



DEOMI

Defense Equal Opportunity Management Institute
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IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DEOMI Issues 2023 Pride Month Poster

June 1, 2023

PATRICK SPACE FORCE BASE, Fla.— In observance of Pride Month, the Defense Equal Opportunity Management Institute (DEOMI) proudly announces the availability of original artwork available for download from DEOMI’s public website, www.defenseculture.mil.

June is Pride Month. It is observed in June to commemorate the riots that occurred in June 1969 at the Stonewall Inn in Manhattan, New York and became the catalyst for the gay rights movement in the United States and around the world. Today, Pride Month recognizes the achievements of this movement and continuing efforts to ensure equal rights for those whose sexual orientation or gender identity falls outside the mainstream. This year’s Pride Month theme is, *“Equality Without Exception.”*

The 2023 Pride Month Observance poster highlights gay rights activist Harvey Milk, and one of the U.S. Navy’s newest John Lewis-class fleet oilers named in his honor.

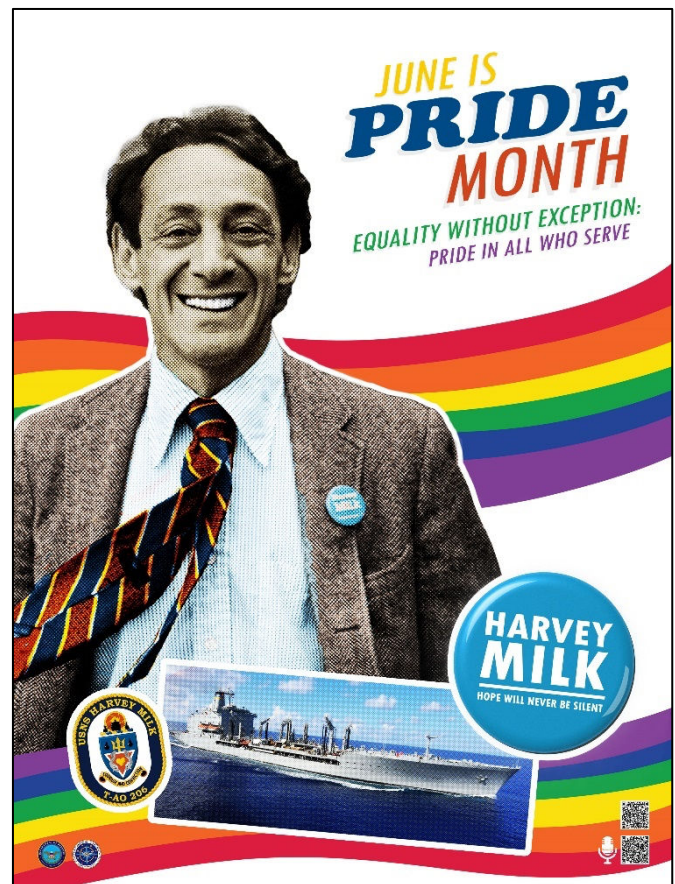
In 1977, Harvey Milk was elected to serve on the San Francisco Board of Supervisors, making him the first openly gay man elected to public office in California. In this position, he fought against discrimination based on sexual orientation. Milk was shot and killed the following year.

Harvey Milk was a Lieutenant in the U.S. Navy during the Korean War, where he served as a diving officer aboard the submarine rescue ship USS Kittiwake. In 1955, he was forced out of the Navy because of his homosexuality.

In July 2016, the 75th U.S. Secretary of the Navy Ray Mabus commissioned the USNS Harvey Milk. The oiler officially launched during a christening ceremony held on Nov. 6, 2021. It is the second of six ships in the Navy’s fleet oiler program to be commissioned and named in honor of civil and human rights leaders. During the christening ceremony, 78th U.S. Secretary of the Navy Carlos Del Toro expressed hope that the ship naming helps right past wrongs and he reaffirmed the Navy’s commitment to providing a welcoming and inclusive environment for all qualified Americans who want to serve.

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