

LGBT History Project of the LGBT Center of Central PA

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Title: *Letter from Pride '78 Committee to Kathy Blackburn, Howard Johnson's Motor Lodge*

Date: May 1978

Location: LGBT-011 Sam Deetz Collection

Contact:

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Pride '78
P.O. Box 552
Lancaster, PA 17604
May 1978

Kathy Blackburn
Howard Johnson's Motor Lodge
I-80, Exit 53
Delaware Water Gap, PA 18327

Dear Kathy:

At a recent meeting of the Pride '78 planning committee it was voted unanimously that a letter of commendation would be the best way we could express our sincere appreciation for the efficient and friendly manner in which you conducted our conference arrangements. The time which you so willingly devoted to us certainly did not go unnoticed. We all admire you for this extra effort.

As you are no doubt aware, our committee met with several very discouraging rebuffs from hotels in other parts of the state when we were initially searching for a place where we could hold our conference. Their response after finding out that it would be a gay conference was a blunt, "We don't want you." Our respect for your sense of justice began when you called us to invite us to take a look at what Howard Johnson's had to offer. Through the next several weeks when you and other hotel staff were receiving harrasing phone calls from persons who vowed to keep our group from meeting, you held firm to your commitment to us.

Through all this and then the winter storm which closed travel and forced us to postpone and reschedule our program until spring, you stood firm on your commitment and graciously helped us with our second set of arrangements.

Your sincere dedication to your ideals as a business person and human being are to be commended. Our sincere best wishes for your continued success and happiness in a job you so obviously love are being transmitted through this message.

Sincerely,

Pride '78 Committee

cc: Manager of Howard Johnson
Personnel Department