

# THE LONG STRUGGLE FOR LGBTQ EQUALITY IN SANTA CLARA COUNTY

For quite some time, I have been interested in San Jose and Santa Clara County's gay history. LGBTQ people have won the right to be proud of our history through hard fought battles, hard earned victories, and tenacity after punishing defeats. Progress has emerged from the conflicts, and as we go forward, it is important to remember that we are a battle-hardened group.

Long before struggles such as same-sex marriage and serving openly in the military, there was the fight for policies protecting LGBTQ people from discrimination. This, unlike the others, is still being waged. Nineteen states still do not have any protections for sexual orientation or gender identity. In those states, LGBTQ Americans can be fired or discriminated against without cause.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ken Yeager". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

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