



OCTOBER, 2010

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Post Doctor**Art Mauck**
Post Scribe**Kai Azada**
Webmaster**Squadron Officers****Dale Pellegrino**
Squadron Commander**Thomas Boyer**
1st Vice Commander**George Gomez**
2nd Vice Commander**Alexander Hamilton
Association****Carl Tebell**
President**Post Meetings**3rd Thursday each Month
1900 hrs
Room 202Veterans' War Memorial Building
401 Van Ness Avenue
San Francisco**ALEXANDER HAMILTON POST #448****Gay Netroots spooks Deputy White House Chief of Staff**Excerpted from a post by John Aravosis Americablog.gay <http://tinyurl.com/2w4dhtv>

A number of us have been saying for a while that Deputy White House Chief of Staff Jim Messina is an impediment to getting Don't Ask, Don't Tell repealed this year.

Let's get a few things clear.

1. President Obama promised in his State of the Union just three months ago to repeal DADT this year. He even said "this year" twice. Don't lecture us about how hard it is to lift the ban this year after your boss promised us this year, and made the promise only three months ago. Was he unaware of how hard it was when he gave the SOTU? Did he lie? Or did he change his mind and revoke a clear promise made before 50 million Americans? Either way, it's not pretty, and we have a right to be mad.

2. Let's just pretend that the President of the United States really does work for the Department of Defense, and not the other way around. And that therefore the poor insignificant commander in chief has no



White House Deputy
Chief of Staff Jim Messina

ability to tell the men and women who work for him what their orders are. And therefore we simply must have this cockamamy implementation study that for some unexplained reason is going to take until just after the November elections (what a coincidence).

Even if we admit all of that (and we don't), why can't we pass legislation this year that repeals the ban, but doesn't implement the repeal until, say, February 1 of next year. Thus giving DOD all the time it needs to finish its implementation study?

C.O.'s MEMO

Comrades,

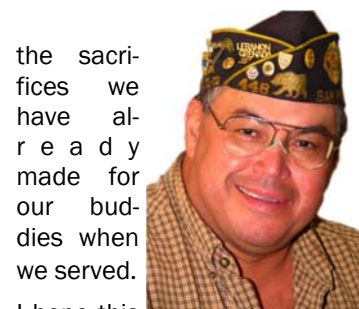
As Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender veterans we stand tall and proud of what we've already done for our Country. The recent debate on Capitol Hill amongst closed minded bureaucrats concerning the DADT policy is breathtaking.

On a historical note: Who on earth did George Washington appoint as general and called on to organize the first continental army? Was

the sacrifice we have already made for our buddies when we served. I hope this fact will console those members who are insulted and repulsed by persistent congressional impotence.

Baron von Steuben? He was not a heterosexual. Think of it, a gay or lesbians to lead and organize a people under subjugation, why, its nothing short of a miracle. Under the circumstances, God himself moved this individual to act accordingly. Our forefathers entrusted the disorganized militia into the hands of Baron von Steuben, who as Inspector General, created a fighting machine.

Legionnaires, don't forget




Mario

The fight goes on...



Join us at
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Post 448

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HAVE YOU PAID YOUR DUES?

AL \$30.00
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for more information.

**The American Legion
Alexander Hamilton
Post 448
Intelligencer**

The Intelligencer is published monthly by the Alexander Hamilton Post 448 of the American Legion, located at the Veterans' War Memorial Building, 401 Van Ness Ave Room 128, San Francisco CA 94102.

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POST FINANCIAL REPORT

Post 448 Balance Sheet—for 30 SEP 2010

Account	Balance
Assets	
Cash and Bank Accounts	
Wells Fargo Checking Acct—9136	\$ 2,481.73
Wells Fargo Savings Acct—4206	\$ 731.27
Sterling Bank CD—2704	\$ 13,582.91
Sterling Bank CD—2712	\$ 15,558.07
TOTAL Bank Accounts	\$ 32,353.98
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 32,353.98

★★★ Minutes for General Monthly Meeting of 16 SEP 2010 ★★★

Meeting commenced at 1908 with the presentation of the colors, acknowledging the POW-MIA chair, and the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Everlasting Ceremonies will be held at the October meeting due to the Chaplain's surgery.

No guests were present.

Minutes were motioned for approval, seconded & carried unanimously.

Adjutant:

Membership Report:
American Legion 294
SAL 33
A.H. Association 16
\$2235 has been sent for dues.
105 members have been paid.
217 outstanding in AH
33 outstanding in SAL
15 outstanding in the Association for dues. Comrades—send in your dues!

Many Everlasting Ceremonies

have not had full information about our members who have transferred to Post Everlasting. A request was made for members to update their biographical information, and whatever data they feel comfortable with sharing about their service.

SAL Commander:

Asked about interest in participating in a handgun shoot. Several members raised their hands. More information to follow.

Women's Comander:

Hawaiiin group has just started classes (dance, language & lauau)
Celebration of Life (Reverend Drew) on Saturday (positive motivational speaking) 0800 on 18 SEP 10
10 OCT 10 Peace & Justice (certified therapist will have a talking circle, talking about injustice) Room 207/213 @

1000-1700. Motion made/seconded/carried to host the event.

November 23 - Two Spirit community (Tuesday) Thanksgiving dinner for veterans. Further details will be made available at the October meeting.

First Vice:

The Saturday Bingo was very successful - the most in 2010. \$967 total, should get a check for \$1000. Thanks for all of the Bingo Volunteers, especially since it was a longer day.

Next bingo is October 16 1600 -2000.

Eagle Tavern donated juice for the last event. A letter on Post Letterhead will be sent thanking them for their generosity.

Cocktail party sponsored at Golden Gate Guard run was

(Continued on page 5)

Author unknown

He was getting
old and paunchy
And his hair was falling fast,
And he sat around the Legion,
Telling stories of the past.

Of a war that he once fought in
And the deeds that he had done,
In his exploits with his buddies;
They were heroes, every one.

And 'tho sometimes to his neighbors
His tales became a joke,
All his buddies listened quietly
For they knew whereof he spoke.

But we'll hear his tales no longer,
For old Bob has passed away,
And the world's a little poorer
For a Soldier died today.

He won't be mourned by many,
Just his children and his wife.
For he lived an ordinary,
Very quiet sort of life.

He held a job and raised a family,
Going quietly on his way;
And the world won't note his passing,
'Tho a Soldier died today.

When politicians leave this earth,
Their bodies lie in state,
While thousands note their passing,
And proclaim that they were great.

Papers tell of their life stories
From the time that they were young
But the passing of a Soldier
Goes unnoticed, and unsung.

Is the greatest contribution
To the welfare of our land,
Someone who breaks his promise
And cons his fellow man?

Or the ordinary fellow
Who in times of war and strife,



Goes off to serve his country
And offers up his life?

The politician's stipend
And the style in which he lives,
Are often disproportionate,
To the service that he gives.

While the ordinary Soldier,
Who offered up his all,
Is paid off with a medal
And perhaps a pension, small.

It is not the politicians
With their compromise and ploys,
Who won for us the freedom
That our country now enjoys.

Should you find yourself in danger,
With your enemies at hand,
Would you really want some cop-out,
With his ever waffling stand?

Or would you want a Soldier--
His home, his country, his kin,
Just a common Soldier,
Who would fight until the end?

He was just a common Soldier,
And his ranks are growing thin,
But his presence should remind us
We may need his like again.

For when countries are in conflict,
We find the Soldier's part
Is to clean up all the troubles
That the politicians start.

If we cannot do him honor
While he's here to hear the praise,
Then at least let's give him homage
At the ending of his days.

Perhaps just a simple headline
In the paper that might say:
"OUR COUNTRY IS IN MOURNING,
A SOLDIER DIED TODAY."

Judge orders lesbian Air Force nurse reinstated

From Bill Mears, CNN <http://tinyurl.com/28lyfm>



Colleagues describe Margaret Witt as an "exemplary officer," effective leader and caring mentor.

...important
Congressionally-
recognized
military interests
were furthered by
Major Witt's
discharge...

A federal judge has ordered the reinstatement of an openly lesbian former Air Force major who was dismissed from the military under the government's "don't ask, don't tell" policy.

Judge Ronald Leighton of Tacoma, Washington, made his ruling Friday. It is the latest legal and political setback for the Obama administration, which is seeking to end the policy through a legislative and executive solution.

Maj. Margaret Witt, a decorated flight nurse with 20 years of service, had sued to return to the Air Force Reserve. She was honorably discharged in July 2007 on the grounds that she had a six-year relationship with another woman, a civilian.

"Her discharge from the Air Force Reserves violated her substantive due process rights under the Fifth Amendment to the United States Constitution. She should be restored to her position as a flight nurse with the 446th AES as soon as is practicable," wrote the judge.

An Air Force spokesman said the Air Force believes that "Major Witt's discharge was fully consis-

tent with the law and thus appropriate."

"While we are disappointed the district court judge did not agree that important Congressional interests were furthered by Major Witt's discharge, we are pleased he allowed the government to develop a more detailed factual record for the appellate courts to consider," said Lt. Col. Todd Vician.

The "don't ask, don't tell" policy enacted in 1993 prevents gay men and lesbians from openly serving in the military and bars officials from inquiring into a service member's sexuality.

The Senate this week temporarily turned aside legislation to repeal the law.

Witt joined the Air Force in 1987 and was suspended in 2004, after her superiors discovered her personal relationship with the civilian woman. At the time, she worked for an air-medical transport unit that evacuated and treated wounded soldiers.

She was described in employee reports and by trial witnesses as an "exemplary offi-

cer" who was an effective leader, caring mentor, and skilled clinician. She had hid her homosexuality for years.



The judge found no compelling reason for her dismissal.

"The application of 'don't ask, don't tell' to Major Margaret Witt does not significantly further the government's interest in promoting military readiness, unit morale and cohesion," he wrote.

In 2006, Leighton had ruled against Witt, but a federal appeals court had ordered him to take another look at the case.

A six-day federal trial had wrapped up earlier this week, and Leighton had openly indicated he would likely rule in Witt's favor.

"My colleagues -- my friends -- said, 'Ron, you got it wrong,'"

(Continued on page 6)

Texas GOP Platform: Criminalize Gay Marriage and Ban Sodomy

By Aliyah Shahid NY DAILY NEWS STAFF WRITER <http://tinyurl.com/26u4umm>

The Texas Republican Party has voted on a platform that would ban oral and anal sex. It also would give jail sentences to anyone who issues a marriage license to a same-sex couple (even though such licenses are already invalid in the state).

"We oppose the legalization of sodomy," the platform says. "We demand that Congress exercise its authority granted by the U.S. Constitution to withhold jurisdiction from the federal courts from cases involving sodomy."

The Lone Star state initially passed a law barring sodomy in 1860. Violators faced anywhere from five to 15 years in prison. The ban was overturned in 2003.

In addition, the platform says that homosexuality "tears at the fabric of society, contributes to the breakdown of the family unit and leads to the spread of dangerous communicable diseases."

It also states that homosexuality must not be presented as an acceptable "alternative" lifestyle in public schools and "family" should

not be redefined to include homosexual couples.

The 25-page proposal, presented last week as a guide for the state GOP over the next two years, includes other measures including outlawing "sexually oriented businesses" like strip clubs and banning "all pornography."



(Continued from page 2)

successful, and the Post was recognized in their program/flyer.

Clint Rice Memorial Lunch Club – Tuesday Lunch for Homeless. Many of those served are veterans. Memorial Lunch Fundraiser – asked for \$250 donation to help defray cost. A Motion was made, seconded and carried unanimously.

Finalized letter to Max's which will be shown to the Commander for final approval, to be hand-delivered to the owner. (We are still owed an apology for the homophobic behavior of their staff).

Finance Officer: Not present

2nd Vice: Nothing to report

3rd Vice: Nothing to report

Historian: Nothing to report

Service Officer: Nothing to report

Scribe:

Reported on attendance at Recia's memorial service.

Chaplain:

Paul Goerke reported that he took the Oath of Office last Saturday due to the death of our recently elected Chaplain, Recia Young. He asked members to remember that if they are ill or need help from the Post to contact him so that he can arrange for the necessary support.

The Chaplain reminded us that religious manipulation is still ongoing within the military and that it is our duty to fight it.

Judge Advocate:

Roger Dong was reelected for another year at the WMC. Presentation was made for ground floor rearrangements for rooms for veterans. SF Arts Commission also made a presentation in the same space (for instance, an artist gallery would go into the

Post's office space). It appears as if the SF Arts Commission will have precedence.

Commander:

WMC attended. Retrofit will take 3 years and we still have to find space during that time. Commander will convene a committee of 3 who will help scout out new properties/locations. Several volunteers and alternates expressed interest. General discussion followed.

Potluck in December? A Holiday Committee is needed for ideas to draw a larger attendance.

Sgt at Arms:

"Thanks to the volunteers!"

Presented a check for \$500 from the Ducal Council (a fundraiser run by Jimmy McConnell).

(Continued on page 7)

Montana GOP policy: Make homosexuality illegal

By Matt Volz, Associated Press <http://tinyurl.com/27u68rh>

HELENA, Mont. — At a time when gays have been gaining victories across the country, the Republican Party in Montana still wants to make homosexuality illegal.

The party adopted an official platform in June that keeps a long-held position in support of making homosexual acts illegal, a policy adopted after the Montana Supreme Court struck down such laws in 1997.

The fact that it's still the official party policy more than 12 years later, despite a tidal shift in public attitudes since then and the party's own pledge of support for individual freedoms, has exasperated some GOP members.

"I looked at that and said, 'You've got to be kidding me,'" state Sen. John Brueggeman, R-Polson, said last week. "Should it get taken out? Absolutely. Does anybody think we should be arresting homosexual people? If you take that stand, you really



probably shouldn't be in the Republican Party."

Gay rights have been rapidly advancing nationwide since the U.S. Supreme Court struck down Texas' sodomy law in 2003's *Lawrence v. Texas* decision. Gay marriage is now allowed in five states and Washington, D.C., a federal court recently ruled the military's "don't ask, don't tell" policy unconstitutional, and even a conservative tea party group in Montana ousted its president over an anti-gay exchange in Facebook.

But going against the grain is the Montana GOP statement, which falls under the

"Crime" section of the GOP platform. It states: "We support the clear will of the people of Montana expressed by legislation to keep homosexual acts illegal."

Montana GOP executive director Bowen Greenwood said that has been the position of the party since the state Supreme Court struck down state laws criminalizing homosexuality in 1997 in the case of *Gryczan v. Montana*.

Nobody has ever taken the initiative to change it and so it's remained in the party platform, Greenwood said. The matter has never even come up for discussion, he said.

Scribe's Note: If you think this is just an anomaly of the Montana and Texas GOP, Maine, Missouri, and Indiana all have explicit anti-gay statements in the Party platform. Outlawing our relationships, stripping discrimination protections, criminalizing our lives is what they're advocating. Will we be led willingly to the camps?



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.

Vets group wants GOP ex-senator fired

By Walter Alarkon, The Hill <http://tinyurl.com/29tqy7n>

A group of Iraq and Afghanistan war veterans called on President Obama to fire Alan Simpson from the White House fiscal commission for suggesting that veterans getting federal medical benefits are adding to the country's debt problem.

VoteVets.org, which often works with liberal groups, seized on Simpson's statement this week questioning a recent Obama administration rule that would expand medical benefits for Vietnam veterans and cost \$42 billion over the next decade. The rule calls for disability awards for veterans exposed to Agent Orange and suffering from heart disease.

Simpson, the Republican co-chairman of Obama's debt panel, told The Associated Press, "The irony [is] that the veterans who saved this country are now, in a way, not helping us to save the country in this fiscal mess."

VoteVets.org Chairman Jon Soltz said Thursday that his group had been concerned about Simpson since he started calling for changes to Social Security; last month, he compared the entitlement to a "milk cow with 310 million tits" in a sharply worded e-mail to the head of the Older Women's League, who had dis-

missed the need for major Social Security reforms.

Simpson's commission has looked at freezing military pay to save money, according to a TalkingPointsMemo report.

Veterans of Foreign Wars, the largest group of U.S. combat veterans, said Simpson's remarks were "totally irresponsible and potentially detrimental" to programs for disabled veterans.

"Regardless of his reasoning, Mr. Simpson is totally out-of-line to lay any part of the nation's economic woes on disabled veterans," said VFW national commander Richard L. Eubank. "The VFW believes in fiscal responsibility, but veterans' programs are sacrosanct, and the day our government cannot afford to take care of veterans is the day our government should quit creating them."

In a letter to President Obama, Soltz said Simpson's latest statement on veterans' health benefits was the "final straw," as it amounted to "blaming disabled veterans for the fiscal situation."

"It has become all too clear that Sen. Simpson cannot be trusted to objectively review the budget and make impartial recommendations about our nation's economic

priorities," Soltz said. "We ask that you remove him from his current position so that the commission can continue its work in a way that will give the military community — and all Americans — confidence in the conclusions it reaches."

VoteVets.org, which often works with unions and other liberal groups, is the just the latest group on the left to press for Simpson's firing. Women's groups and some liberal Democrats in Congress last week called for Simpson's ouster from the fiscal commission for his e-mail about Social Security to Ashley Carson, the executive director of the Older Women's League

The White House has stood by Simpson so far. We regret that he sent that e-mail," said White House press secretary Robert Gibbs on Monday.

"We don't condone those comments. Sen. Simpson has and will continue to serve on the commission."



Alan Simpson, Republican and ex-Senator

(Continued from page 4)

Leighton said near the end of the trial, referring to his earlier decision. "They told me what I needed to do, what I needed to ask."

The judge is a 2002 Bush appointee.

Witt's lawyers from the ACLU argued that the Spokane native's sexuality never led to any problems within her unit. Several members of her squadron had testified they would welcome her back.

"Today we heard the hammer of justice strike for Major Margaret

Witt," said ACLU of Washington Executive Director Kathleen Taylor. "We look forward to the day when all members of our military can serve our country without invidious discrimination. To discharge her simply because of her sexual orientation was entirely unfair to her and unwise for the military, which needs her significant skills."

Witt was released just before she was set to retire with full benefits. The judge rejected a separate argument from Witt that her procedural due process rights were violated. Leighton said the Air Force gave her full notice of the charges against

her and she was given the opportunity to challenge the charges.

Air Force lawyers argued the military — not the courts — was in the best position to evaluate and enforce the "don't ask, don't tell" policy. A federal judge in California earlier this month had similarly ruled the policy unconstitutional. That judge will soon rule on whether the Pentagon will be barred from enforcing it.

President Barack Obama is pushing for a repeal of the controversial policy. A bill that would overturn the measure after a Pentagon review is com-

***The Veterans Day Parade will be held on 7 NOV 10.**

Please rally at the Veterans Building at 0830, rain or shine. Coffee and donuts in room 128

The truck will be decorated at 0930, and the rally point is at 2nd and Howard Street at 1030.

The parade starts at 1100. It takes about 45 minutes to get back to the reviewing stand at City Hall.

Volunteers need to march and carry flags and the Post banner. Dress for the weather and wear your caps.

Check the hot line for up to the minute changes: 415-431-1413.

*Commander Benfield calls on the Squadron Commander to acti-



vate the Post Pistol Club. Firing range reservations are being taken by SAL Commander Tom Boyer. call the Post hotline. The SAL Commander has taken the lead to interest the

active Post members in firearm marksmanship.

*Commander Benfield has called on the Commander for Women, Morningstar Vancil, to gather the 40 women war veterans together in the spring for a meeting of the minds, with lectures and workshops designed to empower women Veterans.

*The President of the Alexander Hamilton Veterans Association Carl Tebell was asked to create a cap for the members of the Association to wear, to include on it a large bird plumage.

(Continued from page 5)

Showed awards and certificates that were supposed to be presented during the 25th Anniversary party but could not be due to the tardiness of the caterers.

6 NOV 10, 1415 hours for the Heroes & survivors of Aids. Entertainment, refreshments, no charge, Rm 223. Liquor License will be obtained for this

event. For more information, contact Jimmy.

NEW BUSINESS:

A reminder for proper decorum during flag presentations was made by Marion Abdullah.

A request was made to investigate obtaining a better sound system.

Motion was made to adjourn, seconded & carried at 2015.



★ DAT	★ EVENT & LOCATION
★ 18 SEP - 23 NOV	★ Fabled Asp Exhibit at the SF Public Library
★ 02 OCT	★ Officers' Meeting 1200 hrs; Room 104, Veteran's War Memorial Building
★ 10 OCT	★ Veterans Hawaiian Dancing Room 202, Veteran's War Memorial Building
★ 21 OCT	★ Post Meeting 1900 hrs Room 202, Veteran's War Memorial Building
★ 23 OCT	★ Bingo with the Sisters!
★ 31 OCT	★ HALLOWEEN C D
★ 06 NOV	★ Officers' Meeting 1200 hrs; Room 104, Veteran's War Memorial Building
★ 07 NOV	★ Veteran's Day Parade: Coffee & donuts at 0830 VWMB Room 128. Truck decoration at 0930 & rally at 2nd &
★ 18 NOV	★ Post Meeting 1900 hrs Room 202, Veteran's War Memorial Building
★ 23 NOV	★ Twin Spirits Thanksgiving Event Check Post Hotline for details.
★ 01 DEC	★ Start of Hanukkah
★ 4 DEC	★ Officers' Meeting 1200 hrs; Room 104, Veteran's War Memorial Building
★ 07 DEC	★ Al-Hijira: Islamic New Year
★ 11 DEC	★ Bingo with the Sisters!
★ 16 DEC	★ Post Meeting 1900 hrs Room 202, Veteran's War Memorial Building

★ 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 OCTOBER, 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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 weekends 9 to 7



BOO!

L

Don't be a fraidy
Cat!

Don't let Freedom and
Liberty scare you.
There's enough for
everybody!

C **HAPPY**

HALLOWEEN!

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Alexander Hamilton Post 448
The American Legion
PO Box 14939
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OCTOBER, 2010

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION
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