

Daylight

DISCUSSION AND BOOK SIGNING FOR

GAYS IN THE MILITARY

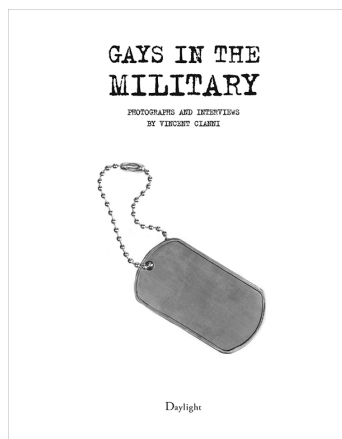
PHOTOGRAPHS AND INTERVIEWS BY VINCENT CIANNI

ESSAYS BY ALISON NORDSTRÖM, LT DONALD R. BRAMER, ALAN M. STEINMAN, MD

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 23 AT 12:00 P.M.

COMMEMORATING THIRD ANNIVERSARY OF DADT REPEAL ACT OF 2010



As the Human Rights Commission attests, the U.S. military has a long history of human rights abuses against homosexuals resulting in lost careers of servicemen and women many of whom are highly skilled, well educated, patriotic, courageous, and productive. From November 2009 to June 2013, documentary photographer **Vincent Cianni** (born 1952) made a series of road trips across the United States to interview and photograph approximately 100 gay and lesbian U.S. military veterans and active-duty service members. His mission was to document how the military's ban on openly gay and lesbian service personnel, which ended nearly three years ago, impacted on their careers in the armed forces and their personal lives afterwards.

The culmination of Cianni's three-year journey is ***Gays in the Military*** (Daylight Books, 2014) which brings together over fifty intimate portraits and testimonies of individuals and couples who openly share their compelling, moving, sometimes harrowing stories of the harassment, discrimination and indignities they endured as gay and lesbian veterans and service members. Many of the interviews presented in this book took place while the ban was still in place that is a testament to the trust that Cianni established with his subjects.

On Tuesday, September 23, 2014 at 12:00pm **Library of Congress GLOBE**, in conjunction with the **Senate GLASS Caucus** and **LGBT Congressional Staff Association**, presents a conversation with photographer Vincent Cianni, author of *Gays in the Military*. The event commemorates the third anniversary of the DADT Repeal Act of 2010, the historic legislation that allows LGB men and women of the armed forces to serve openly. Following are details:

Tuesday, September 23, 2014 – 12:00pm

Vincent Cianni on *Gays in the Military*

Library of Congress, Madison Building, West Dining Room (6th Floor)

101 Independence Ave, SE, Washington, DC 20540

Free, no tickets required

Contact: libraryofcongressglobe@gmail.com

ADA Accessibility: Request accommodations 5 days in advance (202) 707-6362 or ada@loc.gov



L-R: **Anthony Loverde**, Little Rock, AR. 2012. Staff Sergeant, U.S. Air Force, 2001-Present. Loadmaster. Active duty, honorable discharge, homosexual conduct; deployed Iraq and Afghanistan 2012 at previous rank; continued career as if uninterrupted. **Debra Fowler**, Lowell, Mass. Specialist, U.S. Army, 1986-88. Korean Linguist. Dishonorable Discharge, fraudulent entry, outed when being investigated for security clearance.

The age range of the servicemen and women in *Gays in the Military* spans sixty years. They served in World War II, Vietnam, the Gulf War, Iraq, Afghanistan, Kuwait, stateside, and in the reserves. Many attained high rank, received numerous medals, and held top-level jobs. The civil rights violations many suffered oftentimes prohibited them from receiving the benefits accorded them for serving in the military. The stigma associated with such punishments based on sexual orientation was worse when a man or woman returned to civilian life unable to find a job that matched his or her skills. These gay men and women spent their entire military careers living under the threat of being "outed" and discharged. In order to hide and live a lie, many repressed their emotions and denied themselves basic human intimacies.



L-R: **Paul Goercke**, San Francisco. Messman/Staff Officer, U.S. Merchant Marines, 1944-45. Deployed in Ie Shima Island, Japan; Hawaii and Saipan. **Donald R. Bramer**, Washington, D.C. Lieutenant (O-3), U.S. Navy, 2002-present. Intelligence Officer. Top Secret Security Clearance; multiple deployments to the Middle East; provided anonymous testimony during the hearings to repeal 'Don't ask, don't tell.'

The book presents three insightful essays that shed light on the cultural, personal and political consequences of the ban on homosexuality.

Alison Nordström is Senior Curator of Photographs at George Eastman House. She writes about Cianni's powerful portraits and the role of photography as an "exercise in witnessing and truth telling." She places his work in the tradition of the documentary photography of Lewis Hine and Walker Evans.

Alan M. Steinman, MD was a Rear Admiral, U.S. Public Health Service and U.S. Guard from 1972 to 1997. Retired, he came out publicly in 2003 on the tenth anniversary of 'Don't ask, don't tell' (DADT). He remained "in the closet" the entire time he was in service. He writes about the history of the laws and policies banning gays and lesbians from serving in the military, describing them as "deliberately draconian."



L-R **Victor Fehrenbach**, Boise, Idaho. Lieutenant Colonel, U.S. Air Force, 1991-2011. Retired. F-15E Fighter Pilot. Tours of duty in Iraq, Kuwait and Afghanistan; successfully fought his discharge under 'Don't ask, don't tell,' after coming out on television in 2009. **Travis Jackson**, Montgomery, AL, 2011. Sergeant, U.S. Army 2004-2009. Chaplain's Assistant. Deployed to Iraq 2007-2008, general discharge (under honorable conditions); patterns of misconduct.

Lt. Donald R. Bramer (see caption above) writes about the challenges of living under the 'Don't ask, don't tell' policy which lasted from 1993 to 2011 while maintaining a relationship with his partner, who was also in the service, with the long separations and the emotional toll of carrying the "burden of silence and invisibility each day that we served. We fought harder and trained harder just to wear the uniform with the same distinction as those around us."

Vincent Cianni is a documentary photographer whose work explores community, memory, and the human condition through image, text and audio. Cianni holds an MFA in Photography from the SUNY New Paltz and teaches photography at Parsons The New School for Design, and the International Center of Photography. The David M. Rubenstein Rare Book and Manuscript Library (Archive of Documentary Arts) at Duke University established a study archive to insure the preservation of all his documentary projects, including negatives, contacts and correspondence. *We Skate Hardcore*, an eight-year documentary project of inline skaters in Williamsburg, Brooklyn published by NYU Press and the Center for Documentary Studies in 2004, was awarded the American Association of University Press Best Book Design. A major survey of this work was exhibited at the Museum of the City of New York in 2006. His photographs have been exhibited and collected nationally at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, the Philadelphia Museum of Art, the George Eastman House, and The Kinsey Institute for Sexual Research; and internationally in London, France, Brazil and Germany. His work has been published in *The New York Times*, *DoubleTake*, *Aperture*, *The New Yorker*, *Photography as Activism*; *New York 400: A Visual History of America's Greatest City*; and *The Polaroid Book*. To visit the artist's website, go [here](#).



L-R: **Heather Davies**, left, Round Rock, TX. with her former partner Shane Walley. Lieutenant, U.S. Navy, 1989-98. Operations Watch Officer and Officer Recruiter. Resigned commission. **Matt McCary**, right, Orange Park, FL. Airman First Class E-3, U.S. Air Force, 1998-2000. Intelligence Specialist. Honorable Discharge; put under arrest after being singled out by co-worker; discharged within five days with no investigation. **David Cochenic**, Orange Park, FL. Chief Petty Officer E-7, U.S. Navy, 1992-present. Field Medical Service Technician, Aerospace Medical Technician.

Library of Congress GLOBE (LC-GLOBE) serves as an educational, recreational, & cultural forum that endeavors to:

Provide information to assist in eliminating prejudice and discrimination against gay men, lesbians, bisexuals and transgender persons.

- Educate Library of Congress employees at all levels about issues of concern to their lesbian, gay, transgender and bisexual colleagues, children, relatives and friends.
- Provide information upon request that would facilitate good professional work relationships between LC employees of all gender and sexual orientations.
- Serve as a resource, as appropriate, in support of efforts by LC and labor organizations to identify and amend existing discriminatory policies or practices.
- Conduct or support educational, cultural or professional programs and activities that are of interest to gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgender employees of LC and their friends.

The **Gay, Lesbian, and Allies Senate Staff (GLASS) Caucus** is a non-profit, non-partisan organization open to all whose purpose is to raise awareness of issues affecting the LGBT community, increase visibility and promote the welfare and dignity of LGBT employees of the United States Senate by providing a safe environment for social interaction and professional development.

The **Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Congressional Staff Association** is an official, non-partisan Congressional staff organization whose mission is to advance the interests of current as well as prospective members and the LGBT community at large. The LGBT CSA is dedicated to developing the careers of its membership and advocating on behalf of the LGBT community.



Daylight is a non-profit organization dedicated to publishing art and photography books. By exploring the documentary mode along with the more conceptual concerns of fine art, Daylight's uniquely collectible publications work to revitalize the relationship between art, photography, and the world-at-large. For information, visit www.daylightbooks.org. To check out Daylight Digital, visit www.daylightdigital.co.

Daylight media contact: **Andrea Smith**; andreamsmith202@gmail.com; 646-220-5950.

Please contact Andrea Smith to receive a review copy of *Gays in the Military*, press images, and to arrange an interview with Vincent Cianni, and other book contributors.