



Commander's Desk

Dear members and friends,

I cannot express how grateful I am for the support of the community, and members and friends of Cathay Post who attended our 80th Anniversary Dinner. I never would have guessed that our attendance would grow from 600 last year to over 800 this year. I want to thank you for your support. The week preceding the dinner was very busy because we hosted our friends from Lt. Kim Lau Post (New York City) and our next National Commander, Fang Wong.

This, of course is a nice segue to talk about Cathay Post's attendance at the American Legion National Convention. Several members and I were in Minneapolis to congratulate Commander Fang Wong on being elected as the first Asian American to serve as National Commander for



Mayor Ed Lee celebrating Cathay Post's 80th Anniversary.

the American Legion.

Our next event will be the annual Columbus Day Parade on October 9, 2011. I want our members to mark your calendars and join us as we march the parade. Last year we proudly took first prize for Senior Color Guard, and I want our Post to win again this year.

Get ready to be a host for Fleet Week. The active duty men and women of the Armed

Forces will once again be coming to Cathay Post for lunch during the Fleet Week Celebrations the weekend of October 8, 2011. As they did last year, I hope the ship's commanders will again host a dinner reception for our members during the Fleet Week celebrations.

See you all at our next monthly meeting on Saturday, October 8th.

Ron Lee
Commander

NEXT BOARD MEETING: Saturday, October 8, 2011 @ 1100. All Cathay Post members and supporting friends are welcome. Lunch will be served immediately after the Board meeting.

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Cathay Post. No. 384

American Legion

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From the 1st Vice Commander

I want to thank the many volunteers who helped with the planning and for participating in our tremendously successful 80th Anniversary Celebration dinner on August 19th. Please accept a very humble thank you from the directors and executive board. I also want to thank our approximately 80 tables of guests who helped to make this event one of the greatest in this organization's history.

Cathay Chronicle, the Post's monthly newsletter is accepting ads. Rates are available upon request for full page, half page, and business card size ads. Get in on the low rates and reach a wide audience while helping this non-profit veterans organization.

American Legion operates on a fiscal year period, July 1st through June 30th. Please remit your 2012 membership dues now. To avoid delays, payment should be mailed to the Post's address instead of paying online. I met with the Department of California's membership chairperson at the national convention. She mentioned that Cathay Post has achieved the "100% membership goals" for the second consecutive year. This tremendous achievement is due to those who have recommended Cathay Post to their friends and colleagues. An award along with the "100% Achievement" banner will be forwarded to the Post shortly.

American Legion's 93rd national convention in Minneapolis was a special event. Although there are 17 posts in San Francisco, Cathay Post was the only unit with a presence at this convention. It was very special witnessing Fang A. Wong, the first Asian-American, get elected to National Commander, the highest position in

the American Legion.

[Trivia: the Post with the largest Asian veterans membership in the American Legion is New York City's Lt. B. R. Kimlau Post 1291; Cathay 384 has the second largest Asian veteran population.]

President Obama served as the keynote speaker with a half-hour speech to the American Legion audience of some 2,300 plus. President Obama's speech focused on the "sacred trust" between the military and our citizens. "As a nation, we're facing tough choices as we put our fiscal house in order. But I want to be absolutely clear- - - we cannot, and we must not, balance the budget on the backs of our veterans."

On the second day of the convention, one of the guest speak-



Cathay Post with Commander Fang Wong, center.

ers was retired General Eric K. Shinseki, Secretary of Veterans Affairs. Many Cathay Post members still remember our late Commander Bok Pon's hand in arranging for Secretary Shinseki's visit to our Post three years ago. General Shinseki's Veterans Affairs' Office recently submitted an official proclamation for Cathay Post's 80th anni-



1st Vice Commander David Wong with Secretary of Veterans Affairs, The Honorable Eric K. Shinseki.

versary. A snapshot copy will be displayed in the yearbook.

See you all at the next meeting on Saturday, October 8th at 11:00 a.m. sharp.

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT
Place your order for Cathay Post's 80th Anniversary Commemorative Yearbook now! In order to take advantage of the publisher's very limited special discount, please email Commander Ron Lee at rlee288@aol.com or me at dwong900@yahoo.com to order your copy of this very special Yearbook.

The Post will be selling the yearbook at cost [which will be approximately \$30.00 per soft cover copy]. The Post will not be maintaining an inventory of this Yearbook. You must pay in full by September 25 or you will not receive the special price.

You may order yearbooks after September 25 but the price will increase to approximately \$35.00.

If you have any questions, email Commander Lee or me.

David Y. Wong
1st Vice Commander

From the 2nd Vice Commander

Thank you, thank you, thank you! Without you, our members, support group volunteers, and donors, the 80th Anniversary Dinner would not have succeeded. Because of you, the event was very well-attended. I heard many compliments about the quality of the food and the program.

Yes, it was chaotic during the set-up and during the event itself, but everything worked out. There were a lot of moving pieces and many members could have gotten upset but didn't. Everyone worked with what they had and did the best they could. Thank you.

To our fellow brothers and sisters from New York, WOW! What a show of support from sea to shining sea. I can't wait to attend your 80th celebration! I'll be 60 years old and my kids might have 10 years of service under their belts by then...or I guess I'll attend your 65th celebration next year so I can see you all sooner. Thank you for your support and more importantly, your friendship.

It is amazing how much star power and how many photogenic people were in attendance. Cameras were everywhere, there were conversations galore, and parties within parties...it seemed everyone was entertained. As for the "MOB," better luck next year in trying to drown us out. I'm getting a bigger sound system. But seriously, thank you for your attendance and support.

This month, I've run out of flags to talk about so let's talk about the procedures to dispose of unserviceable flags.



Cathay Post's 80th Anniversary Celebration.

Unserviceable flags ceremony (reference www.legion.org/flag/ceremony)

The Ceremony for Disposal of Unserviceable Flags is outlined in Resolution No. 440, passed by the 19th National Convention of The American Legion in New York, September 20-23, 1937. The ceremony has been an integral part of American Legion ritual since that date. The resolution reads as follows:

WHEREAS, Americanism has been and should continue to be one of the major programs of The American Legion; and

WHEREAS, The observance of proper respect for the Flag of our country and the education of our citizenry in the proper courtesies to be paid the Flag is an essential element of such Americanism program; and

WHEREAS, It is fitting and proper that Flags which have been used for the decoration of

graves on Memorial Day be collected after such service, inspected, and worn and unserviceable Flags be condemned and properly destroyed; and

WHEREAS, The approved method of disposing of unserviceable Flags has long been that they be destroyed by burning, but no ritual for such destruction or ceremony in connection therewith has been adopted by The American Legion or included in its official manual of Ceremonies; therefore be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in New York City, September 20-23, 1937, that the ritual submitted herewith be adopted for use by The American Legion and that it be made the official ceremony for the destruction of unserviceable American Flags and to be included as such in the Manual of Ceremonies, Revised, of The American Legion.

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From the 3rd Vice Commander

On September 6, 2011, after a prolonged and arduous evening of political maneuvering, bickering and an outright attempt at gerrymandering by the opposition elements at the Commission meeting, representatives of the San Francisco American Legion War Memorial Commission voted for yours truly to be their next Chairman. I accepted this position knowing I will be leading a group of folks who are dissatisfied and angry at the present dilemma faced by the Commission. There are no easy answers for the tasks we will be confronting. We will not have the luxury of a transitional period even as I assemble my team of officers to lead the Commission.

This coming year, the viability of veterans and our relationship to the War Memorial Veterans Building is at a critical juncture and those who are in leadership positions at the Commission will be sorely tested. The Trustees appear to be digging in and ignoring the veterans' request for negotiation. A small faction within the Commission is hell bent on sabotaging any reasonable accommodations between the Commission and Trustees. With these problems in mind, you may wonder why I ran for this position.

I ran because I truly believe Comrade Roger Dong, as Chairman, put forth herculean efforts in changing the direction of the Commission the past two years under his chairmanship. He assessed correctly that the future of the Legion rests with the younger veterans who are



From left to right, District 8, 1st Vice Commander John Forreth, past Chairman Roger Dong, current Chairman Nelson Lum.

now leaving the military and beginning the process of assimilating into the civilian world. Their perception of the Legion and their willingness to join will greatly influence the success and failure of the American Legion. Ten years from now, most Vietnam era veterans will be in their 70s [myself included]. How productive will the Legion be if we are relied upon to run the organization?

Past Chairman Roger Dong saw the writing on the wall and he took on the challenge by pushing through the development of the Veterans Resource Center [VRC]. He met obstacles from all sides, but he doggedly pushed forward and persevered despite the challenges.

The VRC is now operational and has already netted dividends by providing employment to young veterans. The Legion stands to benefit in the long term by providing needed services like the

VRC.

I realized all of Roger's work will be wasted if the position of Chairman was taken by the opposition elements and thus, I ran in order to continue the momentum of bringing into the fold our young veterans. They are the future leaders of the Legion and we must treat each one of them the way we would like to be treated if we expect them to become legionnaires.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my gratitude to past Chairman Roger Dong for his leadership and accomplishments. I would also like to thank you for your past support and I am asking all of you for your continued support in order to lead this effort to strengthen the future of the Legion.

Nelson Lum
3rd Vice Commander
Vice Chairman, American
Legion War Memorial Commission.

The 93rd Annual American Legion Convention

**August 26 - September 1,
2011 Minneapolis, MN**

This year's American Legion National Convention was held in sunny Minneapolis, MN. Attendees were riveted to *CNN* trying to catch up on Hurricane Irene. Many East Coast delegates did not make it to Minneapolis as planned, and many were late due to delayed flights.

Legionnaires who attended this convention enjoyed tours of the city and everyone found Minneapolis to be a clean and thriving metropolis with very friendly locals. The streets of the 50 block downtown area were clean and city walls were graffiti-free. US Bank and Target stores are both headquartered in Minneapolis in architecturally impressive buildings.

The first few days of the convention were hectic as committees ironed out resolutions and finalized their selection of their leaders for the coming year. The New York contingent wrapped up their year of campaigning for their candidate for National Commander, Army veteran Mr. Fang A. Wong and convinced all the 50 states and delegations from France, the Philippines and Puerto Rico to join together to elect Mr. Wong as National Commander and the first of Chinese descent in the 93 year history of the American Legion.

National Commander Fang A. Wong is an Army veteran of the Vietnam era. He had served as one of the National Vice Commanders a few years ago and was also a former Commander



American Legion National Commander Fang A. Wong

of the Lt Kim Lau American Legion post #1291 in New York City. The Kim Lau American Legion Post is one of the most active posts in the country and because of their long time service to veterans throughout the state of New York, Wong was successful in garnering the support of American Legion leaders and posts throughout New York state.

Serious contenders for the National Commander position, must have served in the American Legion for many years and must have built up a network of supporters who can help raise several hundred thousand dollars to fund the year long election campaign. After a year of hard campaigning with travel to all 50 states and several overseas locations, the new National Commander can plan on being away from home another 340 days in his/her year as National Commander. The National Commander is obliged to visit as many of the 14,000 American Legion posts with 2.4 million

American Legion members as possible to enervate and motivate all of the American Legion. He will also visit South Korea, Japan, Taiwan, the Philippines, Saipan, France, Iraq and Afghanistan.

Beyond the normal American Legion annual recognition awards to the top Eagle Scout, the winner of the national oratory contest and the national Boys State (Nation State) competition were recognized. The convention was punctuated with the keynote speech by President Barack Obama, and speeches by Minority House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, and Republican Congresswoman Michelle Bachman. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton sent her greetings via a recorded video.

One of the major themes in this convention was employment for veterans who have a 13% unemployment rate and for returning veterans a startlingly high 30% to 40%. Young enlisted combat veterans who have only a high

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The San Francisco Veterans Resource Center

American Legion District 8 and the American Legion War Memorial Commission recently established the San Francisco Veterans Resource Center (VRC), a facility created to *provide all veterans with the necessary resources to successfully transition into civilian life*. This Center is supported by the coalition of the American Legion District 8 (San Francisco), the local Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW), the local organization of American Veterans (AMVETs), the Bay Area Veterans Alliance (a coalition of veterans on our Bay Area college campuses), the Military Order of the Purple Heart, and the local Veterans for Peace organization.



Mr. Joseph Cantanucci, Partner, of the San Francisco Mass Mutual office donated over \$15,000 worth of office furniture to the American Legion and the VRC. Mr. Cantanucci has also directed his human resources office to offer jobs to our local veterans this year.

Mr. James Bartha, US Army Corps of Engineers, and a veteran donated 12 new laptop computers for the VRC.



Mr. Craig Newmark, honored for his great support of the VRC.

Funded by Craigslist founder Mr. Craig Newmark, and a number of philanthropic veterans, this facility provides resources, including brand new personal computers, for veterans who need assistance processing their earned benefits, preparing for employment interviews and seeking job opportunities. The VRC project has been named in honor of Mr. Newmark for his significant contribution which was essential to the creation of the VRC.



New laptop computers in the Veteran Resource Center.



Lance Frederick, VA Center.



Robert Goodchild, EDD.



Eddie Ramirez, Ft Miley VA.



Michael Blecker, Swords to Plowshares.

The San Francisco Veterans Resource Center

Local veterans service organizations (VSO) will provide the claims processing assistance, referrals for medical treatment when combat stress (PTSD) and/or brain injury (TBI) is detected or reported, and job/career advice and training classes. These Bay Area VSOs include the San Francisco County Veterans Service Office, the State of California's Employment and Education Department (EDD), the VA Training Center, the non-profit Swords to Plowshares. Other local VSOs will find the VRC to be a convenient central location for providing services to our veterans. Due to their limited conferencing space, the VSOs plan to use the VRC for group briefings and training. This is an initial step to centralize necessary services to our veterans who must now bounce around the City to learn, apply for or receive the benefits and services they have earned for their service to our Country.

Thank you to Post 236 for providing many special support services and supplies including printing support, water coolers, coffee tureens, room dividers, food and beverages and office supplies for the VRC and its events.

Classes are also planned for briefing employers on the benefits of hiring veterans, including tax credits for hiring veterans short term and long term positions. Hiring a disabled veteran can provide a tax credit of up to \$9,500 for the employer.

Wells Fargo Bank has offered classes to veterans on personal finance management.

Ms. Jinny Kim, a local attorney, has volunteered her professional services to brief veterans on their legal employment rights.



Randolph Martinez.



James L. Small.

Mr. Randolph Martinez, Mr. Michael Smith and Mr. James L. Small are three young veterans who have served in Iraq/Afghanistan and were hired to manage the VRC. These veterans are experienced in managing VRCs and also have technical networking training.

On Monday, August 15, 2011 the grand opening, ribbon cutting ceremony was held in San Francisco at the Veterans Memorial Building, room 205.



Board of Supervisors President David Chiu .

The President of the San Francisco Board of Supervisors and mayoral candidate, Mr. David Chiu, attended this celebration and expressed his strong personal support for all our veterans. He noted that the VRC is a very important step in San Francisco's commitment to taking care of our returning veterans.



Trustee Michael Myatt (Major General, USMC retired).

The San Francisco Veterans Resource Center



The officers and ladies of Cathay Post supporting the Veterans Resource Center grand opening.

Major General Michael Myatt (USMC retired) attended the VRC grand opening and stated that the VRC was the most productive project of the American Legion in his many years as a Trustee with the San Francisco Board of Trustees.

Post 384 Commander Ron Lee, 1st Vice Commander David Y. Wong and 3rd Vice Commander Nelson Lum provided vital support for this grand opening event.

The Post's Support group ladies, including Sandy Au, Emily Onglatco, Tina Mak, Kim Leong, and Christy Dong, ensured that all attendees were well-fed, and they stayed to clean up afterwards. Thank you ladies.

On August 30, 2011, the VRC was used to brief veterans on several job opportunities with Bauer IT, a firm with several quality jobs paying an annual salary of \$50,000. More than 30 local veterans attended.

Mr. Jarom Vahai, an 8 year Iraqi disabled veteran provided these job leads, and we applaud Jarom for his proactive efforts to contact major American businesses to hire veterans. He is also in contact with Tesla motors, Clear-Wall corporation (a green jobs company) and Cisco Systems [which has indicated they will try to hire 1,000 veterans nationwide].

In summary, the VRC's mission is to provide the resources necessary to help our veterans transition successfully back into civilian life. The American Legion does not provide services or jobs to veterans. We provide a quality facility for competent VSOs and other organizations to provide claims and employment advice and service to our veterans.

Contributions to the Veterans Resource Center may be made to American Legion District 8 (a 501C(19) non-profit veterans organization) or to Veterans for Peace (a 501(c)3 organization)

with your donation noted for the Veterans Resource Center. Both of these organizations are located at 401 Van Ness Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94102.

Our thanks to Mr. Frank Jang for providing photographic coverage of this event.

Thank you for caring about our veterans.

Roger S. Dong, Chairman, American Legion War Memorial Commission

Nelson Lum, Vice Chairman, American Legion War Memorial Commission

Mario Benfield, Commander, American Legion District 8

John Forrett, 1st Vice Commander, American Legion District 8

From the 2nd Vice Commander



(Continued from page 3)

The purpose of The American Legion in adopting this ceremony is to encourage proper respect for the Flag of the United States and to provide for disposal of unserviceable flags in a dignified manner. Resolution No. 373, approved by the National Convention of The American Legion meeting in Chicago, Illinois, September 18-20, 1944, re-emphasized the purpose of proper public Flag disposal ceremonies and encouraged greater use of this ceremony by The American Legion. The resolution adopted is as follows:

WHEREAS, Our Flag which we love and cherish

WHEREAS, In a proper service of tribute and memory and love, our Flag becomes faded and worn and must be honorably retired from life; and

WHEREAS, Such retirement of Flags that have become unserviceable may be done in public with respectful and honorable rites: therefore be it

RESOLVED, That The American Legion in convention assembled at Chicago, Illinois, September 18-20, 1944, urge that the National Headquarters use all means to foster and promote through the proper channels, the greater use of the official American Legion Ceremony for the Disposal of Unserviceable Flags as outlined in the Manual of Ceremonies; and be it further **RESOLVED**, That Flag Day, June 14, be recommended as the most appropriate day on which to annually hold this ceremony.

The 77th Congress approved Public Law 829, giving official sanction on disposal of unserviceable flags.

Perhaps, on the next Flag Day in

June 2012, we can perform this event.

As we look forward, Fleet Week 2011 is fast approaching. From October 6 to 10, the US Navy will be conducting operations in the San Francisco waters and airspace. Amphibious operations are forecasted and Cathay Post must feed these sailors and Marines, until they return to their ships. Last year, we turned around 500 sailors and Marines, leaving San Francisco with full tummies and a positive experience about Cathay Post. Warning Order: only with your help can this be done, so be prepared to hear the call to arms when Commander Ron Lee leads the charge.

May Joy and Happiness follow all of you from the Pon Family.

Jay Pon
2nd Vice Commander

The 93rd Annual American Legion Convention

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school education and no technical skills, are having the greatest difficulty finding jobs. It was reported that there are approximately 1,000,000 unemployed veterans in our nation, and approximately 100,000 unemployed veterans in our State.

President Barack Obama pledged to help veterans find jobs. He has ordered the federal government to hire veterans and directed DOD and the VA to create a 'reverse boot camp' to help our newest veterans prepare for civilian jobs and translate their exceptional military skills into industry-accepted licenses and credentials. The President called on every state to pass legislation that makes it easier for our veterans to get the credentials and the jobs for which they are so clearly qualified.

The President also encouraged the private sector to do its part. He challenged companies across America to hire or train 100,000 unemployed veterans or their spouses.

Republican Congresswoman Michelle Bachman promised to help with jobs for veterans and also to protect and honor veterans' service and benefits. Michelle Bachmann said "Serving you, our veterans, doesn't have to be complex. It just has to be done."

And so, there is now a huge surge of interest in helping veterans get jobs, and the gratifying note is that this important issue not being drowned in politics. Everyone acknowledges the obli-



President Obama was the keynote speaker at the American Legion 93rd National Convention

gation to help veterans get jobs.

It was also reported that there are approximately 1,000,000 unemployed veterans in our nation. 10% of those unemployed veterans can be found in California. By my simple mental calculation, that means that there are approximately 100,000 unemployed veterans in our State. That is unacceptable, and here in own backyard, we are going to do something about that.

Here in own backyard, we are going to do something about veteran unemployment. Last month on August 15, 2011, the American Legion opened the Veterans Resource Center (VRC) in our Veterans Memorial Building, 401 Van Ness Avenue, San Francisco. The VRC is focused on providing all the resources needed to help veterans transi-

tion back into civilian life. On Tuesday, August 30, 2011 the VRC was utilized to offer local veterans the opportunity to apply for openings with Bauer IT which had identified several positions with positions paying \$50,000.00 annually to qualified veterans. More than 30 veterans attended this special job fair. This is just the beginning of our efforts to help our veterans here in San Francisco. We hope to be able to help many, many veterans find quality employment after their patriotic service to our Country.

Roger S. Dong, Chief Reporter, Cathay Post Newsletter

Remembering the Chinese American Heroes of 9/11

By Michael Kwan

It's been ten years since September 11, 2001, when more than 3,000 innocent civilians perished.

We would like to acknowledge the hundreds of brave men and women, police, firefighters, emergency workers, and individuals of many backgrounds and ethnicities who risked and sadly lost their lives among thousands of others on that fateful day so that others might live. Among those brave people were four Chinese Americans heroes whose stories are rarely heard in the media. That day, two of our heroes perished and two survived.



Ms. Betty Ong : Flight Attendant on American Airlines Flight 11, Age 45

Ms. Betty Ong lost her life on the first of four aircrafts which were hijacked on the morning of 9/11. Despite terrifying circumstances, Ong's calm and collected reporting provided crucial information that gave the first clues to the identification of the

hijackers.

She hid and locked herself in a toilet stall after the hijacking, called air traffic controllers, and with the help of fellow flight attendants described in detail, everything occurring on American Airlines Flight 11 in its last 23 minutes in the air. Her phone call led the FAA to shutdown federal airspace for the first time in U.S. history.

At 8:19 AM: Ong reported, "The cockpit is not answering, somebody' is stabbed in business class-- and I think there's mace-- that we can't breathe-- I don't know, I think we're being hijacked."

Her continued conversation included details of the vacated seat locations of the four hijackers, which helped to establish a relationship between the hijackers of the other hijacked aircrafts. 9/11 Commission Chairman Thomas Kean declared that "Betty Ong was a true American hero."

Flight 11 crash into the World Trade Center North Tower on 8:46 AM. Betty Wong grew up in San Francisco's Chinatown neighborhood, graduating from George Washington High School in 1974.

Mr. Zhe "Zack" Zeng : Emergency Medical Technician, Age 29

Zhe "Zack" Zeng's final moments were caught by a Fox TV camera, revealing his last heroic

and selfless acts. While many in the streets had fled from the stricken buildings, Zack, who had recently completed his Emergency Medical Training, had put himself in harm's way to help victims, and became one himself.

The Fox TV camera caught Zack rendering aid to an injured woman on a stretcher before the South Tower collapsed.



Source: Rick Ho, Sing Tao Newspaper

It was the last image of Zack alive. Weeks later, Zack's stunned Mom noticed Zack on TV and identified her son to the media. Seeing her son on TV was the first confirmation to her that he was dead. Days later, Zack's DNA was recovered and identified giving absolute confirmation of his death in the World Trade Center.

In recognition of his voluntary heroism a special day was selected to honor Zack. On that day the Governor of New York, the Mayor of New York City, and thousands of New York citizens

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Remembering the Chinese American Heroes of 9/11

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honored young Zack Zeng with a memorial service and by changing one block of Bayard Street in downtown Manhattan to Zack Zeng Way.

"It didn't surprise anybody who knew him," said Peggy Farrell, Zhe's supervisor. "He was a completely selfless person - he was just someone who would automatically volunteer his assistance. To me, it was a truly heroic display. Running towards the smoke and ash, he knew there were many that needed his skills."

Zhe "Zack" Zheng emigrated to the US with his parents in the late 1980s from Guangzhou, China. He was a member of the Brighton Volunteer Ambulance and a project manager at the Bank of New York.

Mr. Isaac Ho'ipi'i: Pentagon Police officer (survivor)

Officer Isaac Ho'ipi'i put his own life at risk to save 15 others on 9/11. As one of the first responders to the burning Pentagon building, Isaac plunged into the toxic inferno and led or carried out more than 15 injured people to safety (12 survived). He returned repeatedly until it was too dangerous to re-enter. To this day, Isaac wishes he had re-entered to save more lives, and says he isn't a hero.

Isaac Ho'ipi'i is from Hawaii and is of mixed blood, with Native Hawaiian, Chinese, and Portuguese ancestry. He was last reported with lung prob-

lems attributed to his 15 rescue missions in the fiery and smoking hole in the Pentagon. Mr. Ho'ipi'i was honored by the Pentagon and White House with the Public Safety Officer Medal of Valor, the highest honor a public safety officer can receive and the equivalent of the military's Medal of Honor.

Mr. David Lim, New York / New Jersey Port Authority Police Officer (survivor)

Officer David Lim was a member of the K-9 team working with a trained explosives sniffer canine. Officer Lim was in the basement of World Trade Center North Tower when it was struck by American Airlines flight 11, the hijacked plane that carried Betty Ong.

Leaving his canine in his basement kennel, Mr. Lim had climbed up 44 flights of stairs to evacuate survivors, and was working his way downwards when WTC South Tower was hit, shattering all the windows and injuring those around him. Using his structural firefighting and elevator evacuation training, he and a dozen firefighters guided hundreds of victims down and out of the building to safety.

Before he could complete his own escape while escorting an elderly and handicapped woman with several firefighters, the North Tower collapsed. Miraculously, they all survived the collapse, and five hours later, managed to find their way out of the ruins of the World Trade Center.

"The reason we took this job is

because people needed our help," he said. "I did my job well that day, but I don't know if I'm a hero. I think the people who died that day were heroes," explained Mr. Lim.

Mr. Lim was honored at a special ceremony in New York City. Since 9/11, Lim has since become the executive director for Port Authority of New York and New Jersey and is a role model for Asian Americans interested in law enforcement.

At Camp Saejong, a program for young Korean-Americans, in northern New Jersey, camp co-director Lindy Galver said the campers connected to Lim on because he was "an average man who rose to an extraordinary challenge."

On this ten year anniversary of the 9/11 attacks, let's recognize that there are heroes among ordinary Americans of all backgrounds, including Chinese Americans.

For additional information about Chinese American heroes, please visit the Chinese American Heroes website at www.chineseamericanheroes.org.

80th Anniversary Dinner



SF Veterans Resource Center





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Chronicle Staff

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Assistant Editor Jinny Kim is a San Francisco non-profit civil attorney.

Assistant Editor and Chief Technical and Design Editor Michael "Young" Louie is an IT professional based in San Francisco.

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

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