

# GAY NEIGHBOR

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## **Gay Neighbor Ray**

Richard and I loved each other and were in a committed relationship for 50 years. Richard was the light of my life, but our relationship was a secret because I worked in the corporate world and feared losing my job if anyone found out I was gay. I don't want other couples to live in fear like we did. During our 50 years together we dreamed that someday we would have the right to have our relationship legally recognized. Sadly, Richard has passed away, and the legal recognition of relationships like ours is still not possible in Wisconsin. Though we lived together for 50 years, I cannot collect Richard's social security benefits.

Gay couples in Canada, Spain, England, France, South Africa, and Mexico have legal recognition of their committed relationships. I wish the same for my fellow Americans.

The prominence of a billboard campaign gives respect to the richness of our lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender community. Public education is an important step in the process of creating fair laws and ensuring fair treatment for everyone.

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Cream City Foundation serves as a catalyst for social change on behalf of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender communities in southeastern Wisconsin. Their work includes strategic grant making, education, and media outreach. Find out more at [www.creamcityfoundation.org](http://www.creamcityfoundation.org).

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