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SAME-SEX COUPLES PREVAIL

Court pulls down last barriers to marriages



Ikeita Cantu (left) and her wife, Carmen Guzman, of McLean held up signs as they celebrated outside the Supreme Court in Washington on Friday. They were wed in Canada in 2009, when gay marriage was illegal in Virginia. The state has recognized their union since last fall.

Ruling will relieve many legal tangles

Biggest help is to those where bans were still valid

BY MARGARET COLLINS AND RICHARD RUBIN
Bloomberg News

NEW YORK — The Supreme Court's decision to allow same-sex marriage nationwide will remove tax and personal finance headaches that have bedeviled gay couples.

The 5-4 decision by the court is a particularly significant victory for many residents of the 14 states where same-sex marriages were banned until Friday, often under state constitutional amendments.

Gay couples who are married will now be able to file joint state tax returns, inherit property easily and enjoy hospital visitation rights just like opposite-sex couples can. In his majority opinion, Justice Anthony Kennedy cited these and other practical benefits of marriage as a reason to require states to recognize same-sex nuptials.

"By virtue of their exclusion from that institution, same-sex couples are denied the constellation of benefits that the states have linked to marriage," Kennedy wrote. "This harm results in more than just material burdens. Same-sex couples are consigned to an

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Supreme Court Associate Justice Anthony Kennedy wrote in his decision on gay marriage, "By virtue of their exclusion from that institution, same-sex couples are denied the constellation of benefits that the states have linked to marriage."

Kennedy's legacy
Gay marriage case secures justice's place in history. Page A8

In Richmond
Locals celebrate same-sex marriage decision at Byrd Theatre. Page A9

In Va., decision fuels passionate response on both sides of issue

BY MARKUS SCHMIDT
Richmond Times-Dispatch

The legacy of Loving v. Virginia, a 1967 federal court case that invalidated state bans on interracial unions, rang loud and clear in Justice Anthony Kennedy's majority opinion in the U.S. Supreme Court's 5-4 ruling Friday that legalized same-sex marriage nationwide.

"The court has long held the right to marry is protected by the Constitution. In Loving v. Virginia ... a unanimous court held marriage is 'one of the vital personal rights essential to the orderly pursuit of happiness by free

men,'" wrote Kennedy, who was appointed to the Supreme Court by President Ronald Reagan in 1988.

Almost five decades after the Loving case, Virginia Attorney General Mark R. Herring, a Democrat, said it has been one of the highest honors of his career to "help the commonwealth lead the nation on this fundamental civil rights issue, after past fights on the wrong side of issues like school desegregation, interracial marriage bans, and equal opportunity for women."

Same-sex marriage became legal in Virginia in

VIRGINIA, Page A9

Ruling says all are entitled to participate in venerable rite

BY ROBERT BARNES
The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court on Friday delivered a historic victory for gay rights, ruling 5-4 that the Constitution requires that same-sex couples be allowed to marry no matter where they live and that states may no longer reserve the right only for heterosexuals.

The court's action marked the culmination of an unprecedented upheaval in public opinion and U.S. jurisprudence. Advocates called it the most pressing civil rights issue of modern times, while critics said the courts entered uncharted waters by changing the traditional definition of marriage.

The ruling also was no surprise, since the justices had stood back in recent months and watched as federal judges, state courts, lawmakers and voters knocked down the legal barriers to gay marriages in most of the country. Many legal experts had predicted the outcome of the case.

"Under the Constitution, same-sex couples seek in marriage the same legal treatment as opposite-sex couples, and it would disparage their choices and diminish their personhood to deny them this right," Justice Anthony Kennedy wrote in the majority opinion. He was joined by the court's liberal justices: Ruth Bader Ginsburg, Stephen Breyer, Sonia Sotomayor and Elena Kagan.

Kennedy often employs a lofty, writing-for-history tone, and Friday's decision was no different.

Referring to the couples who brought the cases before the court, Kennedy wrote: "It would

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OBAMA EULOGY IN CHARLESTON



THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

'Amazing Grace'
Watch the president sing while delivering the eulogy in a video at Richmond.com.

President Barack Obama wrapped up the funeral for the Rev. Clementa Pinckney, slain last week in Charleston, S.C., by belting out the first words of "Amazing Grace" all by himself. Others quickly joined in. (Details, Page A3.)

Clinton rallies Virginia Democrats at fundraiser

At GMU, she says fight against bias far from over

BY JIM NOLAN
Richmond Times-Dispatch

FAIRFAX — Democratic presidential front-runner Hillary Rodham Clinton made her first public campaign stop in Virginia on Friday, headlining a spirited fundraiser that raised more than \$1 million for state Democrats and bolstered her White House bid in a key swing state.

"I'm on the side of everyone who's ever been knocked down but refused to be knocked out," the former secretary of state and U.S. senator told nearly 2,000 supporters and public officials at the Patriot Center on the cam-

pus of George Mason University. "I'm not running for some Americans, but for all Americans. I will always stand my



Clinton

Charleston, S.C., where she attended the funeral for the Rev. Clementa Pinckney, a state senator who was one of nine blacks

CLINTON, Page A12

Law officers kill escaped prisoner

One of two murderers who escaped from prison three weeks ago was shot and killed in a gunbattle in upstate New York. The other remains at large.

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ISIS attacks leave 67 dead

Islamist militants are believed to be behind shooting rampage in Kuwait, suicide bombing in Tunisia and a beheading in France.

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