



NOVEMBER, 2009

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Squadron Commander

Morningstar Vancil
1st Vice Commander

George Gomez
2nd Vice Commander

Alexander Hamilton**Association**

Linda Alband
President

Post Meetings

3rd Thursday each Month
1900 hrs
Room 202
Veterans' War Memorial Building
401 Van Ness Avenue
San Francisco

ALEXANDER HAMILTON Post #448**Obama: I'll End "Don't Ask, Don't Tell"***(excerpted from AP, CBSNEWS, 10 OCT 09)*

President Barack Obama pledged to end the ban on homosexuals serving openly in the military in a speech Saturday, but acknowledged to a cheering crowd that the policy changes he promised on the campaign trail are not coming as quickly as they expected.

"I will end 'don't ask-don't tell,'" Mr. Obama said at the annual dinner of the Human Rights Campaign, a gay civil rights advocacy group. Mr. Obama reaffirmed his commitment to end the ban, but did not give a timetable or the specifics that some activists have called for.

The law was passed by Congress

in 1993 and signed by President Bill Clinton, who also promised to repeal the ban on homosexuals in the military but was blunted by opposition in the military and Congress.

"We should not be punishing patriotic Americans who have stepped forward to serve the country," Mr. Obama said. "We should be celebrating their willingness to step forward and show such courage ... especially when we are fighting two wars.

"I appreciate that many of you don't believe progress has come fast enough," Mr. Obama said. "Do not doubt the direction we are heading and the destination we will reach."

Commander's Editorial

I have thought long and hard about what I wanted to share this month that would be of value to our members. I am opting for a first time editorial that reflects the views of the writer, namely me and not necessarily the Post or the membership. Whew!

I have been growing increasingly concerned over the overwhelming amount of money, air & TV time devoted to defaming and intentionally derailing the President, the Senate and the Congress. So many folks just trying their best to confuse, create panic and ultimately just numbing the minds of Americans. The intent appears to be to scare the masses into blaming the President for all of the problems dating back to the Clinton Administration. Is it too much to hope for some solid change that will enable our fellow Americans to become financially fit, reduce our dependency on crude oil, get the

country back on track to pay off the deficit while offering those without the means to simply go to the doctor when they need it and be able to afford it? Those are not all the ails and yet those are on the forefront of the main battle, speaking of which, the occupation of Iraq and our involvement in Afghanistan not to mention all of our other permanent military encampments seems to be missed and our troops dying daily. Our struggle for equality in and out of the bedroom is still so important to the plight of basic human rights and yet seems so small when it is so BIG. I just hope that the masses realize what is happening and that each person makes a conscious effort to keep their eye on the "real" ball and not the artificial one. I receive correspondence from some who think that calling the President "facist" for his bold agenda and the legislatures attempt to finally get some-

Mr. Obama also called on Congress to repeal the Defense Of Marriage Act, which limits how state, local and federal bodies can recognize partnerships and determine benefits. He also called for a law to extend benefits to domestic partners.

Mr. Obama publicly has previously committed himself to repealing the "don't ask, don't tell" policy that allows gays and lesbians to serve in the military as long as they don't disclose their sexual orientation or act on it. But Obama hasn't taken any concrete steps urging Congress to rescind the policy, and his national security adviser last weekend would only say that Obama will focus on overturning it "at the right time."

thing right, bad for America. I have read such extreme language as to say that we are falling into a communist state.

I don't buy it for a second and despite the unprecedented governmental attempts to control the out of control greed of many markets, the less fortunate of us should be better off. If those who scoff at that want change, I suggest we go to a flat tax and everyone pays their share according to income. I know it would break everyone's hearts to eliminate the IRS and forbid to speak all the tax write-off's and loop-holes. Thank you for reading this and if I gave you cause to think or at least question what you know or don't know, then that is worth the effort here. Happy holidays coming and please remember to call a fellow Veteran and make sure they are okay!!





The American Legion
Alexander Hamilton
Post 448
Intelligencer

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POST FINANCIAL REPORT

Post 448 Balance Sheet—for 17 SEP 2009

Account	Balance
Assets	
Cash and Bank Accounts	
Wells Fargo Checking Acct—9136	\$1,469.44
Wells Fargo Savings Acct—4206	\$2,614.75
Wells Fargo CD—7778	\$10,321.89
Sterling Bank CD—2704	\$13,048.90
Sterling Bank CD—2712	\$10,228.76
TOTAL Bank Accounts	\$37,683.74
TOTAL ASSETS	\$37,683.74

★★★ Minutes for Monthly Meeting of 17 SEP 2009 ★★★

General Meeting of the Alexander Hamilton Post #448

Meeting called to order at 1910 hours

Presentation of colors, POW/MIA recognition, the Pledge of Allegiance, and the National Anthem.

Post Everlasting Ceremony:

The Everlasting Ceremony was held for Marcus Hernandez, "Mr. Marcus", Imperial Majesty (founding member & First Emperor), founding member of Alexander Hamilton American Legion Post #448, was known as "Marcus the Merciless" for his sharp tongue & quick wit. His most important title: Friend.

Served in the Korean War, at the Pentagon, & was an Activist of many years. One of the Post's guest, Queen Cougar – adopted daughter of 18 years,

spoke and thanked the Post for honoring Mr. Marcus, who was very proud of his service and his participation in the Post. She invited all Post members to join those honoring Mr. Marcus on November 21st at 1300 hours at City Nights, 715 Harrison Street in San Francisco. A Color Guard from the Post will attend. After Post members gave their remembrances of Mr. Marcus, the Air Force Anthem played, followed by Taps and the conclusion of the Everlasting Ceremony.

A motion was made to interrupt the meeting for a dessert reception in honor of Mr. Marcus, which was seconded & carried. After snacks and cake, the meeting resumed at 1952 hours:

Introduction of Guests:

Oliver Zerrudo, a Jr. Balboa

High School was introduced to the members. He thanked the Post for the opportunity to speak, and for the possibility of being sponsored for Boy's State. He provided a copy of his resume, and impressed the membership with his eloquence and poise. His mother is a member of the Alexander Hamilton Association. A motion on the floor was made to sponsor Oliver and to provide \$550 for Boy's State (Boy's State fee is \$350 + \$150 for bus & \$50 spending money). The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Tommy Smith – a new member – was recognized and has forms for a raffle. More information will be forthcoming in the newsletter.

First Vice Commander:

Nothing to report.

2nd Vice Commander:

Garage Sale on 24 OCT

San Francisco Fleet Week 2009



Left: The Blue Angels over the Golden Gate Bridge

Upper Middle: USCGC Aspen at Ft. Point

Upper Right: 4 Angels in formation

Lower Middle: SS Jeremiah O'Brien

Lower Right: USS Greenbay



Remembering those who've passed and greeting new champions

Queen Cougar speaks at Mr. Marcus' Everlasting Ceremony

Oliver Zerrudo, the Post's sponsoree to Boy's State & his mom



Alexander Hamilton Annual Garage Sale Extravaganza

Thanks to all the volunteers and donors that made it another successful event!

US Women Marines (partial excerpt from Women Marines Association By Pamela Wood, Women Marines Association)

Although American industry and business was the first to challenge the manpower shortage with the employment of women, by the time the Declaration of War was signed in 1917, the labor potential of women had assumed monumental importance. No less seriously faced with personnel problems were the American military services. It soon dawned on military and civilian leaders that these motivated and dependable women could be put to good use in the Armed Services.

The Secretary of the Navy, Josephus Daniels, inquired into the legal statutes regarding naval enlistments in March 1917, and found no legal basis for excluding women under Naval Law. Finding that the reference referred only to the enlistment of "persons" he proposed enlistment for women under the conditions of equal opportunity.

The Marine Corps personnel problem was no different. By July, 1918, the demands of the war hit an all-time high. Heavy fighting and mounting

casualties in France increased the already acute shortage of trained personnel as men were shipped abroad to join the Marine units at the front. Still, a sizeable



1943 San Francisco Marine Recruiting Detachment Civic Center Plaza

number of battle-ready Marines were burrowed away in clerical positions in Washington.

On 2 AUG 1918, the Secretary of the Navy requested authority to "enroll women in the Marine Corps Reserves for clerical duty at Headquarters Marine Corps and at other Marine Corps offices in the United States where their services might be utilized to replace men who may be qualified for active field service.

On 11 NOV 1918, the Armistice was signed and the Marine Reservists (f) were

transferred to inactive duty.

Americans sudden entrance into WWII caught the country flatfooted...women were once again called upon to fill the ranks of all branches of the armed services. Before the shooting stopped, 265,000 women served.

One of these women, Rebecca K. Rockwell (mother of Post 448 member, David Magness) enlisted in March of 1943 and served as a Marine Recruiter with the rank of Staff Sgt. She served here in San Francisco and met her future Navy husband, until MAY 1946 when she was honorably discharged, later to marry in December of that year. She later recalled fond memories of both San Francisco and the Marines with her son, who was inspired by his parent's service to enlist himself, in 1972.

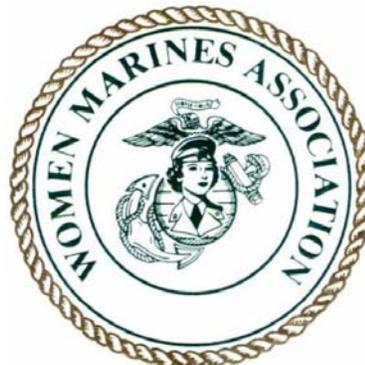
The first black women Marines enlisted during the summer of 1949 and joined the 3rd Recruit Training Battalion on 10 SEP. Platoon 7 is believed to be one of the first racially integrated units. Women in the Marine Corps have been serving proudly alongside the men ever since.



1943 San Francisco Marine Recruiting Detachment City Hall Steps on Van Ness

R. Rockwell, third from left

"...women were once again called upon to fill the ranks of all branches of the armed services. Before the shooting stopped, 265,000 women served."



★★★ Minutes for Monthly Meeting of 17 SEP 2009 ★★★

(Continued from page 2)

(Saturday) at 38 Taraval from 1000 hours to 1530 hours. Will have advertising in Chronicle & on Craig's list.

3rd Vice Commander:

Was at Fisherman's Wharf when Blue Angel pilots walked by. He took their picture and the lead pilot noticed and came over, shook his hand and thanked him for serving.

Finance/Adjutant's Report:

As of 30 SEP 09, there was \$2,614.75 in Savings and \$1,469.44 in Checking. The CDs have not changed.

Motion to accept, seconded & carried unanimously.

Membership Report: 168 paid members. 6 new members and 1 transfer. 1 new Association member. 1 new SAL member.

Judge Advocate:

CDs mature in December. Interest is very low. Suggests we investigate investing in Government Bonds (higher rate of return and stable/safe – guaranteed and insured (and tax exempt)).

Proposes that we revive the Commander's Fund by taking \$100 per month from the Bingo proceeds up to \$300 limit. Also use raffle proceeds towards the fund. Motion amended to just take \$300 from General Fund to fill the fund. Seconded & passed unanimously.

Sgt. @ Arms:

Muster for the Veterans Day Parade on Sunday, November 8, 0830 hours at the War Memorial Building, Room 202. Uniform for the Color Guard will be Black Slacks, White Shirt, Vest, & Post Caps. The parade starts at 1100 hours and tentative starting location is 2nd & Market, proceeding to City Hall. He mentioned his involvement at the Matthew Sheppard memorial on 12 OCT in the Castro.

Chaplain:

Nothing to report.

Women's Commander:

Happy to see new female members and their attendance at meetings. This Saturday, will be attending Making Strides Against Cancer and asks for donations. Raised \$50 and proposes that she will donate the money in the name of the Post.

Squadron Commander:

Commander Pellegrino held his first meeting of the Sons of the American Legion for Post 448. He recognized the following SAL members & past officers:

Past SAL Commander/founder – Mario Benfield

Past SAL Commander, George Gomez

PAST SAL Commander, Morningstar Vancil

The Purpose of the Sons of the American Legion (the Squadron) is to support the Post. He was given a certificate of achievement for a 100% membership drive. He is attending Officers Planning meetings, developing a phone tree, will go to the Area 2 Squadron meeting, and has a new column in the Intelligencer (Please see *Squadron Notes* for more info and upcoming events and for a resolution to ask the American Legion and Squadron to change the male-only rule). He proposed the development of a Sunshine fund – to pay dues for members who cannot afford it. General discussion followed. A decision was made to take the money from his Commander's Discretionary Fund.

Commander's Report:

The Commander explained Paid Up For Life (please visit <http://www.legion.org/national/join/pufl> for more info). It is based on the member's age and the amount of their yearly dues.

He described the Oratory contest, which we will be involved with in the coming year. Student participants are asked to speak about the Constitution & Bill of Rights. The Commander will be going to

all local schools to encourage kids to enter. He also re-iterated the Post's sponsoring of someone to Boy's State this year, and included his praise for our sponsoree. He reminded the Post that we are the "Pink Elephant" in the room, and we excel at EVERYTHING – from paperwork and administrative deadlines, to membership, to community involvement and outreach.

He mentioned the joint Lions/American Legion 25th Anniversary Party – will be holding meeting soon – and will contact committee members with more details. This activity needs more volunteers.

War Memorial Commission & District 8:

Electing a new First Vice Commander of District 8 (John Forrett has been nominated for the position).

The War Memorial Commission is also electing a Chairperson. These are important positions as these two entities manage our rights to the building. He is becoming very concerned that some influences are distracting from our mission. More information will be forthcoming next month. The War Memorial Meeting is the 3rd Tuesday of the month in Room 223 @1800, and at 1900, the District 8 Meeting follows, and anyone can attend.

The December Holiday Dinner will be the 3rd Thursday in December, in lieu of meeting. It will be a Potluck dinner.

The suggested menu by last name:

A – F Pasta, potatoes, vegetables, rice or cornbread

G – M Salads, fruit, Jello, coleslaw, beets

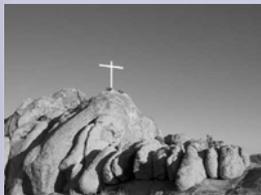
N – S Desserts or chocolates

T – Z Bread, cheese, shell fish, olives, pickles, nuts or cranberries

Raffle:

Two tickets for the Gay Men's Chorus. Winner = Marion Abdullah (congrats!!!)

Motion to Adjourn, second & carried at 2119.



Memorial Christian Cross erected at the Mojave National Preserve

"I have been in Jewish cemeteries," continued Peter Eliasberg, ACLU attorney and the son of a Jewish World War II Navy veteran. "There is never a cross on a tombstone of a Jew."

The Court and the Cross

Excerpted from the ACLU Online Newsletter, 16 OCT 09

Last week, the Supreme Court heard argument in *Salazar v. Buono*, an establishment clause challenge to the federal government's display of a Latin cross in the Mojave National Preserve.

The Court's questions focused largely on esoteric procedural doctrine, and while it's always risky to predict the outcome of a case based on an oral argument, it seems unlikely the Court will rule on the broader constitutional issues in the case -- namely, whether the plaintiff, a devout Catholic and former National Park Service employee, had standing to challenge the display of the cross; and whether,

before it tried to transfer the cross to a private party, the government violated the First Amendment by displaying the sectarian symbol on federal land.

While the Supreme Court ultimately may pass on the loftier constitutional questions in this case, Wednesday's argument had some dramatic moments. In the most heated exchange of the morning, Justice Antonin Scalia peppered Peter Eliasberg, the ACLU attorney arguing for the plaintiff, with questions about the significance of the cross. Justice Scalia bristled at

Eliasberg's suggestion that a World War I memorial featuring only a Christian cross sends a message of exclusion and religious favoritism, asking, "The cross doesn't honor non-Christians who fought in the war?" After Eliasberg responded that the cross "is the predominant symbol of Christianity," Justice Scalia pushed back, suggesting that there was no constitutional problem with the display because "the cross is the most common symbol of the resting place of the dead." Eliasberg resisted, explaining that "the cross is the most common symbol of the resting place

(Continued on page 7)

Male Breast Cancer Cluster Strengthens Link to Solvents

Excerpted from *Strong Voices*, Fall 2009, Volume 14

Breast cancer in men is rare, yet 17 men who lived at Camp Lejeune, a U.S. Marine Base in North Carolina, have come forward as survivors—six immediately following a June News Report about the cancer cluster.

For 30 years, up until 1987, the base's drinking water was highly contaminated with toxic chemicals, allegedly from the military's dumping of solvents and fuel as well as

from nearby dry-cleaning operations. Camp Lejeune was declared a Superfund site in 1989 and is currently being investigated by the U.S. Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry.

This tragedy provides more evidence of the link between breast cancer and environmental exposures to solvents and industrial chemicals.

The bottom line: Whether carcinogens or endocrine disruptors, all the chemicals found at Camp Lejeune are linked to increased breast cancer risk. Camp Lejeune illustrates the impact of environmental pollution on human health, and the danger of waiting 30 years to clean up the toxic mess.

For more information, visit <http://www.breastcancerfund.org>

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.

Win!
\$750 Travel Gift Certificate



2nd Prize:
2 nights at the Hotel Galleria SF
From Joie De Vivre Hospitality



3rd Prize:
A case of wine

Lavender Seniors Fall Raffle
Tickets only \$10 each
Drawing held at the November Potluck
Noon—14 NOV 09
1395 Bancroft Ave - San Leandro, CA
510-667-9655
<http://www.lavenderseniors.org/>



Proceeds go towards general operating funds needed to advance the Lavender Seniors' mission of improving the quality of life of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender seniors through direct service, community outreach, advocacy, and education.

To purchase by mail send check payable to Lavender Seniors/Tides Center, 1395 Bancroft Ave., San Leandro, CA 94577 by November 1st.

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

Phone: _____ # of Tickets: _____

SQUADRON NOTES

As planned, the 1st meeting of the Sons of the American Legion (SAL), with me as chair took place one hour before the regular meeting of Post 448 in Room 202 on 13 OCT 09 at 1800 hrs. A sufficient number of SAL officers and members were present to conduct a formal meeting. One item that was a favorite and moved along in the meeting was the changing of SAL admission policy for males only to admit females also. This policy change was written, voted on and approved. Now it will go before the General Meeting of Post 448 on Thursday, 19 NOV. This column will have follow ups on changing policies, and future SAL meets. Food served was delicious hot dogs & beans.



All had a good time! SAL members always give a helping hand at the Bingo Canteen, & I saw a few SAL members at the Folsom and Castro Street Fairs helping & enjoying the Community. We are everywhere and involved, even in important projects like 25th Celebration of Post 448 Party planning committee. This commander requests that you have fun on 31 OCT and then be sharp for the Veterans Day Parade on Sunday, 14 NOV.

(Continued from page 6)

of Christians." "I have been in Jewish cemeteries," continued Eliasberg, the son of a Jewish World War II Navy veteran. "There is never a cross on a tombstone of a Jew."

The notion that a war memorial featuring a stand-alone Latin cross serves to honor only Christian war dead – a notion Justice Scalia called "outrageous" – was echoed in a series of *amicus* briefs filed in the case by various veterans groups.

However the *Buono* case is resolved, it will be difficult, if not impossible, to convince many non-Christian veterans that an isolated, freestanding cross expressly recognizes their service to

the country. And Congress's designation of the Mojave cross as one of only 49 national memorials (and the only one commemorating World War I), joining such iconic symbols as the Washington Monument and Mount Rushmore, only compounds the problem. As one retired Army brigadier general recently put it, "The cross is unquestionably a sectarian religious symbol that, as a congressionally designated national memorial to veterans, would convey the message that the military values the sacrifices of Christian war dead over those of service members belonging to other faiths."

Views expressed in this article are solely those of the writer and are not



POST 448

2009



DATE	EVENT & LOCATION
31 OCT	Halloween
07 NOV	Officers' Meeting 1200 hrs Room 104, Veterans' War Memorial Building
11 NOV	Veteran's Day Parade, muster at Room 202, Veterans' War Memorial Bldg @ 0800 hours, or meet near 2nd & Market before the Parade start time of 1100 hours.
18 NOV	BINGO with the Sisters, 1700 hrs
19 NOV	Post Meeting 1900 hrs Room 202, Veterans' War Memorial Bldg
26 NOV	Thanksgiving
05 DEC	Officers' Meeting 1200 hrs Room 104, Veterans' War Memorial Building
12 DEC	Hanukkah
16 DEC	BINGO with the Sisters, 1700 hrs
17 DEC	Post 448 Holiday Potluck Dinner, Room 202, Veterans' War Memorial Bldg. @ 1900 hrs.
18 DEC	Islamic New Year (1431 A.H.)
21 DEC	Pagan Winter Solstice
25 DEC	Christmas
9 JAN	Officers' Meeting 1200 hrs Room 104, Veterans' War Memorial Building
20 JAN	BINGO with the Sisters, 1700 hrs
21 JAN	Post Meeting 1900 hrs Room 202, Veterans' War Memorial Bldg

For a more accurate, up-to-the-minute calendar, 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, the Post will receive a donation for all of the referrals. So tell all of your friends and family. Also, beginning in September, 2009, Cole Hardware is extending a 20% discount to all active military members and veterans on the last Thursday of each month. They call them Recession Buster days – 20% off almost everything (sale items, Muni, gift cards & special orders excluded).

Thanks for your support!!!

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IN HONOR OF

MARCUS HERNANDEZ

UNITED STATES AIR FORCE VETERAN



FOUNDING MEMBER
COMMUNITY ACTIVIST
FRIEND

WE WILL MISS YOU!

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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NOVEMBER, 2009



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