

Anthony C. Sullivan

June 19, 2014

President Barack Obama
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President,

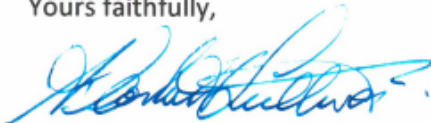
My name is Anthony Sullivan. I am writing you to request an apology on behalf of my late spouse, Richard Adams, who was called a "faggot" by the United States government.

I am a male Australian citizen who legally married my male American spouse in April 1975 in Boulder, Colorado. At the time, Richard submitted a green card petition on my behalf as the spouse of a United States citizen to the Immigration and Naturalization Service, as it was then called. The petition was denied in a letter from the INS using the following language: "You have failed to establish that a bona fide marital relationship can exist between two faggots." (See attachments).

Richard died on December 17, 2012— we had been together for more than 41 years. As his widower, I feel compelled to write on his behalf because he was an American citizen who loved his country and believed in its values: equality, fairness, and social justice. The INS denial letter wounded him. I would like to request an official apology for that letter, and particularly, for the use of the word "faggots."

I know you can understand why I am making this request. It is not only important to me, but it is also important to Richard's family and our community. At this time, let me also express my gratitude as a gay man for your leadership on issues that have benefited the LGBT community, especially in the area of Marriage Equality.

Yours faithfully,



Anthony C. Sullivan