

# News & Views



## Celebrating Real Family Values

Helpline 209.527.0776

P.O. Box 4311 • Modesto, CA 95352-4311  
www.pflagmodesto.org

## Dan Choi...a gay in the military

From Wikipedia, June 25, 2009

Lieutenant Dan Choi is a United States Army combat veteran of the Iraq war. He graduated from the United States Military Academy at West Point in 2003, majoring in Environmental Engineering and Arabic languages. Choi currently serves in the Army National Guard in New York. He is the son of a Baptist minister.

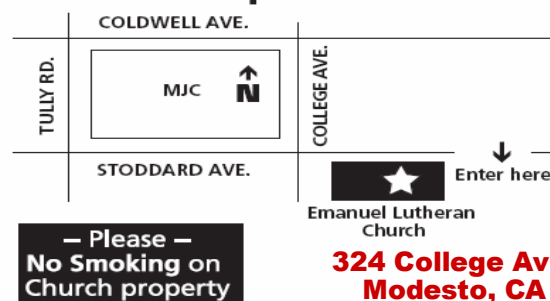
Choi, a founding member of Knights Out, declared his sexual orientation on the *The Rachel Maddow Show*. Since then, he received notification that he will be discharged from the military under the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy. In a letter to President Obama, Choi described the discharge letter as "a slap in the face to me. It is a slap in the face to my soldiers, peers and leaders who have demonstrated that an infantry unit can be professional enough to accept diversity, to accept capable leaders, to accept skilled soldiers. My subordinates know I'm gay. They don't care. They are professional."

Since coming out, Choi has spoken at numerous gay rights events, including a march in Los Angeles following the California Supreme Court's affirmation of Proposition 8. The next day he addressed a demonstration of gay activists outside the Beverly Hilton Hotel in Beverly Hills, CA where President Barack Obama was speaking at a Democratic national Committee fundraising event. In addition, Choi spoke at the 2009 Rally in New York City and will serve as a Grand Marshal in San Francisco's 2009 Gay Pride parade. **Support Lt. Choi at [www.couragecampaign.org/SupportDan](http://www.couragecampaign.org/SupportDan)**

**PFLAG Mission Statement:** PFLAG promotes the health and well being of gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender persons through: **support**, to cope with an adverse society; **education**, to enlighten an ill-informed public; and **advocacy**, to end discrimination and to secure equal civil rights. Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays provides opportunity for dialogue about sexual orientation and gender identity, and acts to create a society that is healthy and respectful of human diversity.

Have news to share or an item of interest? Want to receive the PFLAG Modesto newsletter electronically? Contact Marilyn Mettler at [klizard@sprynet.com](mailto:klizard@sprynet.com), leave a message on the helpline at 527-0776 or drop a line to P.O. Box 4311, Modesto, 95352

### Location Map:



## Dates to Remember

We meet on the  
**1st and 3rd Tuesdays**  
every month

**7 pm Support**  
**8 pm Program**

**July 7**

Join us to hear a military  
veteran speak about  
experiences as a homosexual  
in the armed forces. All  
veterans are invited to attend  
and share their experience.  
**PLEASE NOTE THAT WE WILL  
MEET IN THE VESTIBULE OF  
THE CHURCH RATHER THAN  
THE HALL**

There will be **NO  
Birdcage**  
in July

### GLBTQ YOUTH GROUP

**July 8 & 22 from 7-9 pm**  
College Avenue Congregational  
Church, corner of College and  
Orangeburg Avenues

### PFLAG group in Oakdale!

**July 15 7- 8:30 pm**

Golden Oaks Conference Room  
1425 West "H", Oakdale  
[pflagoakdale@dishmail.net](mailto:pflagoakdale@dishmail.net)

**Please join this wonderful  
new group in Oakdale!**

**July 21  
PFLAG Bingo**

**Many thanks to all of you who  
donate prizes for Bingo!**

## MoFest!5 Film Festival in October

PFLAG Modesto's Fifth Annual Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender Film Festival will be held on Saturday, October 10, 2009 at the historic State Theatre in downtown Modesto. The festival will offer films selected to present the positive contributions and images of members of the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender community.

Letters and e-mails seeking sponsors and donors began going out in June asking recipients to consider making a donation at one of the following levels:

Platinum	\$1000 and up	(16 complimentary tickets)
Gold	\$500 to \$999	(8 complimentary tickets)
Silver	\$100 to \$499	(4 complimentary tickets)
Bronze	\$25 to \$99	(2 complimentary tickets)

All donors giving \$25 or more will receive complimentary tickets to the event, as shown above. Gold and Platinum donors also will be recognized on public service radio announcements, in all marketing materials and "on screen" advertising during the festival itself. Silver members will be recognized "on screen" and in marketing materials. If you wish to make your donation anonymously, just let us know. You may mail your donation to PFLAG Modesto MoFest!5, PO Box 4311, Modesto, CA 95352-4311.

Your generous support of this event will help increase awareness of our GLBT members, add to the positive image of our gender-diverse community and further our work with families of GLBT persons.

PFLAG members will begin ticket sales in July. Tickets will be \$10 each.

For more information on this or other events, please call  
(209) 527-0776 or visit us at [pflagmodesto.org](http://pflagmodesto.org)

## Get Engaged Tour: Stanislaus Region

On Saturday, July 11, from 10 AM to noon, there will be a community meeting to examine polling data regarding Prop 8. More importantly, there will be a discussion to put forward ideas regarding what should be the next steps to advance marriage equality in California. This meeting is being organized by **Building Community for Full Equality** [Decision Day Rally] in conjunction with **Marriage Equality, Equality California** and **Courage Campaign**. The location is *Martin G. Petersen Event Center, 720 12<sup>th</sup> Street, Modesto*. Ideas presented here will be taken to a summit of GLBT activist organizations to be held later in July. For more information, contact Michael McKibban at [pflagoakdale@dishmail.net](mailto:pflagoakdale@dishmail.net)

## FOURTH OF JULY PARADE COME JOIN PFLAG MODESTO!

Please join PFLAG Modesto in celebrating the Fourth of July by marching in the parade with us. You can come help carry our banners or make your own signs proclaiming your affiliation, "I am a PFLAG Mom", or "I am a PFLAG Dad", or "Friend of Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender persons", or whatever non-political message you like. **Information about our staging area will be given by a special e-mail announcement.**

*A few words from PFLAG Modesto President Michael Mc Kibban:* I would like to encourage anyone who can make it to join the PFLAG delegation in Modesto's 4th of July Parade. *WE* all know that marriage equality is right because, as the California Supreme Court acknowledged, marriage is a fundamental right; *WE* understand that homophobic acts are hate crimes because they are meant to intimidate the entire GLBT community. What a large portion of the straight community (52% as of last November) doesn't yet get is that GLBT folks are normal - when pricked do we not bleed, when tickled do we not laugh? - and that GLBT folks are part of *this* community. I believe that an important part of moving GLBT rights forward is being **seen** as part of the community; we need to be visible to the point of boredom. When gay is seen so ubiquitously, the response is "What's the big deal?" Then we will have succeeded.

## Stanislaus PRIDE Day Dance

### July 11, 2009

7- 8 pm Newlywed Game

8 pm - midnight Dance

at the

Eagles Hall

126 Camellia Way

Modesto, CA

Cover charge - \$15.00

\*\* No Smoking Indoors\*\*

\*18 and over only\*

Sponsored by the SPC and OESCI