

Taps for DADT

So the U.S. Senate has recovered momentarily from its reputation of being the "sapless branch of government" by repealing the compromise policy on gays in the military.

The puzzling question is why was the treatment of gays in the military such a hot-button issue all along. Since only about one-third of our population has a passport and the mainstream media does its best to shelter the citizenry from contrary views from abroad, most Americans might be surprised to learn that their country is an outlier among the world's industrial democracies when it comes to the treatment of gays.

Gays serve openly in the military in Russia, Ukraine, Canada, South Africa, Salvador, Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Peru, Uruguay, Israel, Nepal, Japan, Taiwan, the Philippines, Thailand, New Zealand and almost all of Europe.

If we were to factor in countries that extend full marriage rights as a proxy for gay rights, then Argentina, Holland, Belgium, Spain, Canada, South Africa, Norway, Denmark, Sweden and Iceland are all far advanced over our current federal U.S. policy.

One can only hope that with this issue finally retired from our national discourse, that fear-mongering against gays will have lost traction in our national politics and that hate-mongering against Muslims will not accelerate.

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Why so quiet?

Ten days after the 2010
November sweep brought