

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Knights Out Commends Leadership and Action in Elevating Discharge Characterizations of 800 Service Members Affected by “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell” Policy

Washington, DC - October 15, 2024 - Knights Out, a nonprofit organization supporting LGBTQ+ cadets, veterans, and alumni of the United States Military Academy at West Point, applauds the Department of Defense (DoD) and the White House for their leadership in addressing past injustices by elevating the discharges of 800 service members previously discharged under the discriminatory “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell” (DADT) policy.

Today’s announcement from the DoD marks a significant step in correcting the wrongs of a policy that for years forced LGBTQ+ service members to choose between serving their country and living authentically. Knights Out commends both the expeditious processing of these discharges and the dedication of the Department of Defense in ensuring that these former service members receive the recognition they deserve.

“We are deeply encouraged by the swift and meaningful action taken by the Department of Defense to elevate the discharges of these brave service members,” said Drew Fitzsimmons, Executive Director of Knights Out. “This decision is not just about correcting an injustice but about honoring the courage and sacrifice of LGBTQ+ veterans who served under a policy that denied them the dignity they deserve. We commend the leadership put forth by the White House and the DoD in bringing closure to these individuals and their families.”

Knights Out has long advocated for the rights and recognition of LGBTQ+ service members and veterans. The organization remains committed to supporting those who were impacted by the discriminatory policies of the past and ensuring that all service members, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity, are treated with respect and equality.

This important milestone reinforces the ongoing commitment of the United States military to inclusivity and diversity, values that are essential to building a stronger and more united force.

About Knights Out:

Knights Out is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization comprised of LGBTQ+ West Point graduates, cadets, and allies. The organization works to support and advocate for LGBTQ+ military personnel and veterans, offering community, resources, and advocacy for equality within the armed forces.

Contact:

Drew Fitzsimmons

Executive Director, Knights Out

Director@KnightsOut.org