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A Quiet Easter Egg Roll For Family Pride

By: [Jean Chemnick](#)

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Jennifer Chrisler, executive director of the Family Pride Coalition, enjoyed a festive Monday morning on the White House lawn with her partner, Cheryl Jacques, and their red-headed 5-year-old twins, Tim and Tom.

The family joined more than 100 gay family members who had braved the elements Friday night for tickets to roll eggs, meet the Easter Bunny, and hear Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson read children's books aloud.

Last year, Family Pride's presence at the annual Washington tradition caused quite a stir with people who said that gays did not belong at a family event. A few protesters even showed up, although they could not be seen from the lawn where the eggs were rolling.

This year, Chrisler said there was much less interest, which suited her fine. No protesters surfaced, and some fellow egg-rollers even asked where they could find the rainbow-colored leis Family Pride members wore to identify themselves. Chrisler said her group used these questions as an opportunity to educate other families about their families. Even some of the National Park Service Rangers guarding the event gave them a subtle thumbs-up of support, she said.

Tom and Tim were playing hooky on a school day, but Chrisler said their trip to the White House was a civics lesson. The family even talked about the president on the way to the event, she said; when asked about this conversation, Tim said President Bush thought he and Tom needed another mommy (which might have come as a surprise to the commander in chief).

But after mulling the question for awhile, Tim concluded that what the president really wanted was for him and his brother to have "different parents."

Chrisler summed this up as "Any family that loves each other is a good family and deserves to be protected." Then it was time to go home and eat pizza for lunch.

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