

Gay veterans deserves full rights of all Americans

Filed Under Opinion Letters to the Editor


Apr. 23

delawareonline.com

As a U.S. Army veteran who enlisted and served overseas during the Vietnam era, handling top secret materials in the Army Security Agency and then honorably discharged, I can be described as strongly patriotic and one who values public service to this nation. However, federally and in Delaware, I can also be described as a second-class citizen because I committed myself in life to a man, not to a woman.

In fact, many gay Delawareans have served in the military, only to come home and have no federal marriage rights and protections – and then be told by Delaware that their relationships are not marriage but something less.

I ask our lawmakers to support H.B. 75, the Civil Marriage Equality and Religious [Protection](#)

Act of 2013. There should be no reason why service members should potentially put their lives on the line – and  then come back home as vets to be second-class citizens.

Douglas Marshall-Steele