

Name \_\_\_\_\_

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# Harvey Milk

Today we're going to talk about Harvey Milk...in just a minute.

Harvey Milk was the first out gay person to be elected to public office in California.

In 1972, Milk moved to San Francisco and opened a camera store on Castro Street, the heart of the city's gay community. His warm, welcoming personality earned him the unofficial title "mayor of Castro Street."

Milk's vision of a local government that fostered safe, close-knit communities led him toward politics. He refused to minimize his sexuality while campaigning, believing it was the only way to properly advocate for LGBTQ people and other marginalized communities. After running and losing twice, Milk won a seat on San Francisco's Board of Supervisors in 1977.

At the time, anti-gay movements were gaining momentum across the country. In California, a piece of legislation called Proposition 6 aimed to make it illegal for gay people to work in schools. Milk fought hard against Prop 6, stressing the importance of pride and representation. The measure was defeated in a landslide.

But only 20 days after this landmark victory, tragedy struck. Dan White, a former city supervisor, assassinated Milk and San Francisco Mayor George Moscone in their offices.

30 years later, in 2008, a statue of Milk was unveiled in San Francisco City Hall. The following year, he was posthumously awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

Where do you see the legacy of Harvey Milk today?