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Ramone Johnson's Gay Life Blog

### 1138 Roses for Gay Marriage Rights



Did you know that heterosexual married couples (and a few lesbian and gay couples in [select states](#)) automatically receive 1138 federal rights, protections and benefits when they get married in the United States? Those that are legally allowed to marry are given these benefits and rights automatically. There is no special application to fill out or petition to file.

When the topic of same-sex marriage is raised, I'm often asked why gays want "special" rights. An explanation is always warranted in this situation because the notion that LGBT people desire special consideration under the law is far from the truth. When same sex couples refer to the more appropriate term of "equal rights of marriage," we consider more than the right to have a legally binding ceremony. As citizens, same sex couples are entitled to the same rights, privileges and protections granted to all other individuals. LGBT people don't want special privileges, just the **same** privileges. To increase awareness of the 1138 federal federal rights, protections and benefits guaranteed by marriage in the United States, jewelry maker [Love and Pride](#) passed out 1138 roses in New York city's Union Square Park to coincide with the launch of their new "[Love, Peace and Hope](#)" [Bridal Jewelry collection](#). Each rose was numbered and volunteers explained their meaning as they passed them on to park goers.



Here's what you can do to increase awareness and help same-sex couples receive equal rights of marriage:

1. Take a look at this list of the [1138 automatic federal marriage benefits](#) that same-sex couples would receive if allowed to legally marry.
2. Read and follow the [10 Ways You Can Support Gay Rights](#).
3. Read, [Why Equal Gay Rights Are Needed in Times of Tragedy](#).
4. Also, read Lambda Legal's [What's in a Number?](#) fact sheet.