



Openly Lesbian Officer Ginger Wallace joined First Lady for State of Union speech



Col. Ginger Wallace

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Colonel Ginger Wallace, an openly Lesbian intelligence officer in the U.S. Air Force, was one of two openly Gay people in the First Lady's gallery seats when President Obama delivered his State of the Union address for 2012.

The second openly Gay guest was Lorelei Kilker, an environmental chemist who was part of the government's class action suit to secure equal wages for women.

Wallace, of McLean, Virginia, and Kilker of Brighton, Colorado, were guests at a reception at the White House and then traveled to the Capitol with the First Lady to sit in a special section of the House balcony to hear the president's speech.

Wallace, reached by phone Tuesday morning, said her partner of 11 years, Kathy Knopf, was

with her at the White House reception and then watched the speech with other spouses at the White House.

Wallace, 43, said the White House asked Servicemembers United leader Alex Nicholson for names of openly Gay service members to consider to be honored with the invitation. In addition, Wallace had



We received several e-mails about our "Picture of the Year." One question—who is it and second question from those seeing the answer in our "Inside Box" why did we spell his first name incorrectly. The photo is of Carl Fox in high school.

been the subject of an article in the Washington, D.C. Gay newspaper, the **Washington Blade**, in early December. The article noted that Knopf would be participating in Wallace's promotion ceremony. Then, that article was quoted a few weeks later by White House senior adviser Valerie Jarrett in a **Huffington Post** piece on the anniversary of President Obama's signing of the bill to repeal "Don't Ask, Don't Tell."

"I could not be more honored or proud," said Wallace, Tuesday morning. "I'm representing thousands and thousands who have served or are serving... But it's truly not about us. It's about all the Gays and Lesbians who have served, and those who served and were not as fortunate as I to have

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full careers, and those who will serve in the future. And it is about our families and partners.”

Wallace is currently in training for deployment to Afghanistan this spring to serve as an adviser to senior officials in the Afghan government and military.

Lorelei Kilker is an analytical chemist for an environmental lab.

“In October of 2011,” notes the White House advisory, “Ms. Kilker was one of a class of women who benefitted from the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission’s (EEOC) investigation of alleged systematic sex discrimination at her former employer that resulted in the award of back wages and significant remedial relief, arrangements that were achieved through a cooperative process between the employer and EEOC.”

Muse to host second Cabaret

Get your tickets **now** for the Saturday, January 28th MUSE Cabaret.

MUSE members come from a wide array of singing backgrounds. Many have performed with bands and in solo settings. MUSE’s cabaret lets these women (*and some very special men*) showcase their talents for a brand new audience including you!

See such local, vocal phenoms as Whitney Szabo (*Whitney B*), whose euphonic sounds, and deft lyrics earned her a 2005 Cincinnati Singer/Songwriter of the year award. Or buy that ticket to experience one of our men friends, acclaimed Performer/Arranger Steve Milloy who not only excels as a thespian, but has also entertained troops, tickled the ivories, and used his

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tremolo to foment MUSE into giddy admiration. They are pulling out all the stops for this marvelous night of music, comedy, friends, raffles, fun and festivity and look forward to seeing *you* there!

Tickets **on-line** are \$15 (*sliding scale*), at the door \$20 The show will be January 28th, 7-9 p.m., Doors open at 6:30 The Cabaret is located upstairs at 1122 Walnut Street; Downtown.

Get tested for HIV/AIDS on BLACK HIV/AIDS Awareness Day

Early diagnosis of HIV is critical to future treatment and prevention, particularly in communities that are disproportionately affected by the virus.

For every one positive HIV test, it's estimated that between 10 and 300 additional cases of HIV infection can be prevented.

In Kentucky, African

Americans account for 33 percent of all HIV cases diagnosed in 2009, but are only eight percent of the total population for the state, according to the Kentucky Department for Public Health.

Thus, in observance of National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day, the Northern Kentucky Health Department will offer four opportunities for free, oral HIV testing from 1 to 4 p.m. on Tuesday, February 7 at these locations:

- Boone County Health Center, 7505 Burlington Pike, Florence, Kentucky, 859-363-2060
- Campbell County Health Center, 1098 Monmouth St., Newport, Kentucky, 859-431-1704
- Grant County Health Center, 234 Barnes Road, Williamstown, Kentucky, 859-824-5074
- Kenton County Health Center, 2002 Madison Ave., Covington, Ky., 859.431.3345

Tests will be conducted

using the OraQuick method, an oral swab test that offers results in 20 minutes. During each testing session, staff from the Health Department will be available to provide information and answer questions about HIV/AIDS.

For information about

National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day, please visit [http:// www.blackaidsday.org](http://www.blackaidsday.org). For more information about local HIV testing, counseling and case management services, please contact the Health Department at 859-341-4264 or visit [http:// www.nkyhealth.org](http://www.nkyhealth.org).



PFLAG Cincinnati

Meetings on 2nd Tuesdays
7:00 - 9:30 p.m. at
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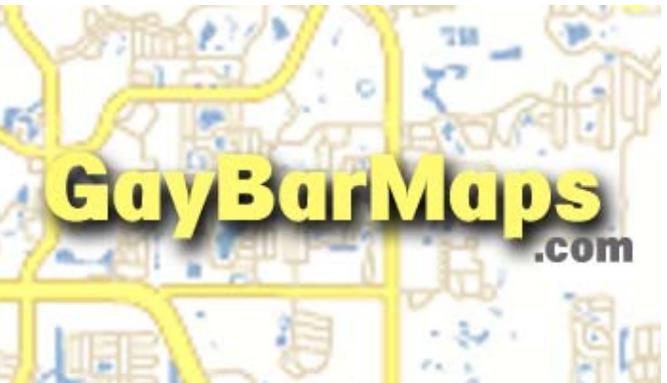
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