

# YOUR RELATIONSHIP



**Darlene Garner and Candy Holmes** *Bowie, Maryland*

Reverends Darlene Garner and Candy Holmes were one of the first same-sex couples married in Washington, D.C., in 2010. The pair has been together for more than 5 years and was active in the fight for equal marriage in the nation's capital.



HUMAN  
RIGHTS  
CAMPAIGN®

## YOUR RELATIONSHIP

A hallmark of the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender rights movement is the fight to have our relationships recognized as equal under the law. Full marriage equality is the true measure of our success in this area, but on the road to that goal, a number of states are expanding protections and responsibilities through other forms of relationship recognition.

### DID YOU KNOW?

- 15 states and D.C. provide some level of **relationship recognition for same sex couples** – through marriage, civil unions or domestic partnerships. In 2000, that number was zero.
- The federal Defense of Marriage Act prevents legally married same-sex couples from accessing more than **1,100 federal benefits** such as the ability to take family and medical leave or pass along Social Security benefits.
- 53 percent of **Americans support the equal right to marry** for same-sex couples, according to a 2011 Gallup poll.

### WHAT YOU CAN DO AND HOW HRC CAN HELP:

- Add your name to the movement for full marriage equality at [www.MillionsForMarriage.org](http://www.MillionsForMarriage.org)
- Help us repeal the Defense of Marriage Act by contacting your legislators at [www.repealDOMAnow.org](http://www.repealDOMAnow.org)
- Have a friend or family member who's undecided on the issue of marriage equality? Send them to [www.LetsTalkAboutMarriage.org](http://www.LetsTalkAboutMarriage.org) for factual answers to all of their questions.

[www.hrc.org](http://www.hrc.org) | Text: 30644 | [www.twitter.com/hrc](http://www.twitter.com/hrc)  
[www.facebook.com/humanrightscampaign](http://www.facebook.com/humanrightscampaign)