The Department of Defense (DoD) recognizes June as Pride Month, celebrating LGBTQ+ Service members who have courageously served and sacrificed in the U.S. military.

Pride Month also upholds the Department’s commitment to diversity and inclusion in all military branches.

Throughout American history, LGBTQ+ Service members have fought to defend our rights and freedoms from the founding of our nation, to the Civil War, through two World Wars, to Korea and Vietnam, and from Afghanistan to Iraq.

The Stonewall Riots, also called the Stonewall Uprising, began on June 28, 1969, when New York City police raided the Stonewall Inn, a gay club located in Greenwich Village in New York City.

The raid ignited a riot among bar patrons and neighborhood residents as police hauled employees and patrons out of the bar. Six days of protests and violent clashes with law enforcement followed.

The Stonewall Riots served as a catalyst for the gay rights movement in the United States and around the world.

Diversity is more than race, gender, and ethnicity—it means diversity of thought, ability, background, language, culture, and skill.

As we celebrate LGBTQ+ Pride Month, let us take PRIDE IN ALL WHO SERVE.