



Give the People Light and they will find their own way.

The Wisconsin Light

An Interview With Wisconsin's Fifth District Congressman Tom Barrett

Congressman Tom Barrett (D-WI) is Milwaukee born and bred. He is a graduate of Marquette University and served in the State Assembly from 1984-1988. He was elected to the State Senate in a special election in 1989 and reelected in 1990.

In 1990, he was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives from the 5th District (Milwaukee) and reelected in 1992.

Congressman Barrett lives in Milwaukee with his wife and baby son.

Recently, with Congress adjourned, he met with "Light" in his Milwaukee office.

Wisconsin Light: Congressman Barrett, when I lived in Washington, I used to go down and look at the Capitol and just go "Ahhhhh." What's it like working there?

Tom Barrett: It's a very exciting job and you have to be someone who is first of all, an optimist, because on any given day there are so many things that could overwhelm you with pessimism if you wanted to let that happen to you. If you're not the type of person who's always looking for the silver lining in a bad situation, you're simply going to be overwhelmed by the problems.

I love the job. I find it incredibly exciting and challenging. It's the hardest job I've ever had in my life and I love every minute of it.

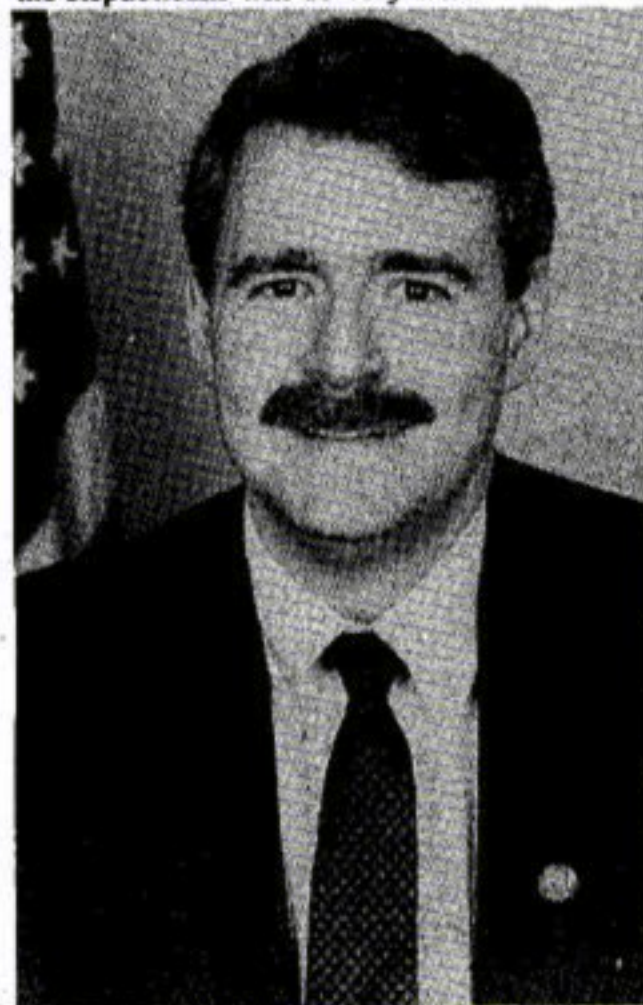
I find that the opportunity is there, even in this atmosphere, which I consider a negative atmosphere, to do some good things, give people hope that their government can respond, even though many people feel that it's not responsive. There are good things that can be done, because in its most basic sense, government is the community working together.

I'm not someone who spends his career bashing government. I'll be critical of it. There are times I think it does a lousy job, but over-all, I'll still take the United States system of government over any other system in the world.

Right now, as a Democrat, it's a time when I don't suffer from over-confidence. The pendulum has certainly shifted to the right.

WL: Do you think that shift is permanent?

TB: I don't know whether it's permanent and I don't know whether its reached the furthest swing to the right. I don't know if it's still swinging. The projections for the next election are, for the Senate, at least, are that the Republicans will do very well.



Congressman Tom Barrett

The House, at least for the first 100 days, has been more extreme than anything we've seen in the last several generations. As a Democrat, I hope the American people realize just how extreme this agenda is and decide to go for a more moderate approach.

But Newt Gingrich is a very effective leader. I don't use that as a compliment, but a description. My argument is that I think he's leading the nation in a direction I don't think the American people intended to go. People

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A Gala Fireworks Display Will Light the Night Sky at Milwaukee's June 10-11 PrideFest

Venetian Boat Parade, Fine Arts Fest, Activity Tent New to Festival



Fireworks will light up Milwaukee's lakefront on June 10 at PrideFest

A Federal Judge Strikes Down 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell,' But It's Only a First Step

New York, NY-- A federal judge's ruling that the Pentagon's "don't ask, don't tell" policy is unconstitutional will not be the final word on whether Gays and Lesbians should be allowed to serve in the military, lawyers for the soldiers and sailors said.

In ruling Thursday, March 31, U.S. District Judge Eugene Nickerson called the policy "Orwellian" and said it violated the First Amendment right of free speech and the Fifth Amendment guarantee of equal protection.

Nickerson barred the government from further actions against the six Gays and Lesbians who brought the suit, the first legal challenge to a policy instituted by the Clinton administration.

Gay activists were jubilant, but they said the issue is far from settled.

"This is an important first step in the fight, but it's not over," said Matthew Coles, an American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) lawyer who had argued the case in federal court in Brooklyn. "Thousands and thousands of other Lesbians and Gays need to know that, at least for the time being."

Beatrice Dohrn, legal director of the Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund, which joined the ACLU in the suit, was even more cautious. "We don't want people to read the paper and think they can come out tomorrow," she said.

Nickerson's 39-page decision applies only to the six service members who sued, so it does not bar the Pentagon from applying the "don't tell, don't ask" policy to other Gay people in the military.

Perhaps the most important implication of the ruling is that it sets the stage for appeals, which ultimately could reach the U.S. Supreme Court.

None of the plaintiffs could be reached for comment. Their lawyers said they did not wish to make statements.

The "don't ask, don't tell" policy became law in 1993, as the Clinton administration's

solution to the issue of how the military should deal with homosexuality.

Under the policy, Lesbians and Gay men who publicly disclose their sexual orientation are subject to honorable discharge but may continue to serve as long as they keep it secret and refrain from any but heterosexual sexual conduct.

The military used the policy to begin discharge proceedings against three of the six service members, who included two Navy enlisted men on active duty and four reservists--a Navy commander, an Army captain, an Army sergeant and a female Army lieutenant colonel.

Nickerson said the policy was "inherently deceptive" and "offers powerful inducements to homosexuals to lie" about sexual orientation.

TURN TO MILITARY, PAGE 12

AIDS Housing Funds Gain U.S. Senate's Support, 'A Sweet Victory,' Nelson Says

Milwaukee-- In an update to an on-going story, the struggle to safeguard federal AIDS housing funds from massive budget cuts gained a victory in the U.S. Senate on April 6, when the 1995 Rescissions Bill was passed without cuts in the Housing Opportunities for People With AIDS (HOPWA) program.

National AIDS advocates have been working tirelessly to protect HOPWA, which provides rent assistance and many other housing support services specifically for people with AIDS and HIV disease.

Both the Madison AIDS Support Network (MASN) and the Milwaukee AIDS Project (MAP) rely on HOPWA funds to supplement their housing programs which include major construction projects for AIDS housing funded by the federal Housing and Urban Development (HUD) department.

"It is a sweet victory," said AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin (ARCW) Executive Di-

rector Doug Nelson, "and the enormous amount of advocacy that we have put forth to save HOPWA is paying off."

Both Nelson and David Clarenbach, Acting Executive Director of MASN, have been spending considerable time in Washington lobbying Congress on behalf of HOPWA and other AIDS programs.

"A lot of people at home may not realize what Nelson and Clarenbach have been doing down here," a Senate staffer told Light, "but they've been working their asses off (Can I say that in your paper?). Without their work, funding for AIDS may have suffered a real blow."

He went on to add, "I don't mean there weren't others working hard, but those two are like bulldogs. They just won't let go. People in Wisconsin should know that."

Nelson said that the House Rescission Bill

TURN TO HOUSING, PAGE 13

By Bill Meunier

It's becoming an annual ritual. In each of the last three years, PrideFest organizers have announced a major expansion of Wisconsin's Gay/Les/Bi Pride event. 1995 will continue that trend.

PrideFest has announced that the June 10th and 11th festival to be held at Veteran's Park will include a number of new additions.

Added to the mix of hundreds of entertainers, dozens of traditional exhibits, displays and activities that include the marketplace, the Volley Ball tournament, the Gay/Lesbian Pride Parade and Classic Car show will be such things as have never been seen before, things that will, quite literally, light up the sky.

Chief among the added features are:

FIREWORKS!

That's right, fireworks as in skyrockets, bang-bangs, pinwheels and a whole host of other things in a grand and Gayly glorious pyrotechnic display.

On Saturday June 10th beginning at 10:00 PM, hundreds of explosions will resound during the "Lite Up the Sky With Pride," fireworks show. Sponsored by the Miller Brewing Company the display will be produced by the world-famous Bartalotta Company, that same company that produces "skyrockets delight" at the annual 4th of July show and the other festivals as well.

PrideFest organizers and the Bartalotta's are working together to design a display especially for Wisconsin's Gay and Lesbian pride.

For example, as now projected, there will be a Pink Triangle blazing in the night, not only a symbol of the Pride we take in ourselves, but a memorial to all those of us who have gone before, those who suffered and died in the Holocaust. This is fitting, it is thought, for the 50th anniversary of the liberation of the Nazi camps.

Of course, there will be other displays as well, exciting displays that will burst over Mother Michigan, as our Great Lake is sometimes called around here. According to the International Association of Gay and Lesbian Pride Coordinators, Milwaukee will have the only Gay/Les/Bi Pride Fireworks display in the country and it is going to be quite a show!

THE PRIDEFEST FINE ARTS FESTIVAL

The two day Fine Arts Fest will be housed in its own tent. Produced by Milwaukee's renowned Dale Gutzman, the Fine Arts Festival will include a stunning array of theater, dance, classical music and choral groups.

THE VENETIAN BOAT PARADE

Scheduled for Sunday June 11th at 9:15 p.m., the Venetian Boat Parade will be a fitting spectacle to end the weekend.

Sponsored by the Greater Milwaukee Maritime Association, the Boat Parade is expected to attract several dozen lighted and decorated boats. It will sail right alongside the PrideFest grounds affording everyone a great

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