



DECEMBER, 2010

**Post Officers****Mario (Tony) Benfield**  
Commander**Morningstar Vancil**  
Women's Commander**Dick Manning**  
1st Vice Commander**Bill Watson**  
2nd Vice Commander**Ernest Gaudreau**  
Adjutant**John Forrett**  
Acting Finance Officer**Arch Wilson**  
Judge Advocate  
Delegate, War Memorial  
Commission**Jimmy McConnell**  
Third Vice Commander  
Sergeant-At-Arms**Paul Goerke**  
Chaplain**David Magness**  
Historian**Robert C Potter**  
Service Officer**Sam Thal, MD**  
Post Doctor**Art Mauck**  
Post Scribe**Kai Azada**  
Webmaster**Squadron Officers****Thomas Boyer**  
Squadron Commander**George Gomez**  
1st Vice Commander**Alexander Hamilton****Association****Carl Tebell**  
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****'Don't Ask': White House Appeals Return of Nurse**

By Bob Egelko, Chronicle Staff Writer 24 NOV 10

The Obama administration opened another legal front Tuesday in defense of "don't ask, don't tell," appealing a federal judge's decision to reinstate a decorated Air Force nurse who was discharged after being outed as a lesbian.



Margaret Witt, right, and her partner, Laurie McChesney

The Justice Department told the Ninth U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in San Francisco that it would appeal a ruling issued two months ago in favor of Maj. Margaret Witt, the first service member to successfully challenge her dismissal under the 1993 law.

The law prohibits openly gay or lesbian troops from serving in the armed forces. In a separate case, a federal judge in Riverside ruled the law unconstitutional in September, saying it intrudes on service members' private lives and harms the military

by removing skilled personnel and increasing troop shortages.

President Obama opposes the law and has asked Congress to repeal it, but is defending it in court.

Witt joined the Air Force in 1989. She was a reserve flight nurse at a base in Washington state in 2004 when a local man reported that Witt had a sexual relationship with his wife. She was discharged in 2006.

The appeals court allowed her to seek reinstatement in

a 2008 ruling that required the military, for the first time, to show that discharging a particular gay or lesbian service member would promote important goals, such as troop readiness. Previous rulings had accepted the government's argument that "don't ask, don't tell" helped the armed forces overall.

In a trial based on that ruling, government lawyers argued that Witt was legitimately discharged for an adulterous relationship. U.S. District Judge Ronald Leighton rejected that explanation and said the evidence showed that Witt's unit was disrupted by the removal of an esteemed officer.

Witt's lawyers said Tuesday she will return to duty while the government appeals. In a statement, she said, "I am thrilled to be able to serve in the Air Force again."

**C.O.'s MEMO**

Commanders, Adjutant and comrades alike, Thank you all for your steadfastness during all of this Bingo ruckus! The spirit of cooperation is truly alive amongst us. Relieving each other, when the load is too heavy is essential, if we are to accomplish the mission. Staying on top of unexpected situations is difficult but can we can overcome anything

by working together and stretching out our abilities and talents in every way imaginable.

Good luck to all of you and may this event truly be a memorable one.



All my best, Tony


The fight goes on...



Join us at  
American Legion  
Post 448

415-431-1413 [info@post448.org](mailto:info@post448.org)  
<http://www.post448.org>

**HAVE YOU PAID YOUR DUES?**



AL \$30.00  
SAL \$20.00  
AHA \$20.00

Make Checks Payable to:  
American Legion Post 448  
P.O. Box 14939  
San Francisco, CA 94114

Or write:  
Adjutant@Post448.org  
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.

**Editor-in-Chief: John Forrester**  
**Assistant Editor: Art Mauck**

**Phone: 415-431-1413**

**Post eMail:**  
[info@post448.org](mailto:info@post448.org)

**Newsletter:**  
[postnews@post448.org](mailto:postnews@post448.org)

**Website:**  
<http://www.post448.org>

**Mailing address:**  
PO Box 14939  
San Francisco, CA 94114-0939

Copyright © 2008 by American Legion Post 448.  
All rights reserved.

### POST FINANCIAL REPORT

Post 448 Balance Sheet—for 03 DEC 2010

Account	Balance
<b>Assets</b>	
<b>Cash and Bank Accounts</b>	
Wells Fargo Checking Acct—9136	\$ 1,750.08
Wells Fargo Savings Acct—4206	\$ 1,372.41
Sterling Bank CD—2704 <i>(no change from last month)</i>	\$ 13,582.91
Sterling Bank CD—2712 <i>(no change from last month)</i>	\$ 15,558.07
<b>TOTAL Bank Accounts</b>	<b>\$ 32,263.47</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$ 32,263.47</b>

★★★ Minutes for General Monthly Meeting of ## XXX YYYY ★★★

Presentation of the colors, the Pledge of Allegiance, recognition of the POW/MIA chair commenced the meeting at 1904 hours.

**GUEST SPEAKER:** Caroline Knowles, of the Interfaith Center - Chapel at the Presidio, invites veterans of any/all faiths for a service of music, meditation & spiritual support, that starts in January. More information can be obtained by emailing her at [knowleshance@yahoo.com](mailto:knowleshance@yahoo.com), or by visiting <http://www.interfaith-presidio.org>.

**ADJUTANT's Report:**

Membership:	Paid:
Am Leg 292	139
SAL 35	9
Assoc 16	

Discussion was made on whether to continue the 1st year free membership for women and Iraq/Afghan vets. On one hand some members

join for the year and then quit. On the other hand, it does give our ranks numbers for that year. A suggestion was made to attempt to find a way to retain membership after the first year. The Adjutant questions the motive of the Fine Arts Group in their Memorial Grove project, warning that unless we are vigilant, we could lose our building as has happened to other American Legion & veterans posts - even locally.

At this point the Commander asked for acceptance of the September minutes. A motion was made, was seconded and passed unanimously. For the minutes of October, a clarification was made that the \$400 mentioned for Bingo was for the bank, and not for inventory. With that amendment, a motion was made to accept, was seconded and

carried unanimously.

**FINANCE OFFICER's Report:**

Checking	\$ 1,542.67
Saving	\$ 1,282.35
CD1	\$13,582.91
CD2	\$15,558.07
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$31,966.00</b>

**NOTE AMMENDED TOTALS, ABOVE.**

Standard monthly expenses:  
\$110 telephone/internet  
\$250 newsletter

Briefly discussed the acquisition of a PayPal Account & Debit Card for Post use in obtaining Bingo Supplies or in online payment of dues. Discussion was tabled until the next Officer's meeting.

**WAR MEMORIAL COMMISSION Report:**  
Letter to the Trustees:

*(Continued on page 5)*





HONORING ALL WHO SERVED

# Veterans Day

November 11, 2010  
9:00AM



**WARRIORS MEDAL OF VALOR**

From the Hearts of the Costanoan Rumsen Carmel Tribal People

It be known to all who view this certificate that the following person is awarded the Warriors Medal of Valor

*Post 3448 Alexander Hamilton*

for service while serving in the Armed Forces of the United States of America. This conspicuous performance of duty represents  
 distinction and pride in the finest traditions of the Armed Forces of the United States of America and reflects great credit upon the  
 and their honorable military service. It is with great honor that the people of the Costanoan Rumsen Carmel Tribe hereby present  
 you with the Warriors Medal of Valor, we thank you for our freedoms and your dedication to God, Country and Family.

11/7/2010  
Date

*T. Cerda*  
Tony Cerda, Chairman, Costanoan Rumsen Carmel Tribe





### Ohlone Nation Honors Veterans with Ceremony & Awards

By Art Mauck, Post Scribe

On 7 NOV 10, after the Veteran's Day Parade, the Post was requested to join the Ohlone Tribe for a ceremony at the Memorial Grove, the grassy area between the Opera House and the Veterans Building. This year, Chief Tony Cerda presented the Congress of American Indians' "Warriors Medal of Valor" to the American Legion Posts in San Francisco from the Ohlone Nation.

A wreath in the shape of that medal will be placed on the



octagon and a ceremony of dance, songs and prayers will bring us together. The Veterans and the Ohlone are returning

home to a sacred site.

San Francisco is an Ohlone place of origin and the Memorial Grove is the site where soil from the Battlefields of World Wars I, II and Vietnam are buried. This is the first year of a four-year ceremony to celebrate their homecoming.

The Tribe presented our Post with the Valor Medal for conspicuous performance of duty, patriotism and pride in the finest traditions of the Armed Forces of the United States.



Service Officer Robert Potter, accepting the award

### Warning to Veterans

VFW Post 1205 via VFW.org



VFW Post 1205 shares a warning with Veterans

The following has been forwarded by Kevin Secor, VSO Liaison, Office of the Secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

November 29, 2010

An organization called Veterans Affairs Services (VAS) is providing benefit and general information on VA and gathering personal information on veterans.

This organization is not affiliated with VA in any way.

<http://www.vaservices.org/us/>

VAS may be gaining access to military personnel through their close resemblance to the VA name and seal.

If you have any examples of VAS acts that violate chapter 59 of Title 38 United States Code, such as VAS employees assist-

ing veterans in the preparation and presentation of claims for benefits, please pass it and any additional information to Mr. Daugherty at the address below.

Michael G. Daugherty  
Staff Attorney  
Department of Veterans Affairs  
Office of General Counsel  
(022G2)

## Alexander Hamilton Post 448 Holiday Party

Thursday, 16 DEC 10, 1900 hours

### The Sausage Factory Italian Restaurant

*Wheelchair Accessible*  
Castro Street @ 18th Street  
San Francisco, CA 94114

#### MENU SELECTION

- ☆ Tossed Salad
- ☆ Choice of One Entrée:
  1. Baked Lasagna
  2. Salmon Picata
  3. Chicken Marsala
  4. Seafood Pasta
- ☆ New York Cheesecake/Strawberry Sauce
- ☆ Coffee, Decaf, and Soft Drinks (included)

Commemorative Alexander Hamilton Post 448 Menu Souvenir

Maximum of 30 Dinner Guests in a "U" Shape Configuration

Cost: Free (a \$25.00 donation would be appreciated)

RSVP to the HotLine a MUST (415-431-1431) or email [info@post448.org](mailto:info@post448.org)



(Continued from page 2)

*On behalf of the San Francisco Posts of the American Legion, we object to, and request that you rescind, your resolutions agreeing in principle to enter into memoranda of understanding by which you would lease space in the Veterans' Building to the Arts Commission and the Opera on an indefinite or long-term basis or permanently. The effect of any such lease would be the permanent withdrawal of any such leased space from use for the patriotic purposes for which the building was erected.*

So begins a letter delivered to the Trustees by the American Legion War Memorial Commission.

*It is our opinion that your proposed leases to the Arts Commission and the Opera are not consistent with, and are in violation of, your duties as successor trustees under the Trust Agreement because the Trust Agreement requires you to assure that use of the Veterans' Building is by the San Francisco Posts and such other patriotic organizations as the San Francisco Posts may from time to time desire to install.*

The 9 page letter requests the Trustees reconsider their ill-conceived plans. Further information will be forthcoming when a response by the Trustees is made.

10 DEC 10, Room 207, Lunch with the National Commander, Jimmie Foster. More information can be obtained by calling the Post Hotline, (415) 431-1413. A discussion was made about the National Commander's endorsement for a continuation of DADT. An explanation was made that he was directed to take that stance by the National Executive Committee (NEC), and that it was not his personal decision to do so.

#### **District 8 Report:**

District Commander Forrett made an appearance at St. Peter's to speak to the children on Veteran's Day. He asked them to take the opportunity to thank a soldier they see in uniform for their service. He was then handed a large pile of letters to distribute at Ft. Miley from the kids. He then went to Ft. Miley and they were distributed to the patients.

He then discussed his American Legion College experience. This was a unique opportunity for him, and he was able to pick up many good ideas for the future of the District.

#### **SAL COMMANDER's Report:**

Pictures from the Shoot are forthcoming.

#### **WOMENS COMMANDER's Report:**

Not present.

#### **FIRST VICE's Report:**

Bingo is this Saturday - \$400 is needed for the bank. Volunteers are also needed due to the absence of the usual Bingo crew. Bingo will be in November & December, not January or February. 8 Bingos are planned for 2011. Discussion about further Bingo participation was tabled until the next Officer's meeting.

A discussion ensued about the Sausage Factory Holiday Party's 25\$ charge. A suggestion was made that we do not charge for the Holiday dinner. A motion was made, was seconded, and carried. RSVP's can be made by email to the Adjutant, who volunteered to help the First Vice with this task.

#### **ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT's Report:**

Not present. As this was the 4th consecutive meeting that was missed, with a 5th absence, a replacement will be necessary.

#### **THIRD VICE's Report:**

Thanked the volunteers, reminding us again that without the volunteers, there

wouldn't be a Post.

He requests that our active members reach out to other, less active members for them to volunteer at one of our functions or fundraisers.

#### **SGT. at ARMS' Report:**

Thanked the Veteran's Day Parade goers.

Reported that he is now a Knight of the Grand Ducal Court, and is continuing with his many fundraising events.

#### **JUDGE ADVOCATE Report:**

He reiterated that we need to have a meeting with the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence for our joint Bingo venture and poor communications due to last-minute scrambling to obtain liquor licenses, among other matters needed to be discussed.

He reported that our letter to the Trustees should be on their agenda in December.

#### **SCRIBE's Report:**

Reminded the membership that an event within a week after the deadline for submission (the 25th of the month) will not be able to be included in the newsletter - the event will take place before publication. He reminded all to submit requests and information well enough in advance to be included in a timely manner.

#### **CHAPLAIN's Report:**

He reminded us to have HOPE during our fight to end Don't Ask/Don't Tell during all of the ups and downs, advances and setbacks that have occurred.

#### **HISTORIAN's Report:**

Nothing to report.

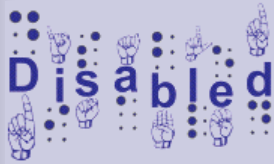
#### **SERVICE OFFICER's Report:**

Nothing to report.

(Continued on page 6)



SF LGBT Community Partnership



## 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](mailto: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.

## Holiday Gayla, Resource Faire & "Everyone Can Dance!"

From DisabledCommunity.Org News

**December 11th, 2010 - 1100 - 1500 at the [LGBT Center](#)**

This year we have partnered up with the [LGBT Community Partnership](#) and multiple Bay Area organizations to build community, share resources and dance! The event is free. Donations are welcome. But no one will be turned away for lack of funds. **All are welcome - young and old, of varying abilities, gay or straight.**

To learn more go to: [Holiday Gayla, Resource Faire and "Everyone Can Dance!"](#).

**Sometimes the holidays can be difficult for everyone. Though these times tend to be more problematic**



**for seniors, people with physical or mental disabilities and people who feel isolated and alone.** Joining together for a celebration will provide an opportunity for people of all ages, abilities, and cultures to meet, share food, learn about community resources, and sway to the music. Come meet old friends and find some new ones. Please print this invitation and hand out to people who don't have email.

Print out the [flyer](#) and pass this message on to those who don't have email.

Last year over 200 participants, 25 volunteers and 12 sponsors made this event a great success.

- **1100-1200 Resource Faire**
- **1200-1300 Enjoy some food**
- **1300-1500 Dance, Dance, Dance!!!**

**If you plan on attending please [RSVP](#), so we can be prepared with the right amount of refreshments.**

We hope to see you there!

Lori Guidos

*DisabledCommunity.Org is a federally recognized non profit. Our tax id is 20-1830538.*



*(Continued from page 5)*

### COMMANDER'S Report:

A request was made for a \$25 donation for a December 11th, (0800 to 1500 hours) for a Holiday Gala and Service Fair. Discussion was tabled until January, as the requesters refused to show up for our General meeting.

### NEW BUSINESS:

Free tickets are available for the Sunday, 21 DEC 10, 1930 hrs. show of George

Komski at the Herbst Theater in the Veteran's War Memorial Building. Wear your American Legion caps. Tickets will be held at the window.

The Commander presented to the Post a medal that the Post received from the Ohlone Tribe, he requested that an award be sent to Ron Hennis for his contribution of items for the Bingo events. Finally, he mentioned that tickets are available for the

Nutcracker, performed by the San Francisco Gay & Lesbian Freedom Band. Call for more information. He then showed us his target from the recent Shoot. More practice will be needed...

A 50/50 Raffle was held. \$11 was won by Al Aden - and \$11 went to the Post.

The meeting was adjourned after a motion was made, seconded, and carried and Retirement of the Colors followed at 2105.





**MAYOR GAVIN NEWSOM**  
 AND  
**FIRST LADY JENNIFER SIEBEL NEWSOM**

WARMLY INVITE YOU  
 TO CELEBRATE THE HOLIDAY SEASON AT AN

**OPEN HOUSE**

ON SUNDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2010  
 2:00-5:00 P.M.

**SAN FRANCISCO CITY HALL**

Kindly reply to [charlotte.shultz@sfgov.org](mailto:charlotte.shultz@sfgov.org) or 415-554-6164

Please forward this invitation to anyone else who might be interested.

DO DO DO

Guests are required to enter via the Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place entrance, off Civic Center's Joseph L. Alioto Performing Arts Piazza.

DO DO DO

**Holiday Food Drive:** Please join us in supporting the San Francisco Food Bank by bringing nonperishable food items to the open house. No one should go hungry over the Holidays—or any time of the year.

DO DO DO

This event is free and open to the public, and will provide guests with an opportunity to meet the Mayor, tour City Hall and connect with many of the City's elected officials and departments' staff. *Children are welcome.* Guests will be treated to Holiday cookies, hot cocoa and entertainment by Magik Magik Orchestra.



**POST 448**  
**2010**



DATE	EVENT & LOCATION
4 DEC	Officers' Meeting 1200 hrs; Room 104, Veteran's War Memorial Building
07 DEC	Pearl Harbor Day
07 DEC	Al-Hijira: Islamic New Year
11 DEC	DisabledCommunity.Org Holiday Gayla SF LGBT Center, 1800 Market Street (415) 865-5555
16 DEC	Post Meeting: <b>CANCELLED</b> HOLIDAY DINNER at the Sausage Factory (see page 4)
11 DEC	Bingo with the Sisters
21 DEC	Pagan Yule Winter Solstice
25 DEC	Christmas
26 DEC	Boxing Day
1 JAN	New Years Day
8 JAN	Officers' Meeting 1200 hrs; Room 104, Veteran's War Memorial Building
17 JAN	Martin Luther King Day
20 JAN	Post Meeting 1900 hrs Room 202, Veteran's War Memorial Building
5 FEB	Officers' Meeting 1200 hrs; Room 104, Veteran's War Memorial Building
14 FEB	<b>Valentine's Day</b> ♥ ♥ ♥ ♥ ♥
17 FEB	Post Meeting 1900 hrs Room 202, Veteran's War Memorial Building
21 FEB	President's Day

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 DECEMBER, 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!!!

**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

**Their Sacrifice  
Their Pain  
Their Vision**

**Our Pride  
Our Sorrow  
And Ours:**



**A world of Peace and Freedom**

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

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

**DECEMBER, 2010**



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