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CATHAY POST NO. 384

Cathay Chronicle



NEXT BOARD MEETING: Saturday, December 8, 2012 @ 1100 hours. 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 Commander's Desk

Dear **Cathay Post** Members and Friends,

At the November meeting, I want to thank the volunteers who were working in the kitchen, preparing a fantastic meal that was served right after the meeting. Thanks to Vice Commander Lum for his donation of several prepared, cooked turkeys. The attendance level was good. Several new members came to sign up as new members of **Cathay Post**. In addition, several familiar faces came to renew their membership as well. Thanks to Comrade Richard Ow, for inviting Han and Doris Chiu to the luncheon. These two guests are from the Boston area and were impressed with the number of historical displays in the boardroom and the legacy of this great Post. They are the parents of San Francisco District Three Supervisor, David Chiu.

It was good to see the return of Li Huang, a member of our Post and a staff member at the San Francisco VA Vet Center as an Outreach Coordinator. Li re-

cently returned from active duty over in Afghanistan. Li has provided assistance and guidance to a number of **Cathay Post** members in handling matters with the Veterans Administration.

Come and look at the bulletin board right outside of the Dr. Sun Yat-Sen Community Hall. We have ribbons and ribbons from the American Legion. Awards for years 2009 to 2013 are displayed. Recently, we have received the year 2012 ribbon for membership. In addition, we have also received the year 2013, early bird award for membership. With 19 different American Legion posts in the San Francisco area alone, thanks for choosing Cathay as your post affiliation.

The group photo session for the website that was scheduled for December has been postponed and will be re-scheduled to the January 12, 2013 monthly meeting.

My column will be a short one as I will be departing for a two week journey.

I hope to see all of you at the December meeting. A special holiday luncheon will be served immediately following the meeting. In case you are not able to attend, I want to take this opportunity to wish you and your family a joyous holiday season along with the very best for the new year - - with happiness and good health. Your continued support of the Post is appreciated.

Respectfully yours,

David Y. Wong
Commander



From the 1st Vice Commander

Wow, where did this year go? Time has gone by so fast; it has been a very busy year. Beside the American Legion, family, work, and other interest have tugged and pulled me in different directions. A few friends have passed away, a few moved away. Life is full of surprises.

The most important part of this journey is doing thing you like to do...and I like being part of **Cathay Post**. Why? American Legion "Cathay" Post 384 is my personal place where I can still serve America, be part of the North Beach/Chinatown community, share stories with a group of girls and guys that have gone through similar experienc-

es and training. **Cathay Post** is where the whole is greater than the sum of the parts. You veterans make being part **Cathay Post** worth it for me. You humble me, you give me strength, you give me friendship, and much more.

As the New Year comes, I am committed to **Cathay Post** 384. My goals will be to be focused on you, Post 384 and programs that will make our Post 384 shine.

Lastly, Mark McNee (WJ Britton & Company) will be attempting to lease out the former church space. He can be reached at 415-967-2637. Please send him any leads or give him a

call and ask him why he hasn't leased out the space yet and what he plans to do about it...Mr Fong needs more money for food!

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

Jay Pon
1st Vice Commander
415.409.8858
jpon@jps.net



From the 2nd Vice Commander

Happy holidays to you all. Now that we've all stuffed ourselves with Turkey and all the accompanying trimmings. We must take some time to count all the blessings we've received during this year. The tasks ahead of our post this coming year will need your participation in order to be successful.

Our building's street level and basement spaces are in need of renter(s). Please let us know if you know of anyone who may be interested in renting the space.

The American Legion War Memorial Commission is currently looking for a temporary home in order to continue its functions during the closure of the War Memorial Veterans Building. The Commission is looking at renting approximately 5000 sq. footage of space for about two years. Please let me know if you know of a place that would meet the needs of the Commission. Note: due to variety of reasons, our building simply can not be considered for this purpose.

The American Legion Eighth District Council is looking for eligible young men and women who are attending high school currently to participate in the America Legion High School Oratorical Scholarship Program. The eligible participants will begin by competing at the District level, the Winner will move on to the Area level and to the State level. A single winner will be chosen to represent the State and he/she will be entered into the National competition. The Winner of the State level competition will receive \$1,500 for scholarship and the Winner of the National will receive \$18,000 of scholarship award. Additionally, there are many associated scholarship funds that will be awarded which will reward the participants. Each participant must prepare an oration between eight to ten minutes in length on some aspect of the Constitution of the United States with emphasis on the duties and obligations of a citizen to our government. Please let me know if you know of some young men or women in high school who may want to participate in this

competition. Even if they are not chosen as the winner, it will still be a great learning experience for these young people.

It is also time to start looking for some eligible young men to participate in the American Legion Boy's State program. **Cathay Post** has committed to sponsoring four boys to the 2013 event. To be eligible, the young men must be a high school junior who will be entering his senior year. Please contact First Vice Commander Jay Pon if you know of some young men who may be good candidates for this program. Our own comrade Roger Dong was a participant of this program back in his youth and still talks about how that program had enriched his life. By the way, when Roger was sent to Sacramento to participate in the program many years ago, he was transported by a horse drawn wagon. Just kidding.

National Commander James Koutz will be visiting San Francisco on December 10, 2012. I

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From the 2nd Vice Commander

will be meeting with him as a representative of the Commission. We will need the support of the State and National apparatus of the American Legion in order to keep our current level of space allocation at the War Memorial Veterans Building.

Hope to see you all at our next monthly meeting. We will be having our Christmas luncheon afterwards and please bring along your love ones for the gathering.

Nelson Lum

2nd Vice Commander
Chair, ALWMC



Professional Event Photography by Frank Jang

Own a Golden Gun!

Did you ever want to be
The Man/Woman who owned a Golden Gun?



Cathay Post wants to make your dream come true. If you ever wanted to own a custom built gold Colt 45 automatic pistol, you may have the chance of a lifetime. Our Post is planning to hold a lottery to be held next May on the evening of our 82nd **Cathay Post** Anniversary Party. Opportunity tickets will be on sale for \$10 each, 6 chances for \$20, 25 chances for \$50 opportunity tickets.

So, let us know how many tickets you want now (we are not asking for the money now, but a commitment, so that we can determine whether this is a viable lottery option. We will order the custom made and specially engraved California model of the world famous Colt 45, if there is sufficient interest to have this Dream Lottery.

Email **Cathay Post** at sfcathaypost@gmail.com and let us know how many chances you would like to be the Man/Woman who will own the Golden Gun.

The New “Veterans Commons”



150 Otis Street, San Francisco, California

The new "**Veterans Commons**," a Veterans Residential Housing Building, was opened on November 7, 2012. This facility provides veterans with single unit housing with cooking facilities and private bathrooms for qualified veterans. To be eligible for these units, the veteran must be HUD VASH (Veterans Affairs Supplementary Housing) (HV) participant, and must relinquish 1/3 of his stipend from the HV project, a joint program of the Veterans Administration and HUD. This HV program is

the safety net for homeless veterans who are disabled, and/or mentally ill, and/or have chronic substance abuse disorders.

This special homeless veterans housing program was developed jointly by the Swords to Plowshares and the San Francisco Chinatown Community Development Corporation, two IRS 501 (C)3 non-profit organizations. The 9 floor residential building is a \$32 million project with multiple funding sources including Wells Fargo, CTCAC, Historic Tax Credits, Mayor's Office of

Housing, SF Redevelopment Agency, and the FHLB AHP.

Most American Legion members are not eligible for residency in the **Veterans Commons**, but if you know a veteran who needs quality housing in San Francisco and meets the basic requirements for HV participation, let them know about this HV project. The facilities at the Veterans Commons are excellent and includes a 24 hour lobby, and

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The New “Veterans Commons”



Paul Cox, Chairman, Swords to Plowshares, Vice Chair, ALWMC proudly introduces one of 76 veterans residence units at Veterans Common, San Francisco.

multi-purpose rooms.

In June 2012 San Francisco Mayor Ed Lee vowed to provide 50 units of housing for homeless veterans, now 5 months later, the Veterans Commons opens with 76 units. The renovated high rise owned by the City of

San Francisco is ready for occupancy and many of the units are now occupied.

To be eligible to occupy this new housing facility, a veteran must be homeless and a participant in the HUD Bash program. For additional details go to:

portal.hud.gov/hudportal/documents/huddoc?id=op-rqrmnts-102709bc.ppt

Roger Dong
Post Reporter

Cathay Post Veterans and Support Group Serves our Community

During the Thanksgiving holidays, our **Cathay Post** clan attired in our Post "**Polo**" jerseys were busy serving our community along with our City's leaders and our friends in the San Francisco Police Department, volunteered their time to carve hundreds of roasted turkeys and prepare 4,000 miniature pumpkin pies for our cities homeless, including many homeless veterans, at St. Anthony's Foundation Dining Room/Soup Kitchen.



Mayor Edwin Lee puts on gloves and apron to join other volunteers as the roasted turkeys were soon to be carved to serve our City's homeless.

Mayor Lee gives carving advice to volunteers including Police Chief Greg Suhr, Supervisor Jane Kim and our Post members.



The SFPD and our Support Group at work on many, many mouthwatering pumpkin pies.

Cathay Post Veterans and Support Group Serves our Community

More Post Community Service

St. Anthony's Foundation a few days before Thanksgiving also distributed donated essentials specifically for our needy veterans in our City. Quality footwear, socks, and other personal use articles were presented to our City's homeless veterans. More than 300 veterans were provided with the gifts to improve their immediate survival needs.



Our **Cathay Post** Support volunteers assist several homeless veterans select and fit quality Krome shoes.

Our Post volunteers were very happy to help provide many of our homeless veterans with both daily clothing essentials and a great Thanksgiving dinner this year. **Cathay Post** will continue to be of service in the future.

This year Vice Commander Nelson Lum, Board member Roger Dong and Christy Dong represented our Post at this important community events for our veterans. Thanks to our great Post volunteers during this special holiday occasion.

Roger S. Dong, Post Reporter

Officer Alvin Louie

To Honor a local Chinese American Police Hero, Officer Alvin Louie



SFPD Officer Alvin Louie and the family he rescued.

Today, it has been a casual habit to declare that all our fire fighters, police officers and our returning home veterans are “Heroes.” We do not wish to diminish the important national and local services roles of our men and women in these professions, but if we are to take the “Hero” label seriously, we must be more selective in our declaration, for if everyone person in these important professions is a “hero,” then those few who are truly heroic do not get their proper recognition when they perform their duties above and beyond the call of duty.

Cathay Post annually recognizes outstanding firefighters and police officers, and we will continue to do so. These honorees are heroic as they are the best among the best. Even with the best, we will find some truly outstanding individuals who have performed above and beyond normal expectations.

In San Francisco, one local Chinese American Police Officer deserves special recognition and has earned the privilege of the “Hero,” accolade. Earlier this year our American Legion Post 456 and SFPD

honored Officer Alvin Louie. **Cathay Post** would like to add our congratulations and present the following report prepared for our newsletter.

On July 19, 2012, at its annual Officer of the Year banquet, Post 456 honored a local Chinese American Hero, Officer Alvin Louie of the San Francisco Police Department, for his community service. The award was presented to Officer Louie by SFPD Chief Greg Suhr and SFPD Captain Greg Corrales, who is Area 2 Commander and Adjutant of Police-Fire Post #456.

Officer Alvin Louie

Alvin Louie's law-enforcement career began in 1981, when he became a San Francisco sheriff's deputy. For the past 23 years, he has been a police officer at the San Francisco International Airport. Alvin and his wife Angie have three children. They own the two Hana Zen restaurants in Pier 39 and downtown San Francisco, which Angie manages while Alvin serves as a police officer.

On August 18, 2011, while on foot patrol of SFO's international terminal, Officer Louie came upon Bao Ping Zhang, a woman in her 30s from Tianjin in northern China. Ms. Zhang was in a state of distress and despair. She had missed her flight home the previous day, spent the night at the airport, and had no one in this country she could call or turn to for help. Ms. Zhang, a high-school math and biology teacher, told Officer Louie that she and her husband, a U.S. citizen, met in Tianjin, where he taught English as a second language. They were married in China and had a daughter, Lina.

In May 2011, when Lina was five months old, the husband wanted to take her to see his family in the Bay Area. The husband told Ms. Zhang he wanted to raise Lina in the town of Keyes near Modesto, where his family resides. Bao Ping said no, but agreed to the three of them visiting his family during her summer break from May to August. As they prepared for the trip, her husband told Bao Ping to not pack her laptop or cell phone, which she found odd, but complied.

After they arrived in Keyes, Ms. Zhang discovered that her husband's parents and two sisters were on welfare. If two or more of his family were present, they conversed only in Spanish, which she did not understand. When Pao Ping was alone with one of the parents or sisters, he or she would speak to her in English. Ms. Zhang's husband started acting indifferently toward her. He and his family members began treating her in a cruel and inhumane manner.

Bao Ping and Lina were confined to the garage and not allowed to leave the resi-

dence. She had no means of contacting her family or anyone in the outside world. Her husband painted vertical stripes on a white wall to simulate prison bars. There was no clock in the garage and the lights were kept on all the time. The family had six dogs, three dogs in the front and three in the rear. Bao Ping and Lina were treated worse than caged animals. Their months in Keyes would be a living hell.

Ms. Zhang's husband and his parents and sisters were verbally abusive and played psychological mind games with her. They fed Bao Ping only oatmeal every 12 hours. She lost 40 pounds during her imprisonment in the Keyes residence. Because she became malnourished, it became difficult to breastfeed Lina, who had constant diarrhea. The husband and family refused Bao Ping's requests for have Lina examined by a doctor. Bao Ping kept telling herself to be strong for Lina, believing that the two of them would be returning to China on August 17.

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Officer Alvin Louie

When that day came, Ms. Zhang's husband served her with divorce papers. He had also gotten a judge to grant him full custody of Lina. When Bao Ling was told she would be returning to China without her daughter, she called 9-1-1. Stanislaus County sheriff's deputies responded to the residence, read the court orders, and told Bao Ping there was nothing they could do. Lina would remain in the custody of her husband and his family. Her husband's father, one of his sisters, and an unidentified man then drove Bao Ping to San Francisco International Airport.

Once at the departure gate for her flight home, Ms. Zhang refused to board the aircraft. She told the airline personnel that her husband and his family had taken her baby. The police were called. Officers from the SFPD Airport Bureau read the court orders that Bao Ping showed them and verified the documents with the Stanislaus County Sheriff's Department. The SFPD officers took a report of their contact with Bao Ping and arranged for her to stay

at a nearby hotel for the night. While en route to the hotel, she had the shuttle driver take her back to SFO instead.

On the morning of August 18, Ms. Zhang saw Officer Louie in the airport terminal and explained her situation to him. Officer Louie gave her \$270 of his own money and his cell-phone number and directed her to the Chinese Consulate in San Francisco for assistance. Three days later, after the Chinese Consulate, SFPD, and U.S. customs and immigration were of no help to Bao Ping, she called Officer Louie out of desperation.

She wanted to return to Stanislaus County to try and get legal custody of her baby daughter.

Knowing that SFPD could not provide any further services or resources, Alvin discussed Bao Ping's plight with Angie. With Angie's support and blessing, Alvin on August 22 drove Bao Ping to the Stanislaus County courthouse in Modesto, where he helped her file documents petitioning the

court to grant custody of Lina back to her. Upon returning to San Francisco, Officer Louie arranged for Bao Ping to leave La Casa de las Madres, the women's shelter in the Mission District where she was staying. The following day, she moved into Gum Moon Women's Residence in Chinatown, where she felt safe and secure for the first time since her ordeal began in May.

Ms. Zhang also received counseling and assistance from professionals at the Asian Women's Resource Center. Due to the driving distance to Modesto, along with the possible danger of encountering her husband and his family, Bao Ping was unable to get any volunteers to drive her to and from the Stanislaus County courthouse. So, on August 24, Officer Louie drove her to Modesto to attend a court-ordered mediation class. The following day, they again drove to the courthouse in Modesto to pick up documents, at which time they learned that a judge had denied custody of Lina to Bao Ping pending a court

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Officer Alvin Louie

hearing.

Officer Louie then drove Ms. Zhang to her estranged husband's residence in Keyes, hoping that she could visit with Lina, since it had been a week since she last saw her baby. When her husband refused to come to the door or let her see Lina, Bao Ping called the Stanislaus County Sheriff's Department. A sheriff's deputy responded, met with the husband, and ensured that Lina appeared to be safe and in good health. The husband still refused to allow Bao Ping to see their daughter.

On the following week, Officer Louie drove Ms. Zhang to meet with officials from the Stanislaus County Child Protective Services and District Attorney's offices. After investigators interviewed Bao Ping, they understood her situation and prepared briefs for the judge's review. An investigator was sent to admonish the husband and his family that they must provide proper care for Lina and comply with all court orders.

The two county agencies in-

formed Ms. Zhang of the services that she was eligible to receive. Child Protective Services arranged for the husband bring Lina to a McDonald's in Turlock, where, under supervision, Bao Ping spent a precious hour and a half with her baby. Officer Louie then helped Bao Ping obtain legal assistance and drove her to visit with Lina one more time before the court date.

After all the suffering that Bao Ping Zhang had endured for nearly five months, justice for her would finally occur on September 8, 2011, when Bao Ping, now represented by attorneys retained by the Asian Women's Resource Center, received the mediator's recommendation to the court that she be granted full custody of her daughter.

A judge, after reading the briefs and reports submitted by the court-appointed mediator, Child Protective Services, and the District Attorney, ruled that Ms. Zhang would have not only full custody of Lina, but be granted permission to return to China with her daughter. As to the estranged husband's divorce

petition, the judge ruled that, since the marriage occurred in China, any divorce proceeding would be under the jurisdiction of the Chinese court system.

Such an ending would not have taken place without Officer Alvin Louie's time, tireless energy, money, and willingness to help Bao Ping Zhang out of what appeared to be a hopeless situation for her and Lina. Alvin went beyond the call of duty, but he and Angie demonstrated their compassion as loving parents of three children.

In all, Alvin and Bao Ping made six 200-mile round trips from San Francisco to Modesto and back. Alvin and Angie gave well over a \$1,000 of their own money to help Bao Ping and Lina be reunited. The days and many hours that Alvin spent helping Bao Ping were on his personal time as a concerned citizen. To Alvin and Angie Louie, it was a worthwhile gift, one that will forever change the lives of a mother and daughter 6,000 miles away in Tianjin, China.

Our District 8 Council's Veterans Success Center



Whose that in the **crimson Cathay Post** shirt? If you are the first to answer that question, you might get a \$5 gift card to a local donut shop where you might meet some local police officers. **Vernon Tang is not eligible for this grand prize.**

On November 16, 2012 the **Veterans Success Center** hosted a special Law Enforcement Officers Job Fair in our War Memorial Veterans Building. Arranged and organized by ALWMC **Chairman Nelson Lum** and the ALWMC staff, the event was attended by 32 young veterans, including several **Cathay Post** veterans.

Representatives and recruiting staff from the **San Francisco Police Department**, and the **San Francisco Sheriff's Department** attended, briefed on opportunities, and answered many questions about a career

in their organizations. **BART** police openings were also noted.

It was learned a few days after this event that veterans are also invited to apply for openings with the San Mateo Police Department. There are over 1,000 law enforcement positions available now and extending several years into the future.

Law enforcement careers are very exciting today. Not only is this job challenging and different every day, the pay and benefits are way above the average. Starting salary at several of these organizations begin above

\$80,000 annually, and with projected OT, can exceed \$100K the first 12 months, once you earn your star/badge. Being a police officer is not everybody's cup of tea/coffee, but if being a police officer is in your dreams, now is the time to make your dreams come true. Good luck to all our **Cathay Post** members who are applying for these positions. I wish I were young again.

Roger S. Dong

Post Reporter

The Pershing Chinese

CHINESE AMERICAN HEROES
chineseamericanheroes.org

Recently our strategic partner, **Chinese American Heroes** published a very special report on probably our earliest “veterans” and their great contribution to the US Army and is a little known and missing part of our American history. That is the story of about 500 Chinese immigrants residing in Texas and Mexico who bravely and loyally served as the logistics arm of our Army in 1916. This is also a valuable lesson to all immigrants that serving in our military is one undeniable service that proves that you are worthy of US citizenship, and can be the fastest way to become an American citizen. The 20,000 Chinese Americans, some of whom were our **Cathay Post** dads or grandfathers, served in WWII, and that was one reason why the Chinese Exclusion Act was repealed by Congress at FDR’s strong recommendation. We hope you find a few minutes to read this un-

usual story about our earliest Chinese veterans.



General John J. Pershing. Service #0-1

Who were the Pershing Chinese???

Hundreds of Chinese from Texas and Mexico supported the US Army in 1916 and were allowed to stay in America and eventually became citizens. They were dedicated and loyal Chinese immigrants who served our military without ever wearing the uniform.

Few people have ever heard of the **Pershing Chinese**. They were Chinese immigrants living in Texas and in Mexico in the early 20th Century. The plight of the Chinese Americans has been examined in other places on the Chinese American Heroes website. The Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882 was emblematic of official American attitudes towards the Chinese, making Chinese Texans vulnerable to deportation at government whim as they were not legal American residents and by law were barred from becoming American citizens. The Chinese in Mexico were not loved either, as there was much resentment of the success of many small Chinese businesses. They were the targets of discrimination and persecution by Mexican politicians and businessmen, who used them as convenient scapegoats for poverty and corruption. Because Chinese women were far less likely to

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The Pershing Chinese

immigrate there was a severe shortage of marriageable women in that immigrant community. Some Chinese men married Mexican women, but sexual competition and jealousy, when allied with racism, proved to be as explosive a combination in Mexico as it was in the United States.

In March 9, 1916, Pancho Villa and his rebels crossed the border and killed eighteen American soldiers and civilians in Columbus, New Mexico. On March 15, 1916, Major General John J. "Black Jack" Pershing, stationed at Fort Bliss, Texas, was ordered to pursue and capture Villa by President Woodrow Wilson. However, in 1916, the US Army had an embryonic logistics (Quartermaster Corps), which was not capable of providing timely logistics to the Army in Texas, a long trail ride from any of the main American military supply bases.

This mission was known as

the Mexican Punitive Expedition, and General Pershing had to come up with a solution for supplying his troops in hot pursuit of Pancho Villa through Northern Mexico. He decided to put an ad in the local Texas paper, and received a very surprising response. Several hundred local Chinese in Texas jumped at the opportunity to earn the princely sum of \$.20 an hour.

The first important task the Chinese accomplished was clearing the Texas landscape of heavy brush and sage, so that the military camp could be setup, and simultaneously, provide hot meals and laundry services. The Chinese worked very hard, put in a lot of extra work and effort, and the camp was established quickly.

In addition to cooking and washing services, they provided what might be called the first mobile Army Exchange. Throughout the Expedition, the Chinese provided im-

portant "comfort" supplies including soap, towels, tobacco, matches, candy, doughnuts, and fruit. Hot meals were made (Chinese dishes of course) and hot liquids were provided. One of the biggest, and then unrecognized, vital services was potable water. Chinese recognized the importance of drinking boiled water, and used boiled water for coffee and other drinks. This protected the troops from dysentery and other diseases easily acquired from drinking untreated water from streams and rivers that had killed so many thousands of American soldiers in past wars. The General's troops were well fed and healthy, and most importantly, fit to fight in attempting to chase down Pancho Villa.

Pershing led a force of 6,675 men that penetrated about 400 miles into Mexico. They defeated Villa's revolutionaries in several skirmishes but failed to capture their leader.

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The Pershing Chinese

Villa eventually negotiated an amnesty with the Mexican authorities in 1920 but was assassinated in 1923, probably with the support and collusion of the Mexican government. In all, about 10,000 to 12,000 American regular troops became involved in the campaign at some point. In addition, 100,000 National Guard troops were ordered mobilized by President Wilson but they remained defending the American border and never crossed over into Mexico. Supplying all of these troops through such a remote area of the country and into Northern Mexico was a major challenge.

During the campaign, hundreds of Chinese residing in Mexico joined the expedition and added manpower to the American logistics mission. Chinese in Mexico had already been targeted for death as some had joined President Carranza's Mexican government forces to defeat Villa.

Villa's forces had retaliated whenever they found Chinese, and reportedly several entire Chinese families were murdered, including the Mexican wives of the Chinese. Several hundred of the Mexican Chinese requested permission to leave with Pershing's Army when they returned to the United States as the expedition ended in February 1917.

General Pershing, who became our first 4 star Army general, did not forget his Chinese supporters from the Mexican campaign. In 1919, armed with the prestige he'd earned as the victorious commander of the American Expeditionary Forces in Europe during World War I, and newly promoted to the rank of General of the Armies of the United States, the highest rank ever given to any member of the United States armed forces, he and William Tracy Page, began a campaign to allow the **Pershing Chinese** to become legal perma-

nent residents. William Tracy Page had been an Immigration Bureau officer in the American colony of the Philippines who'd been assigned as a civilian adviser to the 2,700 Mexican refugees, 527 of whom were Chinese, that were settled in Texas. He became a friend and tireless advocate of the Chinese as a result. In this effort the men were joined by the Chinese Benevolent Association and ordinary Chinese Americans across the United States.

On November 23, 1921, President Warren G. Harding signed Public Law No. 29, which granted the **Pershing Chinese** permanent residency rights. PL No. 29 established a legal precedent in immigration law, introducing special consideration for immigrants escaping political persecution.

In 1921, the Chinese Exclusion Act (CEA) was still in full

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The Pershing Chinese

force keeping Chinese immigrants out of America, and was not repealed until 1943. In reality, the repealing of the CEA only opened up a small crack in the immigration doorway for Chinese immigrants as only 105 from around the world were allowed to be admitted each year. However, it finally granted the right to become naturalized citizens to legal residents of Chinese origin already in the United States, among which were those Chinese refugees from Mexico and the Chinese Texans. It was not until October 1965 that the Hart Cellar Act abolished national origin quotas and increased the Chinese quota to 20,000 annually. Until this act was passed, the population of Chinese in America continued to atrophy. The only other relief had been the War Brides Act of 1945 with later amendment that opened the door a little bit, as several thousand Chinese American veterans and

veterans of other races were able bring over their wives from China and Chinese and mixed race families began to appear in many locations.

The **Pershing Chinese** were a very special group of individuals who were willing to take risks in accompanying the US Army at war. Many saved every penny they earned and started small businesses after the Mexican Expedition was over. Some of these families still reside in Texas.

Today, there are roughly 4.6 million Chinese Americans in the U.S. - the Chinese American population has come a long way since 1965. Many Chinese Americans have made major contributions to our Country, but few of us know anything about their contributions. **Chinese American Heroes** started chronicling nominated heroes who have made significant contributions. We hope that visitors to our website at

www.chineseamericanheroes.org will be curious about Chinese Americans in many professions who have done a lot for America.

Our **Cathay Post** Board member and Chairman of **Chinese American Heroes** attended the 2009 National OCA convention in Houston, TX and learned about the **Pershing Chinese** when he met Mr. **Irwin A. Tang**, the author and editor of "Texas Asians - our History and Our Lives", a compendium of essays on the history of Asians in the state of Texas upon which this article is based.

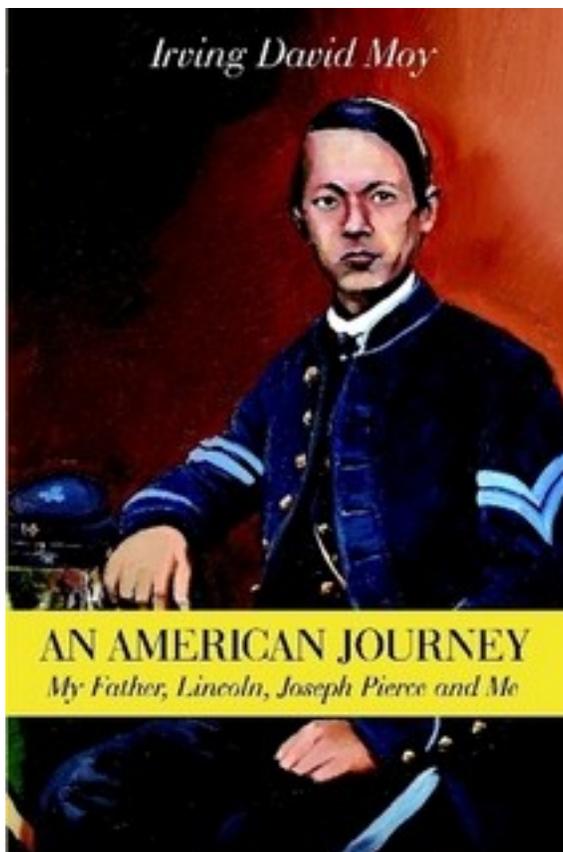
Cathay Post does not promote books or merchandise on our newsletter, but if a notable and unique Chinese American publication about our past veterans is discovered, we share this information with you without endorsement.

An American Journey

[By Irving Moy](#)

[View this Author's Spotlight](#)

Paperback, 102 Pages



Price: \$15.50

Ships in 3-5 business days

America has always been seen as the land of opportunity where individuals can rise above their circumstances through diligence, hard work, and perseverance. As this book was being written, America began to celebrate the bicentennial birth of Abraham Lincoln, whose leadership during the Civil War set this Nation on a course to define and embody what it has come to symbolize to the rest of the world. An American Journey is the story of my father who came from China to this country to lay claim to this legacy of Abraham Lincoln and the Civil War and that of Joseph Pierce, a "chinaman," who fought for the cause of Union. And it is my story, the son of Chinese immigrants, who came to know Abraham Lincoln and to live my own "American Dream."

If you are interested, here is the link for you to consider this unusual book.

<http://www.lulu.com/us/en/shop/irving-moy/an-american-journey/paperback/product-12551610.html>



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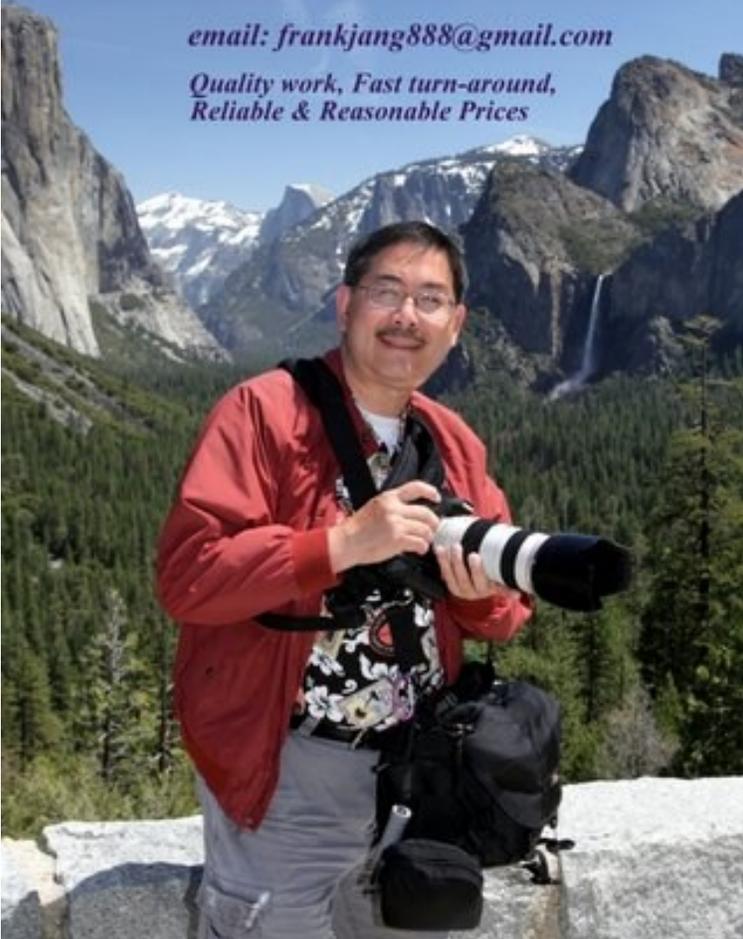
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Chronicle Staff

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

Roger Dong is our chief reporter.

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 tzhang85@gmail.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.

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