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THE HONORABLE RONALD B. LEIGHTON

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON
AT TACOMA

MAJOR MARGARET WITT,

Plaintiff,

Case No. C06-5195-RBL

v.

**DECLARATION OF ROD
BOULTINGHOUSE**

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE
AIR FORCE; et al.,

Defendants.

I, ROD BOULTINGHOUSE, do hereby declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the United States of America, that the following facts are true and correct:

1. I am over the age of 18 years, have personal knowledge of the facts contained in this Declaration and am competent to testify to them.

1 2. I enlisted in the United States Navy in 1973 and completed a four and a half
2 year tour in the Navy on active duty. In 1978, I joined the Air Force Reserve in Texas. I
3 transferred to the 40th/446th AES in 1981. From 1981 to 2006 I served the squadron as a
4 medical technician. I retired on August 1, 2006.

5 3. I met Major Witt around 1993 prior to her joining the 446th AES. We met
6 while I was on annual tour in Japan, and while she was serving in another unit. My initial
7 impression of Major Witt was that she was very professional and easy to get along with. In
8 the years that we served together in the 446th AES, we flew 25 or more training missions
9 together. On these flights, Major Witt was always a professional officer and leader.

10 4. I found out about Major Witt's suspension a couple months after it happened
11 and I was bothered by the news. I heard rumors of how she came to be investigated,
12 including that a man was upset because his wife or ex-wife entered into a relationship with
13 Major Witt, and none of them changed my view of her. Major Witt was always very
14 professional. I believe that her suspension affected unit morale because Major Witt was one
15 of us. When she left, it felt like we were losing a family member.

16 5. I never saw any conduct that would indicate that Major Witt is a lesbian but I
17 suspected that she might be. Knowing that Major Witt is a lesbian now does not change
18 what I think of her as a professional officer and a positive asset to the squadron.

19 6. At the time I retired, I suspected there were 6-8 other gay and lesbian
20 members in the 446th AES. These suspicions were based on my personal observations of the
21 members' social group of friends, and the clientele they hung around.

22 7. Prior to Major Witt joining the unit, there were a couple other members who I
23 suspected were gay or lesbian. One woman lived with her partner and she often spoke of her
24 partner, under the assumption that we all knew that she was a lesbian. It was widely known
25 partner, under the assumption that we all knew that she was a lesbian. It was widely known
26 partner, under the assumption that we all knew that she was a lesbian. It was widely known

1 in the unit that the two women were a couple. Another male member was assumed to be gay
2 by many unit members due to his mannerisms. He also spoke of a partner and was well
3 accepted by the unit. In all my service in the 446th AES, I never heard any negative
4 comments due to members' perceived sexual orientation.

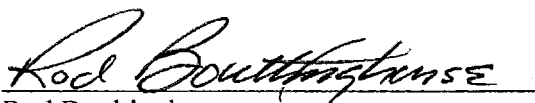
5 8. The unit attitude towards gay and lesbian members has always been pretty
6 open and receptive. In my experience, no gay or lesbian members ever made others feel
7 uncomfortable, and they served with professionalism and integrity.

8 9. I deployed overseas in 1990 for Desert Storm, in 2003 and in 2005. I do not
9 recall ever hearing anyone say anything negative on deployment about gay or lesbian
10 members, or not wanting to serve with them.

11 10. In the summer of 2008, I attended the 50th Anniversary Celebration for the
12 squadron on base at McChord. I saw Major Witt, gave her a hug and asked how things were
13 going. I think many others were happy to see her there, and I do not recall hearing anyone
14 make negative comments that she had come.

15 11. I believe that Major Witt's reinstatement would have a positive impact on the
16 unit. She was a well liked leader, easy to work with, and always served with honor and
17 integrity.
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21 DATED this 20 day of April, 2010 at TACOMA, Washington.
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23 
24 Rod Boultinghouse
25
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DECLARATION OF ROD BOULTINGHOUSE -- 3
Case No. C06-5195-RBL

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on July 22, 2010, I electronically filed the foregoing with the Clerk of the Court using the CM/ECF system which will send notification of such filing to the following:

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/s/Lily T. Laemmle
LILY T. LAEMMLE

NO. C06-5195 RBL

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