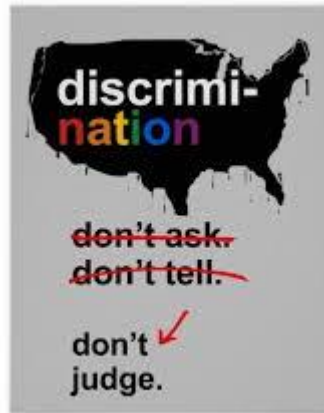


LIKE OUR TROOPS?



Well, quite a few of them are Queer. But you already knew that. We all did.

Yet we pretended otherwise, as if being queer somehow makes someone less capable of performing well, or that performance less worthy of praise. Like sports, the military has a long history of homophobia and banning queers in the military. The ill-conceived Don't Ask Don't Tell (DADT) Act, shamefully signed into law by Bill Clinton in 1994, exacerbated this, creating an even more tightly locked closet.

For this evil law reinforced the *queer* notion that Being Queer was something to be ashamed of.

Further, it put the responsibility of no one finding out solely on the queer in question. For there may not have been technically asking, but there sure were a lot of free-reign witch hunts and probing occurring that ended in dishonorable discharges and a winking kind of *we told you not to tell*.

Tell what? Who you love?

Loving another person is one of the things that makes us human. So in effect, telling someone to not be *openly* queer is like telling them not to be human.

Thankfully, the DADT was repealed in 2010, thanks to the efforts of many Out and Proud service persons who called it for the hate speech that it was and opened the door for altogether lifting the ban.

Be OUT, Be PROUD, and... **BE ALL THAT YOU CAN BE!**