



Important Dates:

- Mar. 8—Monthly Meeting
- Mar. 9—Daylight Savings Time
- Mar. 17—St. Patrick's Day
- Mar. 20—First Day of Spring

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CATHAY DISPATCH

Veterans - Sounding Off Since 1931



Major Kurt Chew-Een Lee [1926-March 2, 2014]

All of us at Cathay Post No. 384 are deeply saddened by the recent passing of a US Marine Corps hero, Major Kurt Chew-Een Lee. We were truly blessed to have had the opportunity to honor him and to show him our appreciation of his unrelenting bravery and courage that exemplified him as a patriot, a Marine, and as a Chinese American.

He seemed invincible, even at the young age of 87. That perception reinforced by his firm handshake, the vivid retelling of his heroics during the Korean War by his fellow Marines, his military bearing many years after leaving the service, his carefully chosen words, reflecting his thoughtfulness, and his modesty. Just two weeks prior, he was in San Francisco to serve as the Honorary Parade Marshal of the Chinese New Year Parade. Though he spoke of his own mortality, casually mentioning that he "didn't have much time," no one who had the honor of seeing Major Kurt Lee during his recent trip here believed it. On the relevance of his service, on being the first regular commissioned Chinese American, and minority officer in the United States Marine Corps, Major Lee stated "certainly, I was never afraid [of death]...I was adamant that my death be admirable, be of some consequence to my race." Major Lee, who was credited with saving the First Marine Division during the Korean War proved he was never afraid of death; he was of significant consequence to everyone. Semper Fidelis.

Photo from USMC Commandant's 235th Birthday Greeting, 2010.

WWII POW Eddie Fung To Speak During March

Lunch By Roger Dong

PFC Eddie Fung, the survivor of an extended period of slavery during WWII under the brutal iron hand of the Japanese Imperial Army, will be speaking during the March membership lunch. You will recall from last month's *Cathay Dispatch* that Eddie left San Francisco to become the first Chinese American cowboy. He then joined the Texas National Guard after Japan invaded China. Unfortunately, the Japanese captured Eddie and his entire military unit subjecting them to 42 months of backbreaking and tortuous work, in tropical jungle heat and humidity. Thousands of POWs died of heat, or exhaustion, or tropical diseases, including malaria.

But our tough San Franciscan Eddie Fung survived. In the process, he also saved the lives of many of his Army colleagues with his courage, calculated risk taking, cooking skills, and intelligence. Eddie will be giving us his breathtaking account during the March lunch. The details may be gory, but you will not want to miss this rare opportunity to get the real story of former US Army POW Eddie Fung.

Members Approve Changes to the By-Laws By Galin Luk

By a unanimous vote during the February membership meeting, Cathay Post members approved changes to Article V, Section 3 of the Post's by-laws. The changes, which will take effect once approved by the Department of California, amend the terms for elected officers from two years to one year, retroactive to the 2013 election. The elected officers of the Post are Commander, First Vice Commander, Second Vice Commander, Third Vice Commander, Secretary, Adjutant, Finance Officer, Historian, Sergeant-at-Arms, Chaplain, Service Officer, Quarter Master, and Judge Advocate. Following officer nominations, the Post will be holding its election for officers during its May 2014 monthly meeting.

Open Nominations for Elected Officers for 2014 By Clara Pon

During the February 2014 meeting, members approved changes to the Post's by-laws amending the terms of elected officers from two years to one year. Elections for the elected officers will be held during the May 2014 membership meeting. During the March and April meetings, members of the Post will be nominating candidates for the following 13 elected positions: Commander, First Vice Commander, Second Vice Commander, Third Vice Commander, Secretary, Adjutant, Finance Officer, Historian, Sergeant-at-Arms, Chaplain, Service Officer, Quarter Master, and Judge Advocate. All members current on dues and in good standing are eligible for making nominations as well as accepting a nomination. Only one nominated position per member.

The by-laws describe the duties and responsibilities for each of the elected 13 positions.

Commander: The Post Commander shall preside at all meetings of the Post and has general supervision over the business affairs of the Post. Such officer shall be the chief executive officer of the Post and shall perform such other duties as directed by the Post.

First Vice-Commander: The 1st Vice-Commander shall assume and discharge the duties of the office of Commander in the absence or disability of, or when called upon by the Post Commander.

Second Vice-Commander: The 2nd Vice-Commander shall assume and discharge the duties of the office of First Vice-Commander in the absence of or disability of such officer and shall perform such other duties as directed by this Post.

Third Vice-Commander: The 3rd Vice-Commander shall assume and discharge the duties of the office of Second Vice-Commander in the ab-

(Continued on page 9)



COMMANDER DAVID Y. WONG

I want to thank the large number of contributors to the Post's Spring donations during Chinese New Year's celebrations, commonly referred to as "Heurng Yau." In addition, I want to thank our anonymous donor who offered a \$3,000 maximum matching donation on the day of our meeting. Our members stepped up, opened their wallets and checkbooks, and our Post added more than \$6,000 in donations on February 8, 2014.

As many of you know, Spring Donations help support the Post's worthwhile programs and services to our members and to our community. The Post receives no funding from any government sources. We are a self-supporting, non-profit organization and rely heavily on volunteer labor. Cathay Post No. 384 is a 501(c)(19) tax exempt veterans organization and has become one of the most successful veterans organizations in the

State of California.

I want to give special thanks to members of VFW 91st Div/Chinatown Post 4618 for joining us during the Post's February Lunar New Year lunch. The VFW and the American Legion are different veteran's organizations with the same goals: assisting the veterans and the community. Several members of the VFW 91st Div/Chinatown Post also belong to Cathay Post No. 384.

There were a number of guests in attendance during the February meeting. One in particular, was District 17 Commander, Wayne Yee from Southern California. Wayne previously served as the Commander for the Los Angeles Chinatown Post 628 and is presently serving as its Adjutant. Another guest who came to the meeting was Kenny Tse, who is currently the president of the San Francisco Chinese Chamber of Commerce. Also, many

thanks to our past commander and past adjutant, John Nelson who came to the meeting to address the audience on Post matters.

Since we have a large number of new members and some members who may have forgotten the procedures, I want to mention an item as a reminder about the American Legion cap etiquette. Basically, a member is considered to be in uniform if he/she is wearing an official American Legion uniform cap. With this in mind, it is not proper to wear the cap while eating at any official Legion, civic luncheon, or dinner. Going further, the uniform cap should be worn by members when in attendance at any official Legion meeting or ceremony.

There is an announcement on page 7-8 in this newsletter regarding the poker fundraiser at the Post on April 12. Mark this date on

(Continued on page 10)



David Y. Wong

dwong900@yahoo.com
415-392-2882

Cathay Post Member
since: 2004

Branch: Army

Final Rank: SPC 5

"Our members stepped up, opened their wallets and checkbooks, and our Post added more than \$6,000 in donations..."





Jay Pon

jpon@jps.net
415-409-8858

Cathay Post Member
since: 2001

Branch: Navy, Army

Final Rank: Major

*“The strength
Major Lee
demonstrated
throughout his
military service
should be
emulated by all
Americans.”*



1st VICE COMMANDER JAY PON

I hope everyone had a Happy Chinese New Year. It was good to see so many people attend the Chinese New Year Parade. The streets were packed! Our VIP guest Major Kurt Lee USMC (Ret.) showed everyone that Chinese-Americans have made a difference. The strength Major Lee demonstrated throughout his military service should be emulated by all Americans. Kurt, thank you for your past and continued service.

Also joining Major Lee was former Congressman Pete McCloskey, Colonel, USMC (Ret.) and Lieutenant Joe Owen USMC (Ret.) who each flew from different parts of the world to join their battle-brother for yet another reunion. Thank you both for your service to this our country.

Thank you to 2nd Vice Commander Nelson Lum and past Post 333 Commander (and current Post 384 board member) Roger Dong for providing travel arrangements for Major Lee while in town.

Looking forward, we have several major

events on the horizon: elections following the March and April meetings, a Texas Hold 'em poker tournament on April 12, and on May 30, our Post's annual gala dinner celebrating our local police, firefighter, and community heroes.

Please take the elections seriously and nominate those you believe would best serve the Post. These positions are not for just a title, but represent a commitment to do even more work than our general membership. As an old Army commercial stated: "We do more before 9 a.m. than most people do all day!" Are you up to the challenge? Or are you the one who takes two steps back when someone asks for volunteers? All joking aside, the Post's future rest in your votes. Please vote wisely.

A complete overhaul of our by-laws is underway for your eventual review and consideration. Please download a copy of our current by-laws from the Members Only section on our website: www.cathaypost384.org/.

Some of the items that are up for consideration are the privileges and rights of support members, the structure of our Post, time in service, use of our facilities, finance, and what items we will ask for variances from the Department of California.

I want to apologize for two items. First, for not being at Kurt Lee's luncheon--my son had his basketball championship game and I needed to be a dad. Second, I will not be attending this March's monthly meeting because I will be attending a leadership training seminar. I hope whatever I may learn from this experience will help me with our endeavors together moving forward. I look forward to seeing both old and new faces at the May meeting, when the election results will be finalized.

Our building is open for community events—in that spirit, please let us know of any community groups that could use our building for their events. We want our building to be full of life!

2nd VICE COMMANDER NELSON LUM

March is here. As most of you know, Cathay Post No. 384 was honored to host Major Kurt Lee's visit in February while he served as the Honorary Parade Marshal of the 2014 SF Chinese New Year parade. The luncheon in Major Lee's honor at Hong Kong Flower Lounge was just about flawless due mainly to the excellent organizational skills of our support member, Clara Pon.

Major Kurt Lee and his close friend, Lieutenant Joe Owen were very impressed by our hospitality and the respect they received. Retired Marine Lieutenant Colonel John Stevens and Captain Gerard "Gerry" Parker were so impressed by the event that they decided to join Cathay Post No. 384. Their membership will further enhance the richness of our Post.

On February 15, 2014, I had the privilege of driving two highly decorated retired Marines,

Major Kurt Lee and former US Congressman and Colonel, Pete McCloskey through the 2014 SF Chinese New Year parade route in a 1943 olive drab Jeep. The many tens of thousands of onlookers appreciated the significance of the heroes riding in a Jeep dating back to their time in service. Cathay Post members Laura Renner and W.T. Jeanpierre marched ahead of the Jeep flying the colors of the US flag and the flag of the Marine Corps. While Cathay Post No. 384 was not an official entrant in the Chinese New Year Parade, the Grand Reviewing Stand still recognized our Post. Because our Post has supported many programs in and around Chinatown, we should give serious consideration to participating in upcoming Chinese New Year Parades.

Following the parade and luncheon, Major Lee made his way up to Sacramento to

spend some time with family. On February 20, 1st Vice Commander Jay Pon and Secretary John Li, were at San Francisco International Airport to say farewell to Major Lee and to wish him a pleasant trip back to Washington, D.C.

I would like to acknowledge Comrade Roger Dong for his Herculean efforts in planning and arranging all the details of Major Lee's visit. He devoted more than 50 hours to create and implement Major Lee's itinerary. I also want to thank the San Francisco Police Department, Airport Bureau, VIP Detail, and especially Officer Mike Lynch for their assistance during Major Lee's arrival and departure. Major Lee was accorded well deserved VIP treatment and the rest of us were given extraordinary access to airport facilities to help us fulfill our mission. A note of appreciation must go

(Continued on page 10)



Nelson Lum

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415-392-2882

Cathay Post Member since: 2005

Branch: Army

Final Rank: SPC 5

"Retired Marine Colonel John Stevens and Captain Gerry Parker were so impressed by the event that they decided to join Cathay Post."





Galín Luk

galinluk@hotmail.com
415-392-2882

Cathay Post Member
since: 2009

Branch: Marine
Corps

Final Rank: Captain

“There’s no better time to help guide our Post into the future; there’s no better way to do it than by serving as an officer.”



3rd VICE COMMANDER GALIN LUK

This month, my message is a short one. It comes down to this: with the changes to the by-laws, it is now election season. Now’s your time to make your mark by giving serious consideration to running for an elective officer position.

On a certain level, each of you should feel that you can improve our Post. You shouldn’t be blamed if you have questions or concerns about how the Board communicates matters to the membership

during the membership meeting. For example, how many of you understood the nomination process for the elected officer position before the first nomination was made during the February meeting?

How many of you have questions about the various entities where the Post donates its money? How many of you are satisfied with where the Post dedicates its attention, focus, or resources? Do you believe or feel that

the Post should devote its time or resources on other issues?

There’s a certain synergy between our new members and established members. We are members of Cathay Post No. 384 because we believe in each other, and we believe in our mission. Our Post has been growing and will continue to grow. There’s no better time to help guide our Post into the future; there’s no better way to do it than by serving as an officer.

Kicking Off The New Year With A Feast By Galin Luk



90 members and guests dined on succulent roast pig, chicken wings, a variety of steamed dim sum, mixed vegetables, and BBQ pork chow mein. To balance out the hearty

It has become quite a tradition: Cathay Post No. 384 hosting a great meal to celebrate a holiday with members and friends. Tasked with selecting the menu, Finance Officer Ed Wong delivered “big time” for the Lunar New Year’s lunch. Over

selection of meats, the members also dined on oranges and cake. What, might you ask, did the members down the food with? Thanks to support member Daniel SooHoo, a keg of Heineken of course. Happy Year of the Horse!



American Legion,

Cathay Post No. 384

SATURDAY, APRIL 12, 2014

TEXAS HOLD 'EM POKER NIGHT

Cathay Post—1524 Powell Street

Dinner starts @ 6pm

Tournament from 7—11pm

Table sponsors available starting at \$275

\$85 Player Buy-In (includes dinner)

Must be 21+ years to participate

\$40 Dinner Only Guests

Cash Bar (Beer/Wine/Soda/Water)

Limited to the first 100 paid registered players only.

Prizes: 1st Place: \$500, 2nd Place: \$250, 3rd Place: \$150

Join us for an evening of great food and fun! Come support your local community. Proceeds help support Hepatitis B awareness, scholarships, American Legion California Boys & Girls State, employment services for veterans, Boy Scouts, and many other youth & senior programs.



Contact any Executive Board member for further details. Call Nelson Lum at 415-205-0120, Clara Pon at 415-669-4192 or send an email to: cathaypost384events@gmail.com to register today.



American Legion,

Cathay Post No. 384

SATURDAY, APRIL 12, 2014

TEXAS HOLD 'EM POKER NIGHT

Cathay Post—1524 Powell Street, San Francisco
Dinner starts @ 6pm | Tournament from 7—11pm

Table sponsors available starting at \$275

\$85 *Player Buy-In (includes dinner) | \$40 Dinner Only Guests

*Must be 21+ years to participate. ID will be checked at the door.

Cash Bar (Beer/Wine/Soda/Water)

Limited to the first 100 paid registered players only

Prizes: 1st Place: \$500, 2nd Place: \$250, 3rd Place: \$150

Join us for an evening of great food and fun! All proceeds support local community, youth, and senior programs. Register today!

♠ ♦ ♣ ♥ PLEASE FILL IN THE REGISTRATION FORM BELOW ♠ ♦ ♣ ♥

Sign me up for: ♦ \$85 Poker Player ♥ \$40 Dinner Only

Name (First & Last): _____ Tel: _____

Email (Required): _____

Sign me up as a table sponsor:

♦ \$275—1 Player seat, 1 free drink, and **two months of ad space in the *Cathay Dispatch*.

♥ \$350—2 Player seats, 2 free drinks, and **two months of ad space in the *Cathay Dispatch*.

Sponsor Name/Company: _____ Tel: _____

Sponsor Address: _____

Email (Required): _____

Player Name(s): _____

Please make check payable to: Cathay Post 384

Mail to (Postmarked no later than March 31, 2014):

Cathay Post 384, 1524 Powell Street, San Francisco, CA 94133 | Attn: Poker Fundraiser

An email will be sent to confirm receipt of your registration form.

For more information, please contact Nelson at (415) 205-0120, Galin at (415) 247-5287, Clara at (415) 669-4192, or send an email to: cathaypost384events@gmail.com to register today.

**Ad space is business card size. We reserve the right to reject proposed ad based on appropriateness.

Cathay Post No. 384 is a non-profit 501(c)(19) organization.

Open Nominations, Continued

(Continued from page 2)

sence of or disability of such officer and shall perform such other duties as directed by this Post.

Secretary: The Secretary shall have charge of and keep a full and correct record of all proceedings of all meetings and under the direction of the Commander handle all correspondence of the Post.

Adjutant: The Adjutant shall have charge of (1) membership and (2) supporting/maintaining Post events. Duties include the transportation of colors, equipment (chairs/tables/banners/prizes...), and supplies to and from the Post for external events. The Adjutant is the building/facility manager.

Finance Officer: The Finance Officer shall be charged with the custody of the funds of the Post. He/she shall keep its accounts and report thereon at regular meetings of the Post. He/she shall receive all funds of the Post and pay all bills approved by the Post and Finance Committee. Finance Officer shall be bonded under a blanket bond to be procured from the Department Headquarters and paid for by the Post.

Historian: The Historian shall, be charged with the individual records and incidents of the Post and Post members, and shall perform such other duties as directed by the Post or Executive Committee. The Historian is also charged with photographing and documenting Post events.

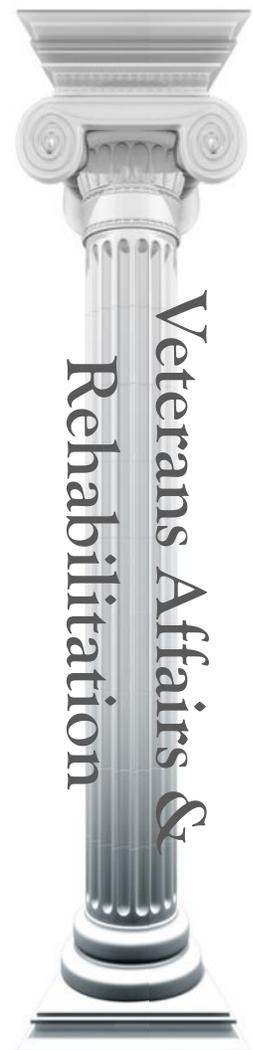
Sergeant-at-Arms: The Sergeant-at-Arms shall preserve order at all meetings and shall perform such other duties as may be from time to time assigned to him by the Post.

Chaplain: The Chaplain shall be charged with the spiritual welfare of the Post comrades and will offer divine but nonsectarian service in the event of dedications, funerals, public functions, and adhere to such ceremonial rituals as are recommended by the National or Department Headquarters from time to time.

Service Officer: The duties of the Service Officer shall be generally that of prosecuting claims and protecting the rights and privileges of all veterans, their dependents and survivors and to handle such other matters as may properly be considered service work.

Quarter Master: The Quarter Master shall supply and purchase all goods and materials necessary for Post operations.

Judge Advocate: The duties of the Judge Advocate shall be to advise the Post Officers on the construction and interpretation of the Post Constitution and By-Laws; and to perform such other duties as are usually incident to the office.



David Wong, Continued

(Continued from page 3)

your calendar and come out and help support the Post. Help publicize this event by getting the message out to your friends and organizations that you are involved in.

During the March 8 monthly meeting, we are expecting Ms. Janet Wilson as a guest. She is the Vice Commander for Area #2, which includes District #8 where Cathay

Post No. 384 reports directly to. Ms. Wilson is also the leading candidate for Department Commander, year 2014-2015. Also included in the meeting will be nominations for board members of the Post, 2014-2015. Please come out and support your candidates as they strive to continue with the strong legacy of this great Post.

I hope to see you at the next meeting on Saturday, March 8.

Nelson Lum, Continued

(Continued from page 5)

to Captain Greg Corrales, Post 456, who arranged the detailing of six officers from the SFPD Motorcycle Unit to provide escort for Major Lee's arrival. While the escort was cancelled because snow storms that slammed the East Coast delayed Major Lee's arrival, Captain Corrales went above and beyond in setting up the detail.

Members approved the amendment to the Post's by-laws during the February membership meeting. Cathay Post No. 384's elected officers will now serve a one year term instead of two years retroactive to the 2013 election. The changes will allow more opportunities for members to serve as an elected officer. However, the Executive Board was too quick to begin accepting nominations of new officers. According to the by-laws, nominations for

new officers are suppose to take place in March and April [and not in February], with the election to follow in May [the newly elected officers will assume their office on the first day of June]. We will rectify the error at our next meeting.

I want every member to know that every position on the board is open and you are all welcome to run for any office. Since we will have another month before the closure of the nomination process, please give some thought as to which position you may want to serve in order to strengthen our Post. You can find a full description of the duties entailed for each position in this month's Dispatch on pages 2 & 9. Please take your time to go over the details and decide how you may be able to further contribute to the missions of our Post. I am looking forward to seeing you at our March meeting.



Special Thanks To Nelson Lum By Cathay Post Executive Board

2nd Vice Commander Nelson Lum acknowledged and thanked Comrade Roger Dong, members of the SFPD Airport Bureau, and Greg Corrales for providing the various assistance for Major Lee's trip out here to be the Honorary Parade Marshal of the SF Chinese New Year parade in his Commander's column. However, many are not aware of the "Herculean" efforts he put in to ensure the success of Major Lee's visit and to prepare for the New Year parade.

The work began once the Major was appointed to be the Honorary Parade Marshal. Roger Dong was in charge of the constantly changing meeting schedules and travel logistics from coast-to-coast, due to Mother Nature, while Nelson took on nearly everything else from arranging special police VIP detail at the airport, motorcycle escort into the city (which got cancelled), comfortable transportation to Marine's Memorial Club, locating and en-

suring the appropriate vehicle to showcase the Major in the parade was clean, comfortable, and road worthy, to planning out all the moving parts and people for the Chinese New Year parade before and after; and spearheading the special luncheon for Major Lee the following afternoon.

Thank you for all your hard work, long hours, and extraordinary efforts. You made it look easy and effortless.

Honorary Parade Marshal Major Kurt Lee: The Marine Respected By All Marines By Galin Luk



L-R: Major Lee, Nelson Lum, Pete McCloskey in WWII era Jeep. Photo by Eddie Dare.

The rain never materialized but Major Kurt Lee did. While the snowstorms in the East Coast crippled air travel for the past week, it didn't prevent Major

Lee from making his way to San Francisco to serve as the Honorary Parade Marshal for the "rainless" 2014 Chinese New Year parade on February 15, 2014. After suffering through several canceled flights, and then spending another 11 hours at the airport on Friday, the day before the parade, Major Lee arrived in San Francisco later that evening and was escorted to the Marines' Memorial Hotel by Post members 2nd Vice Commander Nelson Lum and Comrade Roger Dong.

(Continued on page 12)





Honorary Marshal Lee, Continued

(Continued from page 11)

This parade was historic because it marked the first time the Chinese New Year Committee honored a war veteran with the Honorary Parade Marshal title. While the weather reports called for rain during the parade, it went AWOL for one of the few times in memory. The parade started promptly at 1730 on Market and Second Street under ideal conditions. Approximately an hour later, members W.T. Jeanpierre, carrying the American Flag and Laura Renner, carrying the Marine Corps flag, marched smartly and proudly on Market Street, leading the World War II era Jeep driven by 2nd Vice Commander Nelson Lum, with Major Lee and former Congressman Pete McCloskey as passengers.

While the many tens of thousands who lined the parade route cheered

at San Francisco native Major Lee, Congressman McCloskey pointed out that very few of those people know about Major Lee and his legendary heroics during the Korean War. According to Congressman McCloskey, who is also a decorated Korean War veteran, then Lieutenant Lee saved the 1st Marine Division at the Battle of The Chosin Reservoir with his bravery and leadership. "I don't know if anyone here knows how much [Major Kurt Lee] is respected in the Marine Corps." Congressman McCloskey also spoke with regret about how history and the media have overlooked Major Lee's accomplishments. Major Lee proved to be "a first class patriot" and "I'm so sorry" that so few people know about his heroics. Major Lee's legendary heroics are featured in the Smithsonian documentary "Uncommon Courage: Breakout At Chosin."

A Special Lunch for Major Lee By Galin Luk



Major Lee saying a few words at his special luncheon to the many guests that attended.

Until recently, the history books have ignored Major Lee's heroics and contributions to the Marine Corps. Over six decades after establishing his legendary heroism and bravery in the Korean War, that is finally starting to change. In 2011, the Smithsonian Channel featured Major Lee in the documentary "Uncommon Courage: Breakout at Chosin." Many articles soon followed. Then, for the first time, the San Francisco Chinese New Year Committee honored a war veteran, Major Kurt Lee, as the Honorary Parade Marshal.

(Continued on page 15)

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2X REWARDS POINTS

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Offer valid February 3 – April 30, 2014. 10,000 Bonus Reward Points offer only available for new SFPCU Visa accounts opened during the promotional period. First purchase must be completed within 90 days to receive the 10,000 bonus points. Double Points offer equals two Visa Rewards Points earned for every one dollar spent on qualifying purchases. Cash advances, balance transfers and ATM withdrawals will not accrue points. Offers not valid for Business accounts. All new applications are subject to terms, conditions and credit approval. You must be at least 18 years of age to apply, and show ability to repay future balances or apply with a co-signer if you are under the age of 21. Rates, fees and terms are subject to change at any time, you may contact us for current information at 800.222.1391.

Promo Code: VR0214



KOREAN WAR MEMORIAL FOUNDATION

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NEVER FORGET*

“THE FORGOTTEN WAR”

Help us commemorate the sacrifices made by all those who fought in the Korean War. Help us finish our project to build a fitting Memorial here in San Francisco, the embarkation point for so many who went to fight in that far-away war, and the end of the journey for so many who returned, the living and the dead.

The Korean War Memorial will stand on high ground in the Presidio, adjacent to the National Cemetery and facing west across the Pacific toward the now prosperous and democratic Republic of Korea.

We've made significant progress in our fundraising to date, but we still have a way to go, and we need your help to get the job done. Please make a donation today, by mail, by phone, or on our Web site.

GIVE WHAT YOU CAN. . .

*TO COMMEMORATE THOSE WHO GAVE
EVERYTHING THEY HAD.*

Korean War Memorial Foundation
1806 Belles Street, #6-B The Presidio
San Francisco, CA 94129 USA

Phone: 415 750 3862 Email: info@kwmf.org Web Site: <http://kwmf.org>

Special Lee Lunch, Continued

(Continued from page 12)

Despite the recent publicity, one very shameful fact remains. As former Congressman McCloskey, himself a Marine, Korean War veteran and hero, recently pointed out, so few people know about Major Lee and his contributions. On Sunday, February 16, 2014, Cathay Post members and friends took another small step towards learning about Major Lee during a luncheon at the Hong Kong Flower Lounge to recognize and honor Major Lee. In attendance were over 80 Cathay Post veteran and support members, veterans, and friends, and fellow Marine warriors.

The lunch, put together by support member Clara Pon, was a feast enjoyed by all. A carefully selected, well thought out selection of “dim sum,” lobster noodles, and a special tapioca and red bean paste dessert.

During the lunch, Lieutenant Joe Owen, who fought alongside Major Lee at the Battle of the Chosin River, talked at length about Major Lee’s inspirational and fearless leadership, describing in vivid detail how Major Lee, with his arm in a sling, fought off the Chinese who were fighting in support of the North Korean effort. A fellow lieutenant once told Lieutenant Owen how their rifle company “was God-damn good” but Major Lee was so great, he made everyone in that



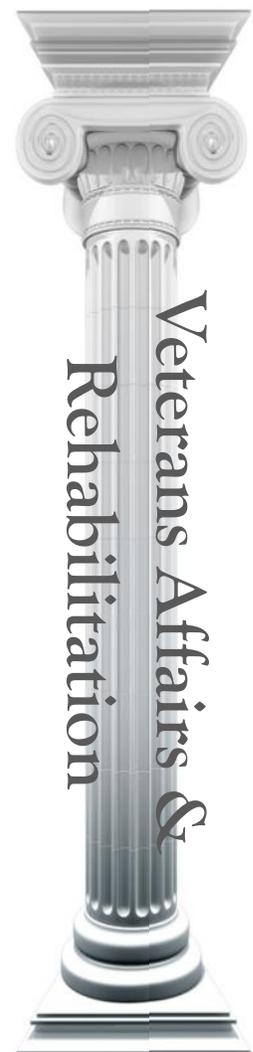
L-R: USMCs Ret.: Lt. Col. John Stevens, Maj. Kurt Lee, and Capt. Gerry Parker

company look bad.

Lieutenant Colonel John Stevens was another Marine who also fought during the Korean War. During the lunch, he sat with another Marine, his friend Gerard Parker, a Vietnam War veteran who is the Executive Director of the Korean War Memorial Foundation. Lieutenant Colonel Stevens waited patiently before walking over to Major Lee. Without so much as an introduction, Major Lee stood up, shook the Lieutenant Colonel’s hand, looking him directly in his eyes, while confidently proclaiming “John Stevens.” Together they stood, and for the next several minutes they caught up, like only Korean War veterans could.

“Pride,” according to Lt. Owen “is the overwhelming emotion” he feels whenever he talks about his good friend Major Lee. It’s easy to see why. Former Congressman McCloskey credited Major Lee with

(Continued on page 16)



Special Lee Lunch, Continued

(Continued from page 15)

saving the 1st Marine Division during the Korean War. The late Assistant Commandant of the Marine Corps General Ray Davis called

Major Lee “the bravest Marine [he] ever knew.” Now, so many others are getting to know why Major Lee is revered by so many; but also puzzle why he has been known by so few.



Kurt Lee & Gary Gee



L-R: Roger Dong, Nelson Lum, Joe Owen, Kurt Lee



Left photo
Back L-R: Walter Wong, Mike Biel, Kurt Lee, David Wong, Malia Cohen, Toni Biel
Front L-R: Bill Siler, Joe Owen, and Fred Lau

Right photo
Back L-R: Bob Long, John Forreth, Nelson Lum, Paul Cox, Eduardo Ramirez, Denny Riley
Front L-R: Jerry & Cornelia Sapiro, Fred & Cheryl Merrick



Left photo
Back L-R: William Moura, Travis Groft, Galin Luk
Front L-R: John Stevens, Gerry Parker, Ben Yang, Michelle Huynh, Kay Kye & baby Khloe



Medal of Honor Upgrade By Nelson Lum

Despite his legendary battle-field heroics during the Korean War, there's a sad footnote. Major Lee did not receive a Medal of Honor for efforts that former Congressman Pete McCloskey, himself a Korean War hero, credited with saving the First Marine Division. During his recent trip to San Francisco to serve as the Honorary Parade Marshal for the SF Chinese New Year Parade, Comrade Roger Dong and I were able to get Major

Lee's approval to initiate the process of applying for an upgrade of his Navy Cross Award to the Congressional Medal of Honor through Congresswoman Jackie Speier's office. We will contact Congresswoman Jackie Speier and ask her to proceed with the award upgrade application. We should all be appreciative of Congresswoman Jackie Speier for her willingness to spearhead this complicated task.

Cathay Post's First Girls State Girl By Laura Renner

This year Cathay Post is sending Barbara Machado, a high school junior from Saint Ignatius, to Girls State by way of a nearby American Legion Auxiliary unit. Girls State will take place June 23-28 at McKenna College in Claremont, CA. California Girls State is a leadership and citizenship program that allows students to run a mock government. Getting elected to a high office during Girls State can help distinguish one's college applications. Indeed, some famous alumni include Jane Pauley and Lt. Gen.

Michelle Johnson, the first female Superintendent of the U.S. Air Force Academy.

As the Liaison, I am eager to get involved because I am passionate about advocating for women and girls. With the American Legion sponsoring one girl to attend, we are sending a message that support does not have to be along gender lines. Everyone, including veterans who are members of the American Legion, can support a girl reaching farther in life than she ever dreamed. I must give a big THANK YOU to Jay Pon for

spearheading this initiative.

While we are sponsoring one girl this year, we plan to grow this program every year to contribute to the strengthening of women leaders from the San Francisco Bay Area! Eventually, our goal is to sponsor as many girls to Girls State as we do boys to Boys State.

We are looking forward to increasing Cathay Post's involvement with Girls State.





Veteran Documentary Corps Premiere By Galin Luk

Playing in front of a standing room only crowd at the historic Castro Theatre on February 11, 2014, the Veteran Documentary Corps presented seven short documentaries of American and Italian war veterans. Each documentary told the story of a veteran, in the veteran's own unfiltered, heartfelt words. The documentaries included the story of Aldo Giannini, a Marine who served during World War II, Tim Kochis, a Vietnam War Veteran and Purple Heart recipient, to veterans of more recent conflicts, including San Francisco State University student and Army Ranger Casey Conklin, an Iraq War veteran.

While short, the documentaries were compelling, thought provoking and personal, putting a face and voice to war veterans. The documentaries told not just the horrors and terrors of war, but the bravery of our veterans, and their ability to find humor even in the darkest moments. Perhaps the most significant was the documentary of Zoe Dunning, a Naval Academy graduate who was the first openly gay service member allowed to remain on active duty during the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" period. The documentary followed Zoe from her time in the academy [where she talked openly about gays be-

ing targeted], to her time in service and the administrative proceedings initiated to separate her for violating the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy. While Zoe ultimately prevailed and was allowed to continue serving, she did not give up the fight to end the policy. Proving that there are wars to be fought and won even against the very country she defended, Commander Dunning became one of the most influential leaders in abolishing the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy. When President Obama signed the historic repeal of the policy, Commander Dunning stood proudly to his right.

VA and Kaiser to Link Records By David Wong

Recently, I learned that veterans who are currently enrolled in the VA health care system and who are also members of Kaiser Permanente, will soon have their medical records between these two providers "linked." Of course, there will be some privacy protection safeguards in place. This should allow

health care providers and medical staff easier access to updated records and to ultimately provide better care.

Check out the press release for more details by going to the following website: www.va.gov/opa/pressrel/pressrelease.cfm?id=2523

Beautiful Day for a BBQ By Galin Luk



Group picture with VETS@SFSU. members, family, and friends from Cathay Post No. 384 and VFW.

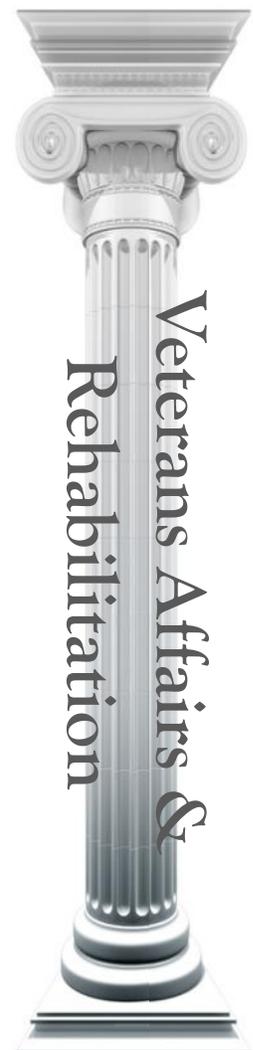
VETS@SFSU, the San Francisco State University student veterans group, picked a perfect winter day for a BBQ. Over 100 student veterans, family, friends and Post members attended the BBQ hosted by VETS@SFSU at Orange Memorial Park in South San Francisco. Sunny skies and 60 degree temperatures “baked” the winter BBQ goers as they tossed the football, squeezed in some time for volleyball, met new friends, and caught up on old times, while also celebrating several birthdays [including Rogelio’s, ahem, 43rd]. Post members Roger Dong, Jack Jair, Collyn Fong, 2nd Vice Commander Nelson Lum, 3rd Vice Commander Galin Luk, and Mackenzie and Quinn Luk, Rogelio Manaois [who is the SFSU Veterans Service Coordinator], and his wife, Joy, their daughter Katelyn, and son Julian, along with support members Rosemarie Jair and Clara Pon, joined Post and VETS@SFSU members Ben Yang, Travis Groft, and Kadie Williams in kicking off San Francisco State’s Spring semester.

Happy 43rd Birthday To Rogelio Manaois By Galin Luk



Top L-R: B. Yang, B. Bankston, S. Bradley, T. Groft
Bottom L-R: M. Huynh, J. Manaois (wife), and R. Manaois blowing out his birthday candles.

Happy Birthday to member and SFSU’s Veteran Student Coordinator Rogelio Manaois. Thanks to some careful and calculated scheming from his SFSU students and Post members, and his wife, the Post celebrated Rogelio’s birthday with a wonderful (though off tune rendition) of “Happy Birthday.” Though he never answered when asked, Rogelio’s wife Joy confirmed Rogelio’s age: 43. Here’s to many more!



W.T. Jeanpierre By Thanh Huynh



Flag bearer at SF Lunar New Year parade.



Who is the best dressed Cathay Post member? Certainly, most would agree that W.T. Jeanpierre (“Jeanpierre”) is the “GQ” member of the Post. Not only is Jeanpierre a man of style, he is passionate about helping others. In Jeanpierre’s short time with the Post, he has helped raise funds and awareness for veterans through several fashion shows that he put together. His impact has been so significant that the American Legion 8th District Council, Veterans Success Center, and Cathay Post No. 384 recognized Jeanpierre with a Service Award.

Jeanpierre is a family man who takes extreme pride in his three daughters Louisa, Rebecca, and Crystal, and five granddaughters Tameyah, Tallulah, Jayda, Jazymne, and Melissa, who regularly join him for Post events.

Jeanpierre was born into a large family familiar with service. He was one of twelve children of Louisiana sharecroppers. Each

of his brothers served in the military: John (USN), James and Michael (USAF), and Edward (USA).



Like many of us, Jeanpierre joined the military to see the world and get an education, going from picking cotton, corn and potatoes on the farm—to serving in the United States Air Force in transportation, E&I (Electronic and Installation) and Public Affairs. While in service in Big Spring, Texas and Mildenhall, England, Jeanpierre also kept busy as a model, started his own DJ business in Europe, worked as a car salesman, and attended college. Technical Sergeant Jeanpierre (Ret.) has transformed himself into a fashion and model consultant, using his skills and talent to thrive in the business—earning the Spirit of Solano Award for his work. At the same time, he has remained actively involved with the mil-

itary. He recently served as the Honorary Vice Commander for the 349th Air Mobility Wing, the largest Air Force reserve unit.

Jeanpierre’s real passion is helping veterans, seniors, children, the disabled and those less fortunate.

His favorite time of the year is during the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays. During that time Jeanpierre gets up early or stays up late the night to put together a feast. What does he do with the feast? He heads out into town to share his feast with those less fortunate living on the streets.

Jeanpierre has come a long way from picking cotton, corn, and potatoes on the farm in Wickliffe, Louisiana. As one of the most active Cathay Post members, he has volunteered and led countless events and fundraisers. Jeanpierre’s goal “is to help make Cathay Post number 1 in the entire American Legion [because] we are in a great city where we can make that happen if we all give back to Post 384.”

Cathay Post Salutes the WWII Flying Tigers By Roger Dong

Our fathers and grandfathers may have known about those famous US military volunteers from the U.S. Army Air Corps, Air Force, and Marine Corps who left America for Southeast Asia to band together a limited air force to challenge the powerful Japanese Air Force. In 1941, prior to the attack at Pearl Harbor, President Franklin D. Roosevelt had "quietly" sanctioned the 1st American Volunteer Group (AVG), which was part of the Chinese Air Force, to fight the Japanese Air Force. After Pearl Harbor, the AVG became the 23rd Air Fighter Group (AFG) of the United States Army Air Corps (AAC), headed by AAC General Claire L. Chennault who had worked in China for several years before WWII.

The 23rd AFG consisted of three squadrons (20 fighters per squadron) and had an excellent record defeating many more Japanese fighters than losses suffered. Using the

emblem of a fearsome shark face painted on the front of their P-40 fighter aircraft, they became known as the Flying Tigers.



R.T. Smith photo, 1942. Hell's Angels, The Flying Tigers - China; at [SDASM Archives](http://www.sdasm.org).

Among the 300 volunteers who joined Chennault's Flying Tigers, several dozen were Chinese Americans, including a dozen pilots and several dozen airplane mechanics. Among the pilots was Major Arthur Chin, from Portland, Oregon, whose father was Chinese and mother was Peruvian. Reports have credited Major Chin with shooting down 8 to 8 1/2 Japanese fighters and for being one of the first WWII Ace. Chin's biography is found on page 23.

An integral part of the Flying Tigers was the all-Chinese American 14th Air Service Group

which had a special mission: to provide direct support for the Flying Tigers pilots, and also to train Chinese Air Force ground crews to defend against Japanese invasion. They flew the "Hump" (the lower range of the Himalayan Mountains), drove the legendary Burma Road, performed many logistics duties including troop transport, aircraft maintenance, and search and rescue missions.



Mack Pong with his award.

Recently, two formal events were held to celebrate the Flying Tigers. On September 6, 2013, the Flying Tigers convened their "Last" West Coast annual dinner at Peony Restaurant in Oakland. San Francisco AmVets Commander and Cathay Post mem-

(Continued on page 22)



Flying Tigers Plaque located at Air Force Academy Cemetery. Source: http://www.cbi-history.com/part_ib.html



Flying Tigers, Continued

(Continued from page 21)

ber Helen Wong and I attended. Local VFW Army Bronze star awardee Mack Pong was honored at the event. Because of age, future national gatherings will be very limited.

Late in January 2014 our friends at the Lt. B.R. Kim Lau Post in New

York celebrated a convocation of the remaining Chinese American members of the World War II Flying Tigers.

Cathay Post salutes these brave and hearty Chinese American veterans who took great risks and made great sacrifices to retaliate against the Japanese military.



Roger Dong [center] and Flying Tiger mechanic and Bart Engineer Arthur Wong [white blazer].



Two photos to the right: 14th Air Service Group Veterans with members of New York Chinatown's American Legion Lt. B.R. Kimlau Post 1291 at their headquarters and at the Kimlau Memorial Arch. Photo courtesy David Len.



Support USS AMERICA's Commissioning



USS AMERICA (LHA 6) is scheduled to be commissioned in San Francisco in early September 2014.

We invite you to be part of something special. The Navy is asking you to sponsor commissioning of this new amphibious assault ship. Visit the website at <http://commissioningamerica.org/>

Chinese American Veteran Hero of the Month

ARTHUR 'ART' CHIN

Name in English: Arthur Shui Tin Chin

Birth Year: 1913-1997

Name in Chinese: : 陳瑞鈿

Birth Place: Portland, OR

Name in Pinyin: Chén Ruìtián

Current location: Deceased

Profession(s): Military Pilot, Postal Worker.

Education: 1986, Benson Polytechnic High School.

Awards: Republic of China medals: Five Star Medal; Six Star Medal; 2 Orders of Renaissance and Honor 3rd Class; Order of Resplendent Banner with Special Rosette; Medal of Victorious Garrison 2nd Class; Awe-Inspiring Medal 3rd Grade; United States medals: 1995, Distinguished Flying Cross; 1995, Air Medal; 1997, Hall of Fame of the American Airpower Heritage Museum.

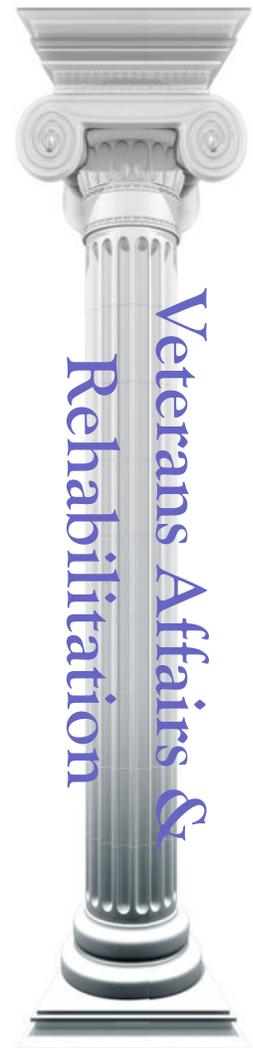
Contribution(s): Arthur Chin's achievements are a source of pride for Chinese and Latin Americans. Born in Portland, Oregon, Chin's father was from Taishan, Guangdong Province, China while his mother was from Peru. Angered by the Japanese invasion of China, Arthur began flight training in 1932 while still in high school. At the end of 1932, he left high school without graduating (remedied in 1986 when he graduated with his grandson) and volunteered for the Cantonese Air Force. Like many Chinese military officers and officials of the era, Chin was sent to Nazi Germany and completed his air training with the Luftwaffe in Bavaria in 1936. In 1937 he began active combat against the Japanese scoring his first two bomber kills. Heavily damaged in one encounter with 3 Japanese fighters in 1938, he deliberately rammed one and destroyed it before bailing out. His bravery attracted the attention of General Claire Chennault, the leader of the American Volunteer Group "Flying Tigers" who visited Chin in the hospital.

Chin's final combat mission for China was in December 1939 while escorting Chinese bombers. He claimed two kills and one probable in the fight before his aircraft was hit and caught on fire. Chin parachuted and lay untreated for several days with severe burns. His first wife was killed

(Continued on page 24)



Arthur Chin
Source: Wikipedia



Arthur Chin, Continued

(Continued from page 23)

protecting him during an air raid while he was immobilized. He took several years to recover in various hospitals. The Chinese community, Portland residents, and the State of Oregon raised funds and purchased a P-51 Mustang for Chin to return to combat. Unfortunately, the Army Air Corps declined to commission him for medical reasons. He eventually returned to service as a US transport pilot for the famed Flying Tigers flying supplies over the Himalayas before being discharged in 1945. Reports have credited Major Chin, who is considered one of the first WWII "Ace," with between 8 to 8 ½ kills during the war.

Chin eventually joined the US Postal Service and worked in Beaverton, Oregon until he retired and passed away in 1997.

Oregon Congressman David Wu pushed a law through Congress naming a post office in Beaverton, Oregon the "Major Arthur Chin Post Office Building" that was signed by President Bush in 2008. The Arthur Chin Aviation Achievement Award was also established in his honor by the Sino American Aviation Heritage Foundation.

External Links:

<http://www.sinoam.com/ARTHURCHIN2.htm>

http://seattlepi.nwsourc.com/local/247952_vets11.html

<http://www.airpowermuseum.org/exhibits/acaahof/assets/pdf/1997/chin.pdf>

http://surfcity.kund.dalnet.se/china_chin.htm

http://www.beavertonvalleytimes.com/news/story.php?story_id=121866760075946100

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



Taking On What You're Not Sure You Can Take On

I recently read an article titled, "From Flying in the Military to Launching a Business," in which the author shares 4 traits he learned in the military that helped him launch his business. They are:

1. Being comfortable with being uncomfortable;
2. Leadership during a crisis;
3. Sleep deprivation; and
4. Perspective.

Check out the full article—which I highly recommend—at this site: <http://www.entrepreneur.com/article/231269#>.

I think these traits apply to all transitioning veterans. If you're not sure what you want to do with your life or how to go about approaching where you are in your civilian life, consider these four traits and how they may apply to your situation.

On the flip side, I think one trait that can hurt us veterans in the business world is our reluctance to challenge the status quo. Some business leaders prefer people challenge the status quo so that the best ideas surface. The basic definition of entrepreneurship is creating a new product or service that goes against the status quo. Indeed, that is what I'm doing with Hiring Coach. We're challenging the status quo so much that we're having a hard time finding insurance to cover us!

I encourage you—wherever you are in life, to start taking on the status quo—whether that be within yourself, within your office or with your own business and ideas. You may not be sure you can take that on. Trust me, you can. As you know, we are good at being comfortable with the uncomfortable. I encourage you to explore the discomfort of challenging the status quo.

Let me know how it goes!

Why Do Veterans Leave Their First Job? By John Li

Did you know that many veterans leave their first post-military job? Employers want to know why so that they can improve employee retention and career development. VetAdvisor and the Institute for Veterans and Military Family launched a nationwide Veterans Job Reten-

tion Survey to collect and analyze data concerning job retention. Veterans are encouraged to take the survey and provide their opinions. Follow the link below to read about and to take the survey. www.legion.org/careers/218499/job-retention-survey-veterans-launches



Laura Renner
Managing Director
of Hiring Coach

The mission to help business owners make smart hiring decisions by making the process easier through creativity, deliberation and consistency. She has worked for nearly fifteen years dealing directly with people, whether in public relations, foreign relations, education or human resources.

She graduated from the U.S. Air Force Academy with a bachelor's of science in English and a minor in Chinese-Mandarin. She served as a Public Affairs officer before leaving the Air Force to earn an International MBA from the University of Chicago Booth School of Business.

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

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

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Roger Dong is the Chief Reporter.

Thanh Huynh is the Field Reporter.

John Li is a reporter.

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2013-2014**

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



www.legion.org

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World War I

4/6/1917 – 11/11/1918

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