

Monday Marriage Message from Freedom to Marry
Issue #8 | May 21, 2007

To view the online HTML version of the Monday Marriage Message, click here -

<http://www.freedomtomarry.org/images/eupdate/mmm8.html>

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1) The Message

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The Sky Has Not Fallen

May 17, 2007 was the third anniversary of same-sex couples being able to marry in Massachusetts. Since then, more than 9,000 gay and lesbian couples have exchanged vows of marriage in Massachusetts, ensuring that they and their families are safer and more secure...and the sky has not fallen.

* Although opponents of equality claim the sky will fall if we have marriage equality, Massachusetts proves this is not true(along with Canada and the other countries who also ended exclusion from marriage). Same-sex couples seeking to marry are not saying "let's have no rules." They are saying, "let us have what you have -- the freedom to marry the person we love with the same rules, same responsibilities, and same respect."

* None of the legislators who voted for marriage were defeated for reelection, and several pro-marriage challengers toppled anti-gay or less supportive incumbents -- not just in Massachusetts, but also in California.

Happy Memorial Day to all! The MMM will not be sent out on Monday, May 28th, but will return on Monday, June 4th.

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2) The Report

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Will Providing Marriage Rights to Same-Sex Couples Undermine Heterosexual Marriage?
Evidence from Scandinavia and the Netherlands
by M.V. Lee Badgett, Ph. D
July 2004

LINK:

*The Report: <http://www.freedomtomarry.org/images/pdfs/ScanNeth.pdf>

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3) The Resource

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What are They Saying? Attack Campaigns
(Freedom to Marry)

LINK:
*The Resource: <http://www.freedomtomarry.org/node.asp?id=3478>

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4) The Number

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10: states that now recognize second-parent adoption

LINK:
*The Number: http://www.gazette.com/articles/bill_22409__article.html/children_sex.html

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5) The Map

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2007 Proposed Anti-Marriage/ Relationship Recognition State Constitutional Amendments

LINK:
*The Map: <http://www.freedomtomarry.org/node.asp?id=3477>

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6) The Spotlight: Massachusetts

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While people in Massachusetts took a moment May 17th to celebrate the 3rd anniversary of gay and lesbian couples being able to marry, the fight to defend marriage equality continues. An anti-marriage constitutional amendment has been proposed in the Massachusetts Legislature, and could come to a vote at the Legislature's Constitutional Convention on June 14, 2007. Though nearly 3/4's of the legislature now opposes this discriminatory amendment, unless 3/4's plus one vote to block it, it will go to the ballot in November 2008.

Marriage equality advocates have been working around the clock to defeat this attempt at restoring discrimination in Massachusetts law. MassEquality, one of the tenacious organizations leading this fight, launched a multi-media campaign entitled, "It's Wrong to Vote on Rights," on the same day as the anniversary. While legislative opposition to an amendment has grown eightfold since November 2003, again proving the sky has not fallen in Massachusetts since marriage equality, a handful of votes are still needed to spare families and the state an ugly campaign and continued uncertainty.

LINKS:
*MassEquality: <http://www.massequality.org/>
*MassEquality Background: <http://www.massequality.org/background/>

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7) The News  
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National

Marriage Equality Marches Bridge Country
365Gay.com; May 20, 2007

Several thousand people rallied for same-sex marriage rights on opposite sides of the country over the weekend, crossing the country's two most famous bridges.

For better or worse

Daily News Tribune; May 18, 2007

On June 27, 2004, Johnson and Repp became a legally recognized married couple with a wedding at First Parish Church in Watertown. "For the first time - and I didn't even realize this - I felt equal," said Repp.

Regional

On The Marriage Equality Issue, what would Thomas Hooker Do?

Hartford Courant; May 20, 2007

The base argument against same-sex marriage seems to be rooted in tradition. People who would keep gays and lesbians from marrying stand on the bedrock of what-we've-always-done.

Governor, House Speaker and Senate President address Marriage Equality Rally

EDGE Boston; May 18, 2007

In a clear sign of the growing momentum to defeat an anti-gay marriage constitutional amendment at next month's constitutional convention (ConCon) Gov. Deval Patrick, Senate President Therese Murray and House Speaker Sal DiMasi came out forcefully against the amendment.

LINKS:

*Marriage Equality Marches Bridge Country:

<http://www.365gay.com/Newscon07/05/052007marmar.htm>

*For better or worse: <http://www.dailynewstribune.com/homepage/x423099361>

*On The Marriage Equality Issue, what would Thomas Hooker Do?:

<http://www.courant.com/features/lifestyle/hc-susan0520.artmay20,0,6421681.column?col1=hc-utility-features-life>

*Governor, House Speaker and Senate President address Marriage Equality Rally:

<http://www.edgeboston.com/index.php?ch=news&sc=glbt&sc2=news&sc3=&id=20473>

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OTHER POINTS OF INTEREST:  
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The Must Sees

View MassEquality's TV ads for "It's Wrong to Vote on Rights" Media Campaign.

Check out Family Pride's family drawing contest winners.

LINKS:

*MassEquality's "It's Wrong to Vote on Rights":

<http://www.massequality.org/ads/tv.php>

