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COMMUNITY VISIONARY

## Representative Garnet F. Coleman



Representative Garnet F. Coleman has served the people of District 147, which includes Montrose, in the Texas House of Representatives continuously since 1991. Throughout his years of service, Garnet has earned a reputation as a diligent leader in the areas of LGBTQ rights, health care, mental health care, economic development, and education. Now he is the first ally recipient of the LGBTQ Community Vision Award.

Garnet is a longtime friend of the Center and one of the strongest advocates for LGBTQ Texans, even when supporting our community has cost him politically. A frequent recipient of the Equality Texas' #1 House Member on LGBTQ Issues, he coauthored the James Byrd Jr. Hate Crime Act which protects people based on their sexual orientation and put forward legislation to remove unconstitutional anti-homosexual statutes from Texas law. Garnet filed the state's first freedom to marry legislation, the first transgender hate crimes protection bill, and the first gender markers correction legislation. He famously killed his own bill after the Senate attached anti-LGBTQ amendments.

Garnet was instrumental in securing the \$3.265 million dollar land grant for There's No Place Like Home, the Montrose Center's capital campaign to build the first LGBTQ-affirming affordable senior living center in the South. Without the gift of this land, the project would not be possible. He has received numerous awards, such as the Human Rights Campaign John Walzel Political Equality Award, the AIDS Action Leadership Award, and the National HIV/AIDS Partnership Red Ribbon Award.

Garnet and his wife Angelique have two sons. One of them is an out gay teacher in Arizona.

**We are honored to present the LGBTQ Community Vision Award to Garnet for his advocacy, courage, and ceaseless support of our community.**