

Volume 4, Issue 3

March 2013



CATHAY POST NO. 384

# Cathay Chronicle



**NEXT BOARD MEETING:** Saturday, March 9, 2013 @ 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

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Dear **Cathay Post** Members and Friends,

At last month's meeting and luncheon, I wanted to thank the large number of contributors to the Post's Spring Donation during Chinese New Year's, commonly referred to as "Heung Yu." As many of you know, Spring Donations help support the Post's worthwhile programs and services to our members and to our community. Other than the office space at the War Memorial Veterans Building, the Post receives no funding from any government sources. We are a self supporting, non-profit organization and rely on volunteered labor. More importantly, it is with your support that we can continue the legacy of **Cathay Post #384**. Your donations are 100% tax deductible. The Post is a tax exempt veterans organization under the IRS code 501 (C) (19). **Cathay Post** has become one of the most successful veterans organizations in the State of California. As many of you know, the annual membership collected by the Post is shared with the American Legion Department of California and National. What is left for **Cathay Post** does not cover for the operations and maintenance

of this organization. The names of contributors are posted on the board outside of the Dr. Sun Yat-Sen Memorial Community Hall. Thank you donors, you have once again come thru for **Cathay Post #384**.

Special thanks to members of VFW 91<sup>st</sup> Div/Chinatown Post 4618 for joining us at the special luncheon last month. While VFW and the American Legion are two separate organizations, these two posts do share the same common grounds of assisting the veterans and the community. A good number of the VFW 91<sup>st</sup> Div/Chinatown Post 4618 members do belong to **Cathay Post #384** as well.

There is an announcement that appears elsewhere in this newsletter regarding the anniversary dinner of the Post will be on May 17<sup>th</sup>. Mark this date on your calendar and come out and help support your Post. Help your Post by getting the message out to your friends and organizations that you are connected to.

Ray Wong, a commissioner with the Veteran Affairs Commission

and also a senior officer with the VFW Post 4618 has asked that I communicate the following information to you. Ray has tickets for the San Francisco Giant's Chinese Heritage game on April 9<sup>th</sup>, 7:15 P.M. start time. Tickets are \$35. In addition, Ray also has the Bruce Lee Tribute Game, which is on June 4<sup>th</sup>, start time at 7:15 P.M. These tickets are \$28. Both of these group special events tickets will include a voucher for the promotional item. For the Chinese Heritage game, the group will be seated in sections VR 312, 313, and 314. For the Bruce Lee Tribute game, the group will be seated in VR 318, 319, and 320. The cost of the tickets is reduced when comparing to the prices at the Giant's ticket office. If you are interested, please contact Ray directly.

Hope to see you All at the next meeting on Saturday, March 9<sup>th</sup>.

Respectfully yours,

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

## From the 1st Vice Commander

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Comrades, February's meeting was awesome. A bunch of new faces...some new, some we have not seen in while. The conversation and company made time fly by. It is good to be in a healthy Post. Thanks to all of you that makes American Legion "Cathay" Post a place I look forward to come to time and again.

During the February meeting, a few members wanted to know more about the 10 acres of American Legion land in Santa Cruz County. Please go to the County of Santa Cruz's GIS website, and enter APN# 081-031-01 to find out more information about the property.

March is the last month to nominate officers for the 2013-2015 term, so please nominate wisely. If you are interested in one of the 11 elected positions, please let a few members know so they can nominate and second you during the March meeting. There are also 9 board of director positions that the Commander can appointment after the election. Speak to the Commander to find out more. Thank you for your service to our organization and country once again.

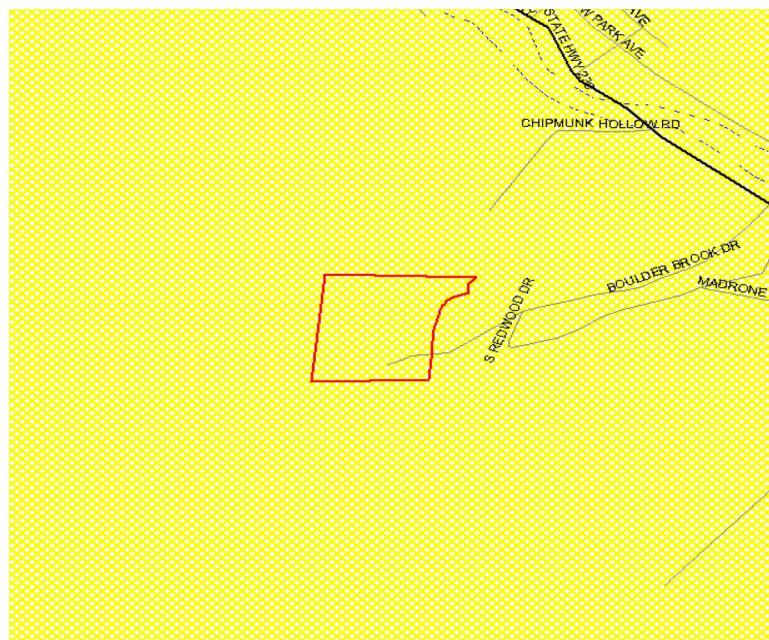
On a different note: I am pleased to say, we have a few leads on finding a tenant for the down-stairs space...hopefully by next month we can report a new ten-

ant to the membership. But until the deal is done, please keep sending leads to Mark McNee (WJ Britton & Company) at 415-967-2637. There is about 7,000 square feet on two levels.

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

**Jay Pon**

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



## From the 2nd Vice Commander

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It is the month of March already and the date for the closure of the War Memorial Veterans Building is getting closer and closer. When I walked into the building this past Friday, the floor of the lobby was taped with card-boards and movers were busily hauling out furniture that belongs to one of the tenants. Yes, the move is officially on and we must vacate this beautiful building that we've been calling home to the San Francisco Posts of the American Legion for the past 80 plus years.

While the building must be vacated to facilitate the retrofit construction, many issues pertaining to the move and eventual return have yet to be determined. As of now, the schedule calls for us to begin our move to 205 13th Street Suite #3300 in the month of May. We anticipate we will be staying at that location till the minimum of June of 2015. The retrofitted WMVB is currently scheduled to reopen on July 01, 2015.

The Commander Bok Pon Memorial Hall (room 206) will also be closing its initial chapter at the WMVB. While the hall has not hosted as many **Cathay Post** activities as we would like, it nevertheless placed **Cathay Post** in the midst of the San Francisco Posts of the American Legion. Many events that were hosted in room 207 also used room 206 as its support facility.

Most notably the event hosted by Congresswomen Jackie Speier and Barbara Lee to help veterans resolve their disability claims with the Veterans Administration. Room 206 was used to process and follow up on claims by veterans. Approximately 200 veterans went into room 206 and they were all recipients and witnesses to the hospitality of **Cathay Post #384** of the American Legion.

At our March monthly meeting, I would like to propose the renaming of the Dr. Sun Yat-Sen Hall at 1524 Powell Street to Commander Bok Pon Memorial Hall. I feel this proposal is very appropriate, given that while Dr. Sun Yat-Sen was a great leader, he was not an American veteran and the late Commander Pon was instrumental in the revival of our post. When the WMVB is re-opened, the Post can then decide what to do with the new facilities.

Our annual dinner is fast approaching, your support both in table sales and volunteer to personally assist with the event are urgently needed. As members and support members of **Cathay Post #384**, this will be our time to shine. We will show our community that we fulfill the pillars of the American Legion by supporting fellow veterans, supporting National Security, promoting Americanism and supporting our

youths. We are still open to suggestions for "Community Heroes" award, if you know of anyone who may qualify as such, please let any members of the Executive Board know and we will give him/her the consideration that are due.

It is official, please mark it down on your calendar. On Saturday, June 01, 2013, at 12 noon, **Cathay Post #384** will be sponsoring a charitable basketball game between the Golden State Wheel-chair Warriors and the San Francisco Police Department. The game will be played at City College of San Francisco, Ocean Street Campus which has the capacity to seat 800 people. **Cathay Post's** share of the proceeds will be used to fund our scholarships along with the various community projects. Many details are still being formulated and I will give you all the necessary updates as soon as they are available. This will be a family affair and we want you and members of your family to attend. Once the tickets for admission are available, we will need all of you to assist with the selling of these tickets so we can have a successful turnout for this worth while event.

**Nelson Lum**

**2nd Vice Commander**

**Chair, ALWMC**



Congresswoman Jackie Speier &  
Congresswoman Barbara Lee  
*in collaboration with*  
American Legion War Memorial Commission



## 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Veteran's Fix-It Event

### Reasons to attend the April 19th Veterans Fix-It Event:

**1** Meet with a VA claim representative for a one-to-one session  
You must register for this FREE event in advance.  
The VA estimates it can complete 70 claim interviews between 9 a.m. and 2 p.m.  
Don't wait to register!

**2** Town Hall with Congresswoman Jackie Speier & Congresswoman Barbara Lee  
Ask questions and get straight answers.

**3** Oakland VA Director Douglas Bragg:  
What the VA is doing to reduce the backlog of claims.

**4** Network of Care:  
A free internet search engine set up in every California county to specifically help veterans with health, financial and employment matters.

**5** Meet select employers who are committed to hiring veterans

**6** Meet with congressional staff and representatives of veterans organizations who have helped hundreds of veterans get their VA claims and other legal issues resolved.

You're a veteran but don't need our assistance?

Other veterans are still struggling.

The mission is not over until everyone is home. Come and help.

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## Activities at the Veteran's Success Center



**Google Campus in Mountain View**



**Employee cars getting recharged**

One of our newer Post members, **W. T. Jeanpierre**, retired US Army, connected with Google and that resulted in a visit to Hq, Google in Mountainview. VSC Executive Director **Roger Dong** and **W. T.** met with **Google** Human Resources Officer, **Sean Washington**, USMC retired, who suggested a seminar to advise and consult our veterans interested in joining high tech firms in Silicon Valley.

This special SVC event is scheduled for Thursday, April 11 at 5 pm. **Cathay Post** is invited to serve some of our exotic Chinese/Asian food after the seminar.

# Jeremy Lin and the Rockets invade Oracle Stadium

## Linsanity Returns to the Bay Area

**Jeremy Lin** and the Rockets ripped the Warriors on Feb 5, 2013 in Houston, (H 140 - GS 109) with the Rockets tying a league record with 23 x 3 point field goals, Lin scored 28 points (and 9 assists) that night while dropping in 5 x 3 pointers. A **YouTube** clip of that exciting game is available and can be viewed @ [chineseamericanheroes.org/latest/](http://chineseamericanheroes.org/latest/) on this website. At the end of the video, there are other videos you can view of Jeremy in action, sinking many long field goals. His moving video "The Last Pick" is one of the videos worth viewing.



**Jeremy sinks 1st of 10 Free Throws**



**Jeremy drives in for a field goal.**



**Jeremy is quick and slips past all these Warrior defenders while cameramen are searching for him.**

## **Jeremy Lin and the Rockets invade Oracle Stadium**

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Lin fans were a bit disappointed on Asian Heritage night on Feb 12, 2013, Jeremy only made 2 FGs, but dropped in 10 free throws scoring a total of just 14 points (and 10 assists), which was better than his 12.3 points average. The game was even for 3 quarters, but Rockets prevailed in the last 10 minutes and whipped the Warriors 116 - 107.

After the game there was a 15 minute Q & A with Jeremy. He said he admired Michael Jordan. He said he joined Houston, because that was the only offer he received. When asked what animal he would like to be, Jeremy thought for a second and replied:



**"If I were an animal, I would like to be a dolphin - because they are smooth and jump fast."**

Jeremy Lin was recently nominated into the **Chinese American Heroes** website, but it was not because of his outstanding basketball skills. Even before his sudden stardom with the New York Knickerbockers in 2012, Jeremy Lin had started a foundation and also the Jubilee project to help young people, especially the underprivileged kids in New York City and Houston. As most of us may have noticed, many people don't start giving back until late into their lives when many of us feel a need to leave a legacy. Jeremy Lin, a model Christian, has already started to give back a lot to his communities, even before his first grey hair. His philanthropic efforts are an inspiration to all citizens of the world.

**Photography by Support Member Frank Jang.**

# Chinese American Heroes

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## Our Veteran Hero of the Month is Lt Col Tammy Duckworth

**Do you know Army Colonel Duckworth?**



She was just elected into Congress representing the 8th Congressional District of Illinois. Her father was a US Marine Corps veteran of WWII and winner of a Purple Heart who married her Chinese Thai mother. In 2004 Captain Duckworth was deployed to Iraq piloting a Black Hawk helicopter which was struck by an RPG. She was severely wounded and both her legs had to be amputated. Her strength and courage prevailed and with the encouragement of Senator Robert Dole, Duckworth ran for Congress in 2012 and won. Colonel Duckworth's life story to date is quite unusual and noteworthy, and we encourage everyone interested to read the "rest of her story" at the **Chinese American Heroes** website @ [www.chineseamericanheroes.org](http://www.chineseamericanheroes.org). You will find her biography under the **LATEST** tab.

# Chinese American Heroes

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## The Newest Chinese American Hero



**Director Ang Lee accepts his 2nd Oscar**

We all watched in on the tube, Chinese American Director Ang Lee take the Oscar for Best Director for 2012 - this time for the second time. Lee had previously won the Oscar in 2001, and now 12 years later, he has won the Oscar twice. We Congratulate Ang Lee for his sterling achievements and wish him further success. Lee's biography follows to tell you more about this super Director.

### **Ang Lee**

**Profession (s):** Director, Screenwriter

**Education:** Master of Fine Arts, Film Production, New York University, 1984; Bachelor of Fine Arts, Theater, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, 1982; National Taiwan Academy of Arts, 1973

**Awards:** 2012, Best Director Award, Academy Awards; 2012, Best Direction - International, Australian Academy of Cinema and Television Arts; 2007, Golden Lion Award, Venice Film Festival; 2006, Best Director Award, Critics Choice Awards; 2006 Best Director Award, Golden Globes; 2006, Outstanding Directorial Achievement in Motion Pictures, Directors Guild of America; 2006, David Lean Award for Direction, BAFTA Awards; 2005, Best Director Award, Academy Awards; 2005, Golden Lion, Venice Film Festival; 2001, Best Foreign Language Film, Academy Awards; 2001, David Lean Award for Direction, BAFTA Awards; 2001, Best Film not in the English Language, BAFTA Awards; 2001, Outstanding Directorial Achievement in Motion Pictures, Directors Guild of America; 2001, Best Director Award, Golden Globes; 1996, Best Film Award, BAFTA Awards; 1996, Golden Bear Award, Berlin Film Festival; 1993, Golden Bear Award, Berlin Film Festival.

# Chinese American Heroes

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**Contribution (s):** Ang Lee is a Taiwanese born American and world renowned director. His most notable films include Crouching Tiger Hidden Dragon, Hulk, Brokeback Mountain, for which he was awarded the Academy Award for Best Director in 2005, and Life of Pi, for which he was awarded the Academy Award for Best Director in 2012. Ang Lee is the first person of Chinese and Asian descent to have won the Best Director Award and the only one to have done so twice.

On October 23, 1954, Lee was born in the rural town of Chaochou, Pingtung, to parents that had fled China following the defeat of the Nationalists during the Chinese Civil War. Lee's father was an educator and served as a principal. Lee first attended two elementary schools in Hua Lian, an eastern county in Taiwan, where his father worked, and eventually moved to Tainan. In Tainan, Lee attended various institutions before attending the National Tainan First Senior High School where his father was the principal. Growing up in a traditional Chinese family with an educator as a father, Lee grew up with high expectations for him to succeed in academics, something that Lee never quite achieved. Lee was much more fascinated with the stage performances and movies that he became acquainted with at a young age during the weekly free movie screenings at the school his father worked in. After two consecutive failed attempts at the college entrance exam, Lee decided to enroll in the then three-year college program at the National Arts School. Lee's decision was a great disappointment to his father, who'd always hoped for his son to become a professor.

In 1979, Lee decided to further his education in the United States, where he entered a bachelor's degree program in theater in 1980 at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. The university was also where he met his future wife, Jane Lin. They married in New York in 1983, the year after Lee graduated. Lee had by then entered New York University (NYU), where he received a Masters degree in Fine Arts. At NYU, Lee not only directed many short plays, but also served as the assistant director of his classmate, Spike Lee's, thesis project, *Joe's Bed-Stuy Barbershop: We Cut Heads*. Simultaneously, Lee's own thesis work, *Fine Line*, won him NYU's awards for Best Film and Best Director. Lee's performance during his graduate studies drew much attention and caught the eyes of many. Lee was signed to the renowned William Morris Agency, but despite the high expectations, Lee soon found himself unemployed.

Lee was unsuccessful in finding work for the next six years. His wife, Jane, by then a doctor in microbiology, became the sole source of family income while Lee prepared the meals and did the housework. Through it all Jane continued to support Lee's pursuit of his artistic career. The situation further strained Lee's relationship with his father as it seemed to validate his lack of support for his son's artistic career.

In 1990, things began to change. After entering two screenplays into the Taiwanese National Screenwriting Competition, Lee won both the first and second place awards. While attending the awards ceremony, Lee, who was in desperate straits financially, had to borrow a suit from his younger brother for the event and even broke down upon seeing the full course meal presented by the Assistant Director of Taiwan's Government Information Office to celebrate his success.

## Chinese American Heroes

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Lee's work caught the eyes of producer Li-Kong Hsu who invited Lee to film the first-place award winning screenplay, *Pushing Hands*, which was an immediate success and the critical turning point for Lee's career. Following the first film's success, the second-place screenplay, *The Wedding Banquet*, was also entered into production, and brought Lee's fame to new heights after winning the Golden Bear Award at the Berlin Film Festival in 1993. In 1994, Lee presented the world with his third piece, *Eat Drink Man Woman*, which was also a critically acclaimed, winning a Best Foreign Film nomination from the Academy Awards and the Independent Spirit Award.

Lee's first films were heavily influenced by his bicultural background, often drawing a contrast between Eastern and Western cultures and the conflicts that stem from such differences. The films also revealed the struggles to choose a path unsupported by family or society, as seen in *The Wedding Banquet*. In the eyes of many critics this reflected Lee's own struggles with his father over his artistic career choice.

In 1995, Lee premiered in Hollywood with *Sense and Sensibility*, successfully bringing Lee to America as a leading director. The film earned an Oscar nominations for Best Picture, another Golden Bear at the Berlin Film Festival, and multiple British Academy Awards. Lee himself was voted as the year's Best Director by the National Board of Review and the New York Film Critics Circle. Lee then directed two more movies, *The Ice Storm*, and *Ride with the Devil*, but it was *Crouching Tiger Hidden Dragon*, that took Lee's fame to new heights in 2000. The film was the highest grossing foreign language film to be released in America, had 14 Oscar nominations, and 16 British Academy Award nominations. It eventually won the Best Foreign Language Film Oscar, Best Director at the Golden Globe, and four more British Academy Awards. In 2005, he directed *Brokeback Mountain*, and became the first of Asian heritage and non-white person to win the Academy Award for Best Director. This critically praised body of work proved that Lee's success wasn't just a Chinese phenomenon but belonged squarely within western mainstream culture.

As related to the Taipei Times, "Lee has said that growing up in an authoritarian environment in Taiwan and living as an outsider in the US made him into a quiet person with low self-esteem. Filmmaking, he said, gave him the opportunity to achieve something that could be shared and appreciated by others."

Lee also related that he finally reconciled with his father, who upon his deathbed, told his son to keep doing what he loves without fear.

From a no name director that couldn't find work, Lee has combined his Chinese and American cultural experiences into a widely respected array of films earning him fans from across the world.

## **"An Afternoon (and Evening) of Delights"**

**Cathay Post** is fortunate to have another new member who is talented, has a great network, and wants to really work hard to help the **VSC** and **Cathay Post**. He is **Carl Lewis**, former USAF, and he is planning to hold a fundraiser inviting many of his network in Jazz and Latin rhythms to perform in our Veterans building in room 207. Carl is not a joiner, he decided to join our Post, because of our reputation in the community. He heard from a very good friend that **Cathay Post** is a very active post that outreaches to the community and serves both our veterans and our community.

He loves the energy of our Post, and wants to add his company and networks to make Cathay Post even better.

The date of this special event will be at 5 pm on Sunday, April 14, 2013 and tickets will be \$25.00. Friends of Veterans can receive a coupon for a \$10.00 discount. All our Post and Support group members fit in this category.

**Carl, W.T. Jeanpierre** and **John Tam**, our Super Support member, will make every attempt to obtain Corporate/Individual donations and if they succeed in raising \$5,000, the **VSC** will receive the largest part of the profits, but Cathay Post will receive \$1,400. Our Post will receive 1/3 of all the profits above \$5,000.00. This is more than the profit we normally generate in our annual dinner fund raising, so we urge that our other 100+ members and friends, help with ticket sales and get some additional donors.

We all want to help the **VSC** get more jobs for our veterans, and also raise significant funds for **Cathay Post**.

We only have 100 tickets to sell, so please speak up and get your reserved tickets when they are made available to our Post.



## We just lost one of our very best – Bob Lando

We just learned that long time District 8 American Legion member US Navy veteran Robert E. Lando has passed away. Bob, until the past two years, was one of our most active members in our District. Many would argue that Bob was the most active member in District. He had served in many positions including Commander and Adjutant, Post 40, and was our District Chaplain for many years. For decades, Robert managed, the annual Oratory contest, our Boys State program, and the JROTC annual awards project. No one worked harder than Bob Lando, nor did anyone else reach out to the Community as much as our Bob. He was a Distinguished ToastMaster and spoke with eloquence and substance whenever anyone or any group needed a speaker.

Farewell, Bob Lando, there is now a huge void with your departure. Everyone in our District wishes you to rest in peace. You are already sorely missed.





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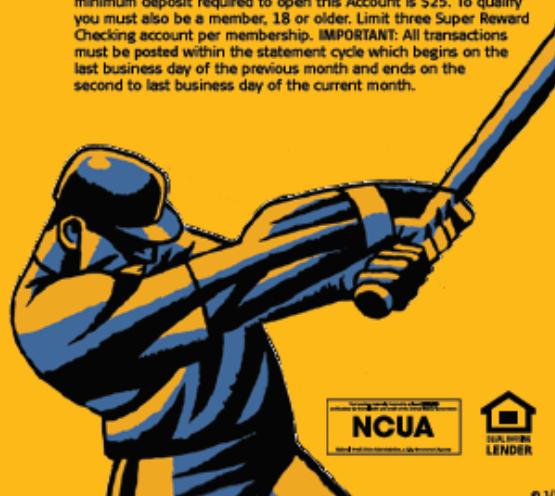
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## **Chinese American Heroes**

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**Noting their magnificent  
contributions**

**Please visit our heroes at:  
ChineseAmericanHeroes.org**



Frank Jang

**Executive Committee Photo taken on January 12, 2013**





## 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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