



## Queen Mother of the America's 2010 State of the Empire Address

Delivered by Her Most Imperial Majesty, Queen Mother of the Americas,

Nicole the Great, on the Third Anniversary of her Ascension

February 13, 2010 in Seattle, Washington

It is wonderful to be here once again in the great city of Seattle. A city, community and Court that will **always** hold a special place in my heart as Seattle, in 2007, was where Jose crowned me as your Queen Mother of the Americas. It is great to be in one of the only states, Washington, in the entire nation whose citizens voted for and not against GLBT equality in **Referendum 71**. I thank the Court members of Seattle, Spokane, Vancouver, Tacoma, Bellingham and Everett who were involved in this successful campaign.

**2009** was a most important year for us all. In **Canada** it marked the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary that its government decriminalized homosexual acts. In the United States it was the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Stonewall Riots and the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first March of Washington.

But for all of us of the International Court System **2009** was the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of when a colorful San Franciscan gold miner named Joshua Norton published a proclamation in the **San Francisco Bulletin** proclaiming himself as Emperor of the United States. 106 years later a World War II Latino Veteran and fabulous entertainer named Jose Sarria proclaimed himself the Widow Norton and the First Empress of San Francisco and the United States.

These are important and historic anniversaries and as I have said before "A Community, indeed a movement, that does not know where it came from does not **really** know where it's going."

As we celebrate Black History Month, let us never forget how much we learned from the black civil rights movement of the 1960's, and as I proudly stated during my speech at this past Fifth March on Washington: "The GLBT fight for equality is indeed the civil rights movement of the 21<sup>st</sup> century."

Let us take the time to wish our Asian-Pacific Islander brothers and sisters "A Happy New Year!"

I, you, we of the International Court System should always take pride that our membership, unlike most other organizations truly reflects the diversity of the GLBT community. Look around you and see a true reflection of the Rainbow in the faces in this room: Native Americans, Latinos, Asian-Pacific Islanders, African-Americans, transgender, Leather, bears, bisexuals, and our treasured allies, heterosexual friends and family.

The International Court System of Canada, United States and Mexico, we are truly the Rainbow Family of our Communities.

This past Sunday I attended a conference of educators and school counselors where I heard a young lesbian speak about coming out in her school at the age of 13. 13 years old! She was met with hostility and homophobia from some of her counselors and teachers. One school counselor told her lesbian partner that would probably get AIDS. My brothers and sisters, bullying, threats and physical torture are happening to our GLBT youth and students every day.

From the bottom of my heart, I thank you all for taking a stand for our GLBT youth/ students by supporting the Matthew Shepard Foundation and raising over **\$100,000** in 2009 to support our youth and students. God bless you and the Courts and Communities of Canada and the United States.

As I have said our youth are not our future, they are our **here** and **now**. We must be here for them in any way they need us.

The African-American community has its icon, the **Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.** and we Latinos have **Cesar Chavez**. Now the GLBT global community is embracing, our hero, and yes, Civil Rights martyr, **Harvey Milk**.

As many of you know, I had the pleasure of knowing and working with Harvey Milk and he loved and respected the Imperial Court of San Francisco and our Court System. Harvey in fact told a close friend and I quote:

“Be sure to vote for Emperor and Empress! These people care and are connected... get to know these people. “

In fact, in one of the pictures taken of Harvey Milk and I, he is wearing a button that says “Pushy Phylis for Empress of San Francisco.”

We should all be proud that we were the first organization to take a stand in support of making his birthday, May 22<sup>nd</sup>, a holiday in California and last year the Governor signed Senator Mark Leno’s bill.

We have now launched a national campaign to get a U.S. postage stamp issues in his honor in partnership with the **National Gay Lesbian Task Force** and our campaign has been endorsed by members of Congress, Academy Award winner Dustin Lance Black, Rev. Troy Perry, Cleve Jones and Stuart Milk to name but a few.

I urge you all to support this campaign and let us get a Harvey Milk U.S. stamp. The time is now!

Harvey Milk’s nephew, Stuart Milk, wanted me tonight to convey his and the Milk Family’s deep appreciation for all of our work to keep Harvey Milk’s legacy alive.

October 2010 has been proclaimed Harvey Milk Foundation Month within the Court System and I urge your support of its mission and its student scholarship programs.

This past Monday, I met with Congresswoman Susan Davis, chair of the Congressional Armed Services Personnel Committee which begins hearings on “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell” on March 1, 2010. We of the Court System have always stood for those serving in silence and were proud to present Lt. Dan Choi last with the International Jose Julio Sarria Civil Rights Award in Washington D.C.

The International Court System of Canada, United States is proud of our record when it comes to the HIV/ AIDS crisis. We have been in the forefront of this battle since the beginning. We are proud that the Courts of Canada and the U.S. have raised over \$150,000 to benefit AIDS clinics and causes in the country of Mexico.

And due to the leadership of Emperor Martin Rooney of Surrey, B.C., Canada, the International Court Council got involved and worked on the campaign to lift the U.S. ban on visitors having HIV/AIDS. This ban has now been lifted and we are proud of our involvement.

The Court System has been involved with the fight for GLBT equality since the beginning and, in fact, Jack Campbell of Florida has stated that the first check that came in from California, to fight Anita Bryant and her hate was raised by Courts at a California Coronation in the 1970s.

I am proud as you should be of the work and dedication of the International Court and its current and past Heirs. I especially wish to acknowledge the leadership and dedication of our current ICC President Empress Panzi and past ICC Chairs Empress CoCo La Chine and Empress Jack-E.

I know these are changing times for our Court System and I have established a task force to review and give a report on what makes a Court in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. What constitutes a Court?

I believe that any of our chapters that have a working and dedicated membership constitutes a Court and that at times it will be a year or years without reigning monarchs and I believe that this is and should be acceptable as a viable chapter in our international organization.

On my crowning as your Queen Mother three years ago I proclaimed my reign as the Renaissance Era. We have come together to make many changes including giving every Court a voice with the establishment of Parliament. I commend Prime Minister Nathan Page's leadership as well as every member of Her Majesties Parliament. While, yes, our Court System was founded as a monarchy not a democracy, my Renaissance Era believes in a more democratic constitutional monarchy, but a monarchy never the less.

On June 5, 2010 in Kentucky we will celebrate the 45<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the International Court System with a gala celebration and state dinner. We extend a loving invitation to all of you to help us make this historic occasion.

We are very grateful to Patchwork Pictures for their filming a documentary on 45 years of your nobles deeds that has made such a difference in three great nations.

In closing, I extend my hand in friendship to the Courts of Canada and my commitment and pledge that you are equal partners in this, our international organization. Yes we are indeed the gay Shriners, Elks, Knights of Columbus of the world and we are **not** going anywhere.

I look forward to attending the 45<sup>th</sup> anniversary coronation of our Mother Court of us all, the founding Court of San Francisco and to my upcoming State Visit to Vancouver, Canada.

I am proud of you all and your continuing acts of charity and noble deeds, humbles me. For you all are truly doing God's work and making our cities, communities and nations a better place for so many.

God bless Canada.

God bless Mexico.

God bless the United States of America.

And long live Jose and the monarchy!

Thank you and good night.

For comments, feedback, please feel free to contact:

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