

## **NGLTF's Miami Recognition Dinner Oct. 17**

The U.S. military's "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy will be in the forefront at the upcoming 13th annual Miami Recognition Dinner of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, to be held on Saturday, Oct. 17 at the Fontainebleau Hotel.

Launched in 1997, the Miami Recognition Dinner recognizes individuals for their outstanding contributions to the social, cultural, political and humanitarian needs of the South Florida GLBT community. As a premiere event in the GLBT social calendar, the Dinner raises funds for organizations nationally and locally: NGLTF donates two-thirds of the net proceeds back to the Miami-Dade GLBT community through the Dade Community Foundation. The remaining one-third the Task Force uses to help fund their programs nationwide.

Speaking at the dinner will be U.S. Representative Alcee Hastings (D) FL-23, who is an outspoken advocate in Congress for the repeal of "Don't Ask, Don't Tell." Also speaking will be openly gay Army Lieutenant Dan Choi, who is currently being discharged under this discriminatory policy.

Earlier this year, Choi appeared on national television and announced that he was gay. Despite his skills in speaking Arabic, a skill desperately needed due to the multiple wars in the Middle East, he was notified by his superiors that his announcement will result in his discharge.

Hastings will present Choi with the organization's National Leadership Award.

Steve Adkins, Executive Director of the Miami-Dade Gay & Lesbian Chamber of Commerce, will receive the Eddy McIntyre Community Service Award. He is being honored for his work bridging the business, nonprofit and LGBT communities in South Florida by educating business owners and elected officials about the need for and value of domestic partner benefits and nondiscrimination policies.

James Trapp, Chief Executive Officer of the Association of Unity Churches International, will receive the Humanitarian Award for his contribution as a pro-GLBT religious leader and powerful voice for justice.

For more information on the 13th annual Miami Recognition Dinner, visit [www.theTaskForce.org/miami](http://www.theTaskForce.org/miami).—BK

