

Volume 4, Issue 1  
January 2013



CATHAY POST NO. 384

# Cathay Chronicle



**NEXT BOARD MEETING:** Saturday, January 12, 2013 @ 1100 hours. All **Cathay Post** members and supporting friends are welcome. Lunch will be served immediately after the Board meeting.

## Inside this issue:

From the Commander's Desk	<b>2-3</b>
The 1st Vice Commander	<b>4</b>
New National Commander	<b>5-6</b>
Thank You from Major Kurt Lee	<b>7</b>
One Good Turn Deserves Another	<b>8</b>
Fort Miley VA Center Visit	<b>9</b>
Who was Ruby Kim Tape?	<b>10-11</b>

**Cathay Post. No. 384**  
American Legion

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[www.cathaypost384.org](http://www.cathaypost384.org)

## From the Commander's Desk

Dear **Cathay Post** Members and Friends,

A Happy New Year to All. With the new year, our Post will have an active schedule ahead: nominations and election for the board of directors will begin soon, the 82<sup>nd</sup> anniversary dinner in May, and finding a suitable tenant for the vacant floor space at the Post.

Thanks to our support members, Emily Onglatco and John Tam for handling the purchasing and pre-cooking of the beef ribs along with chicken for last December's luncheon. The special sauce to make it a Korean style flavor was exceptional good as well.



Thank you to long time support member, Stephen Lau's donation of a new HP desktop computer to the Post. The new PC will be put into good use and is located outside of the commander's office for our members to use. As many of you already know, Stephen donated the large flat panel television set approxi-

mately two years ago. Last month, I had the opportunity to join Stephen and his group on a two-week business/pleasure trip to the southern part of China, Hong Kong, and Macau. There, we met numerous government officials, business leaders, entrepreneurs, several retired military generals, retired and active military personnel, along with individuals who know and are

Membership continues to grow for the Post. As many have already know, **Cathay Post** has achieved 100% in membership as set forth by the Department of California American Legion for the fourth consecutive year. For the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter 2012, the Post gained four new veterans: Patrick Evia (recruited by Roger Dong), Quock Fong (recruited by the Commander), Bruce Smith (recruited by Roger Dong/Nelson Lum), and Roy Yim (recruited by the Commander). Welcome veterans, to the Cathay family!

good friends of our Post. The finer cuisine was a memorable experience along with the exceptional fine dining service. Shortly after returning back to the Bay Area, I attended a holiday banquet style dinner at a well-known restaurant in San Francisco Chinatown. Needless to say, the food wasn't the same as what I had tasted over in Asia.

With various holiday dinner events, I managed to attend the latter part of the Boys Scout Troops 3 holiday dinner last month. But more importantly, I was able to witness an Eagle Court of Honor ceremony. Some of you may have remembered where scout member Tony Lau, came to **Cathay Post**'s monthly meeting last spring to request funding to

*(Continued on page 3)*

## From the Commander's Desk

carry out his eagle service project. The board of directors unanimously approved the request. For the eagle service project, he designed and made commemorative walking sticks, which were presented, to veterans at a ceremony on Memorial Day 2012 held at Treasure Island. Tony presented to me on behalf of **Cathay Post**, a pair of commemorative walking sticks. These memorabilia will be on display in the boardroom at the Post. It is gratifying to see a young rising star with leadership capabilities receiving his Eagle medal at the dinner ceremony.

As a reminder to All - - - Chinese New Year is on February 10<sup>th</sup>. Continuing with **Cathay Post**'s long-standing tradition, the Post will be accepting Spring Donations ("Heung Yu"). As you know, the Spring Donations will help support our worthwhile programs and services to our members and to our community. The Post receives absolutely no funding from any government sources. We are a self-supporting non-profit organization with volunteered labor. During these challenging times for the Post, we currently are receiving zero income on the vacant space at 1524 Powell St.



More importantly, it is with your support that we can continue the legacy of **Cathay Post** #384, into the many generations ahead. Your donations are 100% tax deductible. The Post is a tax-exempt veterans organization under the IRS code 501 (C) (19). Bring in your checkbook with you to the February monthly Post meeting. If you are unable to attend the meeting, you may mail in your contributions directly to the Post. Cathay 384 has become one of the most successful veterans organizations in the State of California and perhaps, all across America.

I hope to see you at the next meeting on Saturday, January 12th.

Respectfully yours,

**David Y. Wong**  
**Commander**



## From the 1st Vice Commander

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2013 is here!!! Thank you for all those members that have given my office tidbits on how to make **Cathay Post** 384 a better place for all of you. As the New Year starts, I will try to implement as many changes on your behalf as possible. Please keep the suggestion and ideas flowing.

January is off to a fast start, **Cathay Post** is hosting a Hep-B event at the Post on January 17<sup>th</sup>, and Comrade Roger Dong has planned our annual Fort Miley visit on the 19<sup>th</sup>.

Our building is open for community events. Comrades, please let us know of any community groups that could use our build-

ing for events. We want our building to be full of life, not an empty building.

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

Once again Mark McNee (WJ Britton & Company) is leasing out the former church space below us. There is about 7,000 square feet on two levels. Please send him any leads at 415-967-2637 before Mr Fong runs out of money for food!

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



# New National Commander

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## The Changing of the Guard

**2011-2012 Commander Fang A Wong completes his mission.**



Past National Commander **Fang A. Wong** completed his one year tour as the Commander of the American Legion at our 94th Annual Convention in Indianapolis, Indiana this past summer, and passed the command baton to our new National Commander, **James E. Koutz**. **Cathay Post** sends our strongest Congratulations to Commander Fang A. Wong for a job well done.

## Meet our 2012-2013 National Commander

**James E. Koutz**



**Commander Koutz**



**Commander Koutz in action testifying before Congress**

## New National Commander

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On August 30, 2012, our new National Commander **James E. Koutz** was elected. He is a US Army veteran, who attended basic training at Ft. Knox, Ky., and Advanced Infantry Training at Ft. Ord, Calif. In January 1970 he reported to Vietnam and served an extended tour of duty with Co. C 169th Engineer Battalion. He was honorably discharged with the rank of Specialist 5 in March 1971 and quickly joined The American Legion. He is a member of Boonville Post 200 where his father, George, was a World War II veteran and a past commander of the post. Jim was honored as a life member of his Post in 1991 and served as its post commander for nine years.

Koutz retired from the Amax Coal Company in 1995 after 21 years of service. He was appointed by the Warrick County Commissioners in January 1995 as service officer for the Warrick County Veterans Affairs office. The governor of Indiana appointed him commissioner of the Department of Veterans Affairs in 2005 where he served as president of that commission in 2007. In January 2009 he was appointed to serve four more years.

Koutz has held elected and appointed offices in The American Legion at the post, county, district, department and national levels. As Indiana State American Legion Commander, he

achieved an all-time high membership during his tenure in 1990-1991. At the national level, he served on the Foreign Relations Commission and as chairman of both the Economics and Legislative Commissions. Additionally, he is a member of the Citizens Flag Alliance and also served on the Veterans' Planning and Coordinating Committee.

He was awarded the State of Indiana Council of the Sagamore of the Wabash in 1991 by former Gov. Evan Bayh and recognized for outstanding community achievement of Vietnam veterans by President Jimmy Carter. He received the Elks Distinguished Citizenship Award from the Grand Lodge of Order of the Elks and Boonville Elks Lodge No. 1180.

Commander Koutz visited San Francisco and our War Memorial Veterans Building in early December and met our AL California State officers and many of our District 8 Council Post Commanders. Our California State office hosted a bountiful and delicious breakfast for our National Commander's staff and our local American Legion officers and staff.

During the 2012-2013 membership year, National Commander James E. Koutz will award his National Commander pin to any Legion Family member who obtains a minimum of three headquarters post member transfers,

and also obtains an additional combination of 10 new members, renewals and headquarter post member transfers to equal a combined number of 13.

A new member is defined as any eligible person joining for the 2013 membership year who was not a member of The American Legion during the 2012 membership year.

Each member listed must be eligible for membership in The American Legion. Please forward names of SAL members or Auxiliary members to your detachment or unit for use in their respective incentive programs.

To maintain the integrity of the National Commander's pin incentive program, only one pin will be awarded per individual.

The certification form for this program may be submitted at any time after Sept. 1. Upon receipt, national membership staff will confirm the names and mail the pin directly to the person who earned it. Commander Koutz's "Every Day Is Veterans Day" pin incentive program will end June 30, 2013, or when supplies are exhausted.

We encourage all our Post members to meet the challenge and earn the National Commander's pin this year.

**Roger S. Dong**

**Post Reporter**

## Thank You from Major Kurt Lee

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**American Military Hero Major Kurt Lee  
New Cathay Post Honorary Member**

This is the message that Major Kurt Lee gave me to convey to **Cathay Post**. He was advised by email that our Post had made him an Honorary member . Major Lee was very pleasantly surprised with our Honorary membership, and replied that he considers it a great honor to be a member of our very active and patriotic Post. Major Lee will be making a contribution of appreciation to our Post and that donation will be relayed from **Chinese American Heroes**.

Our Post Thanks Major Lee for his heroic service to America during the Korean War, and his very generous donation to **Cathay Post**.

Our Post now has three members who are recognized as national Chinese American military heroes. [Do you know who they are?](#)

**Roger S. Dong, Post Reporter**

Answer to the question above: They are **Cathay Post** members Lim P. Lee, Otto Lee and now Kurt Lee.

# One Good Turn Deserves Another

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On Saturday, December 8, 2012 ten members of **Cathay Post** attended the annual **91st Division/VFW** Christmas dinner at the Four Seas Restaurant. During the program, our Board Member and Executive Director of the **Veterans Success Center** was asked to make a short report on the VSC, which is a joint American Legion, AmVet and VFW project. It was reported that the VSC had been successful in getting a number of our local veterans jobs throughout the Bay Area. However, recently the number of veteran users of our VSC was gradually diminishing. It would be a great shame, if the usage of our VSC declined so low that we would have to shut down the operation.

Mr. **Rick Lee**, a news photographer for KTVU, was a guest at the dinner and reported the situ-

ation at our VSC. Two days later Mr. **Tom Davac**, reporter for KTVU contacted the VSC and arranged to have a meeting with veterans who had gotten jobs from working with VSC. He did a 4-minute video reported for KTVU that promoted the VSC, interviewed the VSC staff and went on site to Bay Ships two veterans who had gotten jobs via the VSC. This resulted in several veterans coming to the VSC the following week for help in their employment process. We introduced one of the veterans to one local employer and arranged an immediate interview.

**Great News.** One really great bonus from this interaction was signing up KTVU Report **Tom Davac** to join our Post. He is a veteran and member of another American Legion in SoCal, and is transferring his membership

to our Post. And even more great news, KTVU news photographer **Rick Lee** has stated his firm commitment to be a member of our Support Group. This is what I call a three-fer.

Another new member who will be joining us is an Air Force veteran **Carl Lewis**, a very talented man of the arts who will help us a lot in fundraising.

Please make sure everyone meets our new members and give them a great warm welcome this coming Saturday meeting.

**Roger S. Dong**  
**Executive Director**  
**Veterans Success Center**



## Fort Miley VA Medical Center Visit

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**Where were You on our last Fort Miley Visit?**



**Do not say that you were in a clown suit!**

**Do not say that you were impersonating Chaplain Ow.**

Some of us were not at the last joint VFW/**Cathay Post** visit to our local VA Medical Center located at 4150 Clement St in San Francisco. We want to see all our **Cathay Post** members at our next Ft Miley visit on **Saturday, January 19, 2013, at 1000 hours** in front of building 208, the Community Living Center (CLC), same place as last time. Parking is available along the street and in the garage (bldg 209) across from the CLC. MUFDI (military uniform for the day is) is our red polo shirts and your Post cap. Bring your presence and a smile for all our veterans who are resident at this VA facility.

# Who Was Ruby Kim Tape?

**CHINESE AMERICAN HEROES**

[chineseamericanheroes.org](http://chineseamericanheroes.org)

**Here's a Chinese American veteran you never heard about . . .**



**Ruby Kim Tape**



**TSgt Ruby Tape**

This is the story of Ruby Kim Tape a Chinese American woman from Marysville, CA born in 1898, but we must also briefly discuss the famous Tape family. In 1921 Ruby Kim married Frank Tape, who was the son of the historically significant parents, Mary and Joseph Tape of San Francisco. The Tapes were both Chinese, but due to a lousy Immigration/Customs official's transliteration, they were labeled as "Tape" and they were stuck with the strange name - for a Chinese family. In the Toisan dialect, a closer transliteration would have been "Dip." Ruby's mother-in-law was Mary

Tape, who in 1884, had bravely fought against the then San Francisco Board of Education, demanding that her daughter Mamie Tape be allowed to attend public school. Those days, the doors of the San Francisco public schools were closed to all minorities, especially the "dirty and smelly" Chinese. In 1882 the Chinese Exclusion Act had already been passed and the master plan was to deny citizenship to Chinese, severely limit their immigration to America, and shut the door tight to women and families.

Those days, if a non-Chinese women married a Chinese man,

she could be threatened with the loss of her American citizenship. Over time many politicians hoped that, if the Chinese could not have families, natural attrition would solve the "Chinese" problem. When young Mamie was not allowed to attend her Spring Valley public school, her Mother Mary declared "Foul" and sued Ms. Jane Hurley, the Principal, of the school. Mary Tape won the lawsuit in Superior Court and the decision was upheld by the California State Supreme Court, which cited the equal protection clause of the 14th Amendment, California

*(Continued on page 11)*

# Who Was Ruby Kim Tape?

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state law, and further acknowledged that Chinese paid school taxes. The 1885 "Tape vs. Hurley" case is a landmark court decision.

Back to the Ruby Tape saga, our heroine was a teen during World War I and was not involved with our military. In 1931 the Japanese Imperial Army invaded China and plundered and pillaged China, including ruthless beheadings of Chinese men and rape of many Chinese women. Iris Chang in her book, "The Rape of Nanjing" chronicles in details all the atrocities.

There were reports of these heinous crimes were reported and the world knew that Chinese were being seriously abused. Ruby Tape was outraged, she joined the Selective Service Board, she raised funds to send to the Nationalist Chinese to fight the Japanese and also was heavily involved working with immigrants who sewed clothing, blankets and made wound bandages to ship to China.

Then the Japanese Imperial Army attacked Pearl Harbor. Ruby had to do more to serve her Country and fight the enemy. She decided to join the Army. However, Ruby was no longer a spring chicken, she was 44 years old, and when she approached the local recruiter, he rejected

her application. That did not stop this very determined heroine. She ignored the rejection and went directly to the US Army unit, took the Army physical exam and passed with flying colors. Ruby Tape was now a private in the US Army. Her capabilities, motivation and enthusiasm meant that she would not be a private very long. Before long she became:

Ruby had an illustrious career in the Women's Army Corps (WAC). At the time of her joining the WAC, 150,000 American women were recruited to handle administrative, communications, and clerical work for the Army, freeing men for combat operations. Many Chinese women also wanted to serve, but most worked in defense industries. These women were the first women to join the Army who were not nurses. She served in intelligence and was promoted from private to technical sergeant, most unusual for a Chinese soldier at the time.

Ruby was smart, mature, and a very loyal American. Assigned to the Military Intelligence Training Center at Camp Richie, Maryland, she supported the training of interrogators, translators, order of battle, photo interpretation, and counter-intelligence operations.

After the war ended in 1945, Ruby continued serving in the military and proved that she was the competent capable of handling all jobs she was given. She was the example that demonstrated the Chinese were loyal to America and capable of fulfilling military assignments. Her next assignment was to Washington DC, where she decided to join General MacArthur's post war contingent of 5,000 Americans assigned to Japan to initiate the process demilitarization and democratization of the country.

In 1949 Ruby Tape left government service and moved back to California joining her husband in Berkeley, California.

For more information about Ruby Tape and her famous Tape family, I suggest you read Columbia University Professor Mae Ngai's book, "**The Lucky Ones - One Family and the Extraordinary Invention of Chinese America**" (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt). You can find it on Amazon.com, new: \$10.50, used: \$5.00. This book is the primary source for the information in this report.

**Roger S. Dong, Chairman,  
Chinese American Heroes**



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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](mailto:tzhang85@gmail.com) by the 25<sup>th</sup> 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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## Cathay Post No. 384, American Legion, Executive Committee

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**1<sup>st</sup> Vice Commander** Jay Pon

**2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Commander** Nelson Lum

**Adjutant** Tony Zhang

**Secretary** John Li

**Treasurer** Edward Wong

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