



CATHAY DISPATCH

Veterans - Sounding Off Since 1931

Make a Difference, Pass It On! Congratulations Commander Janet M. Wilson, Dept. of CA

By Clara Pon

Important Dates:

- Jul 4— Independence Day
- Jul 12—Monthly Meeting 11 a.m.
- Jul 26—Wheelchair Basketball Game Fund Raiser 2 p.m.
- Aug 2— 2014 Miss Asian Global Pageant 7 p.m.

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John O'Leary performing the oath ceremony to Janet Wilson.

Photo by Henry Sanchez, Commander Post 233

In the June issue of Cathay Dispatch, we reported that Laura Renner was the first female 3rd Vice Commander elected to our Post's executive committee. That month, Police-Fire Post 456 also elected its first female officer, Patricia Brown, as 2nd Vice Commander. It turns out that vice-commanders Renner and Brown weren't the only new female officers in the Department of California during the month of June.

In the heart of Silicon Valley where history and "firsts" are known to happen, hundreds of veterans from throughout the great state of California gathered at the American Legion Department of California 96th Annual Convention in Santa Clara on June 19-22, 2014. In the four days of meetings, presentations, candidate nominations and elections, and various social events and dinners, there emerged yet another first in the Department of California.

On Sunday, June 22, in front of hundreds of Legionnaires, family, and friends, we witnessed American Legion Department of California's past Alternate National Executive Committeeman and dear friend to the new commander, John "Jack" O'Leary, conduct the oath ceremony to the first-ever female, Janet M. Wilson, as the new 2014-215 Department of California Commander. Standing proud to her right was husband,



Husband Wayne Wilson putting on Commander Janet Wilson's new Commander cap on.

Photo by Henry Sanchez, Commander Post 233.

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New Commander, Continued

(Continued from page 1)



Janet's granddaughter Charlotte Stevens.

Photo by Richard Carpino, Department Historian

SAL Squadron Adjutant Wayne Wilson, the “First Dude,” and to her left, Commander Wilson’s daughter, USAF Sr. Master Sgt. (E-8) Jessica Stevens holding precious Charlotte (Janet’s granddaughter), along with family and close friends. That was certainly an emotional time for her and for the rest of us in the convention hall to be a part of, and to share in, that historic moment.



Commander Janet Wilson surrounded by family. L-R Front: Wayne & Janet Wilson and daughter Jessica & baby Charlotte Stevens.

L-R Back: Best friend Lorraine Raucci, son Daniel Wilson, and sister Darlene & Cecil Drake.

Photo by Richard Carpino Department Historian

Newly-elected Commander Wilson, a Vietnam War-era Army veteran, has proudly served her country and continues to support thousands of Legionnaires with her unwavering commitment to the American Legion with over 25 years of dedicated service. Prior to her new position as Department Commander and a resident of Antioch, she was recently Area 2 Vice Commander, Membership Director, District 9 Judge Advocate, and Harding-Noia Post 161 Adjutant. Last year, possibly as a

prelude of great things to come, she was awarded the American Legion Legionnaire of the Year, Sons of the American Legion Legionnaire, and Auxiliary Member of the Year honors. Her commitment to help others extends to other community charitable organizations such as providing quilts to Wounded Warriors, VA hospitals, and local hospices.

We at Cathay Post No. 384 want to thank Commander Wilson for visiting our post in March and encouraging us to enter the color guard competition at the State Convention. You can read about another first in our newsletter titled *The Color Detail Competition* on page 14.

Congratulations, Commander Janet Wilson. All of us at Cathay Post No. 384 are confident that you will continue your devotion, dedication, and commitment as the new Department of California Commander. We look forward to supporting and working with you in the coming months to continue the efforts to “make a difference” and to “pass it on.”

Go Northern California! For God and Country.

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COMMANDER JAY PON

Commander's Mission Statement: Cathay Post No. 384 is here to support fellow veterans, youth programs, and the local community. We are part of a national veteran's non-profit group established by Congress after World War I. Chartered in 1931, we serve San Francisco and the areas around it. My focus will be: (1) preserving the rights of veterans and patriotic organizations in the War Memorial Veterans Building; (2) increase Post external events for members; (3) preserving our Post history, culture, and traditions; (4) support youth and educational programs; and (5) increase the use of our club house to the community.

Happy Birthday America... the republic is 238 years old!!!

Cathay Post No. 384 is on the path to success. During the year, we will be adding new activities and bringing back some American Legion rituals not seen by our members in some time. The activities will reflect the changing faces of our Post, as well as preserving our bond to Chinatown and North Beach. The vice commanders will play an even more active role in the Post as they will be overseeing certain areas of operations. 3rd Vice Commander Laura Renner will oversee "Post Sponsored Outdoor Activities," such as a retreat, BBQ, and possibly a road trip. 2nd Vice Commander Galin Luk

will oversee "Post Sponsored Indoor Activities," such as our annual Fleet Week luncheon and events that utilizes our building. 1st Vice Commander Nelson Lum will oversee Americanism & Youth programs that include local parades and other external events that the Post participates in, but does not organize.

Our vice commanders are supported by the rest of the Board of Directors who are currently choosing their own special events to lead and organize. Recently, Board Member Morris Ng took the initiative to be the team leader for our Color Detail competing in the Color Guard competition at the 96th Annual American Legion Department of Califor-

nia Convention in Santa Clara. Morris is also going to be the team leader of our Color Detail during the Italian Heritage Day parade in October. I am excited to see how we all contribute to the success and strength of our Post.

Looking outside of Post 384, our number one mission is preserving the rights of veterans and patriotic organizations in the War Memorial Veterans Building. We need your help. The best way to do this is to show up at either the American Legion War Memorial Commission meeting (1st Tuesday of each month, 5:30 p.m., at 205-13th Street, Ste. 3300), the American Legion Eighth District Council meeting (2nd

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Jay Pon

jpon@jps.net
415-409-8858

Cathay Post Member since: 2001

Branch: Navy, Army

Final Rank: Major

"The activities will reflect the changing faces of our Post, as well as preserving our bond to Chinatown and North Beach."





Nelson Lum

nelson1431@aol.com
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Cathay Post Member
since: 2005

Branch: Army

Final Rank: SPC

“...the management of the Opera House has continued to extend their hands of friendship toward the veterans...”



1st VICE COMMANDER NELSON LUM

It has only been a month since the current elected officers took over the responsibilities of their prospective offices. Yet, it seems we must begin immediately to fulfill our duties without the luxury of taking a breather. The reason our Post is considered one of the most active in California is the amount of planned activities we have throughout the year.

Representatives of our Post attended the 96th Department of California Convention in Santa Clara from June 19 to June 22, 2014. As your delegate for our Post and the District, I attended many meetings and was proud to have presented a ‘State of the Post and District’ report to the Department's Executive Committee. One of the most significant resolutions that was not passed was the resolution that would have permitted all veterans to be members of the American Legion. The majority of the delegates felt that we

should not change the eligibility requirement unless Congress decides to change it. Other members of our Post participated in the Color Detail competition, which marks the very first time our Post has been represented. The Convention also saw the election of the first ever female Commander, Janet Wilson, of the Department of California. Cathay Post No. 384 congratulates the newly elected Commander.



L-R: SFPD—Sgt. Patricia Brown, Officer James Cunningham (Dept. of CA Officer of the Year for Valor), Lt. Gaetano Caltagirone, and (Ret.) Sgt. Nelson Lum at the convention.

I and other Post members (2nd Vice Commander Galin Luk, and Comrade W.T. Jeanpierre) are deeply involved in the planning and execution of our 2nd Annual Charity Wheelchair Basketball Game. For those who were involved or attended this event last

year, I am sure you will testify to the fact that it was a very fun filled event and this year will be even better. The Golden State Road Warriors, an entity of the Golden State Warriors, will bring along their unbelievably eye catching skills while the members of San Francisco Police Department, having been trashed by the Road Warriors last year, have sworn to put up a much better game. Additionally, our Judge Advocate, Travis Groft has volunteered to assist the cops and join in their ranks in the game. The game will be held on Saturday, July 26, 2014 at 2:00 PM. Please mark the date on your calendar and support this fun event. Please see the ad on page 10 for ticket information.

Cathay Post No. 384 will once again be hoisting the US flag above the roof of the Chinese Consolidated Benevolent Association (Chinese Six Company) to honor the

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2nd VICE COMMANDER GALIN LUK



L-R: SAL Color Guard, Dennis Burke and Cathay Post Team.

They say a picture is worth a thousand words. Take a look at the accompanying picture which was taken as our Post's Color Guard Team is preparing to hear the announcement of the winners of the Department of California Color Guard Competition.

One week prior to the Department of California Color Guard Competition, I dubbed our team the "Dream Team." It was an inside joke, and coupled with my comment that our team would "crush the competition," made for some good laughs during the Post's general meeting. The laughter was well deserved. The truth is, we had no business competing. Due to work commitments,

we had not yet practiced and would not until about 14 hours prior to the competition. We also knew we would be competing against the best. And indeed, the other four color guard teams were true professionals in every sense of the word. They were dressed to the nines in their ceremonial best. Their routine was locked down great.

And yet here was Ca-



L-R: W.T. Jeanpierre, Ryan Qiu, and Morris Ng heading over to the color guard competition.

thay Post's Color Guard, in our simple red shirt, mismatched black trousers and mismatched shoes. The only thing more humble than our uniform was our routine. It was plain; it was ordinary; it was probably riddled with mistakes.

When the teams assembled for the announcement, several in our Color Guard team heard one judge mention Cathay Post. We looked at each other. And while we were uncertain what was said, we were certain of one thing: if the judges had awarded Cathay Post first place at the expense of another team, we would have declined.

Sure, it's not difficult to imagine many asserting that our Color Guard had no business competing. And, many more will point out that Cathay Post won by default. Talk about missing the point. Take another look at that picture as our team is waiting to hear

(Continued on page 9)



Galín Luk

galinluk@hotmail.com
415-392-2882

Cathay Post Member since: 2009

Branch: Marine Corps

Final Rank: Captain

"I'm very proud of our team captain Morris Ng, and teammates W.T. Jeanpierre, and Ryan Qiu for not giving up; for not letting pride get in the way..."





Laura Renner
 laura@hiring-coach.com
 415-392-2882
 Cathay Post Member
 since: 2013
 Branch: Air Force
 Final Rank: Captain

“Finally, I am excited for our new Board. We are working hard to continue the activeness and growth of the Post.”



3rd VICE COMMANDER LAURA RENNER

Let’s get outside! More activities planned for Cathay Post No. 384.

Happy Fourth of July! Be safe during the holiday weekend and enjoy the festivities.

With June 1st came the new year for Cathay Post and the many plans we are putting into place. Not only are we seeking to increase representation in the City and to be a leading representative for the American Legion, we are rolling out numerous programs and activities for you, our members. You are the reason we exist. Cathay Post is here to support our veterans, members, and support members.

To support you, I will be leading the charge for more outdoor activities (translation: have more fun!). Want to picnic in Golden Gate Park? How about a hike up Mission

Peak? Camping anyone? What about a Giants game? A team fun run? A bicycle tour? A dinner cruise? The ideas are endless.

Here is my challenge to you: share with me your ideas. In what activities would you be interested in participating? In an effort to avoid flooding my email inbox, please take this survey to vote for your favorite activities and to submit others.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/CathayPost384Outdoor>

I look forward to hearing your ideas and to seeing you at our first event! Also, if you would like to volunteer to help plan and prepare for our events, let me know.

In other news, our first ever Girls State partici-

pant headed down to Southern California on June 23 and returned on June 28. We are excited for and proud of Barbara Machado! While there, she learned how government operates and participated in a mock government environment. Many participants go on to lead impactful lives in their communities, in the nation, or the world. They do so through public service or in the private sector. Boys and Girls State prepare young people to make our world a better place. I am proud to say that we support their endeavors and the young people of the Bay Area.

Finally, I am excited for our new Board. We are working hard to continue the activeness and growth of the Post. I am looking forward to doing my best to serve you.

New Commander, Continued

(Continued from page 2)

We also want to congratulate:

Bill Siler iii (132-29) - Adjutant

Michael R. Hughs (608-6) – Vice Commander Area 1

Jerry Redford (585-26) – Vice Commander Area 2

Eric L. Kurtz (682-15) – Vice Commander Area 3

William V. Miller (496-4) – Vice Commander Area 4

Harold Waltz (595-21) – Vice Commander Area 5

Robert Heinisch (507-20) – Vice Commander Area 6

Hugh E. Crooks Jr. (8-17) – National Executive Committeeman

Gary B. Leach (77-6) – Alternate Executive Committeeman

John R. Bart (23-14) – Judge Advocate

Jeffery Seaton (108-11) – Assistant Judge Advocate

Mary Estrada (694-28) – Chaplain

Richard M. Carpino (16-11) – Historian

Larry Leonardo (564-13) – Sergeant-at-Arms

Wayne Yee (628-17) – Parliamentarian

Scott F. McKee (131-29) – Service Officer



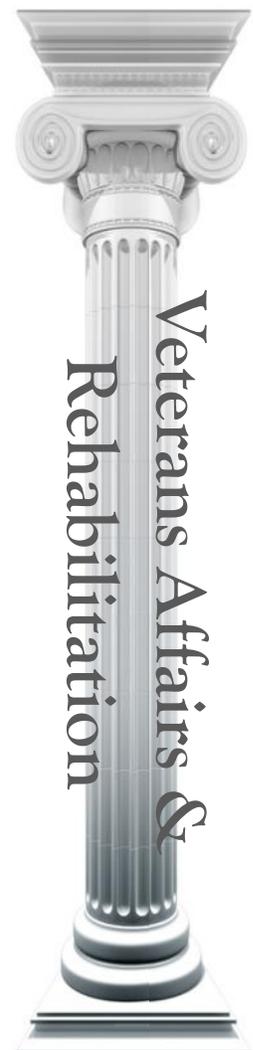
L-R: Daniel Wilson, Darlene Drake, Jessica Stevens, Janet Wilson, Charlotte Stevens, and Wayne Wilson.

Photo by Henry Sanchez, Commander Post 233

Top Left: Commander Janet Wilson receiving her bouquet of red roses.

Bottom Left: Commander Janet Wilson pinning the first boutonniere on the "First Dude."

Photos by Henry Sanchez, Commander Post 233





Nelson Lum, Continued

(Continued from page 4)

birth of our country on July 4, 2014 at 11:30 AM. The Chinese Six Company is located on 843 Stockton Street. This event has been one of our commitments to the community. It also demonstrates the pride of us veterans who have answered the call to serve our country. Members, support members, and friends of our Post, you are welcomed to come by and observe the ceremony.

Since the closure of the War Memorial Veterans Building for seismic retrofit and space renovation, not too much news of interest has been generated from the site and my visits to the site have been very infrequent. So, it was a pleasant surprise when I went to the Opera House and saw the ground of the Veterans' Court dug up completely. For those of you who are not aware of the history of the court (the space between the War Memorial Veter-

ans Building and the Opera House), it is named the Veterans' Court.



June 26 Veteran's Court.

At the eastern end of the court, there is an octagon shaped patch of lawn which contains soil from every battlefield where American military has fought with the exception of Iraq and Afghanistan. The site of the octagon is where a monument to honor veterans was to have been built about 83 years ago. Well, it took 83 years before the promise was met, and at long last, the construction of the veteran's monument has begun. Having been a member of the current committee to fulfill the long held promise, the sight of seeing the project being actually worked on almost brought tears to my eyes. Every veteran should express his

or her appreciation to Major General Mike Myatt, USMC Ret., Mr. Wilkes Bashford, and Ms. Elizabeth Murray, the Chair, Co-Chair, and Executive Manager, respectively, of the Committee that raised the necessary funding (\$3 million+), oversaw the development of the design, and overseeing the actual construction of the project. Let's hope it will be completed by Fleet Week so we can all witness the unveiling of the long awaited monument and the inclusion of soil from Iraq and Afghanistan.

Recently, many veterans received an Email notification about the complimentary opera tickets for *La Traviata* to be performed at the San Francisco War Memorial Opera House. Please be appreciative of this generous gift from the management of the Opera House. As most of you know, the interest of the veterans over the usage of space at the War Memorial Vet-

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Jay Pon, Continued

(Continued from page 3)

Thursday of each month, at 5:30 p.m. at 205-13th Street, Ste. 3300), or the War Memorial Performing Arts Center Board of

Trustees meeting (2nd Thursday of each month, at 2 p.m., War Memorial Opera House, 4th floor). Join Vice Commanders Lum, Renner, and myself at these meetings.

Please wear your red American Legion Cathay Post shirt.

I look forward to serving the members of American Legion Cathay Post No. 384.

Nelson Lum, Continued

(Continued from page 8)

erans Building may conflict with that of the Opera House. However, I want everyone to know that the management of the Opera House has continued to extend their hands of friendship toward the veterans

even though we may be on opposite sides of some issues. It is also the same with the Trustees of the War Memorial Performing Arts Center and its staff. They are honorable people who may have different views of how the space should be allocated. It is very

important that we must keep this in mind as we head toward potential litigation over the issues of space allocation. I hope those of you who plan to see *La Traviata* enjoy the opera. Again, I look forward to see you all at our July meeting.

Galin Luk, Continued

(Continued from page 5)

the announcement of winners. The excitement and giddiness are palpable; the joy is evident; the shock and surprise unmistakable. We knew our Post's Color Guard team won, not because we were the best team, but because we dared to compete against the best.

For my commander's message, someone asked me to write about many other topics. I politely declined. I don't want anything to detract from my message. I'm very proud of our team captain Morris Ng, and teammates W.T.

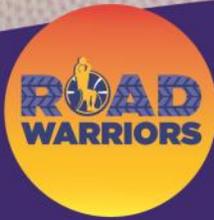
Jeanpierre, and Ryan Qiu for not giving up; for not letting pride get in the way; for believing that by competing in the Color Guard competition they would make the Post proud.



L-R: Department of CA 2013-14 Commander Joseph Garcia, Galin Luk, Morris Ng, Ryan Qiu, W.T. Jeanpierre, and SAL Detachment Commander Christopher W. Affolter.



Hosted by Cathay Post #384
American Legion Department of California



Golden State Road Warriors

VS

San Francisco Police Department



Charity Wheelchair Basketball Game

Sat. July 26, 2014 - 2pm

City College of San Francisco
Wellness Center - Gymnasium

Ocean Ave. @ Howth St.

Admission:

- ★ \$10 Adults
- ★ \$5 Youth 11 yrs - 17 yrs
- ★ Kids 10 and under FREE

To purchase tickets:

- ★ **SF Police Department Chief's Office**
OFC Ray Padmore
(415) 734-3614
- ★ **War Memorial Commission**
alwmcsf@gmail.com
- ★ **Cathay Post #384**
cathaypost384events@gmail.com
- ★ **Scan QR code for PayPal Options**



Adult
Tickets



Youth
Tickets

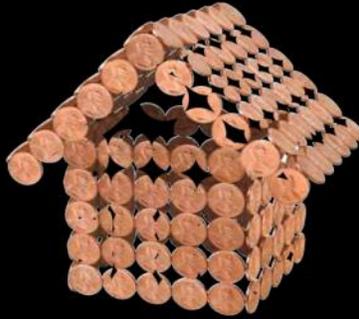


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96th American Legion CA State Convention By Roger Dong

This year Cathay Post No. 384 sent seven representatives to the 96th Annual Department of California, American Legion Convention. Led by Acting District Commander Nelson Lum, our Post's 1st Vice Commander, in addition to attending the various meetings, we participated in the Color Guard competition for the very first time, and submitted entries from our Ca-

thay Dispatch to compete in five separate categories at the state level newsletter competition sponsored by the California American Legion Press Association (CALPA).

Four of those seven delegates competed in the Color Guard competition on Saturday, June 21, 2014 at 7:00 a.m. You can read about how it went on page 14.

Later that afternoon, Galin Luk, Nelson Lum, Clara Pon and I attended the awards luncheon and election meeting of CALPA where the annual awards were presented to the winners in the 2013-2014 California state newsletter competition.

To see how we fared, you don't need to go too far, just look below.

Cathay Post Takes Home All 5 Awards By Roger Dong

After the morning events at the American Legion California Convention, Nelson Lum, Galin Luk, Clara Pon and I packed ourselves into Galin's environmentally and visibly children friendly vehicle to Mariani's Inn and Restaurant. The 2013-2014 California American Legion Press Association (CALPA) awards and new officer election luncheon took place not far from the Santa Clara Convention Center on Saturday, June 21 in the afternoon.

CALPA President, John "Durk" Durkin kicked off the meeting by getting to the heart of why everyone was there, to find out who the winners were for the 2013-14 competition. When I looked over at our Editor-in-Chief Galin Luk, I detected signs of nervousness and a small

amount of sweat was visible on his face as the winners for each category were being announced. He entered our Post's Facebook page and our newsletter, Cathay Dispatch in nearly every category possible with hopes of submitting enters to all categories next year.

Nelson, Clara, and I also sat anxiously as the results were read. The best newsletters, social media network sites, and graphic arts were judged by students at both UC Irvine and Orange Coast College. The great news is that we earned awards in every category entered. These awards are the culmination and confirmation of months of hard work by Galin and Clara. Their dedication of time to thoroughly edit and refine every article

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CALPA, Continued

(Continued from page 12)

with care was recognized. We should all be very proud of their achievement and a big congratulation is in order for the entire Dispatch staff.

CALPA awarded Cathay Post No. 384 the following awards:

1. **2nd place** — *The Al Weinberg Award*: For Post Newsletter; **1st place** — *The Jack RC Cann Award*: Affiliate Groups' Newsletters
2. **2nd place** — *The Ansel Adams Award*: Photography. The photograph was taken by me, Cathay Dispatch's Chief Reporter with my iPhone capturing a colorful panoramic image of Cathay Post No. 384 members and family marching in the 2013 San Francisco Veterans' Day Parade.



3. **1st place** — *The William A. Dwiggin Award*: Graphic generated promotional art work. Unfortunately, we don't know which entry that was submitted won.
4. **2nd place** — *The Robert Morrill Award*: Post Social Network Sites. The Post's Facebook page

is managed by Secretary John Li.

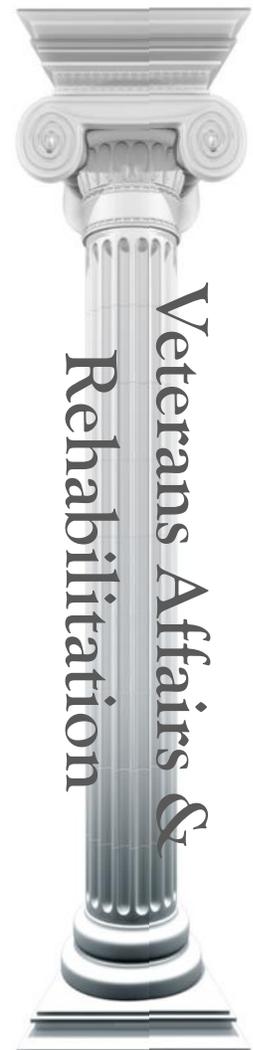
5. **3rd place** — The William E. Rominger Award: Editorial. The winning editorial was written by Galin Luk.

Our Cathay Dispatch monthly newsletter was recognized for the many well written articles and superb work by all contributing writers. Of special note was the exceptional design and formatting skills of our creative designer Clara Pon.

Even though this was our Post's first foray into state level competition, it was evident that we were immediately looked upon as a Post of significance when our Editor-in-Chief Galin Luk was nominated to serve as President of CALPA. However, Galin has many other commitments and politely declined. I accepted the nomination to serve as Area 2, CALPA Vice-President and Galin accepted the nomination to serve on the Area 2, Executive Board.

I am very proud to represent Cathay Post No. 384 at CALPA and thank the members of CALPA for entrusting me with responsibilities for managing the efforts of Post newsletter and media production in Area 2.

All of us involved with the production of our Cathay Dispatch intends to continue our work and will strive to improve our newsletter even more in the future.



Top: The new SF 49ers
Levi Stadium.

Photo by William Jackson,
Post 105



The Color Detail Competition By Nelson Lum



It was getting late on a warm summer evening in the convention center located in the city of Santa Clara. With the brand new home of the San Francisco 49ers Levi Stadium in the back drop, our dedicated group of Color Detail members were gathering the needed accessories in the parking lot while their fearless leader, Comrade Morris Ng, was on the phone with Comrade Ryan Qiu. Morris was informed by Ryan that he was still stuck in traffic. Not to be discouraged, Morris summoned the rest of the group (Galin Luk and W.T. Jeanpierre) and hustled them into an empty staging room where he commenced to formulate his plan of action to represent Cathay Post No. 384 in the Color Detail competition at the Department of California 96th Annual Convention for the very first time. The group attended an informational meeting earlier and met some of their competitors.

Upon noticing Comrade W.T.'s (former Air Force) unfamiliarity with, and Galin's (former Marine) eagerness to seize control of the rifles, Morris knew immediately he had a very daunting task ahead of him. From W.T.'s not knowing which end of the rifle was up and Galin's lack of experience with drills and ceremonies, Morris

worked patiently to teach all the basics to his teammates. Their practice was interrupted many times by two observers (support member Clara Pon and I) whose observations may or may not have provided them any viable suggestions. We were just backseat drivers since no one knew the proper ceremonial protocols. About an hour and a half later, there was some semblance of a cohesive team in action. When Ryan called and informed the team he is about 15 minutes away, Morris decided dinner would be the ingredient this team needed for camaraderie and success. It was off to Mayflower Restaurant where a nice team dinner (including the observers) took place. The members of the team devoted many more hours after dinner to practice their routines in the hotel hallway before heading to bed.



L-R: Galin Luk, Morris Ng, Ryan Qiu, W.T. Jeanpierre practicing in the hall of their hotel.

The competition began at 7:00 a.m. and the team got their first look at their competitors in their immaculately decorated uniforms. There

(Continued on page 15)

Color Detail, Continued

(Continued from page 14)

were a total of five teams and those teams (except Cathay Post No. 384) all had competed in various levels of competition in the past. Cathay Post was the first unit scheduled to perform. Morris took charge and encouraged his teammates to be the best they can be. I was proud to be there and watch them as they went through their routines. I looked nervously around the spectators when I saw a couple of major mistakes committed by our team to see if anyone else noticed. What I saw was an appreciative crowd and they were only there to cheer on the teams.

As the other units went through their routines, I realized we were witnessing the efforts of months or even years of preparation and practice. The competition was divided into categories and we were competing against a team that represented the Sons of the American Legion (SAL). That team has represented the SAL organization for many years and has won awards and recognition throughout the country. There was one catch. Since this was an American Legion

competition, the SAL's were only there as guests and thus, could not be declared winners. That left Cathay Post the only unit competing in the Military Class category. The Color Detail of Cathay Post No. 384 was thereby declared the winner of that category.



L-R: G. Luk, M. Ng, R. Qiu, W.T. Jeanpierre.
Photo by William Jackson, Post 105

The most important aspect of this competition for the participants of Cathay Post No. 384 is the opportunity to learn from those who performed with dedication and professionalism. I expect and believe Morris will continue to recruit interested members to participate and to improve upon this experience. To the members of the team, congratulations, you guys put forth a great amount of effort and we are proud of your commitment and representation.

Bottom: Dennis Burke, Ritual Committee Chairman and all five teams waiting to hear the winners of the 2014 Color Guard competition.



Congratulations to Cathay Post No. 384

Congratulations to the leadership and members of Cathay Post for winning all the awards. You certainly deserve each of the recognition because of your hard work and your devotion to showcase the pride of Cathay Post. But I believe the biggest winners here are the Department of California and The American Legion National Organization because of your demonstrated and ever increased outstanding participation in the Legion activities above your district. I have always believed that Cathay Post has much to offer

at the Department and at the National levels. I'm very happy and excited to see this happening.

I'm so proud of you guys I can't wait to see you all in the Charlotte, N.C. National Convention! Let's plan on getting together to celebrate a wonderful year of achievements.

"We Serve With PRIDE!"

Fang A. Wong
Department of New York
Past National Commander

VA Appointments—Town Hall Meeting Invitation

Dear Veteran:

I want to hear from you if you are having difficulty securing a medical appointment with either the VA Palo Alto or VA San Francisco health care systems. Please call my district office at 650-342-0300; or email Mark Nagales in my district office at: Mark.Nagales@mail.house.gov.

I will also hold two town halls to give you the opportunity to speak in person about issues you have with the VA appointment system. The Palo Alto town hall will be jointly held with Rep. Anna Eshoo and myself. Here is the town hall schedule:

- ◆ Monday, July 7, 2014, 1:00 - 2:30 p.m., Building 101 auditorium VA Palo Alto Health Care System, 3801 Miranda Ave., Palo Alto.

Director Lisa Freeman will participate.

- ◆ Monday, July 21, 2014, 4:00 -

5:30 p.m., Building 7 auditorium, VA San Francisco Medical Center, 4150 Clement, San Francisco.

Director Bonnie Graham will participate.

Anyone wishing to speak or attend either Town Hall should "register" with my office by telephone: 650-342-0300, or email to Mark.Nagales@mail.house.gov. Seating is limited.

There will be no public discussion of an individual's health. Please limit comments to how hard or easy it was to see VA health care personnel.

All the best,

Jackie Speier

Member of Congress

U.S. House of Representatives

155 Bovet Road, Suite 780

San Mateo, CA 94402

(M) 650-208-7441



VSC New Location By Roger S. Dong

Due to the closure of the Veterans Service Media Center at 1720 Market Street, the Veterans Success Center (VSC) which was located at the same location has moved. The VSC is now located at our current HQ of the American Legion Eighth District Council and War Memorial Commission at 205—13th Street, Suite 3300. It will be at this temporary location until the War Memorial Veterans Building is re-opened.

Once again, it was Cathay Post No. 384 that stepped up to the plate to assist with this move. All of the computers, desks, chairs, and other equipment were moved solely by Cathay Post members which included Commander Jay Pon, 1st Vice Commander Nelson Lum, Sergeant-at-Arms David Adams, Comrades Jake Goetzow, Joe Chan, and me, the VSC Executive Director. Commander Pon donated

the use of his pick-up truck and other moving paraphernalia, without which, the task would have been impossible. With all hands on deck, the entire move was completed in less than three hours. On behalf of the VSC and all the veterans who have, and will get jobs facilitated by the VSC and its managers, we want to extend a great big thanks to Cathay Post members Jay, Nelson, David, Jake and Joe for their time and muscles.

Calling All Korean War Veterans By Nelson Lum

To all veterans who served in Korea during the Korean conflict. The Embassy of the Republic of South Korea is looking for veterans who served in Korea between June 25, 1950 and July 27, 1953. Eligibility includes those Navy personnel who served onboard ships deployed to the Korean water during the listed dates. The Embassy is preparing to present to every eligible veteran an *Ambassador for Peace Medal*. The Embassy is also prepared to pre-

sent posthumously to the next of kin of those veterans who meet the required stipulations.



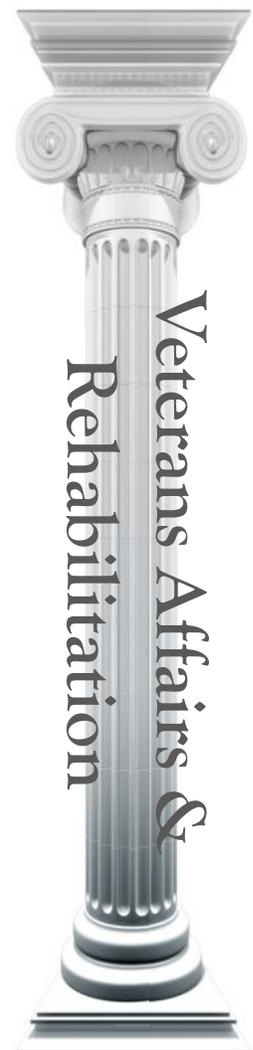
Ambassador for Peace Medal

Members of Cathay Post No. 384 who are eligible will be able to fill out the application form at the Post or you can call or email us to get a copy of the application form. The appli-

cation can also be found on page 18. The application must be filled out along with proof of service (DD 214) and returned to Cathay Post prior to September 15, 2014 in order for the Post to assist with your submission to the Department of California, American Legion.

For more information, go to:

www.calegion.org/html/korean-peace-medal.html



Korean Ambassador for Peace Medal

To apply for this Distinguished Award in California - the South Korean Embassies in San Francisco (Northern California) and Los Angeles (Bakersfield to all points South) have requested that the The American Legion Department of California Headquarters Staff compile the applications for our Korean Wartime membership and forward all application information at one time to the appropriate embassy for individual recognition at a ceremony during a District or Area meeting where the members reside.

To be eligible, the veterans must have served during the Korean War from June 25, 1950 to July 27, 1953.

Please complete the application below and mail to:

TAL SFHQ – Ambassador Medal, 205 13TH Street, Suite 3300, San Francisco, CA 94103-2461

or FAX the form below to 415-255-1571. The form is also available for download at: www.calegion.org

The American Legion HQ Staff will review your application, verify the service dates and compile the data for the embassy consulate staff for issuing of the Korean Ambassador for Peace Medal.

Special Note: *Post 1000 members will need to attach a copy of their DD-214 for service date verification.*

DEADLINE FOR ALL APPLICATIONS IS TUESDAY – SEPTEMBER 23, 2014

Ambassador for Peace Medal Application

(ALL INFORMATION IS KEPT CONFIDENTIAL)

Name: _____ 9-digit Legion Card # _____

Post Name #: _____ District: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ Zip: _____

TEL: _____ email: _____

Date of Birth: _____

Military Service Branch (circle one): Army / Navy / Marine Corps / Air Force

Rank: _____ Name of Unit in Korea: _____

Date Served in Korea: From: _____ To: _____

Have you ever visited Korea after the Korean War? Yes () No ()

If yes, when did you visit Korea? Year: _____ Occasion: _____

Have you ever received any medallions or ribbons from the Government of the Republic of Korea?

Yes () No ()

(DO NOT WRITE BELOW THIS LINE)

Received Date: _____ Verified and Entered in Database: _____ By: _____

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GI Bill Helps Veterans to Succeed By John Li

Upon completing my deployment from Iraq and separated from the Marine Corps, I was able to enroll in college with the help of the GI Bill. The Servicemen's Readjustment Act of 1944, the original GI Bill which was drafted by American Legion Past National Commander Harry Colmery and pushed through Congress with the assistance of the American Legion, along with subsequent amendments enabled me and

an estimated 20 million veterans to receive educational financial assistance. By all accounts, the Bill helped create the middle class of our country and revolutionized higher education. It also indirectly increased home ownership by veterans in America.

The American Legion celebrated the 70th anniversary of the signing of the Bill with a big gala in Washington D.C. With the anticipated demobilization

in the near future, an additional 1.2 million service members will be returning to civilian life and the GI Bill will be there to assist with the education that they need and deserve. Click on the link below to read quotes from Theodore Roosevelt IV, Chairman of The American Legion's 100th Anniversary Honorary Committee. www.legion.org/education/222832/legion-celebrates-gi-bills-success



14 March 2014: Commissioning Committee Chair, RADM Tom Brown III, [tells the AMERICA story in this 10 March interview with KGO7 TV in San Francisco.](#)

USS AMERICA (LHA 6) will be commissioned in San Francisco on October 11, 2014 during Fleet Week.

The Navy is asking you to sponsor commissioning of this new amphibious assault ship. Visit the website at <http://commissioningamerica.org/> or click on the links below for recent news & updates.

[It's Official: Navy Secretary Mabus Sets 11 October as USS AMERICA Commissioning Date](#)

[28 March 2014: Commissioning Location Confirmed; Advice for Crew Members' Families Posted](#)

[USS AMERICA Officially Turned Over to Navy](#)

Congratulations to Cathay Post No. 384

Clara, Galin,
Congratulations to all at Cathay Post, especially for Cathay Dispatch's award sweep. A great accomplishment, Clara, but clearly well-deserved.

Best,
Gerry
Executive Director, Korean War Memorial Foundation
1806 Belles Street, #6-B | The Presidio | San Francisco, CA 94129

Just In Time for July 4th—BBQ & Beer Lovers By Roger S. Dong

Good tidings we bring to all Cathay Post beer lovers. Believe it or not, recent research suggests that beer may prevent colon cancer. This may or may not be true if you are just guzzling down the suds. But, for those barbeque chefs, for medicinal protection against colon cancer, be sure to add beer to your meat marinade.

Professor Issabelle Ferreria of the University of Port in Portugal, who may or may not be a beer lover, conducted experiments (likely with volunteers a plenty) and found that the additional ingredient in light (Pilsner) or dark beer has some potentially cancer preventing properties.

Here's the *scientific* explanation. Beer is endowed with melanoids, a strong anti-oxidant. I

am sure your doctor has told you about the importance of anti-oxidants to counter those nasty free radicals that roam our guts. These anti-oxidants apparently destroy the polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHS) which are created when you cook meat on the BBQ (or grill meat at home). PAHS (as oppose to bear paws), when unimpeded by anti-oxidants, is believed to be conducive to colon cancer.

This potential defense against colon cancer is a beer drinker's delight. Like everything in life, moderation is always good. But if you like to grill, add beer to your meat preparation. Pouring beer on top of your grilled steak will also help, but you must ingest all the beer, and not just let it sit on your plate. Lick those

beer platters clean. That is your doctor's orders.



Nelson Lum following doctor's orders. August 2013.

One last note of significance. All beers are not created equal. Dark beers (which has more melanoids) are almost twice as effective in destroying PAHS as light beer. Please note that using twice as much Bud does not double the anti-oxidants. So don't rely on Bud; Samuel Adams Dark (or a dark beer of your choice) is more flavorful and has more melanoids (anti-oxidants). I'll drink to that.

[Source: *The Economist*, Volume 411, No. 8881, April 5, 2014, page 72.]



Greetings from BG Garrett S. Yee—Boots on the Ground

A Message to Chief Reporter, Roger Dong from Brigadier General Garrett S. Yee

June 8, 2014

Dear Roger,

On Friday, May 23rd, Alissa graduated from Ohlone Community College, on Saturday we had a great send off at Mission Coffee, on Sunday, I packed my bags, then on Monday we attended a Memorial Day event and we said our final good byes.

That evening, I flew to El Paso, Texas where I spent the next two days at Fort Bliss preparing for my yearlong deployment in the Middle East. Then on Thursday, May 29th, Command Sergeant Major Michael Crespo and I boarded the plane and took the 24-hour flight to Kuwait via Germany arriving the next day on Friday, May 30th.



In a very memorable Change of Command ceremony that took place on June 3, 2014, at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait, I took command of the 335th Signal Command (Theater)(Provisional). Lieutenant General Terry (3 star general), the U.S. Army Central Commanding General, officiated the transition of leadership by passing the unit colors from Brigadier General Kemp to myself. Brigadier General Kemp and his

(Continued on page 23)



BG Garrett S. Yee—Boots on the Ground

(Continued from page 22)

team have done a great job during his past year in command and I am grateful for his leadership.

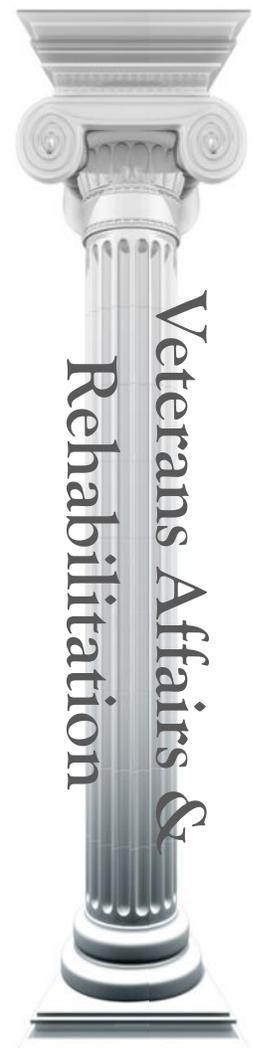
Lieutenant General Ferrell, Major General (Retired) Balough, and other General Officers attended the ceremony as well as the reception that followed. For me, there is no greater privilege in the military than to lead America's men and women, especially during war.

For those of us deployed, we serve at a historic time and I am most thankful to our 2500 Soldiers, Airmen, civilians, and contractors that provide critical communications to those further forward in the fight throughout Southwest Asia, to include Afghanistan, Kuwait, Qatar, Bahrain, and other countries in the region.

To friends and families of our deployed team members, thank you for the sacrifice that you make back at the home front. We could not do what we do without your support.

Sincerely,

Garrett Yee



Chinese American Veteran Hero of the Month**HAZEL YING LEE**

Photo courtesy by:
www.hazelyinglee.com

Name in English: Hazel Ying Lee

Birth Year: 1912-1944

Name in Chinese: 李月英

Birth Place: Portland, Oregon

Name in Pinyin: Lǐ Yuèyīng

Profession: Military Pilot

Education: Commerce High School, High School Diploma, 1929; Pilot's license, 1932.

Award: 2004, Oregon Aviation Hall of Honor Member, Evergreen Aviation and Space Museum.

Contributions: During a time of rampant anti-Chinese bias and discrimination against women, Hazel Ying Lee defied the odds as one of the first Chinese American women to get a pilot's license and later the first to fly for the U.S. Army. When she obtained her pilot's license in 1932 only one percent of American pilots were women and only a handful of them were Chinese American women.

In 1943, Hazel Lee became the first Chinese American woman to join the "Women Airforce Service Pilots" (WASP) program created to replace male pilots needed in combat with women. By American law and custom of the time, women weren't allowed to hold military jobs that could potentially involve combat, although quite a few military nurses did come under enemy fire during World War II. Hazel had previously volunteered to join the Chinese Air Force twice to help the war effort and to join her husband already serving with them. Although the Chinese Air Force needed pilots, Lee was rejected each time because she was a woman.

Hazel was one of the first women to pilot a fighter aircraft for the U.S. Army under the WASP program, but work for the WASP program was often dangerous and exhausting with seven-day work weeks. Female pilots like Hazel delivered military aircraft from their manufacturers to airfields across North America. Delivering aircraft that were fresh from the assembly line, WASP pilots were often the first to discover malfunctions. Hazel died in 1944 when her plane collided on a runway with a malfunctioning plane whose radio had failed. Both planes had accidentally been directed

(Continued on page 25)



Hazel Ying Lee Continued

(Continued from page 24)

to land on the same runway at the same time. Hazel Lee was one of the last of the 38 WASP's killed during the war.

After Hazel's death, the Lee family went through a lengthy but ultimately successful battle with a Portland cemetery that refused to bury any Asians. Hazel was laid to rest in a non-military funeral since WASP pilots were classified as civilians during WWII and did not receive military benefits or military funerals. Hazel and other WASP pilots would not be recognized with military status until 1979.

Hazel Ying Lee showed that Chinese American women could compete as equals in aviation with any man. She was a woman who knew what she wanted and chased her dreams to fly even at the cost of giving her life for her country.

External Links:

http://asiancemagazine.com/apr_2007/in_pursuit_of_a_dream

<http://www.nationalmuseum.af.mil/factsheets/factsheet.asp?id=1556>

<http://www.portlandonline.com/omf/index.cfm?a=148528&c=44053>

<http://www.mocanyc.org/collections/highlights>

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hazel_Ying_Lee

<http://www.hazelyinglee.com/>

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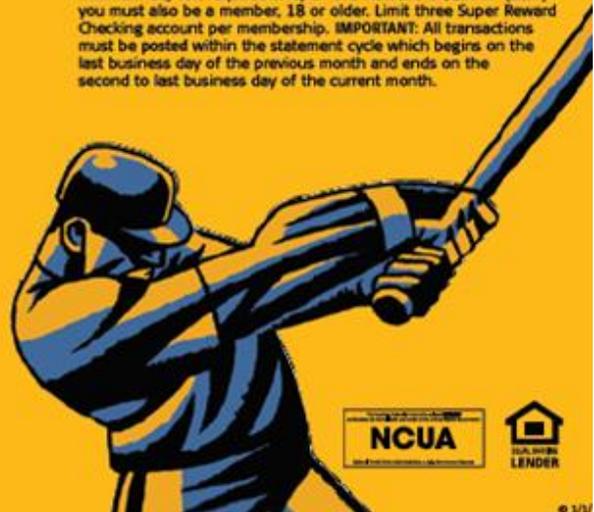
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Thanks to our Post Commanders
for contributing to this edition of
the *Cathay Dispatch*.

CATHAY DISPATCH STAFF

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

Galin Luk is the Editor-in-Chief.

Clara Pon is the Managing Editor and Creative Director.

Chris Kieliger is the Assistant Editor.

Roger Dong is the Chief Reporter.

Thanh Huynh is the Field Reporter.

John Li is a reporter.

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-in-Chief 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 Dispatch*.

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American Legion
Executive Committee
2014-2015**

Commander: Jay "Jigg" Pon

1st Vice Commander: Nelson Lum

2nd Vice Commander: Galin Luk

3rd Vice Commander: Laura Renner

Adjutant: Ben Yang

Secretary: John Li

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Come join Cathay Post No. 384 in San Francisco, one of the oldest and most active posts in California. We welcome all qualified retired, active, and non-military men and women.

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



www.legion.org

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Vietnam War

2/28/1961 – 5/7/1975

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6/25/1950 – 1/31/1955

World War II

12/7/1941 – 12/31/1946

World War I

4/6/1917 – 11/11/1918

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