Finding aid to the Cliff Anchor Papers, 1916, 1950s-2000GLC 49

Finding aid prepared by Kerwin So
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2006
**Title:** Cliff Anchor Papers,
**Date (inclusive):** 1916, 1950s-2000
**Date (bulk):** 1950-2000
**Collection Identifier:** GLC 49

**Creator:** Anchor, Cliff

**Physical Description:** 6 cartons, 3 oversized folders (6.0 cubic feet)

**Contributing Institution:** James C. Hormel LGBTQIA Center, San Francisco Public Library
100 Larkin Street
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**Abstract:** The collection documents the life of Cliff Anchor (also known as Michael Erickson), a gay rights activist, military man and radio broadcaster. These documents include speeches, correspondence, papers related to military service, materials related to Leonard Matlovich and Dr. Tom Dooley, documents related to radio station KRJB and American Legion Alexander Hamilton Post #448, clippings, photographs, VHS videos, audiotapes, and artifacts.

**Physical Location:** The collection is stored onsite.

**Language of Materials:** Collection materials are in English.

**Access**
The collection is available for use during San Francisco History Center hours, with photographs available during Photo Desk hours. Collections that are stored offsite should be requested 48 hours in advance.

**Publication Rights**
All requests for permission to publish or quote from manuscripts must be submitted in writing to the City Archivist. Permission for publication is given on behalf of the San Francisco Public Library as the owner of the physical items.

**Preferred Citation**
[Identification of item], Cliff Anchor Papers (GLC 49), LGBTQIA Center, San Francisco Public Library.

**Provenance**
The Cliff Anchor Papers were donated by Robert Booth, 2000.

**Related materials**
Researchers are encouraged to see also the Leonard P. Matlovich Papers at the GLBT Historical Society, as well as the Randy Shilts Papers (GLC 43), LGBTQIA Center. Randy Shilts' book *Conduct Unbecoming: Gays & Lesbians in the U.S. Military* (New York: Fawcett Columbine, 1994) discusses Anchor's relationships with both Matlovich and Tom Dooley.

**Materials Transferred**
Postcards were removed from this collection to the San Francisco History Center postcard collection. See Appendix A. Dr. Tom Dooley's *Three Great Books* is also cataloged separately though a photocopy copy of Cliff Anchor's inscription is included in this collection.

**Biographical Note**
Although Cliff Anchor was romantically involved with two men more famous than himself (namely, Dr. Tom Dooley and Vietnam veteran Leonard Matlovich), he was an accomplished person in his own right--a military man, radio broadcaster, and gay rights activist.

Anchor was born in Walton, Waterloo, England on August 20, 1936. At the age of 17, Anchor immigrated to Canada and changed his name to Michael Erickson. In 1959, at the age of 23, he met his first lover, Dr. Thomas Dooley, a U.S. Navy doctor famous for his work with Dr. Albert Schweitzer in Southeast Asia.

In the early 1960s, Anchor (then still known as Erickson) moved to San Francisco and began working in the radio industry. He became a U.S. citizen in 1966, and joined the California National Guard in 1973, eventually reaching the rank of Lt. Colonel. Around this time, he also began operating radio station KRJB-FM based in Monte Rio, California. KRJB-FM was notable not just for the variety of programming it featured – from community affairs to music to military news - but it was also the very first station in the country to air National Gay Network News.

In 1979, Anchor met gay rights activist Leonard P. Matlovich through mutual friends in Guerneville, California. In 1985, Anchor sold KRJB-FM, and in 1988 Matlovich died. With major chapters of his life coming to an end, Anchor decided to fully come out of the closet and also reclaim his birth name - Cliff Anchor. Not forgetting his commitment to service for his country, Anchor volunteered for several military
intelligence missions in the early 1990s.
By the mid-1990s, Anchor was an outspoken advocate for gay rights at various levels, particularly within the U.S. Military. He was featured prominently in the book *One Million Strong: The 1993 March on Washington for Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual Rights*, as well as the book *Conduct Unbecoming* by Randy Shilts on gays in the military. By the end of his life, Anchor had served on a seemingly infinite number of civic and activist posts, including Vice Commander of the Alexander Hamilton Post #448 of the American Legion in San Francisco, the only GLBT post in the nation. Anchor died on July 18, 2000, at his home on the Russian River.

**Scope and Contents**
This collection comprises materials that Cliff Anchor, a prominent activist for gays in the military, authored or kept in his private possession from 1959 to 2000. These documents include speeches, correspondence, papers related to military service, materials related to Leonard Matlovich's memorial, documents related to radio station KRJB and American Legion Alexander Hamilton Post #448, clippings, photographs, VHS videos, and artifacts.

**Arrangement**
The collection is arranged into six series, with subseries as noted. Materials are arranged chronologically within each series and subseries.

**Series 1. Personal Correspondence and Papers**
1. General Personal Correspondence
2. Volunteer Projects
3. Materials Related to Tom Dooley
4. Materials Related to Leonard Matlovich

**Series 2. Professional Correspondence and Papers**
1. General Professional Correspondence
2. Speeches and Editorials
3. Alexander Hamilton Post #448
4. KRJB Radio
5. Military Intelligence Papers
6. Campaign for Sonoma County Supervisor
7. Certificates & Awards

**Series 3. Clippings**
1. Articles written by Anchor
2. Clippings about Anchor
3. General clippings

**Series 4. Audiovisual Materials**

**Series 5. Photographs**
1. Personal
2. Dooley
3. Matlovich
4. Military
5. Radio Station

**Series 6. Artifacts**

**Subjects and Indexing Terms**
American Legion. Alexander Hamilton Post No. 448 (San Francisco, Calif.).
Anchor, Cliff--Archives
Booth, Robert
Dooley, Thomas A., (Thomas Anthony), 1927-1961
KRJB (Radio station : Monte Rio, Calif.).
Matlovich, Leonard
Gay liberation movement--California--San Francisco.
Gay military personnel--United States.
Gay soldiers--United States.
Gays--California--San Francisco--Social life and customs--20th century.
Homophobia in the Armed Forces.
Radio broadcasters--California--Monte Rio.
San Francisco (Calif.)--Biography

Series 1 Personal Correspondence and Papers, 1950s-2000, undated
  Physical Description: 17.0 folders
  Arrangement
  Arranged into four subseries: General Personal Correspondence, Volunteer Projects,
  Materials Related to Tom Dooley, and Materials Related to Leonard Matlovich.Arranged
  chronologically, this subseries comprises various correspondence from Anchor’s family and
  friends.

Subseries 1A General Personal Correspondence, 1950s-2000, undated
  Physical Description: 12.0 folders
  Scope and Contents
  This subseries comprises various correspondence from Anchor’s family and friends.
  Arrangement
  Arranged chronologically.

  Box 1, Folder 1 multiple dates, undated
  Box 1, Folder 2 1950s-1960s
  Box 1, Folder 3 1970s
  Box 1, Folder 4 1980-1985
  Box 1, Folder 5 1986-1989
  Box 1, Folder 6 1990
  Box 1, Folder 7 1990-1992
  Box 1, Folder 8 1992-1993
  Box 1, Folder 9 1994-1995
  Box 1, Folder 10 1995-1996
  Box 1, Folder 11 1996
  Box 1, Folder 12 1997-2000

Subseries 1B Volunteer Projects, 1989-1996
  Scope and Contents
  This subseries comprises correspondence, flyers, and other papers related to Anchor’s
  more prominent volunteer projects in the gay rights and military spheres, including the
  Wall of Restitution art installation and Anchor’s participation as a U.S. Delegate at Large
  to NATO Conferences in 1989 and 1990.
  Arrangement
  Arranged chronologically.
Subseries 1C **Materials Related to Tom Dooley, 1960-1998, undated**

- **Physical Description:** 2.0 folders
- **Scope and Contents**
  This subseries comprises Anchor's remembrances of his relationship with Tom Dooley, and clippings related to Dooley's legacy. It also includes a copy of the book *Dr. Tom Dooley's Three Great Books* (New York: Farrar, Straus & Cudahy, 1956, 1958, 1960), with handwritten recollections by Anchor.
- **Arrangement**
  Arranged chronologically.

Box 1, Folder 14  
**Materials Related to Tom Dooley, 1960-1998, undated**

Box 1, Folder 15  
**Dr. Tom Dooley's Three Great Books. Copy of inscription by Anchor, undated**

Subseries 1D **Materials Related to Leonard Matlovich, 1980-1999, undated**

- **Physical Description:** 2 folders
- **Scope and Contents**
  This subseries comprises material related to Anchor's spouse Leonard P. Matlovich, including correspondence between Anchor and Matlovich's parents, and memorial planning and service documents. Several newspaper and magazine clippings honoring Matlovich's memory are also included.
- **Arrangement**
  Arranged chronologically.

Box 1, Folder 16  
**Materials Related to Leonard Matlovich, undated**

Box 1, Folder 17  
**Materials Related to Leonard Matlovich, 1980-1999**

Series 2 **Professional Correspondence and Papers, 1950s-2000**

- **Physical Description:** 54.0 folders + 1 oversized folder
- **Arrangement**
  Arranged into seven subseries: General Professional Correspondence, Speeches and Editorials, Alexander Hamilton Post #448, KRJB Radio, Intelligence papers, Campaign for Sonoma County Supervisor, and Certificates and Awards.

Subseries 2A **General Professional Correspondence, 1950s-2000, undated**

- **Physical Description:** 16.0 folders
- **Scope and Contents**
  This subseries comprises various correspondence related to Anchor's activity within the military and various organizations, including gay rights and veterans groups.
- **Arrangement**
  Arranged chronologically.

Box 2, Folder 1  
**undated**

Box 2, Folder 2  
1950s

Box 2, Folder 3  
1960s

Box 2, Folder 4  
1970s

Box 2, Folder 5  
1980-1985

Box 2, Folder 6  
1986-1989

Box 2, Folder 7  
1990

Box 2, Folder 8  
1991

Box 2, Folder 9  
1992

Box 2, Folder 10  
1993

Box 2, Folder 11  
1994

Box 2, Folder 12  
1995

Box 2, Folder 13  
1996
Subseries 2A General Professional Correspondence, 1950s-2000, undated

Box 2, Folder 14  1997
Box 2, Folder 15  1998
Box 2, Folder 16  1999-2000

Subseries 2B Speeches and Editorials, 1973-2000, undated

Physical Description: 2.0 folders
Scope and Contents
This subseries comprises the text of speeches that Anchor delivered at public speaking events. It also includes letters to the editor and editorials authored by Anchor that were published in various newspapers, including the Russian River Times.
Arrangement
Arranged chronologically.

Box 2, Folder 17  undated
Box 2, Folder 18  1973-2000

Subseries 2C Alexander Hamilton Post #448, 1980s-1999, undated

Physical Description: 14.0 folders
Scope and Contents
This subseries comprises correspondence, newsletters, meeting agendas, member directories, and other documents related to the American Legion Alexander Hamilton Post #448 based in San Francisco, California, the first openly gay and lesbian post in the nation. Anchor served as Vice Commander and Press Officer of this post.
Arrangement
Arranged chronologically.

Box 2, Folder 19  undated
Box 2, Folder 20  1980s
Box 2, Folder 21  1990-1991
Box 2, Folder 22  1992
Box 2, Folder 23  1993
Box 2, Folder 24  1994
Box 2, Folder 25  1995
Box 3, Folder 1  January-March 1996
Box 3, Folder 2  April 1996
Box 3, Folder 3  May-November 1996
Box 3, Folders 4-5  December 1996
Box 3, Folder 6  1997
Box 3, Folder 7  1999

Subseries 2D KRJB Radio, 1960s-2000, undated

Physical Description: 14.0 folders
Scope and Contents
This subseries comprises correspondence, radio show play lists, legal documents, and publicity related to the radio station KRJB-FM based in Monte Rio, California, which Anchor operated from 1969 to 1985 with the assistance of Robert Booth.
Arrangement
Arranged chronologically.

Box 3, Folders 8-9  undated, multiple dates
Box 3, Folder 10  multiple dates
Box 3, Folder 11  1960s
Box 3, Folder 12  1970-1976
Box 3, Folder 13  1977-1978
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Subseries 2DKRJB Radio, 1960s-2000, undated

Subseries 2E Military Intelligence Papers, 1984-1999, undated

Physical Description: 4.0 folders
Scope and Contents
This subseries comprises material (including diaries of operations) related to Anchor's military intelligence missions for the U.S. Government: one a secret mission in Panama in 1990 to deliver classified documents, the other a 1991-1992 mission spying on arms dealers in the Middle East. Anchor's correspondence with federal intelligence agents is also included.
Arrangement
Arranged chronologically.

Box 4, Folder 1  undated
Box 4, Folder 2  1984-1991
Box 4, Folder 3  1992
Box 4, Folder 4  1994-1999

Subseries 2F Campaign for Sonoma County Supervisor, 1987-1989, undated

Physical Description: 3.0 folders
Scope and Contents
This subseries comprises clippings, correspondence, publicity, research, and other materials related to Anchor's 1988 campaign for Sonoma County Supervisor, 5th District, against incumbent Ernie Carpenter.
Arrangement
Arranged chronologically.

Box 4, Folder 5  undated
Box 4, Folder 6  November 1987-April 1988
Box 4, Folder 7  May 1988-October 1989

Box 4, Folder 8, Oversize-folder 1  Subseries 2G Certificates and Awards, 1960-1999, undated

Physical Description: 1.0 folder + 1 oversized folder
Scope and Contents
This subseries comprises certificates and awards earned by Anchor throughout his professional life, primarily from military and law enforcement positions.
Arrangement
Arranged chronologically.

Series 3 Clippings, 1950s-2000

Physical Description: 12.0 folders
Arrangement
Arranged into three subseries: Articles Written by Anchor, Clippings about Anchor, and General Clippings.
Subseries 3A Articles Written by Anchor, 1974-1996

Scope and Contents
This subseries comprises general articles written by Anchor. Editorials and letters to editors of publications are filed in Subseries 2B (Speeches and Editorials).

Arrangement
Arranged chronologically.

Subseries 3B Clippings about Anchor, 1966-1999, undated

Scope and Contents
This subseries comprises press appearances by Anchor in newspapers and magazines.

Arrangement
Arranged chronologically.

Subseries 3C General Clippings, 1950s-2000

Physical Description: 9.0 folders

Scope and Contents
This subseries comprises a vast array of articles chronicling gays in the military, anti-gay religious figures, media programming, and general gay rights issues.

Arrangement
Arranged chronologically.

1950s-1960s
Box 4, Folder 12

1970s-1980s
Box 4, Folder 13

1990-1991
Box 4, Folder 14

1991-1992
Box 4, Folder 15

1992-1993
Box 4, Folder 16

1993-1994
Box 4, Folder 17

1994-1995
Box 4, Folder 18

1996
Box 4, Folder 19

1997-2000
Box 4, Folder 20


Physical Description: 21.0 videotapes + 3 audiotapes

Scope and Contents
This series comprises VHS video tapes and audio tapes featuring Anchor and issues related to gays in the military.

Arrangement
Arranged by format and then chronologically.

VHS tapes

Physical Description: 21.0 videotapes

Box 5, Item 1

Box 5, Item 2
People are Talking. San Francisco-based TV talk show with an audience segment featuring Anchor sharing his experience coming out to his adopted son, December 15, 1990

Box 5, Item 3
"KFTY." (1) TV news footage of Anchor returning his military awards in protest of federal anti-gay policies. (2) KOVR TV news interview with outed soldier Col. Dave Eckert, 1991
| Box 5, Item 4 | KFTY-TV. (1) Sonoma county Board of Supervisors Meetings and debate about rejecting Gay Pride Week resolution (Anchor can be spotted in the meeting). (2) Footage of 1st Annual Santa Rosa Gay Pride Parade, June 1991 |
| Box 5, Item 5 | Congressman Frank Riggs Interview with Lt. Col. Cliff Anchor. Taped at Anchor's home in Guerneville, CA, August 24, 1991 |
| Box 5, Item 6 | Veterans Day Sacramento. 1991 rally and speakers (uncredited home footage), 1991 |
| Box 5, Item 7 | Gay Veterans Day, Sacramento. TV news footage: KCRA-3, KXTV-10, KOVR-13, November 7, 1992 |
| Box 5, Item 8 | Tribute to Lesbian and Gay Veterans 2nd Annual Event. Producer: RJ Finley, November 7, 1992 |
| Box 5, Item 10 | A Right to Serve? Gays in the Military. KEYT-TV/ABC documentary (one master and one dub copy), 1993 |
| Box 5, Item 11 | Alexander Hamilton Post #448 Press Conference. TV news coverage, February 1993 |
| Box 5, Item 12 | March on Washington Events. GLBVA speakers, 1993 |
| Box 5, Item 13 | "Requiem for Unknown LGB Soldiers." Memorial Day 1993. (1) KPIX and KGO news coverage of protest event featuring excerpts of Anchor's speech. (2) Public access cable channel discussion show "Class Struggle," featuring Anchor and gay veteran Chris Bowman as guest speakers, 1993 |
| Box 5, Item 14 | GLAAD/SFBA home footage of Requiem for Unknown LGB Soldiers event. Memorial Day 1993, 1993 |
| Box 5, Item 15 | March on Washington (Part One). Home footage by John DeSalvio of Gay Lesbian & Bisexual Veterans of America (GLBVA) events, April-May 1993 |
| Box 5, Item 16 | March on Washington (Part Two). Home footage by John DeSalvio of the general rally and featured speakers, April-May 1993 |
| Box 5, Item 17 | Straight from the Heart. Documentary featuring religious leaders discussing homosexuality, 1994 |
| Box 5, Item 18 | "The Gay Catholic Paradox." Andrew Sullivan speaking event at St. Mary's College, Notre Dame, IN, February 2, 1995 |
| Box 5, Items 19-20 | ONE Institute Interview with Cliff Anchor (2 parts). Includes a printed listing of contents and topics discussed, July 2, 1996 |
| Box 5, Item 21 | "In the Life." 1997 PBS special about gay struggles in America. Includes a very brief Matlovich epitaph and photo of Anchor, 1997 |

**Audiotapes**

Physical Description: 3.0 audiotapes

| Box 5, Item 22 | KRJB Halloween Promo. Anchor announcing on his radio station. Includes "Morning Theater" radio drama program with Anchor voicing the characters, 1980 |
| Box 5, Item 23 | "Mrs. Matlovich". Answering machine tape with various messages. Includes a recorded casual phone conversation with Leonard Matlovich's parents, undated |
| Box 5, Item 24 | National Guard News. Anchor announcing KRJB news program under the name of Mike Erickson, January 1983 |

**Series 5 Photographs and Negatives, 1959-1999**

Physical Description: 6.0 folders

| Box 6, Folder 1 | Subseries 5A Personal Photographs, 1965-1999 |

Scope and Contents

This subseries comprises general personal photographs of Anchor with family and friends.

Arrangement

Arranged chronologically.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box 6, Folder 2</th>
<th>Subseries 5B <strong>Tom Dooley Photographs, 1959, undated</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Scope and Contents</strong></td>
<td>This subseries comprises photographs of Tom Dooley.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Arrangement</strong></td>
<td>Arranged chronologically.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box 6, Folder 3</th>
<th>Subseries 5C <strong>Leonard Matlovich Photographs, 1966-1997</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Scope and Contents</strong></td>
<td>This subseries comprises photographs of events at Leonard Matlovich's memorial, as well as several photographs of Matlovich himself.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Arrangement</strong></td>
<td>Arranged chronologically.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- [AIC Leonard P. Matlovich, receiving Bronze Star, Vietnam 1966] [graphic], 1966
- [Cliff Anchor and others in front of memorial for Sgt. Leonard Matlovich, USAF] [graphic], June 1995
- [AIC Leonard P. Matlovich, receiving Bronze Star, Vietnam 1966] [graphic], 1966

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box 6, Folder 4</th>
<th>Subseries 5D <strong>Military Photographs, 1967-1998</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Scope and Contents</strong></td>
<td>This subseries comprises photographs of Anchor in uniform at various military events.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Arrangement</strong></td>
<td>Arranged chronologically.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- [Sgt. Dennis McCune, Lt. Col. Cliff Anchor and Tom Norton] [graphic], 1993

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box 6, Folder 5</th>
<th>Subseries 5E <strong>Radio Station Photographs, 1963-1995</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Scope and Contents</strong></td>
<td>This subseries comprises photographs taken at Anchor’s radio station, KRJB FM in Monte Rio, California.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Arrangement</strong></td>
<td>Arranged chronologically.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Box 6, Folder 6 | **Negatives, 1961-1999** |

Physical Description: 18.0 items

Scope and Contents

Artifacts include Anchor's British passport, a Medal of Merit and one Membership Achievement Medal from the Alexander Hamilton Post #448, a beret with pin of Alexander Hamilton Post #448, a few award plaques from the California National Guard, a single chevron shoulder patch, a memorial plaque for Leonard P. Matlovich, buttons, and a bumper sticker. It also includes a copy of the photo-documentary book *One Million Strong: the 1993 March on Washington for Lesbian, Gay, and Bi Equal Rights* (Boston: Alyson Publications, 1993), which features handwritten recollections by Anchor. Also includes an application for Joe Boyanosky for the Knights of Pythias.

Box 6, Folder 7  British passport, 1950s
Box 6, Folder 8  Medal of Merit (1) and Membership Achievement Medal (1) from Alexander Hamilton Post #448, undated, 1999
Box 6, Folder 9  Beret with pin (Alexander Hamilton Post #448), 1996, undated
Box 6, Folder 10 Bronze Social Security badge with SSN and military title, undated
Box 6, Folder 11 Chevron/Eagle shoulder patch, undated
Box 6, Folder 12 Bumper Sticker: "Action=Life, Silence=Death," undated
Box 6, Folder 13 Sticker: "My Name is Mike and I'm Queer," 1997
Box 6, Folder 14 Button: Tom Ammiano for School Board, undated
Box 6, Folder 15 Button: Frisco Disco/Dance Your Ass Off Inc., undated
Box 6, Folder 16 Name tags (2), 1989-1990
Box 6, Folder 17 Wallets (2) with identification cards, undated
Box 6, Folder 18 *One Million Strong* by Cece Cox, Lisa Means and Lisa Pope (Boston: Alyson, 1993). Inscribed by Cliff Anchor to son, Robert Booth 1993
Box 6, Folder 19 Knights of Pythias application for Joe Boyanosky, Leonidas Lodge No. 36, Scio, Oregon, December 26, 1916
Box 6  Award Plaque: Outstanding Support of California National Guard, 1984
Box 6  Award Plaque: Outstanding Support of the Broadcast Section, California Army National Guard, February 1979-July 1985
Box 6  Memorial plaque for Leonard P. Matlovich
Oversize-folder 3  Thank you "card" for Anchor signed by the attendees of one of his talks, 1994

Appendix A: List of San Francisco postcards removed to the San Francisco History Center postcard collection

- Freedom SF event at Galleria Design Center
- California Masonic Memorial Temple
- Market Street and Woolworth's
- Powell at Market Street
- Cable Car Turntable on Powell Street
- Lombard Street
- Cable Car on Hyde Street