

Additional Resources for LGBT Veterans

LGBT Veteran Advocacy Groups

1. [AVER American Veterans for Equal Rights*](#)
AVER is a non-profit, chapter-based association of active, reserve and Veteran service members dedicated to full and equal rights and equitable treatment for all present and former members of the US Armed Forces.
2. [SLDN Service Members Legal Defense Network*](#)
Service Members Legal Defense Network (SLDN) is a non-partisan, non-profit, legal services, watchdog and policy organization dedicated to bringing about full LGBT equality to America's military and ending all forms of discrimination and harassment of military personnel on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity. SLDN provides free and direct legal assistance to service members and Veterans affected by the repealed "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" law and the prior regulatory ban on open service, as well as those currently serving who may experience harassment or discrimination. Since 1993, their in-house legal team has responded to more than 11,500 requests for assistance.
3. [American Legion Alexander Hamilton Post 448, San Francisco, CA*](#)
Alexander Hamilton Post 448 of the American Legion is the only post whose membership is predominantly gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered honorably discharged Veterans who have successfully served in the United States Armed Forces during a period when our nation was at war. Organized in 1984, the post is recognized locally, statewide and nationally for their activism pertaining to the welfare of all Veterans and, especially, their efforts to end the present homophobic discrimination of the United States Military. If you are not eligible for American Legion membership, you can join their support group, the Alexander Hamilton Veterans Association. Members of the Association share in all activities of the post, but cannot hold office in the post or vote.
4. [Swords to Plowshares*](#)
Swords to Plowshares is a community-based Veteran service organization that provides wrap-around care to more than 2,000 Veterans in the San Francisco Bay Area each year. They are committed to helping Veterans break through the cultural, educational, psychological and economic barriers they often face in their transition to the civilian world.

Swords to Plowshares is a national model for Veteran services and advocacy. With more than 35 years of experience, they have established a well-respected and comprehensive model of care for Veterans in the country. Their core services include: health and social services, supportive housing, employment and training, and legal assistance. They offer expert support for upgrading discharges statuses related to sexual orientation.

5. [Transgender Law Center, San Francisco, CA*](#)
Transgender Law Center works to change law, policy, and attitudes so that all

people can live safely, authentically, and free from discrimination regardless of their gender identity or expression.

6. [Transgender American Veterans Association*](#)

Founded in 2003, the Transgender American Veterans Association (TAVA) is a 501 (c) 3 organization that acts proactively with other concerned gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender (GLBT) organizations to ensure that transgender veterans will receive appropriate care for their medical conditions in accordance with the Veterans Health Administration's Customer Service Standards promise to "treat you with courtesy and dignity . . . as the first class citizen that you are." Further, TAVA will help in educating the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and the Department of Defense (DoD) on issues regarding fair and equal treatment of transgender and transsexual individuals

LGBT Bay Area Community Centers

1. [The Center, San Francisco, CA*](#)
2. [Billy DeFrank Center, San Jose, CA*](#)
3. [The Pacific Center, Berkeley, CA*](#)

LGBT Service Member and Veteran Research Center and Reports

[The Palm Center*](#)

The Palm Center is a research institute committed to sponsoring state-of-the-art scholarship to enhance the quality of public dialogue about critical and controversial issues of the day. For the past decade, the Palm Center's research on sexual minorities in the military has been published in leading social scientific journals. The Palm Center seeks to be a resource for university-affiliated as well as independent scholars, students, journalists, opinion leaders, and members of the public.

(*Links are outside of VA. Any specific organizations, products, process, or services referenced do not necessarily constitute or imply endorsement, recommendation, or favoring by the VA.)