

LGBT Observances

National Coming Out Day celebrates coming out as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender or as an ally. On Oct. 11, **1987**, half a million people participated in the March on Washington for Lesbian and Gay Rights. It was the second such demonstration in our nation's capital and resulted in the founding of a number of LGBT organizations.

Transgender Day of Remembrance was set aside to memorialize those who were killed due to anti-transgender hatred or prejudice. Although not every person represented during the Day of Remembrance self-identified as transgender – that is as transsexual, cross dresser, or otherwise gender-variant – each was a victim of violence based on bias against transgender people. The Transgender Day of Remembrance was founded in **1998** by Gwendolyn Ann Smith, a trans woman who is a graphic designer, columnist, and activist to memorialize the murder of Rita Hester in Allston, Massachusetts.

World AIDS Day is held on 1 December each year and is an opportunity for people worldwide to unite in the fight against HIV, show their support for people living with HIV and to commemorate people who have died. World AIDS Day was the first ever global health day and the first one was held in **1988**.

The National Day of Silence is a day of action in which students across the country vow to take a form of silence to call attention to the silencing effect of anti-LGBT bullying and harassment in schools. Founded in 1996, the Day of Silence has become the largest single student-led action towards creating safer schools for all, regardless of sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression. The first Day of Silence at the University of Virginia in **1996**.