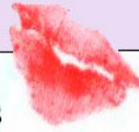


## my so-called lesbian life



### Sad news

August 29, 2008

Yesterday it was reported that lesbian pioneer, Del Martin died. Only three months ago, Del and her partner of 55 years, Phyllis Lyon were the first couple married in California under newly legalized California same sex marriages. The newly widowed Lyon said in a statement:

"Ever since I met Del 55 years ago, I could never imagine a day would come when she wouldn't be by my side. I am so lucky to have known her, loved her and been her partner in all things. I also never imagined there would be a day that we would actually be able to get married. I am devastated, but I take some solace in knowing we were able to enjoy the ultimate rite of love and commitment before she passed."

Del and Phyllis had been politically active for decades--including founding in 1953, the United States' first lesbian rights organization, Daughters of Bilitis.

**Said Rea Carey, director of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force: "They spoke the unspeakable, wrote the unthinkable, and lived their lives as few before them ever had: open and proud lesbians in 1950s America,"**

What an inspiration both of them have been--in their lives and in their love. To read more about how Del and Phyllis changed the world for the better for you and I, the National Center for Lesbian Rights has a full obituary.