



Important Dates:

- Nov. 5—Election Day
- Nov. 9—Monthly Meeting
- Nov. 10—Veterans Day Parade
- Nov. 28—Thanksgiving Day

Inside this issue:

Commander David Wong	2
1st Vice Commander Jay Pon	3
2nd Vice Commander Nelson Lum & Veterans Day Parade	4
3rd Vice Commander Galin Luk	5-6
Maj. Kurt Lee	8-9
Medal of Honor—Romesha	10-12
Membership, 8th District, ALWMC	13
Italian Heritage Parade	14-15
VETS@SFSU	15
VSC Fashion Show	16-17
USCG Lunch	18
Ft. Miley Visit	19
Not Forgotten Poem	20
Member Focus	21
Tyrus Wong	22-23
Professional Corner, Laura Renner	24

CATHAY CHRONICLE

Happy Birthday Dr. Dale King By Galin Luk

During the October monthly meeting, Cathay Post No. 384 sprung quite the surprise on its most senior and recognized member, Dr. Dale King: it threw a surprise party for Dr. King’s 93rd birthday. Dr. King, by far the best dressed of the Post’s members [his uniform of the day is his custom fitted sport coat and slacks], has a long and distinguished history of public service.

He served in the Dental Corps in the Army from 1942 to 1945, in the California National Guard from 1949 to 1952 and in the Navy from 1953 to



Dr. Dale King

1955. He is a Cathay Post life member who served the community as a dentist for many years. Dr. King also served as the Post’s Commander from 2007 to 2008 and is currently serving as the Post’s Historian.

Dr. King can still be counted on showing

up at every Cathay Post monthly meeting and greeting the Post members. Dr. King is also a fixture during the Post’s weekly Tuesday dance lessons, and regularly enjoys Mah Jong.

During the birthday lunch, attended by over 40 plus members and guests, Dr. King admitted to being quite “surprised” by the party, and announced that had he known about the party he “would have invited his wife!” Happy 93rd Birthday Dr. King! Here’s to many more.



L-R: M. Ng, Dr. Dale King & D. Adams

L-R: G. Luk, N. Lum, D. Wong, Dale King, E. Ramirez, R. Dong, E. Wong & G. Chew

All photos by Frank Jang



Frank Jang



Photo by Frank Jang

David Y. Wong

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Cathay Post Member
since: 2004

Branch: Army

Final Rank: SPC 5

“I want to thank our service members, our veterans, and their families. Thank you for your courage and dedication.”



COMMANDER DAVID Y. WONG

It was great to see so many veterans and support members attend the October meeting; the boardroom was at near capacity. We actually had a few surprises during the meeting. First, I want to thank Commander Eduardo Ramirez of the District 8 Council for his surprise visit. The Post also had a surprise 93rd birthday party for past Post Commander, Post Historian, and lifetime member Dr. Dale King.

Now, a couple of quick comments.

Cathay Post has filed its 2012 tax returns.

The filings are available on our website in our members’ section.

On January 4, 2014, Cathay Post’s executive board will have a planning session to map out the activities for that year, budgeting, and other operational issues.

I encourage each and every veteran and support member to get as involved in Cathay Post as your time will allow. You’ll find out about Cathay Post’s various activities during the monthly membership meetings, through the Post’s newsletter –

Cathay Chronicle, and on our website at www.cathaypost384.org. If you have any questions about any activity, or if you have suggestions for activities, please contact any of our commanders. Their contact information can be found in their section in the *Cathay Chronicle*.

In closing, November 11, Veterans Day, is a special day. I want to thank our service members, our veterans, and their families. Thank you for your courage and dedication. Above all, thank you for our freedom.

CATHAY POST’S ANNUAL THANKSGIVING LUNCH By David Wong

What is an American Legion Post without traditions? What is Thanksgiving without Cathay Post’s annual Thanksgiving lunch? We have much to be thankful for, including being proud members of such a wonderful American Legion Post. Cathay Post No. 384 will be hosting its annual Thanksgiving lunch [I think it may actually be a feast] following the November 9

general membership meeting [which starts at 1100]. The spread will include several delicious, succulent turkeys [who unfortunately were not pardoned by our Commander in Chief], a couple of baked pineapple topped spiral hams, homemade cranberry sauce, all the “fixings,” and you can’t forget dessert, pumpkin pies, and hopefully a key lime pie [or two].

1st VICE COMMANDER JAY PON

I want to thank all the members who attended October's meeting. It was very encouraging to see everyone listening, debating, and talking about our Post. We even ran out of chairs for our members and a couple of surprise guests!

Last month, we reviewed the 16th to 20th amendments to our Constitution. To continue this exciting saga be a more perfect nation, I want to discuss the next 5 amendments (thanks to Wikipedia).

The **21st Amendment** was ratified on December 5, 1933. This is my favorite Amendment because it repealed the 18th Amendment, the prohibition of alcohol. Cheers! (Or Bottoms up! Or Ganbei!)

On February 27, 1951,

Building Open for Community Events By Jay Pon

Cathay Post No. 384's headquarters building is open for community events. Please contact any Post commander if

Congress ratified the **22nd Amendment** which limits the number of times that an eligible U.S. citizen can be elected president. A person cannot be elected president more than twice. Moreover, a person who filled in as president and served more than two years of the term may only be elected one more time. Before this amendment, FDR was elected president 4 times!

The **23rd Amendment** was ratified on March 29, 1961, and provides that the District of Columbia be allowed representation in the Electoral College.

The **24th Amendment**, which was ratified on January 23, 1964, prohibits the revocation of voting rights due to the non-

payment of poll taxes [poll taxes were designed to keep black people from voting in Southern states after the Civil War].

The **25th Amendment**, which was ratified February 10, 1967, established the Tyler Precedent which defines the process of presidential succession, relating to vacancies and disabilities of the offices of the president and vice president.

These Amendments were ratified over a 30 year period. Change is certainly not quick in the land of the free, where all men and women are created equal. I am glad we are still striving to make this country a more perfect Union. I want to thank all American veterans for their service.



Jay Pon

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415409-8858

Cathay Post Member
since: 2001

Branch: Navy, Army

Final Rank: Major

"I am glad we are still striving to make this country a more perfect Union. I want to thank all American veterans for their service."





Nelson Lum

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Cathay Post Member
since: 2005

Branch: Army

Final Rank: SPC 5

“I must give our Color Guard Detail the utmost compliment for a job well done. They represented our Post well with their professional appearance and precision.”



2nd VICE COMMANDER NELSON LUM

November is here and the smell of fall is upon us. Well, not in San Francisco where we are accustomed to beautiful summer-like weather. That certainly was true during the Italian Heritage Parade on Sunday, October 13th. I got a nice tan driving the parade route in a convertible. Commander David Wong and I were surprised that so many people along the parade route wanted to take pictures of us.

Then we realized most of them were trying to take photos of the beautiful Miss Sing Tao, Dianne Weng, who was sitting in our convertible waving at everyone. The few people who were not taking pictures of Dianne were taking pictures of the 1975 Chevy Caprice. David and I decided to accept the accolades as though they were meant for us two old timers!

Having been in this

parade many times, I must give our Color Guard Detail the utmost compliment for a job well done. They represented our Post well with their professional appearance and precision. I can't wait to see our Color Guard perform at the Veterans Day Parade.

As usual, I look forward to seeing you at our next meeting. By the way, we will be serving roast turkey, with all the trimmings.

Cathay Post to March in Veterans Day Parade By David Wong

Left, right, left, right! Emboldened by what 2nd Vice Commander Nelson Lum called one of the best Cathay Post No. 384 Color Guard performances during the Italian Heritage Parade, the Post will be participating in San Francisco's 94th Annual Veterans Day Parade on Sunday, November 10. The parade route begins on Market and 2nd Street and heads

south towards City Hall. According to Commander Lum, this will likely be the first time Cathay Post will be sending its Color Guard to march in the Veterans Day Parade. "The time is right; our members are motivated and excited about revitalizing our Color Guard," said Nelson. Several of our newest Cathay Post members from San Francisco

State will be marching in the parade with VETS@SFSU, a student veteran organization at San Francisco State University.

If you are interested in joining the Post's Color Guard or participating in the parade, including providing support, please contact any of the commanders. Any help is always much appreciated.

3rd VICE COMMANDER Galin Luk

Inexperience, team work, practice, ingenuity, and a sense of humor. Sounds like a recipe for success for any endeavor. Cathay Post's Honor Guard used that recipe during the 145th Annual Italian Heritage Day Parade to execute what 2nd Vice Commander Lum called one of Cathay Post's most successful Color Guard parade details.

Wow! What a long day! But it was a gorgeous day, and at the end, a very rewarding and unforgettable experience. For most in the Color Guard detail, it had been many, many years [decades would be a better measurement of time] since marching or drilling. The Detail had also never, ever marched together as a group. Indeed, W.T. Jeanpierre admitted the last time he marched was in the many multiples of decades and he was called upon to lead our Color

Guard! [Author's note: Without divulging too many details, I will say that W.T. Jeanpierre is very youthful looking, which is another way of saying don't let his youthful looks and enthusiasm fool you....WE ARE TALKING MANY, MANY DECADES!]

So, how did our inexperienced Color Guard detail, and our drummer, who flew all the way from Utah, get their act together so quickly? First, we had great and patient instructors and leaders. Vice Commanders Jay Pon and Nelson Lum, along with Gary Chew, "walked" the detail through the parade route and drill orders [Author's note: Well, sometimes they were actually yelling]. Then the Detail practiced, practiced, and practiced some more. We practiced on the Headquarters' roof, we practiced in the hall, and we practiced on

the staging grounds [Author's note: Yes, someone ordered us to the staging grounds hours early, leaving us with nothing to do but practice]. Despite our many missteps along the way [any rumor you may hear about the Author, I mean a member of the detail, confusing left and right turns *must be slightly exaggerated*], the detail insisted on practicing until it got things right. Oh, and having a sense of humor also helped [Author's note: Our Chronicle's Chief Reporter should moonlight as a stand-up comedian].

After what some of our Details felt was too much practice, and others felt was not enough practice, and still a few felt was "just right," our Detail received the order to proceed. The Detail's success is a testament to teamwork and leadership. W.T.

(Continued on page 6)



Galín Luk

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Cathay Post Member
since: 2009

Branch: Marine
Corps

Final Rank: Captain

*"Inexperience,
team work,
practice,
ingenuity, and a
sense of humor.
Sounds like a
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for any
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“...we didn't let pride get in the way. We got together, figured out our weaknesses, and practiced hard until we got it right.”

3rd Vice Commander Galin Luk, Continued

(Continued from page 5)

Jeanpierre [assisted by Gary Chew] barked out orders. When the roar of the crowd made it difficult to stay in lock step, Drummer Jed Miner reminded us to listen to his cadence. Then, David Adams and Morris Ng stepped up and called their motivating cadence [Author's note: at some point during the pa-

rade, David and Morris sounded frighteningly like drill instructors].

At the end, we didn't let pride get in the way. We got together, figured out our weaknesses, and practiced hard until we got it right.

Finally, I'd be remiss if I didn't mention the Balloon Platoon from

Pleasanton, California. What a wonderful group of good will ambassadors. The Balloon Platoon, led by Commodore Harold K. Strunk [USN, Capt., retired] marched behind the Post and showed everyone how to truly have fun. Check out their videos on Youtube [search Pleasanton Balloon Platoon].

Association of Chinese Cooking Teachers Dinner

By David Wong

The non-profit Association of Chinese Cooking Teachers (ACCT) is hosting a holiday dinner at Four Seas restaurant on Sunday, December 15. Frank Jang, an ACCT officer and a Post support

member [F. Jang ad on page 24] promises a delicious meal. A regular single ticket is \$38. However, Cathay Post members who are interested in attending can purchase the limited

number of prepaid tickets for just \$20 [the Post will cover the balance]. If you are interested, please contact Commander David Wong by Friday, November 15.

Members Celebrate their 50th Anniversary by Donating to Cathay Post

By David Wong

On October 26, 2013, long time Post members, Steven and Kammie Lee celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary with a large banquet at the Far East Restaurant. These dedicated

Post members also chose to mark this special occasion by donating \$300 to Cathay Post No. 384. Steven serves on the Post's advisory council; Kammie is a member of the support unit and

regularly participates in the Post's Tuesday dance class. The Post congratulates Steven and Kammie on their 50th Anniversary and thanks them for their generous donation.





**SAN FRANCISCO AMERICAN LEGION POLICE- FIRE
POST
OFFICER OF THE YEAR DINNER
HONORING
POLICE OFFICERS OF THE YEAR**



**HONOREES:
SGT PATRICK GRIFFIN
OFFICER MICHAEL TURSI
OFFICER MICHAEL SIMMONS
OFFICER ROBERT FUNG**

Thursday, Nov. 7, 2013
at the Irish Cultural Center 2700 45th Ave
No Host Cocktails: 6:00 PM / Dinner 7:00 PM

Main Course of Choices:
Cross Rib of Beef or Chicken Pomodoro
Vegetarian Option Available

\$60.00 Per Person

Please write the choice of entrée on your
check made payable to: **Greg Corrales**

send to: **Greg Corrales**
Park Station
(415) 242-3026



VETERANS DAY
2013
VALOR * COURAGE * SACRIFICE

VETS@SFSU on Facebook
vets.sfsu@gmail.com

NOVEMBER 11, 2013
HONORING ALL WHO SERVED

www.va.gov

**CELEBRATE VETERANS DAY WITH SF STATE VETS
AND SUPPORTERS!**

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 4TH: 3PM – 7PM@ JACK ADAMS HALL
USVH 2ND ANNUAL VETERANS' APPRECIATION
AND HEALTH AWARENESS CONFERENCE

**FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 8TH: 11AM – 1PM @ THE GARDEN OF
REMEMBRANCE (BTWN BURK HALL & FINE ARTS)**
1ST ANNIVERSARY OF VETS CORNER & 3RD ANNIVERSARY OF VETERANS
SERVICES

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 10TH: 10AM – 12PM
JOIN VETS@SFSU IN THE 94TH ANNUAL SF VETERANS DAY PARADE
STARTING AT 2ND AND MARKET ST. ENDING AT THE CIVIC CENTER PLAZA

NOVEMBER 4TH – 8TH:
VETS@SFSU WILL BE SELLING VETERAN SUPPORT RIBBONS AT BH 153
AND IN THE QUAD. SHOW YOUR SUPPORT OR WEAR A RIBBON AS A SF
STATE VETERAN!

NOVEMBER 4TH – 8TH: VETERANS DISCOUNTS ON CAMPUS!!!
(MILITARY ID, VA CARD OR DD214 REQUIRED)
20% OFF AT SFSU Station Cafe, Cafe Rosso, Taza Wraps & Smoothies,
and Village Market & Pizza
50% OFF AT IKE'S PLACE (ALL YEAR LONG!)
40% OFF AT NIZARIO'S PIZZA slices (NOV. 8TH ONLY -15% all other
days/SF State Location only)



My Thoughts On The Bravest Marine By Nelson Lum



Photo courtesy
www.ocanational.org

I was recently approached by Cathay Post No. 384 member Major General Mike Myatt, USMC (Ret.) and Former Congressman Pete McCloskey. They wanted to invite Major Kurt Lee, USMC (Ret.), an honorary member of Cathay Post No. 384, to visit San Francisco in February of 2014. Why February 2014? They want to have Major Lee, a Korean War hero, installed as the Honorary Grand Marshal for San Francisco's Lunar New Year Parade on Saturday, February 15, 2014.

As many of our Cathay Post members know, Major Lee is a reluctant hero. He does not seek to publicize his bravery. For those not familiar with his heroics, here is his story.

Kurt Lee is a San Francisco native who was

raised in Sacramento. At the end of World War II, he became the first non-white and the first Chinese American commissioned regular United States Marine Corps officer. Kurt, who was then a lieutenant, was sent to Korea where he was assigned as a Platoon Leader in the Battle of Inchon and then the Company "B" Commander in the Chosin Reservoir during the Korean War.



Photo courtesy
www.koreanwar60.com

His first encounter in battle where he demonstrated bravery and cunning strategy was in early November of 1950. He engaged in a one-man moving target mission that allowed his men to locate enemy fire and attack their positions while he threw hand grenades and forced the enemies to retreat. While doing so, he suffered a knee injury and a shattered right elbow. For this act of

bravery, he was awarded the Navy Cross, the second highest military award that can be bestowed.

Only a few weeks later did he demonstrate even further patriotism and bravery. During the Battle of Chosin Reservoir, several Divisions of the People's Liberation Army came south and practically surrounded Fox Company, a division of approximately 8,000 Marines. The only escape route was being held by a Marine company that was taking on heavy casualties. The situation was dire; the reality was setting in that the 8,000 Marines would be trapped. Then, Lieutenant Lee, who had already earned a Purple Heart, his right arm still in a cast from the battle weeks earlier, and armed with only a hand held compass, led 500 Marines as the lead element to a location strategic to controlling the Chosin Reservoir Road, the Toktong Pass. Lieutenant Lee led his platoon in a single file night formation, in minus 30 degree weather,

(Continued on page 9)



The Navy Cross



The Silver Star

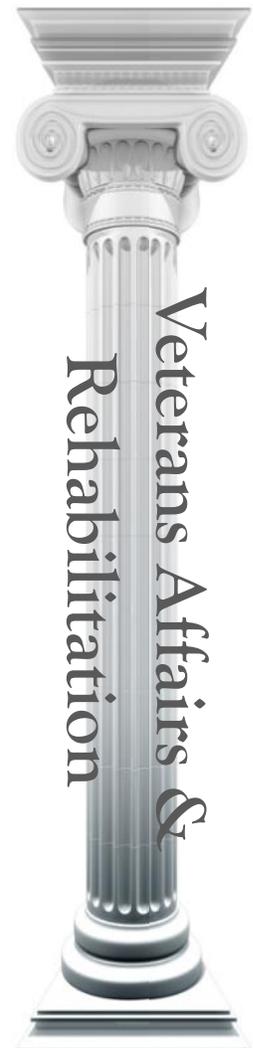




Photo by H. Darr Beiser

Major Kurt Lee—The Bravest Marine, Continued

(Continued from page 8)

through mountainous terrain in snow and blizzard conditions. Lieutenant Lee encountered enemy fire, was wounded again, but completed his mission. His Marines relieved the Marines who were struggling to hold on. Major Lee's actions are credited with saving 8,000 Marines from being killed or captured. He was awarded the Silver Star, the third highest military award for his bravery.

Former Congressman Pete McCloskey, was a young Marine Lieutenant who was surrounded in that engagement and was saved by the heroics of Major Lee.

Despite his several attempts to meet Major Lee, he wasn't able to do so until 2011.

In November 2002, according to Asian Week, at San Francisco's Marines' Memorial, retired USMC General Ray Davis [who was then Lieutenant Lee's commanding officer] called Major Lee the "bravest Marine he ever knew." Major Lee's heroism and bravery is featured in a Smithsonian documentary "Uncommon Courage: Breakout at Chosin." Many veterans feel very strongly that Major Lee's heroism and valor should have earned him our country's highest military honor, the Medal of Honor.

We are optimistic that Major Lee will be installed as the Honorary Grand Marshal and that the media will continue to publicize Major Lee's heroics. This should enhance Major Lee's chances of having President Obama upgrade his Silver Star and Navy Cross to the Medal of Honor for which he so well deserves. I have contacted many of the parade leaders and most have expressed their willingness to help. You can do your part. Please tell parade officials (members of the Chinese Benevolent Association) that you want Major Kurt Lee installed as the Honorary Grand Marshal.



Past National Commander Fang A. Wong Visits By David Wong



Left to right: Barbara Wong, David Wong, Fang Wong, Jay Pon, Nelson Lum, and John Li Oct.2013

Past American Legion National Commander, Fang A.

Wong, the first Asian American to lead the American Legion, and his wife Barbara, paid a visit to some old friends at Cathay Post No. 384 on October 23. In addition to catching up on American Legion issues, Commander David Wong talked to Past Commander Fang Wong [no relation] about Cathay Post No. 384's many recent accomplishments including its growing membership. Also discussed was Cathay Post's plan on sending a small delegation to Lt. Kimlau Post 1291's 70th anniversary celebration in June 2015 in New York City.

Meeting a Military Hero by Roger Dong

The Medal of Honor, often mistakenly called the Congressional Medal of Honor, is the highest award for valor in action against an enemy force which can be bestowed upon an individual serving in the Armed Services of the United States. The President awards the medal to the recipient in the name of Congress in a formal ceremony in the White House to convey our nation's gratitude. There are three versions of the Medal of Honor: Air Force, Army, and Navy [the latter of which is awarded to Marine and Coast Guard service members].

For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity in action at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty while serving as a Section Leader with Bravo Troop, 3d Squadron, 61st Cavalry Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, during combat operations against an armed enemy at Combat Outpost Keating, Kamdesh District, Nuristan Province, Afghanistan on 3 October 2009. On that morning, Staff Sergeant Romesha and his comrades awakened to an attack by an estimated 300 enemy fighters occupying the high ground on all four sides of the complex, employing concentrated fire from recoilless rifles, rocket propelled grenades, anti-aircraft machine guns, mortars and small arms fire. Staff Sergeant Romesha moved uncovered under intense enemy fire to conduct a reconnaissance of the battlefield and seek reinforcements from the barracks before returning to action with the support of an assistant gunner. Staff Sergeant Romesha took out an enemy machine gun team and, while engaging a second, the generator he was using for cover was struck by a rocket-propelled grenade, inflicting him with shrapnel wounds. Undeterred by his injuries, Staff Sergeant Romesha continued to fight and upon the arrival of another soldier to aid him and the assistant gunner, he again rushed through the exposed avenue to assemble additional soldiers. Staff Sergeant Romesha then mobilized a five-man team and returned to the fight equipped with a sniper rifle. With complete disregard for his own safety, Staff Sergeant Romesha continually exposed himself

(Continued on page 11)

On Thursday, October 3, 2013, as a guest of Morgan Stanley, LLP, I flew to Bellevue, Washington to attend the annual Medal of Honor ceremony sponsored by Morgan Stanley and the Congressional Medal of Honor Foundation (CMHF) to honor Army Staff Sergeant Clinton L. Romesha.

I could not begin to describe how honored I was to be in Staff Sergeant Romesha's presence; nor could I put in to words this man's bravery. Staff Sergeant Romesha's citation says it all:



Romesha—Medal of Honor, Continued

(Continued from page 10)

to heavy enemy fire, as he moved confidently about the battlefield engaging and destroying multiple enemy targets, including three Taliban fighters who had breached the combat outpost's perimeter. While orchestrating a successful plan to secure and reinforce key points of the battlefield, Staff Sergeant Romesha maintained radio communication with the tactical operations center. As the enemy forces attacked with even greater ferocity, unleashing a barrage of rocket-propelled grenades and recoilless rifle rounds, Staff Sergeant Romesha identified the point of attack and directed air support to destroy over 30 enemy fighters. After receiving reports that seriously injured soldiers were at a distant battle position, Staff Sergeant Romesha and his team provided covering fire to allow the injured soldiers to safely reach the aid station. Upon receipt of orders to proceed to the next objective, his team pushed forward 100 meters under overwhelming enemy fire to recover and prevent the enemy fighters from taking the bodies of the fallen comrades. Staff Sergeant Romesha's heroic actions throughout the day-long battle were critical in suppressing an enemy that had far greater numbers. His extraordinary efforts gave Bravo Troop the opportunity to regroup, reorganize and prepare for the counterattack that allowed the Troop to account for its personnel and secure Combat Post Keating. Staff Sergeant Romesha's discipline and extraordinary heroism above and beyond the call of duty reflect great credit upon himself, Bravo Troop, 3d Squadron, 61st Cavalry Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division and the United States Army.

How are Medal of Honor recipients nominated? There are two procedures. The first is nomination and approval through the nominee's chain of command. The second is nomination by a member of Congress, generally at the request of a constituent, and subsequent ap-

proval by special act of Congress.

Among the 40 million American citizens who have served in the military services since the Medal of Honor was established, only 3,468 have been awarded to our nation's deserving military members. Staff

Sergeant Romesha is one of only 79 living Medal of Honor recipients.

Staff Sergeant Romesha presented the book "Medal of Honor Quotes" to Cathay Post No. 384. He proved yet again that heroes are not just

(Continued on page 12)



Romesha—Medal of Honor, Continued

(Continued from page 11)

brave, but thoughtful and generous on so many levels.



Staff Sergeant Romesha & Roger Dong, Cathay Post Oct. 2013

Here are a few notable quotes you will find in this book.

"I would rather have the blue band of the Medal of Honor around my neck than to be the President of the United States." - President Harry S. Truman.

"Any nation that does not honor its heroes will not long endure." - President Abraham Lincoln

"A nation reveals itself not only by men it produces, but also by the men it honors, the men it remembers." - President John F. Kennedy.

Cathay Post Hosting SFFD Toy Program By Galin Luk



Jay Pon putting toys into the toy drive bin

A reminder that Cathay Post is hosting our first SF Fire Department Toy Program. 1st Vice Commander Jay Pon has already started filling the bin with toys. The toy drive, which has been a San Francisco Fire Department annual tradition since 1949, is the City's largest and the nation's oldest program of its kind, and

is run by Local 798, the S.F. Firefighters.

The concept is simple. You donate a toy by dropping it off in the drop bucket, the firefighters will pick up the toys, and distribute it to the many needy children in our City. That formula will result in many, many happy faces. All Post members are encouraged to assist in the toy drive by providing new, unopened, and unwrapped toys and dropping it off in the toy drop. According to Commander Pon, Fire Station 2 will be hosting a lunch for the Post sometime in the future and will be allowing access to their fire trucks.





Membership Growth By Galin Luk

Veterans continue to join Cathay Post No. 384. Indeed, according to Commander David Wong, this year's membership totals will exceed last's years by a "wide margin." Commander Wong emphasized that the several members who have not renewed their membership for this year

should do so immediately. Their membership dues help "support programs in your community, including Cathay Post programs and services such as the Junior ROTC, ROTC, scholarships, contributions to family and community organizations, veterans programs, and

many others." According to Commander Wong "Cathay Post remains a strong voice in the community on behalf of veterans, service members, and their families partly because your membership and support help to sustain these vital services."

District 8 Commander Praises Cathay Post By Galin Luk

Cathay Post No. 384 is a beacon in District 8 and is an example of what other American Legion posts can be, according to Eduardo "Eddie" Ramirez, American Legion Eighth District Council Commander. Commander Ramirez made his fiery and inspiring proclamation during

his visit to Cathay Post's monthly meeting on October 12, 2013, in front of over 30 members and guests. While many posts in District 8 are suffering from an unfortunate decline in membership, Cathay Post is bucking that trend by reaching out to the community and continuing its tradition

of community service. Commander Ramirez encouraged the Post to continue on with its great work.



Left-Right: Eduardo Ramirez, Jake Goetzow, Nelson Lum

American Legion War Memorial Commission Election

By Nelson Lum

There will be an election for the Chairperson position during the November monthly American Legion War Memorial Commission meeting (the Commission meeting is held on the first Tuesday of each month). Candi-

dates for the Chairperson position may be nominated until just prior to the election. The Chairperson term is from November 1, 2013 to October 31, 2014. The Chairperson will have the authority to appoint the Vice

Chair, Secretary, Finance and other officers. Some officers may occupy more than one position. As the current Chairperson, I have been nominated for reelection and thus far, am the only nomination.

145th Annual Italian Heritage Day Parade By Galin Luk

“Atten-hut” barked out Cathay Post No. 384 Post member W.T. Jeanpierre [USAF] in the 70 plus degree October afternoon heat. Decades removed from having last screamed out or been on the receiving end of marching orders, W.T. Jeanpierre found himself at the helm of Cathay Post No. 384’s honor guard detail as it proudly and smartly marched the 145th annual Italian Heritage Parade on October 13, 2013. The parade is the “nation’s oldest Italian American parade.” The Cathay Post Color Guard detail, which included Gary Chew [USA], Galin Luk [USMC], Laura Renner [USAF], Morris Ng [USN], Vincent Yu [USMC], and David Adams [USA]

marched through San Francisco’s Fisherman’s Wharf and North Beach, finishing in front of the iconic Sts. Peter and Paul Church.



For most of the Color Guard, it had been many, many years since they last marched. On this day, they worked out their rust during early morning practice, pushed hard by 1st Vice Commander Jay Pon and 2nd Vice Commander Nelson Lum.

Marching to the cadence set by drummer Jed Miner [USN] and cadence called out by

Morris Ng and David Adams, 2nd Vice Commander Nelson Lum commented after the parade that this was the best Cathay Post detail he had ever seen.



The Cathay Post Color Guard was led in front by Secretary John Li [USMC], Jake Goetzow [USN], Ralph Wong [USAF] and Post friend, Judy Zhu carrying the Cathay Post banner. Post Chaplain Richard Ow [USA] and board member and *Cathay Chronicle* Chief Reporter Roger Dong [USAF] walked the entire course passing out American flags to young children lining the route. 2nd Vice Commander Nelson Lum [USA], and Chee Yee [USA], along with support member Joe Yu rounded out the Post contingent, driving Commander David

(Continued on page 15)

All photos in Italian Heritage Parade article courtesy of: Mommy Penny

Bottom photo: Left-Right: D. Wong, J. Miner, G. Chew, W. Jeanpierre, J. Su, G. Luk, C. Lin, L. Renner, D. Weng, M. Ng, V. Yu, D. Adams, and N. Lum





Commanders David Wong & Nelson Lum, and Ms. Sing Tao, Dianne Weng

Italian Heritage Day Parade, Continued

(Continued from page 14)

Wong [USA], Finance Officer Edward Wong [USMC], Ms. Sing Tao Diana Weng, and Dance Queen Cecilia

Lin and Dance Princess Jennifer Su.

“Left, right, left, right” called out David Adams and Morris Ng as

the Honor Guard marched past the viewing stand and toward Post headquarters for pizza.

Cathay Post Donates to the San Family By Nelson Lum

Tragedy struck during the morning commute in Pacific Heights on Friday, September 27, 2013. A deadly auto accident killed 16 year old Kevin San, and seriously injured his mother and sister. According to local news re-

ports, Kevin was a promising Lincoln High School student who was a member of the JROTC and an avid bicyclist. During the October general membership meeting, Cathay Post members voted

unanimously to donate \$100 to the San family; and long time support member Daniel Soo Hoo personally pledged an additional \$100. The Post’s and my prayers and thoughts are with the family.

VETS@SFSU AT Cathay Post By Galin Luk



L-R: L. Huang, B. Yang, G. Luk, R. Manaois, M. Huynh, K. Williams

Putting his money where his mouth is, Rogelio Manaois, San Francisco State University’s Veteran Service Coordinator, told the VETS@SFSU, a university group dedicated to providing support and assistance to student veterans, that he would

be joining Cathay Post No. 384 and that he would sponsor the membership of two student members. He delivered, bringing in a total of five new veteran members [including himself] to Cathay Post No. 384. During the Post’s October monthly meeting, Rogelio, VETS@SFSU President Benjamin Yang, and Vice-President Kadie Williams applauded Cathay

Post’s outreach efforts. Rogelio specifically mentioned that Cathay Post is “doing it right” by actively reaching out to organizations not just for member recruitment, but also making the community aware of its services and targeting those who can benefit from their services. President Ben Yang also thanked the Post for sponsoring a family retreat for student veterans and their family on October 18-20.



VSC Wine Tasting & Fashion Show By Galin Luk

Models walking down the catwalk at US Bank in the San Francisco's Financial District on a Saturday evening? Your eyes were not deceiving you. The beautiful models stole the show in a fashion fundraiser put on by Cathay Post No. 384 member W.T. Jeanpierre to benefit the non-profit Veterans Success Center.

The Veterans Success Center is a non-profit veterans charity whose mission is to provide job training and job placement for veterans. Founded in August 2011 by Cathay Post board member Roger Dong and 2nd Vice Commander Nelson Lum [with generous funding by Mr. Craig Newmark], the Veterans Success Center is experiencing financial difficulties, due partly to its recent move from the War Memorial Veterans Building to 407 9th Street and 1720 Market Street. [Indeed, due to the lack of funding, the move was accomplished solely by Cathay Post volunteers Michael Vu,

John Li and Roger using trucks loaned by Cathay Post members Tony Zhang and Jay Pon]. Seeing the need to quickly raise funds for such a noble organization, W.T. Jeanpierre managed to put together the fashion show to top all fashion shows.

Modeling clothes from the Dress Barn [thanks to Veronica Silva, Felicia Wilson, and Carolyn Collins], the models strutted up and down the catwalk at US Bank to the keyboard played by musician and singer Darrell Edwards [who also treated the guests to his warm and comforting voice with several perfectly executed songs] and cheers and applause from the many in attendance.

Murphy's rule, of course, had a hand in the evening's events. If something can go wrong, it will. But, true to the Cathay Post spirit, things

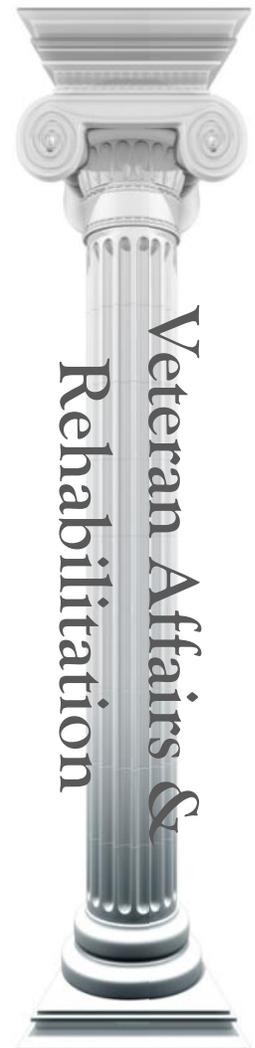
“got righted” in short time. The original master of ceremonies was a late cancellation. Post Support member Emily Onglatco agreed to step up at the last minute to serve as master of ceremonies. And boy, did she deliver! Working unscripted, Emily masterfully introduced the models and their fashion wear, professionally guiding each model up and down the catwalk.

The fashion show was a testament to volunteerism and teamwork. From the moment guests walked into US Bank and were greeted by Roger's wife, Mrs. Christy Dong, to the US Bank manager Jessie Castrence making the guests feel welcomed. No detail was too small. Wine was served by Carlos Sorzano of Bodega Del Sur Winery. The catered food, provided by Josefina Cervantes,

(Continued on page 17)



W.T. Jeanpierre & Emily Onglatco





Nelson Lum, Morris Ng & Richard Ow of Cathay Post No. 384

Fashion & Wine Tasting, Continued

was served on eco-friendly plates provided by Ronald Clark of Party Green.

There of course would be no fashion show without W.T. Jeanpierre and his models from Jeanpierre International Models. Models Angela Cabada, Jacqueline Periaswa-

my, Loretta Lee, Maria Najjar and Kelsey Beets generously donated their time. Cathay Post's own veteran member Laura Renner owned the catwalk, convincing many in attendance that she had modeled before. Indeed, the fashion show delivered more than was promised, when another volun-

teer, singer Martha Vaughn captivated the guests with a voice that reverberated through US Bank.

The Fashion Show & Wine Tasting, by all measures, was a success. Guests were treated to top notch performances by volunteers, all for a very worthy cause.



L-R: W.T. Jeanpierre, Felicia Wilson, Carolyn Collins & Darrell Edwards



Laura Renner



L-R: Roger Dong, Galin Luk, Kadie Williams, Michelle Huynh & Ben Yang of Cathay Post No. 384

Cathay Post Donates to the VSC By Nelson Lum

The *Veterans Success Center (VSC)*, a veteran's non-profit organization, co-founded by Cathay Post members Roger Dong and me is facing financial difficulties. One of the Veterans Success Center's mission is to help veterans return to the work force by providing job retraining and job placement ser-

vices. During the October 2013 members meeting, Cathay Post's membership voted to donate \$1,000 to the Veterans Success Center. The generous donation is in addition to the \$200 in tickets already purchased by Cathay Post for the October 26, 2013 Veterans Success Center Fashion Show and

Wine Tasting event. Post member W.T. Jeanpierre put together the fashion show with models from his agency, with the proceeds to benefit the Veterans Success Center. Cathay Post No. 384 once again is setting the example by helping out a very worthy veteran's non-profit.

Cathay Post to Host US Coast Guard By Roger Dong

Cathay Post No. 384 is looking for a few good volunteers! One of the Post's many annual highlights is hosting U.S. Marines and sailors during Fleet Week. Unfortunately, because of the sequestration, the Marines and sailors were sent "home" early, leaving the Post with no active duty to host dur-

ing Fleet Week.

Cathay Post, however, is not going to let a year go by without honoring our active duty. Cathay Post will be hosting the Eleventh Coast Guard District on January 4th, 2014, and the Post needs volunteers to help plan and prepare for the event.

I am in the process of finalizing the details of the Coast Guard event. I will also be publicizing the luncheon and recruiting volunteers to help. If you are interested in helping, please contact me at rsdong@sbcglobal.net or ask any of the Post commanders.



All images of Eleventh Coast Guard District from Wikipedia.org

Eleventh Coast Guard District By Roger Dong

The Eleventh Coast Guard District is headquartered on Coast Guard Island in Alameda and is responsible for serving California, Arizona, Nevada, and Utah, the coastal waters and out over thousand miles of offshore waters including Mexico down to South America.

The Coast Guard's West Coast presence dates back to 1848, when the C.W. LAWRENCE was sent to San Francisco to maintain maritime order during the rough and rowdy days of the original 'forty-niners' gold rush – long before Y.A. Tittle and Joe Montana.

The Eleventh District currently has 48 units staffed with over 2,600 active duty, reserve, and civilian employees.

They are responsible for:

- Search and Rescue;
- Homeland Security;
- Law Enforcement;
- Marine Safety;
- Aids to Navigation missions for over 3.3 million square miles of water

The 3,500 plus volunteer Coast Guard Auxiliary members also assist the Coast Guard in Boat Safety and Search and Rescue.

The Coast Guard and Navy personnel in 2012 intercepted/seized more than 60 tons of marijuana, 21 tons of cocaine, and 639 illegal migrants. During the past two months, our local Coast Guard teams also provided aid to two cruise ships.





Cathay Post To Make Its Annual Visit To Ft. Miley By David Wong

Continuing with its annual tradition, on January 18, 2014, Cathay Post No. 384 will once again be visiting the veterans at Ft. Miley Hospital to deliver cheers and goody bags. Post member [and Chief Reporter] Roger Dong will once again be in charge of organizing the trip. It is, according to Roger, one of the best trips any member can make. “The veterans light up when they see us there; our members really do a great job of interacting with our Ft. Miley veterans.” Roger encourages every veteran and support member to provide assistance with this effort by helping put together the “goodies bag” that will be distributed to the veterans and most importantly, to make this very important trip. If you are interested in helping or to go to Ft. Miley, please contact Roger Dong at rsdong@sbcglobal.net or any of the commanders. Additional information will be provided during the upcoming meetings and reported in the *Cathay Chronicle*.

CONTEST: New Look, New Name?

Now that the *Cathay Chronicle* has changed its look, our staff thinks it may be time to change its name. We want the name to reflect what our newsletter means to you, the reader. That is why we are asking you to give us your ideas on a new name for our newsletter. The author of the winning entry will be awarded a \$20 Starbuck’s gift card.

We've received many great entries and look forward to receiving many more! Please

email your entries to: galinluk@hotmail.com. We will need your submission by December 15th [CC newsletter staff is not eligible to win the prize.] Best of luck and we look forward to hearing from you.

2014 Cathay Chronicle Advertising Rates

Attention all advertisers: *Cathay Chronicle* advertisement rates for 2014 will increase effective January 1, 2014.

Space size and rates:
 1/4 page (B&W/Color) - \$50
 1/2 page (B&W/Color) - \$100
 Full page (B&W/Color) - \$200

The new annual advertisement rates are for 12 monthly issues.

Contact a Post commander to place your ad in the *Cathay Chronicle*.



Memories – Not Forgotten From SOSSI JOURNAL Nov/Dec 2013

Anthony S. (Tony) Lester, is a retired New Zealand Merchant Navy officer. He also was active in Scouting for many years and has been the Patron of the Baden-Powell Guild of New Zealand for several years.

Merchant Navy Day is held around the world every year on September 3. Tony organized the first one in New Zealand three years ago. This year 26 veterans took part but Tony was the only one who had served during World War II. Born in England, Tony was just 16 when he boarded the Malayan Prince as an apprentice officer in February 1942.

The losses in merchant ships crossing the Atlantic Ocean were very heavy and Tony was lucky and made it each time but watched many ships go down and many lives lost. On his second trip, only 38 ships of 69 in a convoy reached the destination.

Haunted by these memories, earlier this year Tony wrote a poem, *Not Forgotten*, in memory of those whose lives were lost.

Not Forgotten

In the Merchant Navy Club
We sat against the bar,
talking much of sailors' talk
and of this bloody war.

He said that his name was Bob,
I said Andy was my name,
his ship was called the Compass
My ship was called the Flame.

We talked on of this and that,
the way that sailors do,
of ships that we had sailed in
and ports that we'd been to.

Together we walked to the docks
in the evening cool,
and parted with a "Cheerio,
buy you one in Liverpool!"

Next day we sailed out to sea,
our convoy place to take.
The Compass was in front of us,
we sailed in his wake.

We were barely two days out,
When an explosion rent the air,
Compass had been torpedoed,
They'd got her fair and square.

As we sailed by the stricken ship,
We weren't allowed to stop
the crew were lowering a boat,
then a wave caused it to drop.

As horrified I watched the scene,
she slipped beneath the wave,
Down to Davey Jones below,
and not a soul was saved.

She was not the only one
lost upon that trip,
One or two ships every day
below the waves did slip.

The war has long been over,
I am a Captain now,
And as I stand upon the bridge
and gaze across the bow,

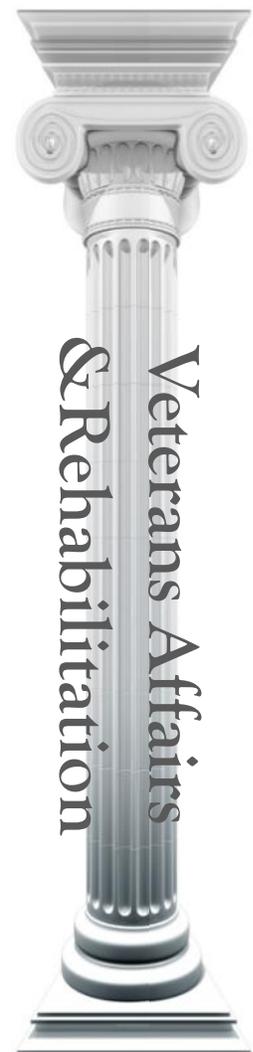
I cannot help but wonder
at all those down below.
What a waste of ships and men,
Why did they have to go?

No headstone marks their watery grave,
with name, number and rank,
no white crosses on the chart,
to show where their ship sank.

They lie there in the quietness,
in the darkness black as jet.
The world may have forgotten them,
But I will not forget.

Thank you Mr. Pat Rourke, President, National American Legion Public Affairs for your article submission of this poignant poem that reminds us all of the courage and bravery of all the military people around the world. For God and Country.

Cathay Chronicle





Commander David Y.
Wong



Commander David Wong “The Chairborne GI” by Thanh Huynh

Every second Saturday of each month, Commander David Wong is busy greeting every member attending Cathay Post No. 384’s monthly meeting in San Francisco’s North Beach neighborhood. Commander Wong joined Cathay Post No. 384 in 2004 at the recommendation of his uncle, Edward Lee, who has been with the Post for more than 62 years. After learning of his background in finance, then Commander Bok Pon recruited David to help with the Post’s financials and accounting. The rest, they say, is history!

David Wong is a true San Francisco native, having attended Galileo High School, City College of San Francisco, and Golden Gate University—where he earned an accounting degree and an MBA. Commander Wong’s dedication to the Post and veterans began in earnest as a U.S. Army draftee. He completed basic training at Fort Lewis, Washington and advance administration clerk school at Fort Ord, California. His first assignment led him straight into the Vietnam War.

One morning at reveille, David was selected to interview for a prestigious position within the JAG (Judge Advocate General) Office. His reward for acing the interview was

an air conditioned office at the U.S. Army Vietnam’s main headquarters located on top of a hill at Long Binh Post as a 71D legal clerk. The secured Army Post was approximately 15 miles outside of what was then Saigon, the capital of South Vietnam.

Shortly after beginning his tour on February 1969, a surprise attack by the North Vietnamese led David and the entire base to defend headquarters. Cooks, radiomen, drivers, clerks, and “desk jockeys” took up arms and, along with nearby Army units, helped repel the attack. “Chairborne GIs Erase Attacking Reds” exclaimed the *Stars & Stripes / Army Times* after the successful efforts of the hodgepodge group that was forced into frontline action. To this day, David can still clearly remember being in the perimeters of the firing lines. After serving 13 months in the war zone, 19 months total, Specialist (E-5) Wong was honorably discharged and returned to civilian life.

David had a long and successful civilian career in finance and accounting, including leadership positions at a subsidiary of Heublein, Inc., a subsidiary of the British Petroleum Company Limited, a subsidiary of Industrial Indemnity, and the Fed-

eral Reserve Bank of San Francisco.

While “retired” is his current job title, David is very active in the community. In addition to leading Cathay Post as commander, he is also a 23-year member of the San Francisco Elks Lodge (the oldest and longest continually active lodge in America), a member of the Chinese Sportsmen Club, a lifetime member of the Mechanics Institute, a lifetime member of the Marines Memorial Club, and a member of several other organizations. Serving the community has given him the greatest satisfaction in retirement.

The commander’s top priority is growing the ranks of Cathay Post No. 384, and it is working! This year’s membership totals have exceeded the American Legion National Headquarters’ goal. The commander is working hard with current members and the executive staff to develop and grow Cathay Post, by continuing to recruit new members, develop new board members and strengthen operations. Commander Wong is going to create a stronger and more vibrant Post, and his admirable efforts will allow the next leader to continue to build on the great legacy of Cathay Post No. 384.

Chinese American Hero of the Month

TYRUS WONG



Chinese American Heroes introduces one of our youngest Chinese American heroes, Mr. Tyrus Wong, who recently celebrated his 103rd birthday. He is a celebrated painter, muralist, kite maker, lithographer, Hollywood sketch artist, calligrapher, ceramicist, and Disney Legend. Tyrus was in San Francisco on October 3, 2013 and was awarded the Chinese American Heroes certificate. He is a delightful personality and a joy to meet even at his young age.

Photo: Tyrus Wong and Roger Dong, Oct 2013

For over seven decades, Tyrus Wong's cinematic artistry has been displayed, viewed and enjoyed by many generations of moviegoers around the world. He began his career in animation with Walt Disney in 1938, and when "Bambi" was conceptualized, Tyrus presented backdrop artwork using Sung Dynasty landscapes. This was not only loved by Walt, but it revolutionized animation. In 2001, Wong was named a Disney Legend, and his work continues to inspire and influence the leading animators of today. Wong's artistic creations include paintings, murals, ceramics, scarf painting, sketch illustrations, lithography and world class kites.

Mr. Michael Labrie, Director of Collections, Walt Disney Family Museum in the Presidio of San Francisco convinced Tyrus to display his work at the museum. Until February 3, 2014, The Walt Disney Family Museum will present the exhibition *Water to Paper, Paint to Sky: The Art of Tyrus Wong*. For those who have not yet visited the Disney Museum at the Presidio, it is highly recommended. All of Walt Disney's films are displayed in dozens of flat panel screens. This is a multi-hour treasure. After enjoying delicious segments of all of Walt's films, you will be able to enjoy Tyrus' masterpieces; a separate exhibition with a \$10.00 admission – but well worth it.

[The Walt Disney Family Museum is located at 104 Montgomery St (inside the Presidio down from the old Presidio Officer's Club), adjacent to the Presidio Museum (free attraction). Parking is free on the weekend and standard city

(Continued on page 23)



Tyrus Wong, Continued

(Continued from page 22)

parking rates are in effect the weekdays. The museum closes at 6 pm, so don't go in at 4:30 and expect to be able to see everything. Admission to the Museum is \$20.00 and veterans get a \$5.00 discount. There is a coffee shop in the museum and also an open studio artist room.]



Tyrus Wong's Sung Dynasty landscapes transformed Walt Disney's "Bambi."

Article courtesy of our Friends & Partners: Roger S. Dong, Chairman, Chinese American Heroes...

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Live Your Values

There is an instant connection between veterans. Our introductions include which branch we served and what we did (our MOS—Military Occupational Specialty or AFSC—Air Force Specialty Codes). Then we launch into our own language that civilians would not be able to understand. It is an instant connection that becomes quite strong, quite fast. Others notice quickly how tight we've become and may even comment on it, positively or negatively.

Why do we have that instant connection? You might say it is because we come from similar backgrounds or because no one else really understands what we have gone through. Those are all true. But I think those reasons are related to an even deeper one: our values. The United States military is very clear on what its values are and asks us to live them every day. These values are emblazoned everywhere and much of our training discusses what they mean.

The Air Force's core values are: Integrity first, Service before Self, and Excellence in all we do. I learned those on June 26, 1997, the day I entered the Air Force and still live by those to this day. Even though I have now been out of the Air Force for almost as long as I was in, I still live by those values. And you live by your service's values, which are probably not all that different from the Air Force's.

That is the real reason why we bond. We have gone through an experience where values meant something, where they drove our decisions and guided our actions. Those values shaped our identities as young Americans and influenced who we are as civilians.

Do you want your employees to live this way as well? If so, what values are you emblazoning everywhere in your company or organization to drive decisions and guide actions? Just because we have a code to live by doesn't mean others do too. Yet you know the power of having such a code or core values. I encourage you to take a look at your company or organization. What are its values? Not sure? Then you know what you must do next.

I guarantee that if you and your employees live the values of your company or organization every day, the transformation will be remarkable. Decisions will be easier, productivity will increase, but most importantly, you will have a strong team; one that will remain connected even after they leave.

Laura Renner is owner and founder of the Hiring Coach. She helps business owners to make smart hiring decisions through workshops and individual consulting. A schedule of upcoming workshops can be found at <http://www.hiring-coach.com/Events-and-Programs.html>. She can be reached at laura@hiring-coach.com.



Laura Renner is a United States Air Force Academy graduate who attained the rank of Captain before discharging. She is also a member of Cathay Post No. 384.

To contact Laura, check out her website at: www.hiring-coach.com



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The American Legion—God and Country



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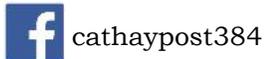
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Thanks to our Post Commanders
for contributing to this edition of
our *Cathay Chronicle*.

CATHAY CHRONICLE STAFF

Cathay Chronicle is a proud member of the "National American Legion Press Association."

Galin Luk is the Editor-in-chief.

Clara Pon is the Managing Editor and Technical Consultant.

Roger Dong is the chief reporter.

Thanh Huynh is the reporter.

Secretary John Li & Mike Louie are the Technical Layout Editors.

The Editor-in-chief 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-in-chief at GalinLuk@hotmail.com by the last Friday of the month preceding the next month's *Cathay Chronicle*.

Cathay Post No. 384 American Legion Executive Committee 2013-2015

Commander: David Y. Wong

1st Vice Commander: Jay Pon

2nd Vice Commander: Nelson Lum

3rd Vice Commander: Galin Luk

Adjutant: Tony Zhang

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Our veterans are courageous wartime military men and women who proudly served or are currently serving.

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*Desert Shield/Desert Storm/
Operation Enduring Freedom/
Operation Iraqi Freedom*

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Panama

Operation Just Cause
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Lebanon/Grenada

*Lebanon War/
Operation Urgent Fury*
8/24/1982 – 7/31/1984

Vietnam War

2/28/1961 – 5/7/1975

Korean War

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