

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Cassie Gabelt, Communications Manager
cgabelt@minorityvets.org

**Minority Veterans of America and Community Partners will March in
Stonewall Rising: LGBTQ March for Black Lives**

[Richmond, VA – June 22, 2020] Minority Veterans of America (MVA) is uniting with Virginia Pride, Nationz Foundation, Black Pride RVA, Virginia Anti-Violence Project, S.O.N.G.: Southerners On New Ground, Stonewall Sports, Richmond Triangle Players, Side By Side, Richmond Lesbian Feminists, Richmond LGBTQ Chamber, Equality Virginia, and Diversity Richmond to unequivocally state that Black Lives Matter. Pride events around the country have been cancelled, but MVA and community partners are stepping up to encourage members in our community to engage in a meaningful celebration of Pride and march in solidarity with the #LGBTQforBlackLives community.

“Over the past few weeks, the nation has taken notice of the injustice suffered by the Black community as a result of unnecessary, yet persistent, brutality from our nation’s police. The very public death of George Floyd has sparked a flame throughout the world and opened many eyes to the inequalities of people of color. Our community cannot stand by and celebrate while those who stood by us continue to fight for their own equality and basic human rights,” said MVA Richmond Chapter Leader Stephanie Merlo. She continued, “Throughout the fight for equality, we had allies who stood by and protested, marched and shared our anger. Now, we will march with the Black community, as the Black community has marched with us.”

Organizations, communities, individuals, allies, friends, and families are all invited and encouraged to participate. The march takes place June 27, 2020 at 7:00PM. It will begin at Diversity Richmond and end at police training headquarters, where there will be a teach-in.

For more information or to sign up, visit www.minorityvets.org/stonewallrising/

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Minority Veterans of America (MVA) is a non-partisan, non-profit organization that was designed to create belonging and advance equity for underrepresented veterans, including women, people of color, LGBTQ, and religious minorities. The organization aims to transform the narrative of the American veteran by building an interconnected community, fostering greater understanding of our memberships’ identities, and serving minority veterans through the development of targeted programming and advocacy. For more information, visit www.MinorityVets.org.