

Bush Appoints Four More Gays to Administration Posts

Log Cabin Republicans Fill Mid-Level Positions

The Washington Blade reported last week that President Bush has tapped four gay Republican activists over the past year as presidential appointees to mid-level administration posts. All four had been directly involved with the gay GOP group, the Log Cabin Republicans.

In October, in the aftermath of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, Bush appointed Asian affairs expert Mark Groombridge as a State Department special assistant to John Bolton, Under Secretary for Arms Control and International Security.

Earlier this year, Bush named urban affairs specialists and Republican Party activists Tod Burnett and Jim Wiggins to positions at the Environmental Protection Agency.

Last year, Bush named GOP activist Stephen Fong, who has served as president of Log Cabin Republicans of San Francisco, to a post with the Federal Transit Administration, an arm of the Department of Transportation.

As was the case with earlier openly gay appointments made by Bush, the White House did not mention the sexual orientation of the latest four in its official announcements of presidential appointments. White House press secretary Ari Fleischer has said a person's sexual orientation is irrelevant to the appointment process.

Gay supporters of President Bill Clinton said the Democrat appointed more than 150 open gays to his administration during his



President George Bush

eight years in office.

Groombridge served as a research fellow at the American Enterprise Institute and the Cato Institute, both D.C.-based think tanks. worked for Republican Mayor Richard Riordan of Los Angeles. Wiggins held private sector jobs in New Orleans for firms, working on electric utility and environmental issues prior to joining EPA.

In his first round of gay appointments last year, Bush named Log Cabin Republican leader Scott Evertz as director of the White House Office of National AIDS Policy, making Evertz the highest-ranking gay to serve in a Republican administration. Bush also named career Foreign Service officer Michael Guest as U.S. ambassador to Romania, and New York City real estate developer Donald Copocchia as member of the U.S. Commission on Fine Arts.

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