



FROM THE COMMANDER'S DESK

Time seems to go by so fast. It is already August!

As you know, our 79th annual dinner will be on August 14th. If you have not reserved a table or seat for this celebration, you must do so now! This is a "can't miss event." The Post will be recognizing our heroic police officers and fire fighters who have done a "heroic" job in safeguarding, protecting and serving the people of San Francisco.

If fine food and

great company are not enough to entice you, keep in mind the celebration will also include some fantastic entertainment. Most importantly, someone will be the winner of the Mercedes Benz raffle. That's right. The



Commander Lee and Support Unit members on the USS Hornet selling raffle tickets for the Mercedes.

Mercedes will be parked out front and you will have one last

\$50.00 or \$500.00 for a table [see page 7 for more information].

"Speaking of the Mercedes, I am making one final plea for each of you to sell more raffle tickets!"

Speaking of the Mercedes, I am making one final plea for each of you to sell more raffle tickets!

chance to win that car by buying that winning raffle ticket at the dinner.

I want to personally thank everyone who bought raffle tickets and who will be attending the dinner to support Cathay Post.

We need you, your friends, family and colleagues to attend! Individual tickets are

**Ron Lee
Commander**

NEXT BOARD MEETING: Saturday, August 14, 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.

Inside this issue:

The 1st Vice Commander	2
The 3rd Vice Commander	3
Travel Services	4
Mercedes Raffle	5
The Editor	6
79th Anniversary Dinner	7
APA DINNER	8
C-1000; David Lang; Due	9
The Post	10

Cathay Post. No. 384
American Legion

1524 Powell Street
San Francisco, CA 94133
Telephone: 415.392.2882
Fax: 415.399.0551

www.chineseamericanveterans.org

From the 1st Vice Commander

During the August meeting, Leland Low (of the Veterans Administration's Oakland regional headquarters) will be returning to the Post to provide information about VA benefits and will be providing updated printed literature about the VA system.

Did you know it is possible to get a copy of your DD-214 online? Actually, you can get the process started online. You will need to complete the questionnaire online and wait for a print-out which will require your signature and authorization. The form, in turn, needs to be submitted to the Records Management Office in St. Louis. If you are interested in starting this process online go to VA.gov. Then: 1) click on "VA forms"; 2) type in "NARA SF 180" in the "Form Number Box" and click "Search"; 3) when you are redirected, click on the "Use our eVetRees system to create your request"; 4) and when you are redirected, scroll down to the bottom and click on "Request Military Records."

The Post's monthly newsletter, Cathay Chronicle, is now accepting ads. Rates are available

upon request for full page, half page, and business card size ads. Get in on the special low rates now. By publishing your ad, you can reach a wider audience, show your support for military veterans and help a very worthwhile non-profit veteran's organization.

American Legion operates on a fiscal year period, from July 1 through June 30. Please remit your 2011 membership dues now.

The September meeting, which will be held on Saturday, September 11th, will start promptly at 9:00 a.m. instead of the usual 11:00 a.m. We are making this one time change because a number of Post members will be serving as color guards for an "On Lok" program to be held at



Chinese American Heroes

Saluting our Heroes
Noting their magnificent contributions

Please visit our heroes at:
ChineseAmericanHeroes.org

the St. Francis Hotel, to pay tribute to Colonel (Retired) Richard Hum, for three generations of service with the United States Air Force.

An important announcement to Board members, Support Unit members, and friends who have taken raffle tickets booklets out on consignment: at your earliest convenience, please turn in your ticket stubs and money to one of the commanders or Suzie Lee. This is necessary in order to clear your account and name.

The 79th anniversary dinner at the New Asia Restaurant on the evening of August 14th will be a huge success and you need to be a part of it! On that evening, the long awaited late model Mercedes auto will be raffled out to the lucky ticket holder, along with several great door prizes. Thank you to the many volunteers who will be helping to make this event one of the greatest in the history of the Post.

See you all at the meeting on Saturday, August 14th.

David Y. Wong
1st Vice Commander



DAVID TWOY
REALTOR®
DRE # 01182312

COLDWELL BANKER
OPTIMA REALTY

(650) 740-1926 CELLULAR
(650) 246-8800 BUSINESS
(650) 246-8850 DIRECT
(650) 246-8801 FAX
dtwoy@yahoo.com

1435 Huntington Avenue, Suite 318
South San Francisco, CA 94080

 

Each Office Is Independently Owned And Operated.

From the 3rd Vice Commander

What's happening at the War Memorial Commission?

The War Memorial Commission staff is finally taking steps to provide counseling and job training services to all veterans, including returning veterans. After all, the main purpose of the

American Legion is to provide services and support to those who have served.

For too long, the Posts have been focused on their own welfare, and have dedicated very little time to the needs of our other veterans. While we bickered over issues that only affected individual posts, we have for the longest of times, lost sight of the bigger picture.

The War Memorial Veterans Building will be undergoing a \$130 million retrofit to bring the building up to earthquake safety standards along with upgrading the facility for the 21st century. For the past three years, the Trustees have asked the Commission to submit its planned usage of the building after the completion of the retrofit. Due to issues beyond the control of the current administration or the Commission, no plan of any kind has ever been submitted. In fact, no plan was ever placed on the drawing board. Last week, the Commission received a letter from the representative of the Trustees officially notify-

ing the Commission that plan(s) for future usage must be submitted by September 1, 2010 or the Trustees will move ahead with their proposal which includes their view of how much space the veterans will be allocated.

"For too long, the Posts have been focused on their own welfare, and have dedicated very little time to the needs of other Veterans."

The time for bickering over small issues is over. We must work as a team to tackle the biggest issue we've faced since the 1970's. If the proposal forwarded by the management is enacted, the veterans will lose about 50% of their current space allocation including all the offices located at the North & West sides of the first floor. We vehemently disagreed with this proposal and are working on a proposal that would bring in veterans service organizations (VSO) to provide a variety of services to our returning veterans including orientation back to civilian society, physical and psychological services, and a variety of special job training classes. These VSOs currently under consideration are self-sustaining organizations with good track records and will provide rental income to support the maintenance of the building. This particular approach has never been explored in the past,

"The War Memorial Veterans Building will be undergoing a \$130 million retrofit..."

but we are embarking on the idea that the American Legion should facilitate these services to our veterans. This is a dramatic change from our past activities and is the first step in outreaching to our returning veterans in order to facilitate their integration into our society.

Unfortunately, the Veterans Administration is not always able to provide local support services, so we, in the American Legion, must step in and do all we can to help our veterans, especially our combat veterans whose adjustment to civilian life require support. We must provide help for them to obtain employment, including job counseling and training, and many other vital

services only these organizations can provide.

The War Memorial Commission has obtained "pro bono" consulting services to facilitate our planning, and we will be bringing in experts and technical specialists to provide both training and counseling services.

We will provide follow-up reports on our progress in the future.

Nelson Lum, Vice Chairman, American Legion War Memorial Commission, Cathay Post No. 384 3rd Vice Commander with contributions by **Roger S. Dong**, Chairman, American Legion War Memorial Commission.



HARRISON Renewable Energy

State License No. 416921

Global Headquarters: 1167 Mission Street, 4th Floor, San Francisco, CA 94103
mkl@harrisonrenewableenergy.com (415) 203-0116

**SOLAR DESIGNING, BUILDING AND MARKETING
SIGN-UP FOR YOUR REBATES \$\$\$ &
FREE HOME ENERGY AUDIT TODAY! USE PROMOTIONAL CODE CP384!**

**RESIDENTIAL, COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL
GOVERNMENT AND LOCAL UTILITY COMPANY PAY FOR YOUR SYSTEM
GO GREEN! GO SOLAR! SAVE OUR EARTH & ENVIRONMENT
ELIMINATE OR REDUCE YOUR ELECTRIC BILLS**

- HIGH QUALITY PRODUCTS AND PROFESSIONAL SERVICE
- LICENSED AND INSURED
- GREEN FINANCING PROGRAMS AVAILABLE
- LOCAL HIRING
- SUPPORTER OF GREEN TRAINING AND EMPLOYMENT
- GREEN ADVOCATE
- AUTHORIZED DEALERSHIP OF GREEN ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY PRODUCTS

**For the Community
By the Community**



**Partial Proceeds Donated
to Charities**

Travel Service



Turn Your Vacations into Donations!
Click Here to Find Out How!

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 Lee**.

The web address is www.ytbtravel.com/home.aspx



Are your eyes playing tricks on you? Compare this picture to the picture on page 1. Who are the new faces?

What will \$10.00 buy you?



A chance to win a pre-owned, full warranty Mercedes Benz C Class luxury sedan.

[The above pictures are not of the actual sedan to be raffled].

There will be additional prizes, including Costco and Trader Joe's gift certificates. Buy your raffle tickets now (or help sell raffle tickets) for a great opportunity to own a nearly new Mercedes. The drawing will take place on August 14, 2010 at the Cathay Post Annual Dinner at the New Asia Garden Restaurant. You do not have to be present to win.

Good Luck!

From the Editor

One reason, though certainly not the primary reason, I decided to begin my legal career as a Marine Corps Judge Advocate, was so that I could have “war stories” to share with my children [as a Marine Corps criminal law attorney, I was more affectionately known as an “office pogue” and thus my “war stories” are figuratively just that].

However, I’ll be the first to admit that I was a bit turned off after meeting with my Officer Selection Officer, Captain Len Philo. He explained that graduating from law school and passing the state bar exam would not get me a free pass into the Marine Corps. In fact, just like [almost] all Marine Officers, I would have to earn my commission by passing 10 weeks of Officer Candidate School followed by another 6 months of The Basic School [rolling around in the dirt with deer ticks and chiggers].

While I could wax poetic about OCS and TBS [I wonder if my current ongoing back problems have anything to do with my training], I’ll save those stories for another day [maybe, one day, I’ll share my OCS story about how, with all “eyeballs” and “ears” on me, I used the militarily unacceptable term “undies” instead of “skivvies” in describing the gear we needed to pack for our 10 mile “hump”].

Instead, I’d like to share a “war story” about a young Marine who proves that our country is blessed with the best.

It seemed just like yesterday [you know you’re getting old when you use this phrase when telling a story and you’re bothered by back problems], when this very young, rising, hotshot helicopter mechanic came into my office while I

was serving as the station’s Senior Defense Counsel. He graduated at the top [or near the top of his class] in boot camp and in his follow-on schools. One of his initial assignments was to HMX-1 [yes, the Marine Corps helicopter squadron responsible for transporting the President].

He was charged with use of a controlled substance, Ecstasy. Here he was, a young man, not yet 21, who had decided very early on in his life that he wanted to serve his country, looking down the barrel of a Federal conviction for drug use. My client refused to plead guilty even though a conviction was a near certainty. In a nutshell, the government simply needed to establish a “good” chain of custody to get a conviction.

Assuming a “good” chain of custody, a servicemember has only one real “defense.” And, that is to argue that he or she did not “knowingly” use the drug. In other words, it’s the ol’ “someone slipped me a Mickey” defense [don’t even try to argue that your positive drug test for marijuana was due to a buddy blowing marijuana smoke in your face; experts will testify that you literally have to be locked in a sealed room the size of a phone booth for hours, inhaling nothing but second hand marijuana smoke to “pop” positive].

My client refused to plead because he didn’t do it. He refused to plead even though he could be spending upwards of 180 days in the brig. To make a long story short, his fiancée and mom made their way to a little town

called Jacksonville, North Carolina [apparently, it was a big thing when “Target” opened up shop]. For the next several days, my client and I went into battle with the prosecutor and the limitless resources of the Federal Government. At the end, I asked the jury of officers and senior enlisted to find my client not guilty. My client’s defense? He attended a party where he left his drink unattended. He was later found “passed out” by the Jacksonville cops. When he returned to base, he agreed to a drug test. After all, he knew he didn’t do any drugs and the test would confirm it [of course, the test came back positive]. Why wouldn’t he? After several tense hours, the jury returned with a verdict of “not guilty.” My client, in tears, shook my hands and gave me a Marine Corps pin passed on from his grandpa. His mom, also in tears, gave me a big hug [in addition to pronouncing my name wrong].

A few years ago, I wanted to find out what has since become of my client. I “Googled” his name and to my very pleasant surprise, I learned that my lance corporal had been promoted to Sergeant and was returning home to a hero’s welcome after serving in Iraq.

My client believed in the fairness of the legal system and had faith in his fellow Marines. After the jury cleared him of charges, he could have just gone into “cruise control”, but he didn’t. He did the right thing and made the most of his abilities. He kept his word to continue serving his country honorably.

One of these days, I hope to catch up with my client. I’m sure he will have many war stories to share.

Galin Luk
Editor



美 國 退 伍 軍 人 會

CATHAY POST #384, CHINESE AMERICAN VETERANS

AMERICAN LEGION, DEPARTMENT OF CALIFORNIA

1524 Powell Street, San Francisco, CA 94133

415- 392-2882,

Cathay Post No. 384, 79th Anniversary, and the 7th Annual Community, Fire & Police Appreciation Banquet

When: Saturday, August 14, 2010, 6:00 P.M.

Where: New Asia Restaurant, 772 Pacific Avenue San Francisco, CA.

You are invited to the American Legion Cathay Post No. 384's 79th Anniversary, and the 7th Annual Community, Fire & Police Appreciation Banquet to celebrate our 79th anniversary and to honor our City's outstanding firefighters, police officers, and community leaders for their dedicated service to our community.

Cathay Post No. 384 recognizes that our public safety officers play an important role in contributing to our community's safety. These selfless officers are fully aware that they may encounter life-threatening situations requiring the ultimate sacrifice *yet* they work hard so that we can go about our daily lives. Cathay Post No. 384 will honor two officers and firefighters, who were chosen by their peers and superiors, for their outstanding heroic service. The members of Cathay Post No. 384 salute the efforts of these men and women.

Cathay Post No. 384 will also recognize the individuals and community leaders who have contributed their valuable time and effort to make our community a "better place." Please join us in honoring these leaders of our community.

Please reserve your seating with Commander Ron Lee at rlee288@aol.com or 415.756.1898 or Nelson Lum at Nelson1431@aol.com or 415.205.0120 no later than August 06, 2010. The cost is \$50 per person or \$500 per table. Event and corporate sponsorships are welcomed.

Cathay Post No. 384, American Legion, is a non-profit tax exempt organization.

Cathay Post at the APA Family Support Services on July 16, 2010



Committee of 1,000 Patriotic Citizens

Well, here I am again, asking for your help. As I reported in last months Chronicle, The **Committee of 1,000 Patriotic Citizens** was established to help raise funds for the San Francisco Veterans Memorial. I have pledged to raise \$100,000 from 1,000 patriotic citizens to each donate \$100.00.

The first 30 days of this campaign was "easy." But, my "A" list (consisting of Cathay Post Members and other prominent citizens) is pretty much exhausted. The road ahead for the remaining 900 names and \$90,000.00 that I am committed to raise will be more difficult. Money is not the issue. The objective is to fill up our **Committee of 1,000 Patriotic Citizens** list, and I want Asian Americans to be well represented in that list.

Please, send referrals to me. Many thanks in advance for your patriotic support.

Roger S. Dong
Chairman
American Legion War Memorial Commission

Cathay Post No. 384 Membership Dues

It's that time of year to renew your membership with Cathay Post. If Post and Support Unit members have not done so already, please pay your \$40.00 dues at the August monthly meeting or mail a check for the dues to Cathay Post, 1524 Powell St., S.F., CA 94133.

Where in the World is David Lang?

Cathay Post member David Lang is participating in the Third Memorial Challenge presented by United Health Care. The following is edited and reprinted from David's newsletter as he updates us on his "Ride 2 Recovery" bike ride journey supporting wounded veterans. To learn more about the "R2R", check out www.ride2recovery.com.

The Rocky Mountain Challenge presented by United Healthcare.

Day 3 of the Rocky Mountain Challenge took riders to over 9100 feet above sea level. It was a day to enjoy the beauty that is the Rocky Mountains.

The day's biggest obstacle was a 7 mile climb right out of the hotel parking lot to the top of Storm Pass.

The riders had a lot of downhill

riding including the last 20 miles, which helped the riders reach speeds of over 55 mph!

When you are out climbing these challenging hills, the best way to take your mind off all of the pain is to talk to other riders. So this lady was cycling with one of our groups and says "I'm slowing you all up. Why don't you go on?" In response, one of the vets tells her "No, we don't leave any one behind ma'am. This is how it's done at R2R." She later confided that the comment made her cry. It was the one year anniversary of her son's death in Iraq and she honored him in this ride.

Tomorrow is a big day for everyone with the Governor of Colorado, and other VIPs, joining the ride to Denver.



Remember when...the Grant Avenue Follies and Cathay Post,
January 15, 2010.



Primary Business Address
1524 Powell Street
San Francisco, CA 94133
Phone: 415.392.2883
Fax: 415.399.0551



Chronicle Staff

Adjutant Tony Zhang is responsible for the publication of the Cathay Post Chronicle.

Post Volunteer Roger Dong is our chief reporter.

Editor Galin Luk is a San Francisco civil trial attorney and Marine Corps veteran.

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 by the 25th day of the month preceding the next month's Newsletter.

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

Cathay Post No. 384, American Legion, Executive Board

Commander Ron Lee

1st Vice Commander David Y. Wong

2nd Vice Commander Jay Pon

3rd Vice Commander Nelson Lum

Adjutant Tony Zhang

Secretary John Li

Treasurer Edward Wong

Past Commander & Historian Dale C. King