



Alexander Hamilton Post 448 The American Legion Intelligencer



Alexander Hamilton
(1755-1804)

Volume 26

March 2009

Number 03

Post Officers

- John Forrett**
Commander
- Delegate, War Memorial Commission
- Nina Kaiser**
Women's Commander
- Dick Manning**
1st Vice Commander
- Bill Watson**
2nd Vice Commander
- Anders Winther**
3rd Vice Commander
- Mario Benfield**
Adjutant/Finance
- Vacant**
Assistant Adjutant
- Arch Wilson**
Judge Advocate
- Alternate Delegate, WMC
- Jimmy McConnell**
Sergeant-At-Arms
- Morningstar Vancil**
Assistant Sergeant-At-Arms
- Paul Goercke**
Chaplain
- Rod Bagarino**
Historian
- Robert C Potter**
Service Officer
- Sam Thal, MD**
Post Doctor
- Art Mauck**
Assistant Editor
- Ernest Gaudreau**
Web Designer
- Kai Azada**
Webmaster

Squadron Officers

- George Gomez**
Squadron Commander
- Dale Pellegrino**
1st Vice Commander

Alexander Hamilton Association

- Linda Alband**
President

Post Meetings

3rd Thursday Each Month
7:00 PM
Room 202
Veterans' War Memorial Building
401 Van Ness Avenue, San Francisco

—photo by E.J. Gaudreau

Spring Fling at Tommy's Joint

At the last meeting, the 1st Vice Commander reminded us all that Tommy's Joint on Van Ness Avenue here in San Francisco was looking for a few good men and women. Yes, they wanted to offer us the use of their dining room upstairs for a meeting and if we chose to dine, a substantial discount. This is an honor because Tommy's is one of the oldest diner/bars in San Francisco and only blocks from the Post! We tasked Dick to get a quote and he returned with a great offer. We get to feed 40 members with food, coffee/soda and dinner role for \$500.00 (tax and gratuity included) For you financial folks, that's \$12.50 a person. Since fundraising has been very good (see the financial report) the vote was to have the Post served without us

doing any of the work. Alcohol drinks will be at the expense of the member. At the Officers meeting, I moved that the Commanders fund buy a few of our local members who are on fixed income a drink. So, here comes the fun part, we pay the \$500.00 whether we feed 10 or 40. Look for a sign-up on our web to reserve a place soon. The Spring Fling as usual is in place of the April meeting, otherwise known as April 16th, 2009 at 6:00 PM. We are inviting a few local folks who have helped us fill our coffers recently and when they accept, we will let you know who they are. So, please make sure that if you are in town or local and plan to attend, make sure you look for the sign-up page on our website soon! (Gotta give the webmaster some notice)

Commander's Corner

Comrades, I am pleased to announce that this may indeed be the year that the discriminatory policy of "Don't Ask, Don't Tell, Don't Harass, Don't Pursue", that prevents Gays and Lesbians from serving openly in our armed forces is repealed. Several years ago Congressman Marty Meehan D-MA first introduced a resolution that would replace the policy with the ability for all Americans to serve regardless of their orientation.

The resolution is called "The Military Readiness Enhancement Act" and makes it clear to Commanders to transition the armed forces into a fully integrated professional organization. Today, Congresswoman Ellen Tauscher D-CA authors the resolution and has introduced it to the Senate floor for the first time. In the past the fear was it would die within the Republican controlled Senate and Congress before it would ever reach the Whitehouse. Today, there are more co-signers than ever and with the upcoming Lobby Day with the Service Members Legal

Defense Network (SLDN)

<http://www.sldn.org> on Friday March 13th, 2009, the bill stands a great chance of passing the first time. If it does, the President, having already pledged to sign the bill, would send forward the most aggressive human rights change in this Nation since the Civil Rights Movement. Equality for all will be a strong forefront bi-product of this historic occasion. The Post Adjutant and I will be there to be a part

of this historical event as well as meeting with the Congressman on the fence to persuade them to add their name to the bill. It will be my honor and privilege to represent the Post and LGBT Veterans nationwide! I will report on this at the next monthly meeting.



POST FINANCIAL REPORT	
Post 448 Balance Sheet—As of 10 March 2009	
Account	Balance
Assets	
Cash and Bank Accounts	
Wells Fargo Checking Acct—9136	\$2,204.49
Wells Fargo Savings Acct—4206	4,873.43
Wells Fargo CD	12,000.00
Wachovia CD	10,000.00
Other CD	10,000.00
TOTAL Bank Accounts	\$39,077.92
TOTAL ASSETS	\$39,077.92
Liabilities: Other Liabilities	
448 Legal Fund	\$12,000.00
Commander Bus Fund	261.00
Flag Fund	546.00
Sal Fund	394.00
Sunshine Fund	368.00
Total Other Liabilities	13,569.00
Overall Total	\$39,077.92

YOU WRITE WHAT YOU'RE TOLD!



THANKS, CORPORATE NEWS!
We Couldn't Control The People Without You

A MESSAGE FROM THE MINISTRY OF HOMELAND SECURITY

The fight goes on...
Join us
American Legion Post 448

415-431-1413
or
info@post448.org
<http://www.post448.org>
Resistance is not futile!

★★★ Minutes for the Monthly Meeting of 19 FEB 2009 ★★★

The Meeting opened At 1900 Hrs.
The Colors Presented were presented by the Sergeant at Arms.
The Commander recognized the POW/MIA Chair.
The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all present.

The Everlasting Ceremony for Founding Member Joseph A. (Bud) Robbins Sister & family members present Turned over to Chaplain Born in Elmira, NY Died 01/31/09 at age 83 Served in US Navy in WWII Activist for GLBT Rights especially as a vet Served in several officer positions in Post 448 Invited to a Committee for Chaplain Guidelines 3 years ago Partner was Joe Maloney SISTER: Dory Lurie, Surfside, FL Spoke of her fondness and thanks for Veterans NEPHEW: Steve Gorsky He thanked the Post for recognizing his uncle and the work towards equality for all Veterans, military members

Motion to suspend meeting for 10-15 minutes for Social to honor Bud – seconded – carried

Meeting reconvenes at 1931:
Introduction of Guests:
Dan Revard President of Colla Voce Record Attendance and amount of money raised at Concert since their inception Adjutant accepted check for \$2815.00 Dan gave thanks for a successful concert Rene Puliatti also gave thanks

Minutes
Motion to approve as published in the February 2009 newsletter – seconded, no discussion
Call to vote – accepted unanimously

Officer Reports
First Vice Report:
Not a big, but an enthusiastic Bingo crowd. Thanks to volunteers. List to Jimmy McConnell for future point system. Received a check for \$300 for expenses, spent \$298.50 – presented cash for \$1.50 plus receipts.
March will be a major event for Bingo – all sold out (at least 350 people)

Specialty drinks – Buena Vista Irish Coffee (with Jamison's, whipped cream, clear coffee cup)
2 sixpacks of Guinness Stout
All appropriate for St. Patrick's Day

Spring Fling question of inside or outside venue Special restaurant developing gay clientele.
Tommy's Joint expressed interest in inviting American Legion (providing private dining room)
Or Commander suggested Hamburger restaurant inside the hotel on 7th St between Howard & Mission asking for gay business
Discussion followed about drinks, a set number of guests, negotiable price break, venue has wheelchair access to the private dining room upstairs from Geary
At March meeting will have a report and open up for further discussion
Most expensive entrée at Tommy's Joint is \$9.99 plus tax & tip ~ \$15 per person for 35 (beer soda wine included, other drinks to be purchased by members)
Choice of four entrees
seating capacity of 50 people

(Continued on page 4)

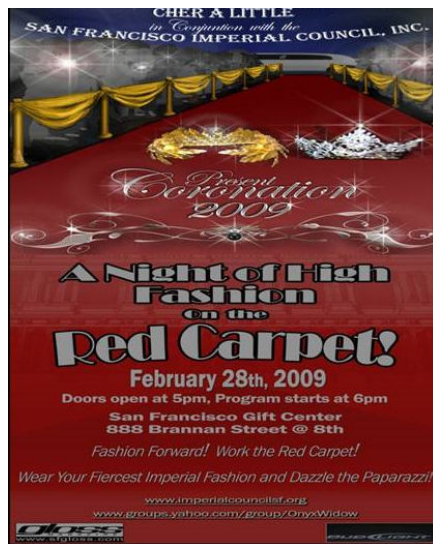


On 28 FEB 09, the Imperial Council of San Francisco held *A Night of High Fashion on the Red Carpet: Coronation 2009*. Post 448 attended and provided the color guard at the gala event.

Members of the post pictured above are (from left to right) Morningstar Vancil, Robert Potter, Jimmy McConnell, and John Forrett, saluting during the singing of the National Anthem.

Pictured left is Morningstar, standing proudly by our San Francisco flag.

Relaxing after the show and pictured below are Ron & John and Robert.



All photos courtesy of richtrove.com

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Editorial

'Don't ask, don't tell' was always on shaky grounds

By Nathaniel Frank

Excerpted from USAToday, 12 MAR 09

The U.S. military fired 11 servicemembers in January, though they did nothing wrong, Rep. Jim Moran, D-Va., revealed to me. Why? They were found to be gay.

These troops — specialists in intelligence, infantry, military police and health care — are the latest casualties of the "don't ask, don't tell" policy that President Obama has promised to end.

The White House has said it wants to consult with the Pentagon and study what effect ending the ban would have on the military. But we've seen this movie before: Every time the military has been consulted on this issue, it has trotted out the old "unit cohesion" argument, which asserts that openly gay servicemembers would weaken the military by hurting morale, recruitment, good order and discipline.

The problem is the unit cohesion argument has no basis in fact. And while plenty of research shows that openly gay service works, this evidence has routinely been ignored.

The military, it turns out, never had good reason to ban open gays from service. In researching a book on "don't ask, don't tell," I spoke over the past two years with senior military officers who were involved in the creation of the policy 16 years ago. Several admitted candidly that the gay ban was never rooted in research about what was good for the military, but was simply based on fear and prejudice.

These and other military officials have acknowledged what many have long suspected: The ban on openly gay service was not based on sound research because no research has ever shown that openly gay service hurts the military.

Let's hope that this time around, our military and political leaders consult the considerable research that now exists on this topic, which, like the RAND report, shows indisputably that military readiness and equal treatment are not at odds, but go hand in hand.

Nathaniel Frank, author of Unfriendly Fire: How the Gay Ban Undermines the Military and Weakens America, is senior research fellow at the Palm Center, University of California-Santa Barbara.

Views expressed in the editorial are solely those of the writer and are not necessarily the views or opinions of the officers or members of Post 448.

AMAZING WOMEN in WAR and PEACE

On March 8, International Women's Day, events worldwide celebrate the achievements of women, past and present. Leading up to that day, the US military is celebrating the women who have served in the United States armed forces. A new documentary on women in the military premiered this week at Arlington National Cemetery's Women's Memorial.

The Women's Memorial is a unique, living memorial honoring all military women - past, present and future - and is the only major national memorial honoring women who have served in our nation's defense during all eras and in all services.

Work on the Memorial was in progress for about 11 years and it was dedicated October 18, 1997. Some 200,000 people visit the Memorial annually.

Although women have always volunteered in defense of our nation, many of their contributions have been forgotten and are not recorded in today's history books. The Women's Memorial collects official and personal records, oral histories, photographs, and other memorabilia to help portray women's record of service and citizenship.

Their actively growing collections include a library of nearly 1,000 books by and about military women, photograph and document archives, personal and military-issue artifacts, memoirs and oral histories. These considerable resources allow them to serve as a leading educational resource on women in US military history.

While the museum contains collections, exhibits, written and oral history, they also maintain a website located at: <http://www.womensmemorial.org>, which also contains highlights of their collection, previews of exhibits, and highlights of both their written and oral histories.

Their collection includes narratives from all branches and all eras from WWI to the present. Their holdings are as diverse as the women they represent, and include the accounts of women who served as overseas volunteers with the American Red Cross, the USO and the US Public Health Service.

(Continued from page 2)

restaurant wants colors & banner hangs in dining room
Full report at March meeting

Approached Youngs Liquor Mart about discounted alcohol, but post would need a Resale License to purchase from them – not a 501C3 – because Post in turn sells. Requires accurate record keeping for the Franchise Tax Board.

Question of whether our paying tax on liquor would be more than the discount – further investigation would be needed.

Tony makes Motion to appropriate \$500 and not to exceed \$700 for Spring Fling and that Dick Manning head up the event. Seconded. Discussion: Third Thursday in April would be the day of the event. Call for vote – unanimously carried.

2nd Vice Report:

Reports that an estate sale from Ted Winn's estate (Archie, George, Alan Nicholson) and made \$270 with more items left over for next garage sale.

Reminder that 26th at Encore Lounge – presentation of fundraising checks by the Emperor John John & Empress Cher \$10 at the door. Color Guard to attend. 7PM – 11PM

Emperor & Empress voting on Saturday, 2/21/09 in the Castro.

2/28 Color Guard at the Gift Center for Coronation week in honor of their stepping down

3rd Vice Report:

NOT PRESENT

Adjutant & Finance Report

Current membership = 233 members
Just added 8 more for a total of 241 Veterans
2nd largest post in the District, behind the Police Post
Goal is 268
27 veterans need to pay their dues to reach 100%

Roger Carson passed away (from Apple Valley)
Roger Cargo transferred to Post 707 in Englewood, OH

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Steven Mueller transferred to Post 388 in O'Fallon, MO

Brandon Juarez convinced partner Antonio Agono to join as well

Commander sent out 59 letters to members that were delinquent in 2008
17 delinquent in 2007
Conclusion of Adjutant's report

Finance Report:

2 donations for Bud Robbins Memorial
Ms Fred Schwartz
Mr. Fight and Warren Web
Total of \$150

Business Checking Account \$3,172.35
Savings Account \$1,587.25
Legal Fund CD \$12,711.40
Wells Fargo CD \$10,000.00
Sterling Bank CD \$10,000.00
Including an estimate of the interest (~\$100)
TOTAL = \$37,570.75
(including a check from the Sisters for \$700 (rounded up from \$630)

Call for motion to accept Finance Report:
Question arose: What is Legal Defense Fund for?

To be used in any litigation in reference to use of the War Memorial Building
Another question about a need for an attorney on retainer.

Answered that several friends of the post would come to our aid.

Motion made, seconded and call for vote carried unanimously to accept the Finance Report.

Reminder that May 30th is the requirement for filing of 990 Report for the Franchise Tax Board.

Introduction of one of the Lions:
Beer Bust Mr. Heartthrob
Got rained out
Check for reimbursement for food - \$440.38

Thanks to Morningstar Vancil, Robert Potter, Jimmy McConnell, the Commander and his partner for the Heartthrob event.

Judge Advocate Report:

Resolution needed to authorize JA to be registered with the ABC to obtain liquor licenses for one-time events and Bingo games.

Ammendment: Arch Wilson (JA) & John Forrett (PC) be added to the list of eligi-

ble people to go to the Alcohol Beverage Control to obtain liquor license on behalf of the Alexander Hamilton Post 448.

Motion, Seconded, no discussion – call to question, carried unanimously

Room Reservations needed due to instability for Third Thursday for the rest of the year and the officer's luncheon every Saturday. No motion was needed, but as Security has questioned our usage that was not calendared that a formal reservation/request be made to avoid confusion. Further discussion was made about specific incidents about calendaring/room reservations.

War Memorial Commission Report:

Met on Tuesday : District 8 and WMCR combined

A web calendaring application will be put into effect that will be centralized: everyone will feed into the same calendar, so that double calendaring need not add to the confusion mentioned earlier.

Resolution that the District Council passed to be submitted to the Trustees: No flags in front of building representing America or Veterans – shooting for 2 of the 4 poles to have an American Flag and the American Legion flag, as the primary trust of the building is the Am Leg.

Moved that 50% of the signage in the front of the building and the lobby to be designated for Veteran's use (calendars, notes, event announcements and other veteran's activities)

The building's Fire Suppression system only works on 3rd & 4th floor – first & second floor do not have a fire suppression system. Made Resolution to have the Trustees immediately allocate money for the city to come in and finish the project that was started during the City Hall retrofit.

Discussed parking situation: 48 parking spaces but posts are only allocated 18. Made a resolution to increase parking for the Posts.

The Post 911 van – is for use by veterans – and money is being raised to add a chair lift to it. Made a resolution to ask the City to provide a light to illuminate the parking space for the van to allow it to park overnight and remain within the City's regulations requiring vehicles parked overnight in City parking lots be

illuminated.

Resolution to upgrade the doors on Room 101 and earthquake-proof room 101 exterior window for night-displays of American and American Legion flag after security enhancements.

Trustees give \$35,000 of the proceeds by the use of the Herbst Theater and the Green Room – which was set in 1977. Now asking for \$135,000. In addition, upping the free usage of the Green Room from 12 to 24 plus Veteran's Day, Memorial Day and the 4th of July.

Arch asked that a request be made to the Trustees restore the lobby to its past glory.

A plan is in place to rewire the building for telephone and broadband access (including WiFi). Drinking fountains, restrooms and the offices. Posts will be made to clean up offices, or they will be cleaned for them.

Moving towards preventing the building-wide retrofit – it would be easier, cheaper and better to retrofit in sections, rather than building-wide.

It is unsure whether we could obtain city or federal monies to help with the retrofit.

Point of Order made by the Adjutant to remind members that the War Memorial Commission meeting is held the third Tuesday of each month from 1800 – 1930. The District Meeting follows the WMC and if anyone has time to join the Commander, you are invited to – and a sly reminder about Tuesday as Movie Night.

Sgt of Arms had to leave meeting. Assistant Sgt of Arms had nothing to report for the Sgt of Arms.

Service Officer Report:

Robert Potter in addition to being a recruiter helps with outside events and acts as a Runner at Bingo, Thanks!

Historian not present

Chaplain's Report:

3PM Sunday Family of Bud Robbins is holding a Celebration of Life in Room 207.

Movie Night reminder (on Tuesdays at

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(Continued from page 5)
1800).

Appreciation was made for the beautiful music at the Colla Voce concert of January 25th.

A detailed report of Herb Donaldson's life is available – ask the Commander.

An announcement that the President named a LGPT person for the Faith Based Council – a hopeful outlook).

Women's Commander Report:

Nina Kaiser present but nothing to report.

Squadron Commander Report:

An announcement was made that Morningstar Vancil volunteered to step down from Squadron Commander due to the Bylaws not allowing women in the Sons of the American Legion. George Gomez is being reinstated temporarily. A meeting with the District Commander led to the suggestion by the District Commander that she be appointed as the LGBT Liason for District 8, Area 2, State of California American Legion. This would be a District position that would have a nationwide reach. Pending Morningstar's acceptance of this position, the announcement would be made public at the Harvey Milk Club.

A discussion ensued questioning why a woman can't be a member of the Sons of the American Legion, and questioned the entire gender requirements in any part of that organization. It also impacts female military members, whose husbands can't join the Auxillary, or sons & daughters joining the Sons of the American Legion. It's hopeful that due to this injustice, that



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Alexander Hamilton Post 448
Intelligencer

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Editor-in-Chief: John Forrett
Assistant Editor: Ernest Gaudreau
Phone: 415-431-1413
Post eMail: info@post448.org
Newsletter: postnews@post448.org
Website: <http://www.post448.org>
Mailing address:
PO Box 14939
San Francisco, CA 94114-0939

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the seeds have been sown for change.

Morningstar spoke with dignity about her service, and her grandmother's service, who was an Army nurse in WWII, who died in this country, without having her service recognized. She also mentioned that June 26 (0800 – 2200), & 27 (0800 – 2000) in room 202 & 207, Twin Spirit Wellness Gathering, addressing the health issues. A Motion was made to grant permission, which was seconded, and passed unanimously.

The Commander asked that the trip for SLDN (13 MAR 09) and the National Conference be underwritten by the Post (approximately \$1000). Arch made a Motion was made, seconded, and a call to question ended with a unanimous vote.

We've been signed up the Pride Partners program again, with hopes of getting a better assignment. Discussion was then made about whether to have a booth, a covered booth, or just to have a table near our assigned gate. Further discussion about the rental of a motorized cable car to use in the Pride Parade (approximate cost of \$500). A motion was made for the Commander to look into and schedule rental of the cable car.

Tony asked that a motion be made to appropriate \$100 to decorate the vehicle for the Pride Parade. A second, call to question ended in a unanimous vote.

One more reminder for Movie Night on Tuesday was made – come out for an evening of entertainment, fun and camaraderie.

The 50/50 Raffle was held, and then a motion was made to adjourn the meeting, seconded and the call to question ended in a unanimous vote.

The was a motion to adjourn and the colors were retired at 2116 Hrs..

**POST
NOTES**



In January's newsletter, it was mentioned that a new recruit will be "test driving" the production of the newsletter. That new recruit is me, Art Mauck, and I'm happy to have a chance to get more involved with the Post. Please be patient as I get my feet wet and learn the job—I have some big shoes to fill!

I welcome articles, rants, raves, reviews, and any other news you can throw my way. I can't guarantee inclusion of all submittals, but I'll try to be as inclusive as possible. (Please see notice on page 7 for more details).

Please email contributions to the newsletter mailbox: post-news@post448.org.

Sorry for the late start on this issue, but the editor said to say it was his fault.



I look forward to bringing you informative and enjoyable post news: the Intelligencer!

Art Mauck



**SUPPORT OUR TROOPS!
JOIN SLDN**

www.sldn.org



Membership Card Required

Due to an ongoing dispute with Veterans' War Memorial Building management, all members are now required to have membership cards on their person when attending monthly meetings, Post dinners, and other Post functions held in the Veterans' War Memorial Building. Your cooperation in this matter is appreciated.



NOTICE

Do you have comments about articles or news reported in the Intelligencer? Do you have an idea for an article or would like to submit an article you want considered for publication in the Post 448 Newsletter?

Send your **PDF or Word** docs to:

postnews@post448.org

Deadline for publication in the next newsletter is the 25th of each month. The Post has the right to refuse publication of any article without explanation.

Unless otherwise copyrighted or agreed upon, all contributions become the property of American Legion Post 448.

Due to limited space, obituaries and memorial notices will be printed on a space available basis for **members in good standing only.**



POST 448 2009 CALENDAR



7 Mar	Officers' Meeting 1200 hrs, Room 104, Veterans' War Memorial Building
10	Movie Night: <i>A Bridge Too Far</i>
17	Movie Night: <i>Friends & Family</i>
18	Bingo with the Sisters, 5:00 PM
19	Post Meeting 1900 hrs, Room 202, Veterans' War Memorial Building
24	Movie Night: <i>Butch Cassidy & the Sundance Kid</i>
4 Apr	Officers' Meeting 1200 hrs, Room 104, Veterans' War Memorial Building
7	Movie Night: <i>Gladiator</i>
14	Movie Night: <i>It's a Mad Mad Mad Mad World</i>
15	Bingo with the Sisters, 5:00 PM
16	Post Meeting 1900 hrs, Room 202, Veterans' War Memorial Building
21	Movie Night: To Be Announced
28	Movie Night: To Be Announced
2 May	Officers' Meeting 1200 hrs, Room 104, Veterans' War Memorial Building
5	Movie Night: To Be Announced
12	Movie Night: To Be Announced
20	Bingo with the Sisters, 5:00 PM

For a more accurate, up-to-the-minute calendar and event information and special announcements, please check our website.

SUPPORT OUR FRIENDS AT COLE HARDWARE!

Shop at any Cole Hardware store and mention that you heard about them from Alexander Hamilton Post 448 or mention account number 411. At the end of the year, we will receive a donation for all of the referrals. So tell all of your friends and family. If you are visiting SF, they have souvenirs too!!! Thanks for your support!!!

Cole Hardware
956 COLE STREET
San Francisco, CA 94117
415-753-2653
Fax: 415-753-0957
M-F 7 am to 7:30 pm
weekends 8 to 7

Cole Hardware
3317 MISSION STREET
San Francisco, CA 94110
415-674-8913
Fax: 415-647-6554
M-F 8 am to 7:30 pm
weekends 8 to 7

Cole Fox Hardware
70 - 4TH STREET
San Francisco, CA 94103
415-777-4400
Fax: 415-777-4453
M-F 8 am to 7:30 pm
weekends 9 to 5:30

Cole Hardware
2254 POLK STREET
San Francisco, CA 94109
415-647-8700
Fax: 415-674-8917
M-F 8 am to 8 pm
weekends 9 to 7

M O V I E N I G H T

DATE	MOVIE	YEAR
10 MAR 09	A Bridge Too Far	1977
17 MAR 09	Friends and Family	2001
24 MAR 09	Butch Cassidy & the Sundance Kid	1969
07 APR 09	Gladiator	2000
14 APR 09	It's a Mad Mad Mad Mad World	1963

MOVIE NIGHT is Every Tuesday Night, starting at 1800 hrs in Room 202

Drop by for some great movies (old and new), snacks, drinks and camaraderie

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Alexander Hamilton Post 448
The American Legion
PO Box 14939
San Francisco CA 94114-0939



March 2009

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION
US POSTAGE PAID
PERMIT NUMBER 1008
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA