

Long Beach to induct 6 LGBT leaders to Harvey Milk Park



Long Beach resident David Hensley is one of six LGBT leaders who will be inducted in the Harvey Milk Promenade Park Equality Plaza on May 13. (Press-Telegram file photo)

By [Phillip Zonkel](#), *Long Beach Press Telegram*

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Six lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender or queer community leaders from Long Beach will be inducted into the Equality Plaza portion of the [Harvey Milk Promenade Park](#) on May 13, [1st District Councilwoman Lena Gonzalez](#) announced this week.

“I am proud that the [Harvey Milk Promenade Park Committee \(which selected the honorees\)](#) is continuing to honor such influential LGBTQ activists in our community,” Gonzalez said in a statement. “It’s important to acknowledge their accomplishments and to never forget the work they have done for Long Beach LGBTQ rights.”

Equality Plaza, the centerpiece of the park, was created to commemorate Milk, the pioneering LGBT rights leader, and recognize local LGBTQ leaders who have advocated for equal rights, AIDS research, historic preservation, homelessness, among other issues.

Every year, the Harvey Milk Promenade Park Committee nominates and selects honorees for induction. The committee’s nomination process requires that the person, living or deceased, must be LGBTQ and have exceptional or outstanding contribution or service to the Greater Long Beach Area LGBTQ community.

Each recipient will be honored with a plaque at Equality Plaza.

The plaza includes a concrete replica of the soapbox Milk stood on to inspire crowds when he spoke, and a 20-foot flagpole flying the gay pride flag. The park, which opened two years ago, is the first one in the United States named after Milk.

The 2015 honorees include:

- Marilyn Barlow, cofounder of Long Beach Lesbian and Gay Pride
- Norman B. Reed, former board member with the Long Beach LGBTQ Center
- Judi Doyle, cofounder of Long Beach Lesbian and Gay Pride
- Dave Newell, former president of the Long Beach Lambda Democratic Club
- [David Hensley](#), steering committee member with the Historical Society of Long Beach LGBTQ Exhibit, 25-year volunteer at the ONE National Gay and Lesbian Archives at USC Libraries and member of the LGBTQ Caucus of the National Education Association
- Rick Ford, who established the International Imperial Court of Long Beach

The induction ceremony will take place at noon on May 13 at Harvey Milk Promenade Park, 212 E. Third St.