



Commander's Desk

Dear Cathay Post members and friends,

I want to remind you about our upcoming October events.

On Sunday, October 9, the Post will be participating in the San Francisco Italian Heritage Parade. I will need volunteers to meet at Cathay Post's headquarters at 9:30 a.m. The following day, October 10, at 1400, the Post

will be hosting our Fleet-week luncheon at Cathay Post's headquarters for over 200 sailors and Marines from the U.S.S. Bonhomme Richard LHD6. [Event volunteers should meet at the Post at 1300]. All members are welcome to greet the men and women

serving our country and enjoy a fantastic lunch.

I want to thank the Cathay Post members who volunteered to help and show support for our wounded soldiers at the R2R registration on Saturday, October 1, at the South



Cathay Post supporting the R2R Registration Event on October 1. Commander Ron Lee is presenting a check to the R2R President.

San Francisco Holiday Inn.

See you all at our monthly meeting on Saturday, October 8, 2011.

**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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From the 1st Vice Commander

Cathay Post recorded eleven new members for the 3rd quarter of this year [five new veterans, five new support members, and one transfer].

The five new veterans are: Chris Cunnie, Collyn Fong, Henry Cheng Miller, Ross Mirkarimi, and Daniel Ng. The new support members are: Kim Chung, Stewart Ng, May Wong, Leland Wong, and Thomas Wong. Roger Dong has transferred his membership from another American Legion Post to Cathay 384. I want to thank everyone for making our

Post an even stronger veterans' organization.

We expect our 80th Anniversary Commemorative Yearbook to arrive by late October [we expect a sell-out of the first order]. The \$30.00 cost of the yearbook is "near cost" [there are many variables that go into the final costs that are beyond the Post's control, including shipping, that makes it impossible to determine actual costs before the final order]. If you would like to order a copy, please contact one of the commanders. A final

comment: when the yearbooks arrive, all purchasers will be asked to come to the Post to pick up their copy- normally during the Saturday monthly meeting or at a mutually agreed time and date with one of the commanders. Because of additional shipping costs and limited staffing resources, books will not be mailed to Bay Area residents.

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

David Y. Wong
1st Vice Commander

From the 2nd Vice Commander

Here we go again. The football season has started. It's the 4th quarter, 2nd and 10, the wide receivers are wide, Commander Ron Lee takes the snap, drops back and...

Fellow brothers (we need to recruit female members, so I may have sisters) and supporters. Thank you for doing more than your call of duty and helping grow Cathay Post No. 384. We must focus on promoting Americanism, and how we too are part of that American story.

Fleet Week is a great chance for San Francisco, US service members, and other visiting Navies to see how Cathay Post No. 384 is a strong and proud veteran's organization that is making a difference. Many of the service members who will be visiting our Post will be entering an American Legion Post for their very first time. First impressions count! The National Commander, Retired CW3 Fang Wong recalls being presented an

American Legion Medal nearly 50 years ago. That award inspired him to be a Legionnaire; he just had to join the military to be one. For more on Commander Fang Wong's story please read this month's American Legion Magazine www.legion.org/magazine/159051/commander-everybody). With your help, many of these soldiers and sailors will continue to serve their county for many years to come as Legionnaires.

Besides Fleet Week, Cathay Post is participating in the Columbus Day Italian Heritage Parade. WOW! For the young or new members, our continued participation in the parade is another example of how America is one great melting pot. It was only a generation ago, that Broadway Avenue was an imaginary dividing line between North Beach and Chinatown. So come out, be a part of, and help support the

North Beach community.

God Speed to comrade David Lang. Once again David is getting on his bike for a 400 mile ride down the California coast for Ride2Recovery.com. R2R helps physically injured veterans overcome obstacles they face from losing their limb(s). R2R aids these veterans in restoring their spirit and soul. Best wishes to all riders.

This month, we reflect on the Pledge of Allegiance (www.legion.org/flag/pledge). Who wrote the Pledge of Allegiance? George Washington in 1776 or Ike in 1954?

The original Pledge of Allegiance was written by Francis Bellamy in 1892. It was first given wide publicity through the official program of the National Public Schools Celebration of Columbus Day, which was printed in The Youth's Companion of September 8, 1892, and at the same time sent out in

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From the 3rd Vice Commander

October! You mean 3/4 of the year has passed? Well, time does fly and before long, we will all be busy preparing for the holidays. I hope you've all enjoyed the beautiful weather we have had these past few weeks.

It is political season in San Francisco and I am sure you've all received your daily political bombardments of flyers and ads. While issues and candidates of major importance will be decided by voters in November, an issue of major concern to Cathay Post is being swept under the rug without being noted by our citizens: the JROTC program we fought so hard to reinstate in San Francisco is once again in jeopardy!

When the voters of San Francisco voted to reinstate the JROTC program, those who were opposed to the program threw every imaginable obstacle to keep the program from succeeding. For example, they passed resolutions that required all JROTC instructors to have their PE teaching credential in two years. At that time, we were told to hold our objections since the requirements would be amended. Well, the school board did not amend the requirement. Additionally, the school district did not develop a route for the instructors to follow to obtain their credential. Due to the tight budgetary constraints, instead of having two instructors at each school, most of the programs were run by only one instructor which fur-



ther diminished the instructor's time allotment to complete the educational requirement. During the last few school board meetings, the opponents of JROTC were lambasting the instructors for their failure to obtain the credential without mentioning the lack of support from the school district.

Commissioner Norman Yee came up with what he called a compromise plan and introduced a resolution that would allow for additional time for the current instructors to complete their requirement.

The resolution also allows two new instructors to be hired, one at Lowell and another at Galileo. However, contained within this resolution is a new requirement that all future JROTC instructors possess a PE credential prior to being hired.

This resolution, if not amended or overturned, will spell the end to the program. Why? First of all, it is highly unlikely that someone retiring from the military will have their PE creden-

tial. Second, even if he/she does, there is no incentive to be hired as a JROTC instructor because he/she could be hired as a regular PE instructor and therefore be eligible for a full pension as a PE teacher instead of receiving only 1/2 pension as a JROTC teacher.

Another restriction contained within Commissioner Yee's resolution is that the waiver being

granted to the two new instructors requires the schools to fund their salaries and no district funds can be used for this upcoming school year.

Lowell High School Alumni came up with the funding to hire its JROTC teacher, but Galileo has not been as fortunate in raising the funds.

Thus, a fundraising effort is being conducted to raise funds for the hiring of the instructor at Galileo.

Cathay Post has agreed to assist with the fundraiser. Please contact the Executive Board members if you wish to contribute to the worthwhile effort.

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

Cathay Post 384 Welcomes USS Bonhomme Richard

On Monday, October 10, 2011, at 1400, Cathay Post will host a luncheon at its headquarters to honor and recognize the crew of the USS Bonhomme Richard, an Amphibious Assault Ship, and the third United States Navy ship of that name. The USS Bonhomme Richard carries Marines and all the equipment needed to support a Marine Corps Detachment of 1,600, including the vertical takeoff AV-8B Harriers, the CH-46 Sea Knight, CH-53E Sea Stallion and the AH-1W Super Cobra helicopters.

The ship is an 840 feet long aircraft carrier. It has a shorter flight deck that is ideal for the AV-8B Harrier which takes off and lands vertically but not for the F-18 Hornet which needs a longer flight deck to take off horizontally [the U.S.S. Carl Vinson is 1,042 feet long and carries the F-18].

Our Post is very honored to host the crew of the USS Bonhomme Richard and to share some good times with our American Legion members. It will be berthed at Pier 30-32, and we hope that we will be able to visit the ship after our celebration on Monday.

The USS Bonhomme Richard was named in honor of John Paul Jones' famous frigate, which he had named the French language equivalent of "Good man Richard," in honor of Ben-



The veterans of Cathay Post #384 honors the entire crew of the USS Bonhomme Richard. Thank you for your magnificent service to our Country

jamin Franklin, the U.S. Ambassador to France at the time. The name Bonhomme Richard is derived from the pen name of Benjamin Franklin, the author of Poor Richard's Almanac.

B o n h o m m e R i c h a r d ("Revolutionary Gator") is a Wasp-class amphibious assault ship currently homeported in San Diego, California. The contract to build her was awarded to Ingalls Shipbuilding on 11 December 1992, and her keel was laid down on 18 April 1995. She was launched on 14 March 1997, delivered to the Navy on 12 May 1998, and commissioned on 15 August 1998. (Our own Post member Roger Dong worked for Ingalls for many years and claims to have built this ship with a hammer, a tool box with many screw drivers and thousands of screws.)

The Bonhomme Richard is currently scheduled to switch homeports in Spring 2012 when it will take the place of the USS Essex (LHD-2) as the command ship for Expeditionary Strike Group Seven in Sasebo, Japan.

Deployments

□ Operation Southern Watch (24 January 2000 to 24 July 2000): First (WESTPAC) deployment of US naval ships in the 2000s.

□ Operation Enduring Freedom (1 December 2001 to 18 June 2002).

□ Operation Iraqi Freedom (17 January 2003 to 26 July 2003):

□ Bonhomme Richard played two significant roles in

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Cathay Post 384 Welcomes USS Bonhomme Richard

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Operation Iraqi Freedom. First, it offloaded more than 1,000 Marines and gear from the 3rd Battalion, 1st Marines into Kuwait. Then after delivering her attack and transport helicopters, troops, and vehicles she took up position just miles off the coast of Kuwait and became one of two Harrier Carriers along with USS Bataan (LHD-5) in the Persian Gulf—launching AV-8B Harrier strike aircraft into Iraq.

Pilots from Marine Attack Squadrons 211 and 311, embarked aboard Bonhomme Richard, expended more than 175,000 pounds (79,000 kg) of ordnance, providing close air support to the Marines on the ground and during predetermined strikes in Iraq. During Operation Iraqi Freedom the Bonhomme Richard launched more than 800 sorties, including 547 combat launches.

□ Operation Iraqi Freedom (6 December 2004 to TBD): Detached to Sri Lanka to provide support for relief efforts following the 2004 Indian Ocean earthquake and its subsequent tsunamis. On 4 January 2005: helping airlift relief supplies to the coast of Sumatra, Indonesia.

□ Operation Unified Assistance (5 January 2005 to February 2005): On a port visit in Guam on 28 December, Bonhomme Richard and her expeditionary strike group were ordered to the Indian Ocean to help in relief efforts following the 2004 Indian Ocean earthquake. Her helicopters flew sup-



U.S.S. Bonhomme Richard

plies and medical personnel into various areas of Indonesia, as well as evacuating the wounded.

□ RIMPAC 2006, July 2006: Maneuvers in the Kaulakahi Channel (between Kauai and Niihau Islands, Hawaii), near PMRF.

□ (23 May 2007 to November 2007): Joined with two carrier groups (USS John C. Stennis and USS Nimitz) off the coast of Iran to carry out previously unannounced air and sea exercises.

□ RIMPAC 2008, July 2008: Maneuvers in the Kaulakahi Channel (between Kauai and Niihau Islands, Hawaii), near PMRF.

□ WESTPAC September 2009 to April 2010: Deployed to the Fifth and Seventh Fleet areas of operations.

□ RIMPAC 2010, July 2010: Maneuvers in the Kaulakahi Channel (between Kauai and Niihau Islands, Hawaii) near PMRF

For our members who really love the BIG carriers, the USS Carl Vinson will also be in port for Fleetweek. This ship will be berthed at Anchorage 8 A.

Roger S. Dong, Chairman, American Legion War Memorial Commission and former Business Development Manager, Northrop Grumman Ship Systems (formerly Ingalls Shipbuilding)

From the 2nd Vice Commander

(Continued from page 2)

leaflet form to schools throughout the country. School children first recited the Pledge of Allegiance this way:

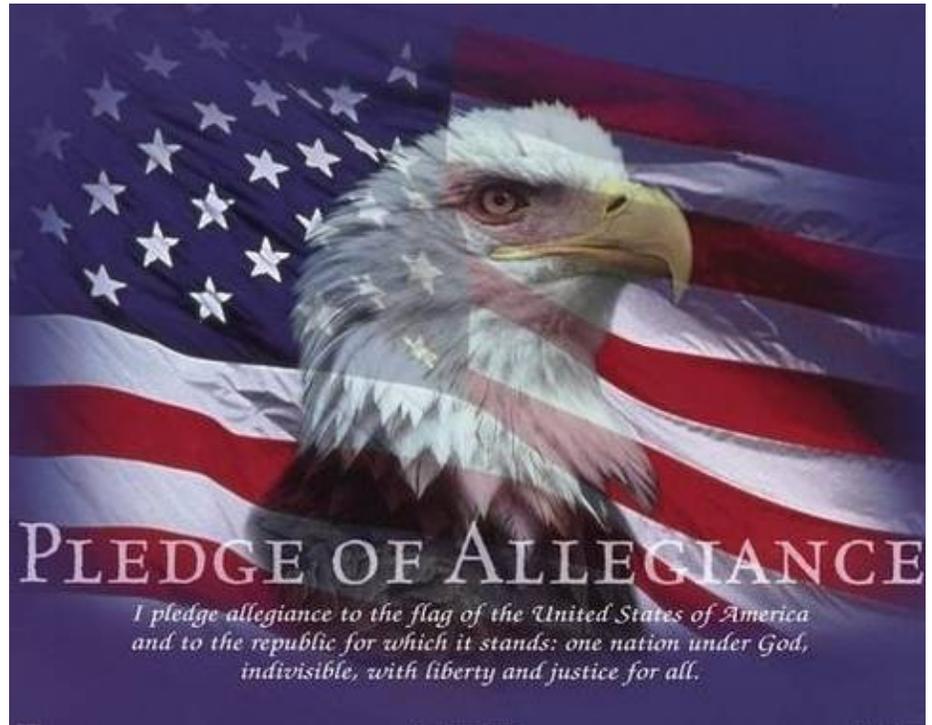
"I pledge allegiance to my Flag and to the Republic for which it stands one Nation indivisible, with Liberty and Justice for all."

"The flag of the United States" replaced the words "my Flag" in 1923 because some foreign-born people might have in mind the flag of the country of their birth instead of the United States flag. A year later, "of America" was added after "United States."

No form of the Pledge received official recognition by Congress until June 22, 1942, when the Pledge was formally included in the U.S. Flag Code. The official name of The Pledge of Allegiance was adopted in 1945. The last change in language came on Flag Day 1954, when Congress passed a law, which added the words "under God" after "one nation."

Originally, the pledge was said with the right hand in the so-called "Bellamy Salute," with the right hand resting first outward from the chest, then the arm extending out from the body. Once Hitler came to power in Europe, some Americans were concerned that this position of the arm and hand resembled the Nazi or Fascist salute. In 1942 Congress also established the current practice of rendering the pledge with the right hand over the heart.

The Flag Code specifies that any future changes to the pledge



would have to be with the consent of the President.

The Pledge of Allegiance

"I pledge allegiance"
(I promise to be true)

"to the flag"
(to the symbol of our country)

"of the United States of America"
(each state that has joined to make our country)

"and to the Republic"
(a republic is a country where the people choose others to make laws for them -- the government is for the people)

"for which it stands,"
(the flag means the country)

"one Nation"
(a single country)

"under God,"
(the people believe in a supreme being)

"indivisible,"
(the country cannot be split into parts)

"with liberty and justice"
(with freedom and fairness)

"for all."
(for each person in the country)

As we look forward, the holiday season is a time of sharing. Many veterans celebrate the holidays in the VA hospital; to help give them additional attention, Cathay Post is organizing a trip to Fort Miley again. Please come, pass out gift baskets, and swap some stories.

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

Jay Pon
2nd Vice Commander

Status Report—Veterans Resource Center

It has been six weeks since we opened the Veterans Resource Center (VRC) in Room 205 at the War Memorial Veterans Building. We held one job fair attended by about 30 veterans and three veterans applied for jobs offered at the job fair. We hope that the applicants qualify and are hired for the jobs (which have a \$50,000 annual salary).

While it is not the responsibility of the American Legion of San Francisco to provide job opportunities for veterans, our mission is to facilitate the counseling and job/career announcements that will be provided by employers brought to the VRC. Several individuals have volunteered to offer briefings and presentations on personal financial management, veterans' employment rights, training on Microsoft products, and the importance and role of social networking sites (Facebook, Twitter). Mr. Craig Newmark, Founder of Craigslist has offered to teach the last topic.

The AmVets organization has designated San Francisco as one of their major locations to open a career training center, and Commander Helen Wong, AmVets Chapter 34 (San Francisco) has stated that their AmVet organization would like to jointly use the VRC to provide career training services for veterans. With the approval of the American Legion War Memorial Commission and American Legion District 8, AmVets will join the American Legion to serve our veterans in the VRC. AmVets brings some important assets to the table. They have funding

from Activision and also will provide around 300 business software programs to provide training for business software (Word, Excel, Powerpoint, and Access), job skills and provide certification for I/T jobs like systems networking, project management, and human resource management. Until AmVet, the VRC did not provide software training.

This week, the American Legion is offering the VRC facility and its dozen personal computers to facilitate job search and support to many veterans who will be attending the Fleetweek Smart job fair held on Thursday, October 6, 2011, in the Green Room, War Memorial Veterans building. We will also be providing partitioned rooms in 206 and 207 for job interviews. This Smart job fair is jointly hosted by the Iraqi Afghanistan Veterans Association and the United States Chamber of Commerce. These are national organizations, and we in the San Francisco American Legion are proud to assist in serving our veterans during this one day event in our Veterans Building.

The establishment of the VRC at this time is crucial to providing services to our homebound veterans. We will be outreaching to veterans separating at Travis AFB and Reserve and National Guard locations in the Bay Area and Northern California to expand our outreach to veterans who do not know that the VRC is now available to provide them with counseling services as well as job/career training and job search facilities. Our three VRC

Facility Managers are outreaching to the 5,000+ veterans who are attending colleges and universities in the Bay Area.

We expect the veterans traffic at our VRC to pick up dramatically in the months ahead. I wish to thank all our Cathay Post veterans and support members who have helped us in establishing the VRC and lent us a helping hand during our grand opening ceremony. There are very few local American Legion posts that have the human and financial resources to support this and other important American Legion projects and activities. Cathay Post is a role model for posts in supporting the VRC, our legacy Boys State project and ROTC and JROTC scholarships. Our Cathay Post members also hold key leadership positions in the American Legion War Memorial Commission and also our American Legion District 8. The American Legion needs many more posts like Cathay Post.

Roger S. Dong, VRC Project Manager

CORRECTION

The September 2011 edition of the Cathay Chronicle incorrectly reported that 9/11 hero David Lim is the Executive Director of the Port of New York and New Jersey. David Lim is actually a Port Authority police lieutenant.

Cathay Post 384 Attending Asian Inc.'s 40th Annual Gala





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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

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1st Vice Commander David Y. Wong

2nd Vice Commander Jay Pon

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