

Press Release: Sunday, September 9th, 2012

Ashland, OR - Even if you only "like" a parade, you're going to *love* Southern Oregon Pride's SOPride parade on October 13, 11am, Main Street, Ashland, OR.

We take pleasure in announcing that Kate Brown, Oregon Secretary of State, is our Grand Marshal. She has spent more than 20 years serving the people of Oregon. After receiving her undergraduate degree from the University of Colorado, Boulder, Kate received her Law Degree and Certificate in Environmental Law from Lewis and Clark's Northwestern School of Law. Kate has worked in family and juvenile law, taught at Portland State University and worked with the Juvenile Rights Project.

After two successful terms in the State House of Representatives, she won a spot in the State Senate. In 1998, she was elected Democratic Leader of the Senate and in 2004, her colleagues elected her as Senate Majority Leader - the first woman in Oregon history to earn that job.

Kate has been a leader in making Oregon's government accountable and transparent. She spearheaded landmark legislation creating a search-able database of campaign contributions. The Oregonian described the law as the best campaign finance disclosure law in the nation.

Sylvia Guerrero is our Honorary Grand Marshal. After graduating from Sawyer College of Business, her bright future held children, marriage, divorce and murder. Sylvia is the Mother of Gwen Araujo, a vibrant, beautiful trans-gender teenager who was murdered in Newark, CA in October 2002. Sylvia honors Gwen, and trans-gender victims of hate crimes everywhere, by speaking out. She is an educator and an inspiration.

The following is an excerpt from her Victim Impact Statement, January 27, 2006:

"I know that putting these men in jail for a long time won't change any of these things. But, if they miss birthdays, anniversaries, holidays, if they miss their children growing up, maybe, they'll better understand what they have taken from us. And, even if they are celebrating these events in prison or watching the world from their cell, at least they are able to celebrate and watch. Gwen isn't."

For more detailed information on this tragic and senseless murder, go to our website at www.SOPride.org.

www.SOPride.org