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El Encuentro," said Jeffrey Hedgepeth, Pride Foundation grants manager. "And as a Seattle-based organization, we are proud that our city is hosting the event this year."

Scholarship details and other information are available by calling 888-633-8320 or visiting www.llego.org.

WORKSHOP WILL EXPLORE INTERNALIZED HOMOPHOBIA

Portland Process Posse will present an all-ages interactive workshop on "Unlearning Internalized Homophobia" from 2 to 6 p.m. June 13 at the Sexual Minority Youth Resource Center, 2100 S.E. Belmont St.

The intention is to create a safe space for queers to begin a dialogue exploring how the messages they've internalized affect their lives, relationships and work. From this understanding they will learn and share strategies for eliminating internalized homophobia and heterosexism.

"From a very early age we learn overt and subtle homophobic and heterosexist messages through incredibly varied modes and mediums," organizer Silke Akerson told *Just Out*. "These accumulated messages often become unidentifiable as they are incorporated into our very concept of self. This workshop will make explicit these often unconscious and unexamined messages through presentation, large group dialogue and sharing of personal experiences in small groups."

For more information call Sarah at 503-288-4274.

RECEPTION HONORS SOUTHERN OREGONIANS

The Jackson County Human Rights Coalition will celebrate community efforts to establish understanding, acceptance and fairness during a reception from 5 to 7 p.m. June 10 at Furniture Depot, 498 Oak St. in Ashland. The suggested donation is \$20 a person.

The coalition will recognize citizens of the Rogue Valley who demonstrated exceptional courage in promoting human rights last year. Among the honorees are Les Krambeal and Gordon Owsley, a couple who raised awareness about the challenge of being gay and growing old in an article published by the *Medford Mail Tribune*.

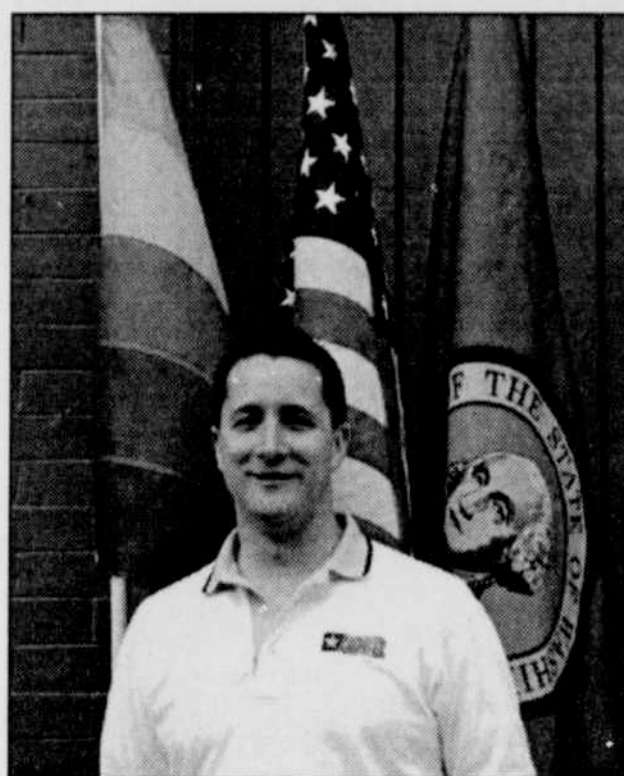
To RSVP call Ginnie Deason at 541-773-3511.

VETERANS MARCH ON CONGRESS TO CALL FOR END TO GAY BAN

Five veterans and activists from Washington state joined dozens of others who stormed Capitol Hill on May 25, calling on their elected representatives to repeal the military's ban on gay, lesbian and bi servicemembers.

The delegation included Michael Kilmer and Judi Carey, president and vice president of the Puget Sound chapter of American Veterans for Equal Rights, as well as retired Coast Guard Chief Petty Officer Nick Jackman of Shoreline and Rear Adm. Alan M. Steinman of Dupont, one of three high-ranking officers who came out in *The New York Times* last December.

It was the largest organized lobby effort



Michael Kilmer and Judi Carey of Seattle joined queer veterans May 25 in marching on Congress to call for an end to the military's gay ban

around "don't ask, don't tell" since its inception in 1993. In all, more than 60 people from 22 state delegations met with more than 90 Republican and Democratic congressional offices.

U.S. Rep. Eleanor Holmes Norton, D-D.C., a staunch supporter of gay rights, welcomed the queer veterans at a morning reception May 24. She said they "have made a special sacrifice that other veterans are not asked to make. When you are willing to die for this country, the last thing I want to know is...your sexual orientation."

According to a December Gallup poll, 79 percent of U.S. citizens support gays serving openly. The Urban Institute has reported that

1 million gay, lesbian and bi veterans live in the United States.

"There is overwhelming support to repeal 'don't ask, don't tell,'" said C. Dixon Osburn, Servicemembers Legal Defense Network executive director. "The end...is closer at hand than at any other time in history."

U.S. Rep. Marty Meehan, D-Mass., a member of the House Armed Services Committee, called the lobby day part of a growing movement to topple the ban. "The momentum...is growing, and the days of anti-gay discrimination in our armed forces are limited," he said. **JM**

Compiled by JIM RADOSTA

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