



CATHAY DISPATCH

Veterans - Sounding Off Since 1931



Saying Goodbye to An American Hero By Roger Dong

Important Dates:

- Oct 7—USS America Lunch
- Oct 10—Veterans Monument Dedication
- Oct 11—Member Meeting @ 1100
- Oct 11—USS America Commissioning
- Oct 12—Italian Heritage Day Parade
- Oct 13—Indigenous People Day
- Oct 31—Halloween Day



Funeral procession for Major Kurt Lee, Arlington National Cemetery. Photo by R. Dong.

Inside this issue:

- Memorial Service ; Major Kurt Lee 1,6
- 96th Annual Convention, Part 2 2
- Commander Jay Pon 3,7
- 1st Vice Commander Nelson Lum 4,13
- 2nd Vice Commander Galin Luk 5
- The Few, the Proud 7
- 70th Anniversary Battle of Leyte 8
- USMC Corporal Richard Gonzalez 9
- Member Focus: John Chan 10,14
- Ride for Veterans 11-13
- Who Am I? 14
- Chef's John Tam and Emily Onglatco 16
- "Remembrance" - A Special Concert 19-20

Cathay Post dispatched Commander Jay Pon, 1st Vice Commander Nelson Lum and Post Historian Roger S. Dong to Arlington National Cemetery to send our Post's final respects to our Post member Major Kurt Chew-Een Lee, United States Marine Corps, a true American military hero. The weather was balmy and cool, and the Major Lee's many friends and colleagues from all corners of our nation were present to bid our final farewell to our Post and national military hero.

His service, the United States Marine Corps, gave their hero, full military honors with a large contingent of Marines from Marine Corps Headquarters at Quantico, VA. including the Marine Corps band, two platoons of Marines in full dress blues, and Marine officers and Senior NCOs to participate in honoring Major Lee.

The Army's Arlington honor memorial caisson drawn by six magnificent stallions carried the remains of Major Lee from the parade grounds to the

burial site.

The Commandant of the Marines insured that the Major Kurt Lee family was properly attended at his memorial services. A dozen senior officers and NCOs from Marine Headquarters participated in the closing ceremony giving Major Kurt C. Lee full military honors and respect to the Lee family. Major Kurt Lee was awarded the Navy Cross for his courage, leadership, and military competency in his very first combat en-

(Continued on page 6)

The American Legion 96th Annual Convention – Part 2

By Roger Dong

“On Sunday, the sky was clear and blue; the Charlotte summer had cooled to a very comfortable 83 degrees.”



L to R: The Charlotte Hilton adjacent to Charlotte North Carolina Convention Center. Photos by R. Dong

For everyone who could not make our Charlotte, North Carolina soiree, here are a few of the sights, sans sounds, of what you missed. Many members of the Posts of the Department of California stayed at the Charlotte Hilton.



Our Sharp Department of California Representatives. Photo by R. Dong

Charlotte, North Carolina is south of the Mason Dixie line. In this part of our country breakfast (with grits) is important, and our representatives went native and enjoyed breakfast.

Not a small burgh, Charlotte has many tall buildings. Several of the tallest buildings belong to Bank of America, which moved its headquarters to Charlotte because of the competitive costs of doing business.

Twenty years ago, Bank of America's headquarters was at 555 California Street in San Francisco.

On Sunday, the sky was clear and blue; the Charlotte summer had cooled to a very comfortable 83 degrees. Perfect for a parade, don't you think!

Next year, we will do this again, but not in

Charlotte, NC.

In August 2015, our 97th Annual National American Legion Convention will be in "Ballmer," or in the King's English, Baltimore. That's Baltimore, Maryland. We are going to have another great time.

Hope to see everyone there.



COMMANDER JAY PON

Wow, we had quite the turnout at our last meeting; many things were discussed and voted on. I am glad to see the Post's passion in so many matters. Thank you for all your lively discussions and efforts in making Cathay Post 384 a place that makes a difference.

It was wonderful experience in initiating and swearing in our newest member, George Tsang, in the traditional ceremonies of the American Legion. It has been too long, since our Post has performed this ceremony, and we will continue to do so. Like the military, the American Legion is enriched with traditions and ceremonies, which links us together with other legionnaires throughout the country, and separate us from other organizations. The posting of the colors, opening prayer, POW/MIA ceremony, and the American Legion Emblem all remind us of our continued service and love for our country, to each other, and to our community. A free copy of the 2014 American Legion Officer Guide and Manual of Ceremonies can be download for a limited time by clicking on the link. Download it and see what other traditions we can bring back before I remove the pdf file.

Richard Ow is right, the best part of the meeting is lunch. Thank you to Support Members Emily Onglacto and John Tam for such a wonderful September lunch. The spaghetti and meatballs were a big hit!!! From the bottom of my heart and stomach, thank you again for keeping us well fed.

Also, a special thanks to James Fang, who is running for re-election to the Bart Board of Directors, for stopping by and taking time to address the member of Post 384. Post 384 is open to anyone running for office to address the Post during the general meeting, please give me a call to schedule time. The American Legion cannot endorse or oppose any candidate running for office, but highly encourages everyone to vote in the general election on November 4th. Don't take voting for granted, many have died to give you this liberty.

October and November are very busy times at the Post. We have many functions going on both inside at outside of the Post. Veteran's Memorial Monument Dedication, USS America Luncheon & Commissioning, Fleet Week, Italian Heritage Parade, Veterans Day Parade, Toy Drive and our Holiday Luncheons. Please contact me or the Vice Commanders if you have time to help out.

Looking outside of Post 384, our number one mission is preserving the rights of veterans and patriotic organizations to utilize the space of the War Memorial Veterans Building (WMVB). We are at a critical juncture, the 14 American Legion Posts in the 8th District Council will soon be asked to decide whether or not the American Legion War Memorial Commission (ALWMC) should seek legal action against the City and County of San Francisco. One of the main points of contention is the definition of a

(Continued on page 7)



Jay Pon

jpon@jps.net
415-409-8858

Cathay Post Member
since: 2001

Branch: Navy, Army

Final Rank: Major

*"It was
wonderful
experience in
initiating and
swearing in
our newest
member,
George
Tsang..."*





Nelson Lum

nelson1431@aol.com
415-392-2882

Cathay Post Member
since: 2005

Branch: Army

Final Rank: SPC

*“As
Legionnaires, we
should always
keep in mind of
those who now
bear the
responsibilities
of fighting for
our freedom and
to defend our
country.”*



1st VICE COMMANDER NELSON LUM

With the American Legion National Convention behind us and the impending trip to Arlington National Cemetery for the burial service of our beloved Honorary member Major Kurt Lee only a few days away, the whole month of September has sped by in a lightning fashion for me. October is here, and the busy summer of 2014 is gone with the falling leaves as a reminder that Fall is with us.

October 2014 will be one of busiest and hopefully, most rewarding months of the year. It can arguably be one of the most important months for this decade in San Francisco. The dedication of the Veterans Monument that was 83 years in the making will finally take place on October 10, 2014. To enhance the importance of the unveiling of the monument (a privately funded \$3 million project), the famous Blue Angels aerial acrobatics team will perform a flyby during the dedication. A veteran’s monument to honor the sacrifices of those who served in WWI was supposed to

be erected as a centerpiece at the Veteran’s Court, located between the War Memorial Veterans Building and the Opera house, but due to shortage of funds, the monument was not built. During the past 83 years, many attempts had been made to build the monument without any success until the project was taken over by Major General Mike Myatt (USMC Ret.) about three and a half years ago. He formed a committee to work on fund raising, artist, and design selection as well as overseeing every aspect of the construction. Major General Myatt deserves the gratitude of all the veterans for this great accomplishment.

October 11, 2014, a day after the dedication of the monument, will be another historic day. The USS America, a new class of carrier (the first of the America-class amphibious assault ships for the U.S. Navy), will be commissioned in San Francisco. Rear Admiral Tom F. Brown, III (USN Ret.), a Legionnaire, is the Chair of the Commissioning Committee. Members

of Cathay Post can be proud that we have contributed to this effort by hosting some of her crew for lunch during their stay, and helped the Commissioning Committee by donating some needed funds.

October 12, 2014 is the Italian Heritage Day Parade. Cathy Post will once again participate to honor our neighbors. In addition to the usual convertibles and Miss Asian contestants, we will be featuring a Locomotive on wheels from the Voiture 393 Chapter of 40 & 8, from members of one of our sister Posts from Redwood City. For those that don’t know, 40 & 8 is a sub group of the Legion that honors and memorializes the usage of the railroad to transport troops during WWI. A railroad car was capable of transporting either 40 fully equipped soldiers or 8 horses.

In the midst of all the events I have mentioned, it will also be Fleet Week. There will be many ships besides the USS America that will be visiting our

(Continued on page 13)

2nd VICE COMMANDER GALIN LUK

“The following is reprinted from the April Cathay Dispatch. In his long and accomplished life, Major Lee taught us much about leadership.”

Major Kurt Lee had mentioned his own mortality to me on several occasions. During the February 16 luncheon held in his honor, I had asked him very casually about his plans with family in Sacramento for the upcoming week. “I don’t have much time” he told me matter of factly. Thinking of others as he did throughout his Marine Corps career, he confided he wanted to be the “the best brother he could be.”

Major Lee’s passing on March 2, 2014 shocked everyone who had seen him in San Francisco just two weeks prior. Still carrying the physique of a Marine with

a perfect “300 PFT”, he greeted everyone with a handshake so uncharacteristically firm that one could begin to appreciate what made Major Lee so special.

When he spoke, he was articulate and modest, firm and reassuring. He wasn’t one to waste time talking about his heroics; he preferred to talk about his Marines. His memory was unailing. He greeted friends he had last seen many years ago, some many decades ago, as if he had just seen each and everyone just the day prior. “John Stevens” he confidently proclaimed as the Marine Lieutenant Colonel [Ret.] walked up to Major Lee during the February 16 luncheon. They had last seen each other many, many years ago. From there, the Marines shared their

“war stories” as if they were at the “O” Club. Everyone who had the honor to meet Major Lee could only believe he would outlive us all.

Then, the man whom Congressman Pete McCloskey credited with saving the First Marine Division during the Korean War passed away. Shortly before his death, Major Lee talked to the American Veterans Center about his thoughts on leadership. He said that “a leader welcomes suggestions and contributions from” others. The incompetent commander is the one who expounds his or her views without “opening it up to questions.” Major Lee lived what he preached.



Galin Luk

galinluk@hotmail.com
415-392-2882

Cathay Post Member since: 2009

Branch: Marine Corps

Final Rank: Captain

“The incompetent commander is the one who expounds his or her views without ‘opening it up to questions.’ Major Lee lived what he preached.”



Chinese American Heroes

Saluting our Heroes
Noting their magnificent contributions

Please visit our heroes at:
ChineseAmericanHeroes.org

Professional Event Photography
by
Frank Jang

Available for all kinds of events
650-438-1724
frankjang888@gmail.com

frank jang photo

Saying Goodbye to An American Hero By Roger Dong

(Continued from page 1)

gagement in the Korean War. What did he do to earn the highest accolade the US Navy service can award? First, he used 14 hours every day of the 20 days on board the USS Okanogan enroute from San Diego to Inchon to



Marine Honor Guard folding the American flag. Phot by R. Dong.

train and prepare his platoon to be ready for war. His unit consisted of Reservists who were far from being fit Marines.

Once in combat, he was always in leading up front taking the greatest risk that strengthened and inspired his men. He received the Navy Cross in his first combat action when he personally drew enemy fire, thereby exposing enemy fire positions, and allowed his trained machine gun teams to wipe out the enemy. Baker Company, led by their Commander 1stLt Kurt Lee, used this strategy, with

their Commander drawing fire, to survive and win every battle they encountered.

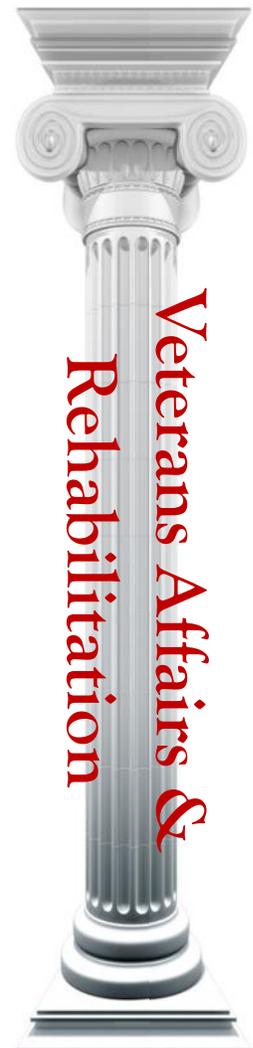
We met several of the remaining Korean War survivors of Major Lee's unit the famous Baker -1-7 Rifle Platoon of the Marine 1st Division including 1st Lieutenant Joseph Owens, 1st Technical Sergeant Lee Rux, SSgt Ronald L Burbridge, and Glenn Galtere. They had all traveled many miles to honor their hero.

The back of SSgt Ronald Burbridge's business card reads as follows:

"Let the record show Chew Een Lee, retired as a Major in the U.S. M.C. His leadership saved Myself and many, many others. Thank you, Sir!"

The issue of upgrading Major Lee's Silver Star to the Medal of Honor was also on the minds of many of his fellow Marines and his many friends. Cathay Post and Chinese American Heroes will continue our efforts to upgrade Major Lee's Silver Star to the Medal of Honor.

Roger S. Dong, Post Historian





The Few, the Proud By Jay Pon

[Editor's note: Commander Jay Pon has endeavored to explain the various branches of United States Armed Forces. In the August edition, Commander Pon wrote about the U.S. Army].

Now, we ruck up with the Marine Corps. According to the "Department of Defense Manpower Report - Fiscal Year 2014", there are approximately 235,000 U.S. Marines [the U.S. Army is roughly 5 times larger].

Created in 1775, today's U.S.M.C. is the largest marine force in the world and can project significant on-shore power several

hundred miles inland. The Marine Corps operates Posts on land, aboard amphibious assault ships around the world, and works closely with the State Department securing U.S. embassies worldwide.

Eighty three percent, or one hundred ninety five thousand Marines are active duty; eighty nine percent are enlisted; seven percent are female (this is the lowest of all armed services).

Most Marines are infantrymen; others are sometimes called POGs (Personnel other than Grunt) and they exist to support the infantry. Even the Ma-

rine Corp Air Wing is focused on close air support of the ground forces, and not air domination.

There are four Marine Divisions: 1st Marine Division headquartered at Camp Pendleton, California; 2nd Marine Division headquartered at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina; 3rd Marine Division headquartered at Camp Butler, Okinawa, Japan, and the 4th Marine Division (reserve) headquartered New Orleans, Louisiana.

The Marine Corp proudly believes in always being forwardly deployed.

COMMANDER JAY PON, Continued

(Continued from page 3)

patriotic organization and whether or not the ALWMC has the right to install such organizations into the WMVB. The ALWMC, after consultation with counsel, defines organizations that primary provide services to veterans as patriotic organizations. The Trustees that represent the City and County of San Francisco, in consulta-

tion with the City Attorney's Office, define patriotic organizations as veteran membership organizations only. If their definition is upheld, that would mean organizations such as United Services Organization (USO), Veterans Administration (VA), the Sons of American Legion, and the American Legion Auxiliary etc. can all be excluded from utilization of the

space in WMVB since they are not veteran membership organizations. We are still hopeful that these issues can be settled and litigation can be avoided. Please let me know your opinion so I can vote on behalf of the best interest of Post 384 members and that of the veteran family.

All the best from the Pon Family.

The 70th Anniversary of the Battle of Leyte Gulf

By Cecelia Gaerlan

In celebration of Filipino-American History month, the Philippine Consulate General, San Francisco, and the Bataan Legacy Historical Society will present the **70TH Anniversary of the Battle of Leyte Gulf and Stories from WWII in the Philippines on Friday, October 24 at 6PM.** The event will take place at the Philippine Consulate General's office located at 447 Sutter St., Social Hall, San Francisco, CA 94108. Admission is Free.

The Battle of Leyte Gulf, considered the largest naval battle in history, took place between October 23 to 26, 1944. It marked the beginning of the liberation of the Philippines two and a half years after the fall of Bataan on April 9, 1942. It was also the beginning of a massive extermination of civilians by the Imperial Japanese Army cul-

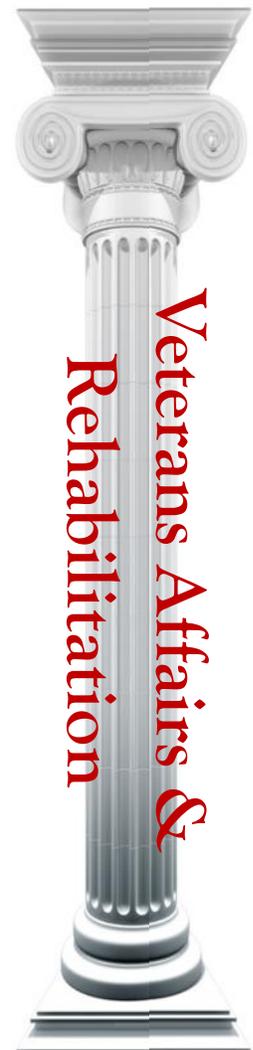
minating in the Battle for Manila. Manila, once called the Pearl of the Orient, became the second most devastated city after Warsaw, Poland. By the end of the war, approximately one million civilians had perished.

Bataan Legacy Historical Society is gathering stories of the war from veterans, civilian survivors and their families to create a comprehensive perspective of the war. The stories will be published in an "Anthology of Stories from World War II in the Philippines" (Vol. 1), scheduled for release on October 24, 2015, in time for the first Bataan Legacy Historical Society Conference at the San Francisco Public Library.

The event will feature veterans of the war as well as civilian survivors who will speak about their experiences. It will also feature an exhibit

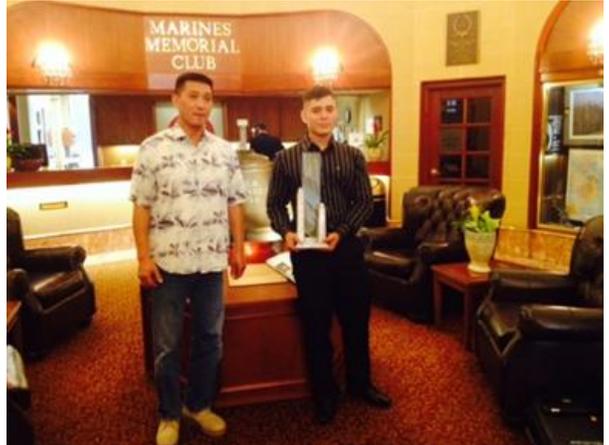
as well as living historians. The event will be presented in collaboration with Memorare Manila 1945, California Veterans Administration, Philippine Scouts Heritage Society, Wreaths Across America, Rod Hall Collection on WWII in the Philippines, Filipino American National Historical Society (Bay Area & Rio Grande Chapters), the New Castle Society, Veterans Equity Center, the Filipino American Soldiers WWII Recognition Project and Bataan-Corregidor Memorial Foundation of New Mexico.

For more information, contact: cultural@philippinesanfrancisco.org; (415) 433-6666 Ext. 313, info@bataanlegacy.org; (510) 520-8540; www.bataanlegacy.org or for more information, see page 18.



USMC Corporal Richard Gonzalez By Roger Dong

USMC Corporal Ricardo Gonzalez, an active duty Marine warrior, has submitted his application to join Cathay Post No. 384. Corporal Gonzalez is the 2014 American Legion Marine Corps winner of the Spirit of Service award. Each year the American Legion accepts nominations from all five services and then selects the top service member who has served his or her country, and who has also served the community service as a volunteer.



Commander Jay Pon with Corporal Gonzalez. Photo by R. Dong.

The American Legion makes a very unique and special trophy each year to present to each of the five winning service representatives. Corporal Gonzalez decided to lend his special trophy to Cathay Post to inspire others to serve their country and our communities. He brought his trophy and delivered the trophy to Commander Jay Pon for safe keeping and proper display at our Post.

Corporal Gonzalez, who just finished serving in Guam and is on his way to Quantico, VA for special training and future embassy assignment, stopped in San Francisco to meet our Post officers (Commander Jay Pon, Vice Commander Nelson Lum and Historian Roger S. Dong). At the meeting, he officially requested that his American Legion membership be transferred to our

Post.

This was not an accidental event. Cpl Gonzalez met Nelson, Clara Pon, and Roger at our National Convention in August and was invited to join Cathay Post. He considered our request, and after receiving several issues of our Cathay Dispatch emailed to him illustrating the activities of our Post, Corporal Gonzalez decided to stop in San Francisco enroute to Quantico to join our Post. His home town is San Jose, so no need to ask him if he knows the way to San Jose.

We hope, and expect, to see Corporal Gonzalez periodically as he criss - crosses the world passing through San Francisco on the way to serve our Embassies worldwide. Semper Fi, Corporal Gonzalez and see you soon.

Membership Renewal By Nelson Lum

It is membership renewal time again. Please be ready to renew your annual membership when you attend our next meeting. Just a quick note about the annual membership fees: of the \$40 that our Post collects, \$28.50 goes to The American Legion and Department of California, \$1 goes to the District; \$10.50 goes to our Post.



Joe Chan, Continuing The Family Tradition of Military Service

By Thanh Huynh



Joe and Eliz Chan. Photo by G. Luk.



Joe Chan getting ready for flight. Photo courtesy of J. Chan.

United States Air Force Veteran member Colonel Joe Chan lives in Arizona with his wife Eliz. They return to Alameda during the summer months. They've got good reasons for doing so. It's hot in Arizona. Joe is also a member of Cathay Post No. 384.

Spanning five wars (World War I, World War II, Korean War, Vietnam War and Iraq War) with service members from the U.S. Army, U.S. Army Air Corps and the U.S. Air Force, Joe's family exemplifies the best of loyal military service to the nation.

Joe, a recent addition to the Post family, entered the military during a time of suspicion and protest over the U.S. military's role in Vi-

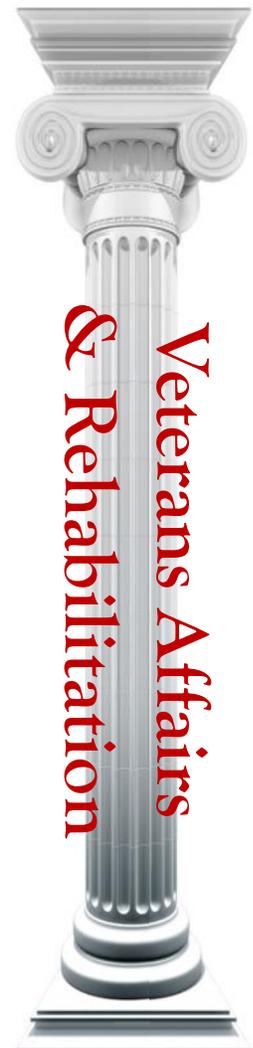
etnam. To avoid the draft, which has since been replaced with an all-volunteer force, the Ft. Wayne, Indiana native and newly minted Indiana University graduate joined the U.S.A.F. to become a pilot.

Through a long and illustrious career, Joe was stationed throughout the United States and Asia at Laughlin AFB, TX; Norton AFB, CA; Nakhon Phanom Royal Thai Air Base, Thailand; Dover AFB, DE; Altus AFB, OK; Maxwell AFB, AL; Scott AFB, IL; Pentagon, Washington, D.C.; McGuire AFB, NJ; Robbins AFB, GA; Maxwell AFB, AL (again); Yongsan Army Base, South Korea; US Embassy, Seoul; Defense Intelligence Agency, Washington, D.C. (again); and at the U.S. Consu-

late, Hong Kong.

His military career evolved as he held posts as a C-141 Airlift Pilot (11A3M), a Forward Air Controller (OV-10, 1444A), a C-5 Airlift/Flight Examiner Pilot (Q11A3A), an International Politico-Military Affairs Officer (16P4), a C-141 Airlift Squadron Commander (C11A3M), Director of Current Operations, Air Force Reserve (10Co), Chief, Command and Control, U.N. Forces Korea; Air Attaché (16A4), U.S. Embassy, Seoul, and an Air Liaison Officer (16A4), U.S. Consulate, Hong Kong Colonel Chan totaled 4,703.8 flying hours, including 212 combat missions over the Ho Chi Minh Trail and the Plain of Jars in Laos.

(Continued on page 14)



My Ride for Veterans By Michael Escobar

I've always had a sincere appreciation for the United States Armed Forces. I was in the U.S. Naval Sea Cadets for several years as a kid, where I learned the value of personal initiative, taking responsibility to solve problems on the lowest level possible, and attention to detail. These principles have stood me in good stead my whole life, even though I never served in the military.

Recently I took up cycling as a hobby. As a good San Franciscan, I'd use my bike to bop around town and sometimes commute to my job in the Financial District; but when I suddenly found myself unemployed last October, the bike became a great tool to keep me [I think it's "me"] physically active and mentally happy. And, I found I was capable of a lot more than I'd expected: San Francisco to Sausalito was surprisingly easy, and the payoff was immense (that view!). Since then I've put more than 1,200 miles on my bike and explored a lot of the beautiful Bay Area.

About the time that I



Michael Escobar is all smiles before his ride. Photo courtesy of M. Escobar.

started my new job this February, I found out about the Ride 2 Recovery (www.ride2recovery.com). This organization raises money to provide bikes and cycling training to disabled veterans, and cycling programs for VA clinics and military hospitals. The bikes are custom-modified however needed for riders who are recovering from the loss of limbs, and other injuries, including PTSD. The organization puts on several events throughout the year, including one-day rides with options ranging from 20 to 80 miles; as well as several multi-day long-distance rides. I discovered there was an event coming up in May, starting from the

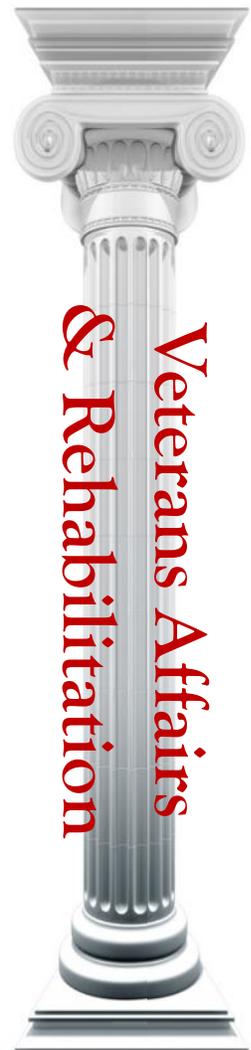
California State Capitol building and doing a 40-mile circuit around the city of Sacramento.

"What a great idea!" I thought to myself. I enlisted a buddy to join me: Chuck, an avid cyclist himself, and [no such thing as former Marine] Marine who served with the engineers during the Gulf War in 1991. We raised more than \$900 through the Ride 2 Recovery fundraising platform, in the weeks leading up to the event. (A few friends were very generous, but a lot of people pitched in.)

The night before, we headed up with our

(Continued on page 12)

"[Ride to Recover] raises money to provide bikes and cycling training to disabled veterans..."



My Ride for Veterans, Continued By Michael Escobar

(Continued from page 11)

bikes to check into a hotel close to the starting point, and enjoyed a delicious dinner at Frank Fat's, an old politicians' haunt. That morning we were pleased to find more than 100 riders waiting at the big arch set up as a starting and finishing line in front of the Capitol. Plenty of disabled vets were among the crowd, decked out in full spandex cycling garb, ready for the adventure.

Riding out under the arch in the company of a hundred other cyclists was quite an experience, even if we weren't going at the same speed as the heroes of the Tour de France. The "peloton" (French for "platoon", the group of riders in a cycling event) stayed together for quite a while as we followed the Sacramento River north to the American River and along the Riverfront Park. From there, we headed out along the outskirts of the city to the east and south,

until we found the river again. By then the peloton had gotten well-spread out, but the event was well-supported with rest stops staffed by volunteers giving out food and drinks. Free bike tuneups were provided by the official mechanics working the Amgen Tour of California, which was scheduled to start the next day.

Since the peloton was stretched out, with everyone going at their own pace, there was no big finish; Chuck and I

(Continued on page 13)





USS AMERICA Commissioning



14 March 2014: Commissioning Committee Chair, RADM Tom Brown III, [tells the AMERICA story in this 10 March interview with KGO7 TV in San Francisco.](#)

USS AMERICA (LHA 6) will be commissioned in San Francisco on October 11, 2014 during Fleet Week.

The Navy is asking you to sponsor commissioning of this new amphibious assault ship. Visit the website at <http://commissioningamerica.org/> or click on the links below for recent news & updates.

[It's Official: Navy Secretary Mabus Sets 11 October as USS AMERICA Commissioning Date](#)

[28 March 2014: Commissioning Location Confirmed; Advice for Crew Members' Families Posted](#)

[USS AMERICA Officially Turned Over to Navy](#)

Cathay Post Helping Out Struggling Veterans Organizations

By Galin Luk

Cathay Post has a proud history of helping out when the need arises. Staying true to history, during the September meeting, Cathay Post members voted to offer three loans to three veteran's organization struggling with cash flow. Cathay Post members voted to approve a \$5,000.00 twenty four month interest-free loan to the War Memorial Commission to assist the commission while the War Memorial Veterans' Building is undergoing renovations. Members also approved a \$5,000.00 twenty four month interest-free loan to the 8th District Council to help fund the Veterans Success Center, a job placement center for veterans. Members also approved a \$2,000.00 loan to the 8th District Council to purchase liability insurance. Support member Jed Miner guaranteed the \$2,000.00 loan to the District. Three veteran's organizations hurting with cash flow; one organization stepping up. [Note: for each loan, 5% interest begins accruing at the end of the 24 month period].

1st VICE COMMANDER NELSON LUM, Continued

(Continued from page 4)

City. As Legionnaires, we should always keep in mind of those who now bear the responsibilities of fighting for our freedom and to defend our country. Please let the troops know when you encounter them in our City that we are thankful for their service.

On October 24, 2014, our friends at the Asian Police Officers Association (APOA) will host their annual

dinner. Sergeant Richard Jue will be sworn in as the new president of the association. Cathay Post congratulates the president elect, Sergeant Rich Jue, and pledge our support as he embarks to serve the interest of his association and the community. As has been in the past, the close ties for the betterment of our community between our Post and the APOA will continue.

My Ride for Veterans, Continued

By Michael Escobar

(Continued from page 12)

crossed the finish line approximately in the middle of the pack, judging from how many people were already resting on the lawn in front of the Capitol building. We sensed that we had done something great; and, the sore knees and sunburns were worth it.

I recommend the ride for just about anyone – there are rides for all ability levels, and your friends will be happy to support the cause. Find out more at www.ride2recovery.com.

Michael Escobar lives in San Francisco and is the Risk Manager for Belectric, Inc. in Newark, CA.



Who Am I? By Roger Dong

My father was a World War II veteran and was an officer in my American Post for several decades. I have served the Sons of American Legion for many years. I was a Vietnam War veteran who served in the Army for five years as an Airborne Ranger with the 82nd Airborne Division. I have been in the American Legion for over 40 years and established a local scholarship foundation providing \$500.00 scholarships to local students. This fund has distributed over \$100,000 in scholarships since its inception. I was a Boy Scout cub and Scout Master. My wife has been active in the Lady's Auxiliary for many years and was a Department Junior Activities Chairman.



National Commander Michael D. Helm. Photo courtesy of American Legion.

We have 4 sons and a daughter. My oldest son and his wife are both graduates of West Point Military Academy, and both are currently serving in the 69th Air Defense Brigade in Kuwait. My second son is studying Aeronautical Engineering at the Air Force Academy, my third son is an Army ROTC cadet at a local university and my youngest son is in high school. My daughter is very active in the Junior Auxiliary. I recently retired from 33 years of

Federal service with the United States Postal Service, and am ready to devote more time to serve our veterans.

Who am I?

I am Michael D. Helm, your American Legion National Commander for 2014-2015.

Joe Chan, Continuing The Family Tradition of Military Service By Thanh Huynh

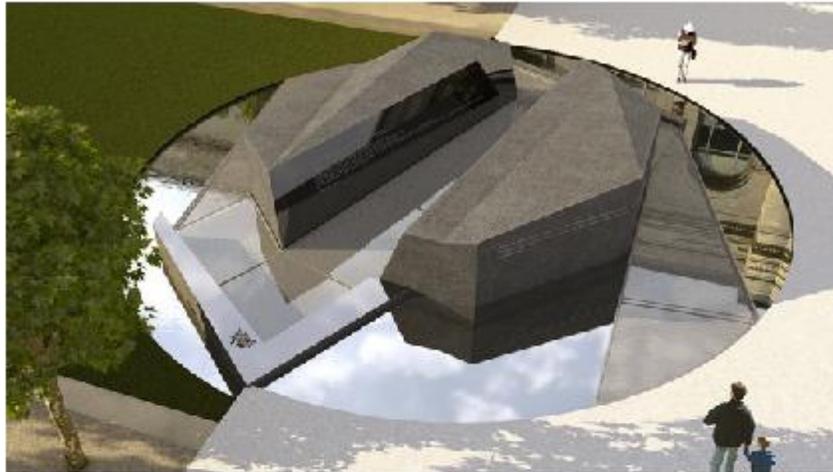
(Continued from page 10)

Colonel Chan also airlifted six F-5 fighter jets inside the C-5 Galaxy, the largest lift capacity aircraft in the U.S. Air Force inventory, from Iran to South Vietnam, twice.

Joe's and Eliz's son Christopher is a patent attorney and their daughter Cynthia is a journeywoman sheet metal worker.

Now retired, Joe is an active summertime member of Cathay Post.





Passage of Remembrance
SAN FRANCISCO VETERANS MEMORIAL

DEDICATION CEREMONY

Friday, October 10, 2014, 3:00 p.m.

The San Francisco War Memorial Board of Trustees invites you to join

Former Secretary of State George P. Shultz

Mayor Edwin Lee

Former Mayor Willie L. Brown, Jr.

and members of the City family

**Charlotte and George Shultz Horseshoe Drive adjacent to the Memorial Court
between the War Memorial Opera House and War Memorial Veterans Building**



R.S.V.P. to Ruby Henderson
(415) 554-6377 or Ruby.Henderson@sfgov.org

Chef John Tam and Emily Onglatco Prepare September Lunch

By Galin Luk

Roger Dong made the announcement during the August membership lunch. Yes, the same lunch following the meeting when members voted to limit the budget for each month's lunch to \$200.00 [Ed Wong forecasted "bologna and cheese sandwiches from here on"]. Roger stood up and announced that support member John Tam was willing to take on the challenge of preparing a great lunch for the Post's September meeting. "Two hundred dollars? I can prepare great food for up to one hundred members" he announced. That he did. John and support member

Emily Onglatco worked through the Friday evening prior to and the day of the September 13 membership meeting to prepare the mixed green salad, spaghetti, meatballs, marinara sauce, garlic bread [with fresh buttered garlic over fresh sour-dough], along with freshly cut fruit. What a meal it was! Members were seen going back for seconds and thirds before enjoying a nice helping of ice cream. John and Emily deliv-



Chefs John Tam and Emily Onglatco. Photo by G. Luk.

ered big time! They showed that you don't need to sacrifice quality or quantity when stretching a dollar.

2014 Cathay Dispatch Ad Rates

The annual advertisement rates are for 12 monthly issues.

Space size and rates:

¼ page (B&W/Color) - \$50

½ page (B&W/Color) - \$100

Full page (B&W/Color) - \$200

Contact a Post commander or Cathay Dispatch staff member to place your ad in the award winning *Cathay Dispatch*.



In Celebration of Filipino-American Month
Bataan Legacy Historical Society & the Philippine Consulate General, San Francisco
Present



**70th ANNIVERSARY OF THE
BATTLE OF LEYTE GULF
STORIES FROM WWII IN THE
PHILIPPINES**

Friday, October 24, 2014 at 6PM

Philippine Consulate General, San Francisco

447 Sutter St., Social Hall, San Francisco, CA

Free Admission

**For Information, call (415) 433-6666 Ext.313 or (510) 520-8540
Visit www.bataanlegacy.org**

providentcu.org

CHECKING

THAT'S BETTER THAN FREE

1.56% APY*

Super Reward Checking

- No debit card fees and no monthly fees
- ATM fee rebates¹
- No minimum balance
- Free online and mobile banking
- Zero liability fraud protection guarantee²
- e-Deposit³—Deposit checks remotely

BALANCE	APY*
\$0.01 - \$25,000	1.56%
\$25,001 and over	0.08%
Requirements not met	0%

3 simple requirements to receive the rewards:⁴

- 1) 10 Visa[®] debit card transactions per month
- 2) 1 direct deposit or automatic debit/credit per month
- 3) Receive e-Documents

* Annual Percentage Yield (APY) is effective as of Aug 7, 2014 and may change anytime.

1) Provident will rebate nationwide ATM surcharges imposed by the other institution, up to \$2.50 per transaction.

2) Provident accounts come with our special zero liability fraud protection guarantee that reimburses you 100% for any unauthorized electronic transactions. You are automatically covered when you report the incident promptly and meet your responsibilities for handling your account. For more information, visit providentcu.org/risk-free.

3) Certain restrictions apply. See www.providentcu.org for full eligibility details.

4) These are the requirements to receive 1.56% APY on balances up to \$25,000, 0.08% APY on balances beyond the first \$25,000, and ATM rebates. If the 3 requirements are not met in their entirety, the APY will be 0% and no ATM rebates will be issued for that statement cycle.

The minimum deposit required to open this Account is \$25. To qualify you must also be a member, 18 or older. Limit one Super Reward Checking account per membership. **IMPORTANT:** All transactions referred to as "per month" or "monthly" must be posted within the monthly qualification cycle which ends on the second to last business day of the month. Posting date may be later than the date of the transaction.



At Provident Credit Union we offer:

- Super Reward Checking • Accumulator Savings • Low Interest Auto Loans • College Package
- Youth Account Package • Auto and Home Insurance • Low Rates on Home Mortgages
- Certificate of Deposits • Credit Protection • Business Account • Personal Loans • Home Equity
- Visa Cards • IRAs • Health Savings Accounts

And the list goes on... We are in the neighborhood and happy to help you with better rates, lower fees and friendly service! Give us a call or stop by today.

Golden Gate Community Branch
 Alex Leon, Branch Manager
 450 Golden Gate Ave, 2nd Floor #20558
 San Francisco, CA 94102
 (415) 864-1518
aleon@providentcu.org

Financial District Community Branch
 Mei Mei Ng, Branch Manager
 701 Sacramento Street
 San Francisco, CA 94108
 (415) 397-3302
mng@providentcu.org



© 2014 PCU



(800) 632-4600
providentcu.org



Make life easy.



KOREAN WAR MEMORIAL FOUNDATION

NEWS RELEASE -- FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Announcing “Remembrance” - A Special Concert On October 18 in Honor of the Korean War Memorial

San Francisco, CA, October 6, 2014: At 7:00 pm on Saturday, October 18, 2014, at St. Mark’s Lutheran Church in San Francisco, Ensemble Ari, a Bay Area group of classically-trained Korean musicians, will present a concert which will include the debut of an original composition titled *Remembrance*, written for instrument and voice. The composition is dedicated to the Korean War Memorial, in remembrance and honor of those who lost their lives in the Korean War.



Jean Ahn, Composer



Sarah Hong, Cellist

Ensemble Ari was founded in 2013 by composer and educator **Jean Ahn, Ph.D.** Born in the Republic of Korea, Dr. Ahn earned her BA and MM degrees from Seoul National University and then came to the United States, where she earned her Doctorate from UC Berkeley. She has won numerous prizes and awards, and has been a lecturer at the University of the Pacific at Stockton since 2008.

“Ari” is a Korean word with several meanings: big river, wisdom, and beauty. The mission of Ensemble Ari is to build a bridge between Korea and other world communities with western musical instruments, while honoring Korean history and culture. *Remembrance*, composed by Dr. Ahn, will be Ensemble Ari’s first project.

Among Dr. Ahn’s colleagues is **Sarah Hong**, an accomplished cellist. Ms. Hong was born in Seoul, Republic of Korea. She has been playing cello since the age of six, and was selected as the most promising young cellist in Korea at sixteen. Ms. Hong earned her BM and MM degrees from the Juilliard School, and her artist certificate in chamber music at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music. She has won numerous competitions, and has performed in Lincoln Center’s Alice Tully Hall, Carnegie’s Weill Hall, and the Herbst Theater.

(Continued on page 21)



KOREAN WAR MEMORIAL FOUNDATION

NEWS RELEASE -- FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

(Continued from page 20)

The other members of Ensemble Ari include:

- **Joo Won Kang**, Baritone, San Francisco Opera Adler Fellow
- **Sharon Lee Kim**, Pianist, St. Mary's College of California Professor
- **Ju Yeon Moon**, Violinist, Joongang University Faculty
- **Jae Hee Jeong**, Violinist, ChoongNam University Faculty
- **Evelyn Kwark**, Violinist, Berkeley Symphony

The concert will be followed by a reception with light refreshments at the Church. Interested parties are advised to book early, because the project has been attracting an exceptionally high level of attention, and seating is limited. Please note that a portion of the proceeds from ticket sales will be donated to the Korean War Memorial Foundation, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, EIN 27-2773272.

What: *Remembrance - Ensemble Ari Presents the Korean War Memorial Concert*
When: 7:00 pm, Saturday, October 18, 2014
Where: St. Mark's Lutheran Church, 1111 O'Farrell Street, San Francisco, CA 94109
Ticket Price: \$25 for adults, \$10 for students and seniors,
FREE for Korean War veterans and their guests
Book now: Email your full contact details and the number of seats you want to:
Jean Ahn, ahnjean@hotmail.com

For additional information on the concert or on the Korean War Memorial, please contact:

Gerard Parker
Executive Director
Korean War Memorial Foundation
1806 Belles Street, #6-B
The Presidio
San Francisco, CA 94129
415 750 3862
gvparker@kwmf.org
www.kwmf.org

Contact: Jean Ahn (ahnjean@hotmail.com)

October 18th, 2014 at 7pm
St. Mark's Lutheran Church
1111 O'Farrell St, San Francisco, CA 94109

Ensemble Ari presents Korean War Memorial Concert

Tickets: \$25 Adults, \$10 Senior/Students
www.brownpapertickets.com/event/846214

Program

Samuel Barber 'Adagio for Strings'
Dongsoo Shin 'San-Ah'
Dunam Cho 'San-Chon'
Jean Ahn, 'Remembrance' for Voice and Piano Quartet
Dmitry Shostakovich Piano Quintet

Ensemble Ari

Joowon Kang, Baritone
Juyeoun Moon & Jiwon Evelyn Kward, violins
Jaehye Jeong, viola
Sarah Hong, cello
Sharon Lee Kim, piano
Jean Ahn, composer

Sponsored by
Korean War Memorial Foundation
www.kwmf.org



Consulate of Korea in San Francisco
www.usa-sanfrancisco.mofa.go.kr



Overseas Koreans Foundation
www.okf.or.kr

All proceeds from the concert will go toward the Korean War Memorial Foundation.
Special Thanks to the KWMF who has helped to support this event.

Ensemble Ari 앙상블 아리

"Ensemble Ari" is a Korean word with multiple meanings: big river, western, and beauty.

Ensemble Ari is a group of Korean-American musicians in the Bay Area, who wants to share this quality with the community. Our mission is to bridge Korea and US through music while honoring Korean history and culture.

Korean War Memorial Foundation 한국전쟁기념재단

The Korean War Memorial Foundation (KWMF) was founded in San Francisco in June, 2010 with the purpose of building a permanent memorial to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Korean War.
The KWMF, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, has adopted the mission to build a "Korean War Memorial" to commemorate the sacrifices made by all those who fought in the so-called "Forgotten War," to educate future generations about those sacrifices, and to ensure that those generations never forget the true cost of war, and the true price of freedom.



JED MINER & ASSOCIATES INSURANCE SERVICES, INC.

We do a lot for a few.

We are a **FULL-LINE** insurance agency.

Where would you like to **save** on your insurance?

Let us give you a **quote**.

- Over **25** years of experience
- Over **80** carriers to shop with
- Unique & innovative products
- Customized enrollment options
- Licensed in CA, ID, UT, NV & WA

Contact Us

On-line: www.insurawest.com

Available for individuals and/or groups

Toll Free: (800) 924-0234

2601 Mission Street, Suite 200
San Francisco, CA 94110
(Located in the US Bank Building)

Over the years our "Tree of Benefits" has grown...



LIFE
401K
AUTO
HOME
BONDS
FLOOD
DENTAL
HEALTH
EYE-CARE
ANNUITIES
DISABILITY
UMBRELLAS
EARTHQUAKE
SUPPLEMENTAL
MAJOR MEDICAL
CRITICAL ILLNESS
LIMITED MEDICAL
LONG-TERM CARE
SHORT-TERM CARE
MEDICARE ADVANTAGE
MEDICARE SUPPLEMENT
WORKERS COMPENSATION
SECTION 125-CAFETERIA PLANS
PART-TIME EMPLOYEE BENEFITS
COMMERCIAL LIABILITY & PROPERTY



Jed Miner
(801) 420-3372

Stacey Norris
(801) 420-4440

Leo Paiz
(415) 994-1957

Locations in Orem UT, San Francisco CA & Las Vegas NV

License #s: 0H30269 (CA) 401009 (ID) 728966 (NV) 90648 (UT) 802200 (WA)

SF Police Credit Union Membership Offer!

GET UP TO \$125*

When you become an SFPCU member!

Now is the perfect time to join. Get \$25 in your account for joining and an additional \$100 for opening a Global ATM Checking Account.



Already a member? Refer eligible family or co-workers, and we'll deposit \$25 in your Savings Account for each new member!

Offer ends November 15, 2014. Call 800.222.1391 or visit www.sfpcu.org to learn more today.



All Cathay Post members and their family are eligible for Membership!

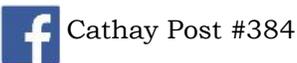
Offer valid 09/15/14 through 11/15/14. Referral Bonus: Within 5 business days of new member account opening, \$25 will be credited into referring member's Savings Account. New Member Bonus: \$25 will be used as opening deposit for the new member's account and shall be reversed and returned to SFPCU if the account is closed within 12 months after the date opened. Business accounts are ineligible. Minimum account balance to open account and obtain APY is \$25.00. Current Annual Percentage Yield (APY) on a regular share account is .10% as of 09/01/14. *Checking Promotion Bonus: To qualify for the \$100 bonus the new member must open a new Global ATM Checking account with a \$25 minimum opening deposit during the promotion period. Also, within 60 calendar days of account opening, a \$500 monthly direct deposit must be initiated. The bonus will be deposited into the new checking account within 30 business days after meeting the \$500 direct deposit requirement. Bonuses may be tax-reportable. All new accounts are subject to the SFPCU account opening procedures and standard account terms and conditions. Fees could reduce earnings on the account. Rates, terms and conditions are subject to change. This Credit Union is federally insured by the National Credit Union Administration.

Promo Code: REF25 & CHK914



CATHAY POST NO. 384

1524 Powell Street
San Francisco, CA 94133
Phone: 415.797.7384
Fax: 415.392.2882
E-mail: cathaypost@gmail.com
www.cathaypost384.org



CATHAY DISPATCH STAFF

Cathay Dispatch is a proud member of the *National American Legion Press Association (NALPA)* & *California American Legion Press Association (CALPA)*.

Galin Luk is the Editor-in-Chief.
GalinLuk@hotmail.com

Michael Louie is the Interim Managing Editor and Creative Director.

Chris Kieliger is the Assistant Editor.

Roger Dong is the Chief Reporter.
rogerdong@hotmail.com

Thanh Huynh is a Field Reporter.

We welcome article or letter submissions but reserve 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-in-Chief will call to verify authenticity. All submissions should be emailed to the Editor-in-Chief at GalinLuk@hotmail.com by the last Friday of the month.



www.legion.org

Join Cathay Post No. 384 in San Francisco, one of the oldest and most active posts in California. We welcome all qualified retired, active, and non-military men and women.

Our veterans are courageous wartime military men and women who proudly served or are currently serving.

Gulf War/War On Terrorism
Desert Shield/Desert Storm/OEF/OIF
8/2/1990 to today

Panama—Operation Just Cause
12/20/1989 – 1/31/1990

Lebanon/Grenada
Lebanon War/Operation Urgent Fury
8/24/1982 – 7/31/1984

Vietnam War
2/28/1961 – 5/7/1975

Korean War
6/25/1950 – 1/31/1955

World War II
12/7/1941 – 12/31/1946

World War I
4/6/1917 – 11/11/1918

**Cathay Post No. 384
American Legion
Executive Committee
2014-2015**

Commander: Jigg “Jay” Pon

1st Vice Commander: Nelson Lum

2nd Vice Commander: Galin Luk

3rd Vice Commander: Laura Renner

Adjutant: Ben Yang

Secretary: John Li

Treasurer: Edward Wong

Do you want to receive the *Cathay Dispatch* or need to update your email address, please contact us at: cathaypost@gmail.com. We'll get right on it. If you would like to place an ad, please go to page 16 for our advertisement rate information. Thank you for your support!