

THE AMERICAN LEGION



San Francisco, CA 94102-4587

26 May 1993

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C-SPAN 400 No Capital St NW Suite 650 Washington, DC 20001

Dear C-SPAN:

As the only post in the American Legion with membership predominantly of gay/lesbian veterans of all the United States Armed Forces during wartime service, we wish to commend and applaud your decision to offer to our country's citizens complete and non-stop coverage of the March on Washington for Lesbian, Gay and Bi Equal Rights and Liberation.

Although you will doubtless receive a great many letters protesting your brave and historic stance, there are just as many of us who are grateful for your capturing for all time the too-often media-ignored fact that we--lesbian, gay and bisexual citizens of America--DO exist in numbers across our great Nation, and that we are for the most part exactly like any other citizens, except for the discrimination we encounter in so many areas, based only upon our affectional choice.

We ARE on the side of the angels...and when future generations look back upon our era, C-SPAN's coverage of the '93 March On Washington, will be viewed as a significant break-through to the overcoming of hysteria and prejudice!

Thank you.

Yours truly,

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is the ONLY post whose The membership is predominantly gay ,lesbian, or bi-sexual veterans who have successfully served in the U.S. Armed Forces during a period when our nation was at war. Organized in 1984 we are recognized locally, statewide, and nationally for our activism pertaining to the welfare of all veterans and, especially, our efforts to end the present homophobic discrimination of the U.S. Military. If you are an eligible veteran we urge you to join the Our dues are \$20 annually. We meet on the third Thursday of each month at 7 pm in 1 Even though you are not local, your membership would support our efforts. If you are presently a Legionnaire, you could transfer your membership to our Post with no loss of privileges, but you would augument our numbers and aid our cause. If you are not eligible for American Legion membership (see details below) you can Members of the join our support group, the Association share in all activities of the Post, but cannot hold office in the Post or vote. Association dues are \$15 annually. See reverse side for Association enrollment form.

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Veterans' Affairs

The American Legion is an organization of veterans serving other veterans, their widows, and their orphans. We keep a close watch can all veterans benefits, visit every V.A. Hospital, and employ a full time service officer at every V.A. Regional office to assist veterans applying for their benefits.

The Columbia University and American Legion Study of Vietnam Era Veterans

The American Legion is proud to be sponsoring a study of Vietnam veterans in conjunction with Columbia University. The Study is looking into many problems facing Vietnam veterans such as the effects of Agent Orange exposure, Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder, and the perception of Vietnam veterans on treatment and services provided by the V.A. The results of this research will be used on behalf of Vietnam veterans before the V.A., other federal agencies and the Congress.

Legislative

The American Legion is universally recognized as the originator of the G.I. Bill of Rights and currently leads the fight against Agent Orange. The Legion maintains a fully staffed office in Washington, D.C., to represent our 3,100,000 members in the Halls of Congress and consistently monitors all legislation which concerns veterans and their families.

Employment

The American Legion was the first, back in the late 1960's, to begin a "Jobs for Veterans" program. It was later adopted nationally, but today only the Legion carries on the "Jobs for Veterans" program, to aid all unemployed veterans find jobs or training.

National Security

The American Legion has National Security policies in the areas of Aerospace, Civil Defense, Law and Order, and Military and Naval Affairs. Implementation of these policies is accomplished through legislative action and discussion with the Department of Defense and Military Services. On the local level, The American Legion is deeply involved with the Blood Donor Program and Disaster Relief In conjunction with the American Red Cross.

Youth Activities

The American Legion places special emphasis on the Veterans child, however, we strive to ensure that every American child has the opportunity to reach his or her full potential. To help achieve this goal the Legion sponsors Cratorical Contests, Scouting Scholarships, the American Legion Baseball Program, the Special Olympics, Education Projects on Child Abuse, School Medal Awards, etc.

Community Involvement

Whether it is a school bond issue, a new wing for a hospital, an energy problem or a cleaner environment—The American Legion is there. We are organized for the purpose of serving the community, state and nation, and service is our only product.

What Happens If You Join?

You will receive the American Legion Magazine each month. You will be eligible for the American Legion Family Benefit Plan. You will be welcome in 16,000 American Legion Posts throughout the free world. You will be heard in the Halls of Congress. You will have the opportunity to help others. You will have fun. You will be a member of a proud group of men and women who continue to work for a better America.

