



SWAN VETERANS DAY EVENTS START WITH A SPLASH

"As our servicemembers and their families continue to make sacrifices this Veterans Day, you can help and honor our nation's veterans, especially those who are often left behind. SWAN has taken special care to celebrate the sacrifices and accomplishments of all of our veterans, especially women, Military Sexual Trauma survivors, and those who have suffered under the Don't Ask, Don't Tell policy. We invite you to participate in any and all of the events below, so that you can stay connected and informed about the issues that affect our servicewomen and men, and all of our veterans." - Anu Bhagwati, Executive Director, [Service Women's Action Network](#).



NOVEMBER 6th - VETERANS DAY 5K OPEN WATER SWIM RACE



VETERANS DAY 5K SWIM

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 6TH, 2010 • 11:30 AM

The CIBBOWS Veterans Day Charity Open Water 5K Swim will benefit two celebrated organizations that serve veterans - the [Service Women's Action Network](#) (www.servicewomen.org)

SWAN is partnering with the swim club [CIBBOWS](#) and the New York Aquarium to host this exciting race on Saturday, November 6th. The race starts at 11 am, when over 50 intrepid swimmers, most without wetsuits, will plunge into the chilly, chonny water off Coney Island for

and the Wounded Warrior Project (www.woundedwarriorproject.org). Participants have the choice of swimming 1 mile, 2 miles, or the full 5K. The race is a 2.5 K straight mile course running parallel to the shore, with turn arounds at majestic Coney Island Pier and at the end of Brighton Beach. In the interest of safety, swimmers have the option of switching distances mid-race.
To sign up or find out how you can support this event, visit: <http://www.cibbows.org/races/>



chilly, choppy water off Coney Island for a 5K swim to raise money for [SWAN](#) and the [Wounded Warrior Project](#).

This unique fundraising event is one of the coldest competitions on the international swim calendar and is attracting local veterans, amateur athletes as well as elite open-water swimmers to test their mettle in the challenging 55 degree water.

Participants include David Barra, who has completed an unprecedented seven world-class marathon swims in the 2010 season, Lance Ogren who won the grueling 17.5 mile 2010 Ederle Swim in near record time, as well as many more military veterans, West Point, and Air Force Academy cadets. Swan's Executive Director Anu Bhagwati will also be competing.

Participating swimmers have been taking in thousands of dollars in donations, all of which will benefit SWAN and Wounded Warrior Project. For more information or to make a donation, please go [here](#) .

NOVEMBER 11th - NEW YORK CITY VETERANS DAY PARADE

The Service Women's Action Network (SWAN) is making its first appearance in the NYC Veteran's Day parade on November 11th. Veterans of all eras and branches of service and their supporters are encouraged to march with SWAN. SWAN



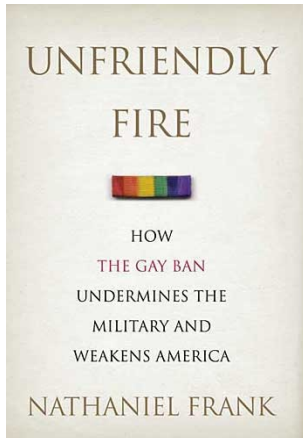
SWAN will be marching in recognition of all servicewomen including survivors of Military Sexual Trauma (MST) and LGBT servicewomen. In recognizing and marching for survivors of MST, SWAN intends to bring awareness to the epidemic of sexual violence in the military and hasten justice for these crimes.

SWAN also honors the memory of PFC LaVena Johnson, who was raped, brutally beaten and murdered while deployed to Iraq. Despite overwhelming forensic evidence of the circumstances of her murder, the Department of Defense still officially rules her death a suicide and refuses to investigate or prosecute.

SWAN is also marching in support of LGBT servicemembers in order to shed light on discriminatory policies, like the Don't Ask, Don't Tell policy, which disproportionately impacts women and particularly women of color.

For more information, including where to meet and how to get a free SWAN t-shirt, please [click here](#) to see the Veterans Day flyer.

NOVEMBER 11th - SWAN SPONSORS DADT DISCUSSION WITH RENOWNED AUTHORS, POLICYMAKERS



On Thursday, November 11, The Service Women's Action Network, sponsors a panel discussion on "Don't Ask, Don't Tell – Where Are We, And How Did We Get Here?" at The LGBT Center, 208 West 13th Street at 7 pm.

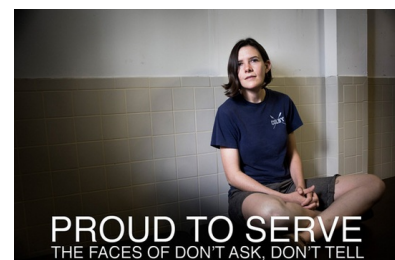
Richard Socarides, former White House Special Assistant and Senior Advisor to President Bill Clinton, discusses the military's current Don't Ask, Don't Tell Policy with columnist Jonathan Capehart, author Nathaniel Frank and Winnie Stachelberg, Senior Vice President at the Center for American Progress. Opening remarks will be given by West Point graduate Brenda S. "Sue" Fulton.

This amazing event is co-sponsored by The Service Women's Action Network (SWAN), The LGBT Center's Young Leaders Council (YLC), Knights Out, and The Service Member's Legal Defense Fund (SLDN).

Seating is limited for this special event, so [Register Here](#). For more information go to www.gaycenter.org

NOVEMBER 11th - "PROUD TO SERVE", PHOTOGRAPHY EXHIBIT BY JO ANN SANTANGELO

SWAN supporter and renowned photographer [Jo Ann Santangelo](#) presents an exhibition of her multi-media touring show "Proud to Serve", featuring the images of LGBT servicemembers who served their country in silence or were discharged under the current Don't Ask, Don't Tell law.



The opening reception will be Thursday, November 11th at the Campbell Soday Gallery, located in the LGBT Center, 208 West 13th Street. The exhibit is free and runs through January 30, 2011

Jo Ann has recently completed a 10,167 mile road trip around the United States,

exhibiting her images and putting a face to the statistics of Don't Ask, Don't Tell.

NOVEMBER 15th - SWAN PRESENTS "GAY VETERANS OF COLOR SPEAK OUT"



The Pentagon's discriminatory Don't Ask, Don't Policy disproportionately affects women and people of color. In 2009, women made up only 15% of the armed forces, but comprised 39% of total discharges under DADT. In 2008, non-white servicemembers represented 29% of the military, but accounted for 45% of DADT discharges.

Unfortunately, those most affected by the DADT policy are largely overlooked or ignored by the media and the DADT Repeal community. This event provides an opportunity to hear the stories and opinions from a group that has borne the brunt of this discrimination, and yet has been underrepresented in the debate.

The members of this panel are all military veterans of color who served under DADT and will be speaking about their personal experiences, and sharing their thoughts on the policy. The panel will be moderated by Anu Bhagwati, former US Marine Corps Captain and Executive Director of the [Service Women's Action Network \(SWAN\)](#).

This amazing event will take place on November 15th, at 6:30 pm at The LGBT Center, 208 West 13th Street. www.gaycenter.org.

Panelists include:

- Kehontas Rowe served in the Navy from 2000-2005 and in the Army National Guard from 2006-2008, achieving the rank of Sergeant. She was given an honorable discharge from the National Guard under the Don't Ask Don't Tell policy.
- Robert Smith joined the United States Army at the age of 17, and served for 4 ½ years as an Infantryman including deployments to Kuwait and Iraq before being honorably discharged.
- Anthony Melendez spent five years in the US Army. He served two tours in Iraq as a field artillery computer system specialist.
- Everett Earl Morrow graduated from the United States Naval Academy and served on active duty for five years, spending his last three years on active duty as an officer aboard the USS Memphis, a Los Angeles-class submarine.

For more information, contact [SWAN](#) at 212-683-0015 ext 324.

NOVEMBER 17th - SWAN PRESENTS MILITARY WORKING AUTHORS: THE MARINE CORPS WRITERS

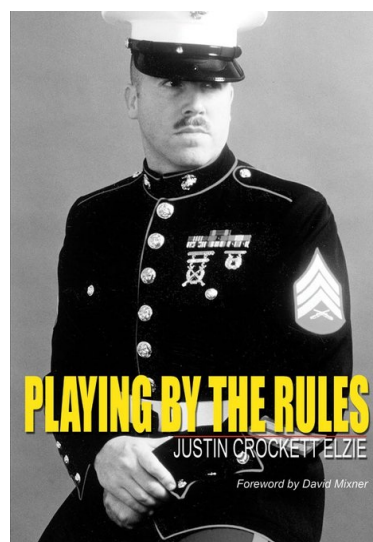
In recognition of Veterans Day and to celebrate LGBT



Veterans, SWAN and the LGBT Center looks at the issue of Don't Ask, Don't Tell and LGBT servicemembers with readings from LGBT authors who served in the Marine Corps.

The event will begin at 6:30pm on Wednesday, November 17 at the LGBT Center, 208 West 13th Street.

Following the readings, the authors will taking questions from the audience. Former Army Captain Tanya Domi, an Adjunct Assistant Professor of International and Public Affairs at Columbia University, will moderate the discussion.



Scheduled to read are:

- Rich Merritt – Former Marine Corps Officer, author of *Secrets of a Gay Marine Porn Star* and *Code of Conduct*.
- Brett Edward Stout – Former Marine Corps NCO, author of *Sugar-baby Bridge*.
- Evelyn Thomas – Former Marine Corps NCO, author of *Does Butch Nappy Hair Offend You? One Teacher's Struggle for Acceptance in the Professional World of Education*.
- Justin Crockett Elzie – Former Marine Corps NCO, author of *Playing by the Rules*.

Tickets are \$10. More information can be found at www.gaycenter.org.

SUPPORT SWAN



women veterans.

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