

Waving a Pride flag outside the Supreme Court in Washington last June. Credit. Anna Moneymaker for The New York Time

June is national Pride Month where we celebrate the freedom of expression and sexual preference by members of the LGBTQ+ community, and the acceptance of members of this community by others. It is a time to recognize the impact that individuals and organizations of the LGBTQ+ community have had in this society, and their contributions locally and internationally.

This June marks the $\mathbf{5 1}^{\text {st }}$ anniversary of Pride Month which began on June 28, 1970, one year following the Stonewall Riots which sparked the momentum of the LGBTQ rights movement. The Stonewall Riots was an event in time where patrons of the LGBTQ community decided to resist the decades of harassment and discrimination from law enforcement and the government. The Stonewall Riot took place on June 28, 1969 at a bar on Christopher Street in Greenwich Village, NYC called the Stonewall Inn. Protests and demonstrations pursued for 6-days from frustrated members of the LGBTQ community. The determination for change has moved the pendulum for the LGBTQ+ community resulting in historical milestones such as serving openly in the military, and the right to same-sex marriage in the United States.

Assemblymember Rodneyse Bichotte Hermelyn represents the 42 nd Assembly District in Brooklyn covering Ditmas Park, Flatbush, East Flatbush and Midwood. She is currently the Chair of the Subcommittee on Oversight of Minority and Women-Owned Business Enterprises (MWBEs), and serves on the following committees: Housing, Government Operations, Education, Banks, Health, and Higher Education. She is also a member of the Task Force on Women's Issues and sits on Governor Cuomo's Domestic Violence Advisory Council and Mayor De Blasio's MWBE Task Force.

