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## ENDEAN

From P. 5

an effort to achieve larger goals.

In 1978, Endean moved to Washington D.C. to become the first executive director and lobbyist for the Gay Rights National Lobby.

"The lobby was housed in another organization's offices," Edean recalled in an earlier interview. "We had a single desk, and the day I arrived I discovered the phone had been disconnected. GRNL had \$9 in the bank and was thousands of dollars in debt.

A Washington Post feature story on him written at the time said, "His dress is classic and conservative, the lobbyist's requisite navy blazer and tie. His style is professional. When he talks tactics, it's as a seasoned lobbyist."

In 1980, Endean and GRNL created a National Convention Project to assist openly lesbian and gay candidates running for delegate positions at the national conventions.

More than 80 individuals were elected as Democratic delegates or alternates, and the Democratic National Convention for the first time in history adopted a gay rights plank.

In 1982, while continuing to work as GRNL executive director, Endean created the Human Rights Campaign Fund as national gay political action committee. In 1985, after Endean had retired from both organizations, the two groups merged.

In 1986, Endean created a national grassroots organization called the Fairness Fund which generated mailgrams and letters to Congress from supporters of lesbian and gay rights. In 1987, the Fairness Fund merged with HRCF and Endean rejoined the staff as field director. He renamed the grassroots program "Speak Out," and developed it into the most successful grassroots program in the history of the lesbian and gay movement, sending over a million letters to Capitol Hill in its seven year existence.

Due to health reason Endean retired from HRCF in 1991. He continued to work there part time, however, creating a new program "The National Endorsement Campaign," to gather written support for a Federal Lesbian and Gay Civil Rights Bill from prominent non-gay Americans in all fields of interest.

As a testament to his reputation in Washington, 12 members of Congress served on the host committee at a 1992 dinner in his honor.

Later that year, Endean was honored at a Human Rights Campaign Fund dinner in Minneapolis. Speaking at the event, Joan Mondale, wife of former Vice President Walter Mondale, said that "every time we take a step forward in the struggle for equal rights, we should pause to give thanks to Steve Endean."

He was the recipient of many awards throughout his life including the National Lesbian and Gay Health Foundation's "Harvey Milk

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