



## Cathay Chronicle

**Cathay Post No. 384 and American Legion National Commander Clarence Hill**



Left to Right: Richard Ow, Gary Chew, Hanley Chan, Roger Glenn,  
Ron Lee, Richard Charney, Commander Hill,  
David Y. Wong, Mel Lee, Nelson Lum, John Li, and Jack Quan

**Veterans War Memorial Building  
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San Francisco, CA 94102**

**Cathay Post No. 384, American Legion**  
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**Next Board Meeting: Saturday April 10, 2010 @ 1100 hours**

***We will have lunch around noon after the monthly Board of Directors meeting.  
All Cathay Post members and supporting friends are welcome to join us for lunch.***

**From the Desk of the Commander:**

It's already spring. Time seems to go by so quickly when you are busy. We are currently working on our new field office at the War Memorial Veterans Building at 401 Van Ness Ave. and are preparing the office for a May "move-in" (if all goes as planned").

As you know, "The God Bless America Two" show was a big hit this past January. We've scheduled next year's show, God Bless America III, for January 14, 2011. Because we want this show to be even greater for our comrades, the planning for this show will have to start in earnest soon.

As expected, our raffle ticket sales are moving at a slow pace. I know we can do better but everyone must join in and help. I personally find that these tickets are very easy to sell. Since most people don't mind supporting the veterans, carrying that raffle ticket book with you at all times will increase your chances of making sales. You never know when the opportunity to sell will present itself. I have ticket books ready for anyone who wishes to pitch in. I will be monitoring our progress and am confident that we will be successful in our endeavor.

I am happy to report that our membership is growing monthly. This growth reflects well on the status of our Post.

Several members of Cathay Post met with American Legion National Commander Clarence Hill at the War Memorial Veterans Building during his visit on March 30, 2010. Our members' presence was notable at this luncheon.

**Ron Lee  
Commander**

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**From the 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Commander**

Cathay Post No. 384's membership continues to grow and the organization continues to grow stronger. We added sixteen new members for the first quarter of 2010. The Post's new service veteran members are Evered Cohen, Mel Lee, Ted Lieu, Stan Ellexon, Jr. and Dominic Yin. The Post's new support members ("Auxiliary") are Harriet Chiu Chan, Wing Kuen Fong, Harold Greer, Evonne Goh, Jeanne Kwong, Beverly Lee, Pius Lee, Betty Chim-Lieu, Cecilia Lin, Sandy Su and Marlene Tran.

I am working on a project with the assistance of a key contact in the VA system to recruit additional young Asian veterans into the Post. It is not an easy task, but with patience and persistence, we will continue to grow our membership. Younger veterans will help to sustain the legacy of Cathay Post for many generations to follow.

Some of our newest members have asked for raffle ticket booklets. On this note, Commander Ron Lee, Treasurer Ed Wong and I have each sold a book of raffle tickets. All board members are strongly encouraged to contribute to the success of this project. Those of you who wish to help sell raffle tickets, please contact one of the commanders.

On March 30, 2010, American Legion's National Commander came to visit District

8's facilities at the Veterans Memorial Building on Van Ness Avenue. Commander Clarence Hill of Florida arrived and was greeted by a number of post veterans. Cathay Post No. 384 had the largest representation of any post in San Francisco. Approximately twelve members, wearing their caps and famous red polo shirts, made an impressive showing at the reception. The Department of California Headquarters' staff provided a buffet luncheon of green salads, chicken, salmon, side dishes and desserts.

Cathay Post member Mel Lee has agreed to provide a short presentation on veterans long-term care benefits for seniors living in assisted living facilities. We hope to provide this program at the May or June monthly meeting. Members of Cathay Post No. 384 and other qualified veterans will find this presentation worthwhile.

With summer approaching, I encourage you all to check out the Cathay Post/YTB Travel web link. It is a mirror of one of the largest travel websites and offers competitive rates on land and air travels, hotel accommodations, and other travel needs. The link will be on the updated Cathay Post website next month and is also provided at the end of this newsletter. You can save money and also help the Post by using the Cathay Post/YTB Travel service.

See you all at the meeting on Saturday, April 10th.

**David Y. Wong**  
**1st Vice Commander**

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**From the 2nd Vice Commander:**

Greetings. I hope everyone had a great Chinese New Year. My daughter Kestrel had a very fun Chinese New Year. She participated in the Chinese New Year Parade. I don't think she will forget that experience, particularly because firecrackers were going off all around her.

April is going to be a good month for our Post. Our new website should be up and running by the end of this month thanks to our webmaster Mark McNee (he has been a great find).

The executive board had its first meeting at the War Memorial Veterans Building. What a great group of guys. I'm looking forward to Cathay Post No. 384's office where we can meet and hold public events to promote Americanism. My father would be happy.

As our group continues to grow and we hold more events at the Post, please remember that our building is old. When you leave, please remember to turn off the lights and the kitchen appliances. One careless mistake can ruin what we have built.

May joy and happiness follow you.

**Jay Pon**  
**2nd Vice Commander**

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**From the 3rd Vice Commander:**

April showers bring May flowers. In the Bay Area, we've been experiencing a "less than

normal" weather pattern. I hope you are enjoying the beautiful blooming flowers. If you have not, you should slow down and take a look at Mother Nature's gifts.

Unfortunately, District 8 is in complete disarray due to the lack of leadership at the commander's position. Thank God the current leader's term will end in June. The Department of California, American Legion, recently replaced its Director of Membership, closing a very sad saga of manipulative endeavors by individuals who were using the American Legion for personal gain. On a brighter note, under the leadership of Chairman Roger Dong, the Veterans War Memorial Commission is now in good standing financially and there are no character issues. While the Commission members continue to deal with major issues, we are entering into the next stage of negotiating for our future without the antagonistic tones of the past.

Room 206 in the War Memorial Veterans Building is in the process of receiving a new coat of paint, new carpet and all the necessary updates prior to becoming Cathay Post's field operations office. I can't tell you an exact "move in" date, but that date is near. Once the date is set, I hope you will join with the executive board and the board of directors to celebrate the opening of our field operations office. This will mark the very first time that we, a predominately Chinese American Veterans organization, have established a permanent presence in the War Memorial Veterans Building. This was one of the dreams of our late Commander Bok Pon and I am very honored to be able to contribute and to be a part of this process.

On a personal note, I will be leaving for China on April 8th and will return on April 24th. I know you will miss me a lot. Just kidding! I will see you all at the meeting in May.

**Nelson Lum**  
**3rd Vice Commander**

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**Cathay Post Travel Service is still in Operation.**

**Dear Members and Cathay Post friends,**

Please don't forget to use our new travel service. It is a very simple PC based application which our members have already used on-line. The website is available 24 hours a day, and you, your family or any of your friends can log on and book flights, hotels, car rentals, round-trip airport to hotel ground transportation, and even FTD flower service. If you have any questions please call **Commander Ron Lee**. The web address is:

**<http://www.ytbtravel.com/home.aspx?wa=cathaypost>**



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**Cathay Post No. 384, American Legion, Executive Board:**

Commander Ron Lee  
1<sup>st</sup> Vice Commander David Y. Wong  
2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Commander Jigg Pon  
3<sup>rd</sup> Vice Commander Nelson Lum  
Adjutant Tony Zhang  
Secretary John Li  
Treasurer Edward Wong  
Past Commander & Historian Dale C. King

**Adjutant Tony Zhang** is responsible for the publication of our Cathay Chronicle monthly newsletter.

**Post Volunteer Roger Dong** is our chief reporter.

Our Cathay Chronicle Editor is Mr. **Galin Luk**, who is an attorney in San Francisco, and a US Marine Corps veteran.

Thanks to all our Post Commanders for contributing to this edition of our Cathay Chronicle.

The Editor welcomes article or letter submissions but reserves the right to publish, republish or not publish any submission and to edit articles or letters as appropriate. Submissions must include your name, address, and phone number. The Editor will call to verify authenticity. All submissions should be emailed to the Editor at [galinluk@hotmail.com](mailto:galinluk@hotmail.com) by the 25<sup>th</sup> day of the month preceding the next month's Newsletter.

## **What will \$10 buy you?**



**Buy a Cathay Post 2010 \$10 raffle ticket and give yourself a great chance to win a pre-owned, full warranty Mercedes Benz Class C luxury sedan. [The above pictures are not of the actual sedan to be raffled]. There will be additional prizes as well, including Costco and Trader Joe's gift certificates. Buy your raffle tickets now and ensure yourself a great opportunity to own a nearly new Mercedes. The drawing will take place on August 14, 2010 at our Cathay Post annual dinner at the Asia Garden Restaurant. You do not have to be present to win. Just print your name, address, and phone number on your raffle ticket stub.**