or Humor" for a November story about Margaret Duda's reflections on John F. Kennedy's visit to Dover in 1960. At the time, she was a teenage intern for the Delaware State News who was sent to cover the story of his arrival. In a moment of daring and naiveté, she managed to hop a ride into Dover with the then-U.S. senator during a campaign visit.

The Delaware State News editorial team is listed in Division C, daily newspaper with circulation less than 30,000.

The Best of Show honor in each category recognizes the top pieces from all divisions, including the major metropolitan newspapers in Maryland and the District of Columbia.

Mr. West, who writes the “From the Editor” column in Sunday editions, won first place in the “Local Column: Critical Thinking” category. The column told the story of Kirk Bloodsworth, the first person exonerated from death row based on DSN evidence. The story, headlined “Waterman went from death row to freedom,” appeared in the March 17, 2013, edition as the Delaware legislature was debating the repeal.

Delaware State News photo editor Dave Chambers earned a first-place award for a photo of Delaware Gov. Jack Markell raising the signed same-sex marriage bill in May 2013.

Reporter Eleanor La Prade won first place for a story headlined “Grants help make the grade” in the Education Reporting category. The story studied the advantages of advanced learning programs in local schools.

Reporter Jen Rini received two second-place awards.

She was recognized in the State Government category for an April 2013 analysis story on Delaware’s death penalty repeal legislation.

And she was recognized in a special Affordable Health Care Act category for a September story on the help consumers would need when making health care choices.

News Editor Ashley Dawson received a second-place award in the Feature Story Profile category for a May 2013 story on Corey and Douglas Marshall-Steele, Milton activists who have championed equal rights in Delaware.

The Delaware State News advertising team’s Sweepstakes honor was based on several top prizes. News of the individual awards will be released in an upcoming edition.

The advertising team participated in Division B, dailies with circulation under 35,000.

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