



CATHAY DISPATCH

Veterans - Sounding Off Since 1931



CATHAY DISPATCH WINS BEST NEWSPAPER AWARD

Important Dates:

- Sep 1—Labor Day
- Sep 11—Patriot Day
- Sep 13—Post General Meeting
- Sep 21—International Day of Peace
- Sep 30—Maj. Kurt Lee's services at Arlington National Cemetery

It's official! Cathay Dispatch *is the BEST* national American Legion newspaper! **And**, Cathay Post also has a national award winning Facebook page to boot! Congratulations to the Dispatch staff [including Clara Pon, Roger Dong, John Li, Thanh Huynh, Chris Kieliger and Michael Louie for their tremendous team effort], contributing writers [including the Commanders and Vice-Commanders], and the many, many other members and friends who have supported the Dispatch this past year. And, let's not forget the Post Facebook page and administrator John Li and those who contributed to its success.

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It's Unprecedented: 2 Wins at National By Clara Pon

“Nice layout. Great utilization of space. Concise. Imaginative. Great layout. Great deal of time invested here.” These were the comments given by the highly educated and experienced judges from the field of Journalism and Communications regarding the three issues of the Cathay Dispatch that were submitted to the National American Legion Press Association's (NALPA) 2014 Media Awards Contest. Winning in our Post's first national competition is astonishing and unbelievable considering the

transformation the newsletter had undergone such a short time ago. It really does seem like it was only a few months ago that I took on the challenge of redesigning the September 2013 issue of the then named Cathay Chronicle that included stories from the 95th National Convention of the American



Receiving First Place Award for Dispatch. L-R: R.Dong; C. Pon; M. Duggan; N. Lum.

Legion. Here we are, a year later on August 25, 2014 at the 96th National Convention of the American
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The American Legion 96th Annual Convention in Charlotte, North Carolina

By Roger Dong

The 96th American Legion Annual Convention was held at the Charlotte Convention Center in Charlotte, NC. Charlotte is knee deep in history; the city was named after the German-born Queen Charlotte, the wife of King George III. Many of the older buildings in the city have the shape of a crown, honoring the Queen.



Statue of Queen Charlotte. Photo by R. Dong

During six days of convention, the hot weather cooled from the highs of 95 degrees on day 1 to a bearable 85 degrees with a gentle breeze the rest of the week. The milder temperatures made the annual Sunday American Legion parade a truly pleasant experience for all participants.

One major benefit for the attending Legionnaires is the presence of the Emblem sales store where they can stock up on Legion gear and meet exhibitors including representatives of American Legion offices, departments and charities. Attendees learned that it is possible for some charitable activities

and projects to be included under the auspices of American Legion Charities to benefit from its 501(c)(3) status. [District 8 may be able to put our District's Veterans Success Center among the projects of American Legion charities].

The Legacy of National Commander Dellinger

The one-year term for National Commander Daniel M. Dellinger was very notable. The revelation of the corruption and ineptitude of the Veterans Administration was disclosed and Commander Dellinger acted decisively by testifying in

Congress calling for the resignations of the VA Secretary, Under Secretary of Health and Under Secretary of Benefits who are accountable for the VA's failure to properly provide timely medical services to our veterans.

Commander Dellinger also fought successfully to stop legislation reducing future cost of living allowances for veterans and he muted suggestions to reduce commissary privileges. When sequestration was implemented, the American Legion, led by our National Commander, exerted its influence to modify

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"...Commander Dellinger acted decisively by testifying in Congress calling for the resignations of the VA Secretary..."



COMMANDER JAY PON

Commander's Mission Statement: American Legion Cathay Post No. 384 supports veterans, youth programs, and the local community. Congress chartered The American Legion in 1919 as a national veterans non-profit charity. Chartered in 1931, Cathay Post serves San Francisco and the surrounding areas. As commander, my focus will be: (1) preserving the rights of veterans and patriotic organizations in the War Memorial Veterans Building; (2) increasing external Post events for members; (3) preserving our Post history, culture, and traditions; (4) supporting youth and educational programs; and (5) increasing the community's use of our Post headquarters.

Commander's Intent: I want to build esprit de corps within our Post by holding events that our members are proud of and find enjoyable and that support my mission statement. Some events will be rigorous and others will challenge you intellectually. If you want to take charge, be mentored or help out, please let me know and I'll find a good fit for you.

I want to thank the members who attended the August general meeting. We covered a lot of topics, had plenty of discussions, and voted on at least 15 different motions. It was a long meeting and I appreciate your hard work and patience in making our Post a better place. Looking outside of Post 384, our number one mission is preserving the rights of veterans and patriotic organizations in the War Memorial Veterans Building. The negotiations between the American Legion War Memorial Commission (ALWMC) and the City of San Francisco are still at an impasse. The law firm of DLA Piper has been retained by the ALWMC to represent the veterans. DLA Piper is currently reviewing over 100,000 pages of documents relating to the War Memorial Veterans Building. Our Post hopes that the War Memorial Veterans Building will be used by veterans and support organizations to foster comradeship, assistance and support for all those who have served, and those will serve.

All the best from the Pon Family. Jay Pon



Jay Pon

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Cathay Post Member
since: 2001

Branch: Navy, Army

Final Rank: Major

*"I want to
build esprit de
corps within
our Post..."*

Cathay Post 384 at AT&T By Jay Pon and Travis Groft

The sun was out and the Giants won. Third-Vice Commander Laura Renner and Adjutant Travis Groft helped organize Ca-

thay Post's first Post sponsored baseball game.

Post members had a "great bird's eye view" from section 308 as

the Giants beat the Phillies 5- 2 on August 17, said Travis Groft. "Fun was had by all," according to Commander Pon.





Nelson Lum

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Cathay Post Member
since: 2005

Branch: Army

Final Rank: SPC

“It is funny how I ended up with the perks of being able to use this Executive Lounge.”



1st VICE COMMANDER NELSON LUM

September 2014. Yes, it is official that three quarters of 2014 is already gone. The kids are either getting ready for school or have already started and those of you who are parents are in for a very busy month.

I am writing this message while sitting in an “Executive Lounge” of the Hilton Hotel in Charlotte, North Carolina. It is Sunday, August 24, and I am here as the Eighth District Council delegate, and again as Cathay Post No. 384’s representative to the 96th American Legion National Convention. It is funny how I ended up with the perks of being able to use this Executive Lounge.

When I departed from SFO on Friday, August 22, my flight took me to Houston, Texas. It was an uneventful flight and when I checked the departure time at the Houston Airport, it indicated my flight to Charlotte was on-time. I boarded the plane but it sat there still attached to the gangway as the clock ticked past the scheduled departure time. About 15

minutes after the scheduled departure time, the Captain announced the plane was having some mechanical problems and they were trying to get it fixed. Two hours later, after deplaning and re-boarding onto another plane, the new aircraft was finally headed to Charlotte. By the time I got into the hotel, it was about 2:30 am local time. The desk clerk was very pleasant even though it was obvious that I had interrupted his nap. He checked his computer and found that all the rooms were booked. He apologized and offered me a room up on the “Executive” floor which included free breakfast, hors d’oeuvres, and the privilege of using the Executive Lounge where coffee and cookies are readily available. Comrade Roger Dong followed me into the lounge so he could participate in the perks, too. I should charge him for the “executive” privilege.

One thing about being in a city where the Legion is holding its convention, no matter where you go, you see

signs expressing greetings to the American Legion family and just about all the restaurant waiters and waitresses wear American Legion pins on their uniforms. It is estimated that there are 10,000 visiting Legionnaires to this city. That is a big boost to the local economy. I have been told that San Francisco is not being considered as a host city due to the high cost of its hotels and associated convention facilities. That is certainly unfortunate since many of the Legionnaires that I have spoken with all expressed the desire to visit San Francisco.

The Convention is a buzz with the potential visit by President Obama who may address the Convention this coming Tuesday. I noticed some advance government personnel (i.e. Secret Service) roaming around the convention site. That is a sure sign that the President will most likely be coming. Politicians attend our convention knowing we are the largest veteran organization

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2nd VICE COMMANDER GALIN LUK

We won! We did it! No, I'm not talking about the National American Legion Press Association recognizing our newspaper as the BEST American Legion newspaper. I'm talking about the Upper Deckers softball team. After many crushing, blow-out defeats, we finally won! Why write about one victory? Because the Upper Deckers have a lot to teach us about leadership, teamwork, perseverance and the "never give up attitude" necessary for success.

Who are the Upper Deckers? We're a softball team made up of dads from my kids' elementary school. As a group, we have enough athletic talent to give it the "ol college try." Well, actually "had," as in past tense. But, hey why let a verb tense get in the way of a great story? Collectively, we're generally on the wrong side of the "buying a convertible mid-life crisis." The Upper Deckers' inaugural season was spring 2014. While I wasn't part of the team, the scuttlebutt was that the team didn't just lose every game, it got crushed.



The winning team! Bottom L-R: D. Bray; R. Larson; P. Muchowski; Y. Mui; Middle: D. Trinh; O. Hack; G. Lee; A. Hoey; G. Luk; Top: P. Chew; S. Whalen.

Eight games, eight losses, total run differential of 177. Think about that. The Upper Deckers lost each game by an average of over 22 runs. In football terms, that's Kapernick, Gore and Crabtree crossing into the end zone [along with two extra points and a two point conversion]. In softball terms, well, that's 22 runners wearing out their spikes running from home to, umm, home.

I decided to join the Upper Deckers for the summer season. We were optimistic because we were playing in a lower-level league [actually, the lowest] and the team had one season under its belt. Although I didn't live

through any part of the spring season, by the first inning of the first game of the summer season, it seemed like "groundhog day." We were getting crushed. Things didn't improve in game 2. The combined score for the first two games: 60-1. That's right, while there was no way we could lose by even more runs per game, we did. We somehow made the "impossible" look easy.

But here's the thing; while losing by a 30 run [or point] differential in each of the first two games is bad in any sport, *especially softball*, not one teammate gave up. Indeed, after the first game, while there was this

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Galín Luk

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Cathay Post Member since: 2009

Branch: Marine Corps

Final Rank: Captain

"...Upper Deckers have a lot to teach us about leadership, teamwork, perseverance and the 'never give up attitude'..."





Laura Renner

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Cathay Post Member
since: 2013

Branch: Air Force

Final Rank: Captain

“It made me further understand that when you put something out to the world, it comes back to you.”



3rd VICE COMMANDER LAURA RENNER

Listen to that higher calling.

On July 27th, I ran the first half of the San Francisco Marathon on behalf of an organization called Warriors Live On. The Executive Director is someone I played rugby with at the Air Force Academy. In all honesty, I only did it because she asked me to, not because I felt a calling to support her organization. I hadn't seen her since I graduated from the Academy and it was good to catch up. Warriors Live On ["WLO"] focuses on mind-body-wellness for those suffering from Post Traumatic Stress. Many organizations that provide PTS support only focus on one area while WLO takes a whole body approach. As I listened to her tell her story and why she founded WLO, I realized how 9/11 dramatically changed our lives. You see, Eva and I started at the Academy before 9/11. We entered into the military after decades of relative peace. I have no idea what Eva's aspirations were when she came to the Academy, but I'm relatively certain it was not to address PTS. After

we parted ways that day, I realized I was very grateful and proud to have run for a purpose.

A couple of weeks later, I hosted a Lunch-n-Learn at the Oakland Chamber of Commerce where the speaker talked about volunteering to build your resume. I expected her topic to focus on the utility of volunteerism, because after all, that has usually been the only reason I have volunteered for something. During the presentation, Teri did speak about how to effectively include volunteering on your resume and use volunteering to build your resume. But she did more than that too. She talked about how volunteering feeds your soul and how you get more fulfillment in your life through volunteering with your passions. Basically, she was saying volunteering can be more than passing out food for a day. You can volunteer in line with your passions. When you do that, you get rewards beyond a bullet point on your resume.

These two events and

reflections have been sitting on my subconscious mind these past few weeks. This week, I met with Eddie Ramirez, the District Commander, about a non-profit for veterans he is starting. We started brainstorming and the ideas just kept flowing. The very next day, I was at a breakfast with a group of health and wellness professionals. I don't know what came over me but I decided to mention Warriors Live On and thanked them for what they do. Afterward, a career coach who used to work at Veterans Affairs approached me. We started talking and eventually, I talked to her about Eddie's non-profit. It made me further understand that when you put something out to the world, it comes back to you. Not only are people interested in Warriors Live On and Eddie's non-profit, but they are also willing to help.

Many of you at Cathay Post are actively involved and giving back. Roger Dong founded the Veterans Success Center; Nelson Lum is the Command-

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The American Legion 96th Annual Convention in Charlotte, North Carolina, Continued By Roger Dong

(Continued from page 2)

irresponsible military budget reductions.

Yes, it was a very busy year for Commander Daniel M. Dellinger, but his strong efforts on behalf of the military and veterans, leaves an extraordinary record and legacy.

President Barack Obama flies in Air Force One to meet the American Legion.

President Obama flew down to the Charlotte Convention Center on August 25th to speak at the 96th American Legion National Convention. The President stated that he was working on regaining the trust of veterans by making major changes to improve the healthcare provided to veterans by the Veterans Administration. Obama strongly declared that it was "outrageous" and "unacceptable" for veterans to have long waiting times for medical treatment, and for the VA staff to "cook the books" falsely showing shorter waiting time for medical

care. The FBI is investigating ninety three VA facilities for fraudulent records and for bonuses that may have been paid to staff for their high performance ratings.

President Obama said VA services for Post-traumatic Stress Disorder and Traumatic Brain Injuries would receive greater attention and funding, and a top priority is to increase awareness and training to prevent suicides. He also said homeless veterans would continue to get federal support. The President then vowed "We are going to get to the bottom of these problems. We're going to fix what is wrong. We are going to do right by you and we are going to do right by your families, and that is a solemn pledge and commitment that I'm making to you here."

President Obama pledged to take care of the next generation of veterans returning from Afghanistan and Iraq. He also stated that US combat troops would not return to fight in Iraq.

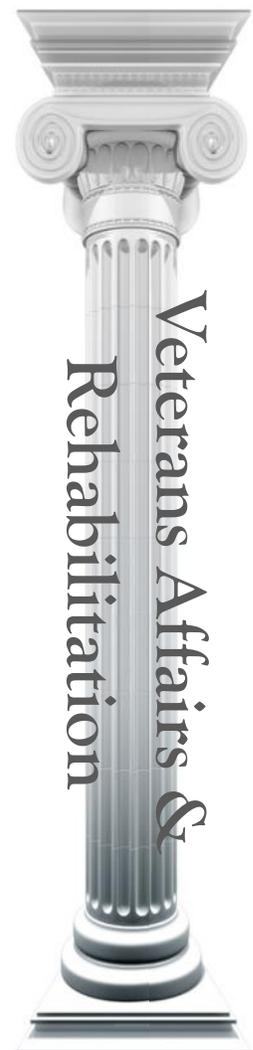
President Obama's pledges to increase support for veterans and their earned benefits were sweet music to the ears of many of Legionnaires who hope that his words will be translated into positive action.

The President also presented the new VA Secretary Robert McDonald. Following the President's comments and pledges to support veterans, the White House announced that there will be improved home-buying terms and conditions for veterans. Lending institutions, including Wells Fargo, CitiMortgage, and Bank of America have agreed to simplify lending procedures and provide lower interest rates for veterans seeking home loans.

Honoring our youth

One of primary pillars of the American Legion is the strong and undoubting support for youth. The Convention honored the National oratory con-

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2nd Vice, Continued

(Continued from page 5)

foreboding sense of “deja-vu,” *there was also nothing but optimism, mixed in with a healthy dose of spit, fire and motivation* [and some, ahem, swear words]. We were going to get this ship righted [at least I think I heard my teammates say “ship” and not the other “sh” word].

We were playing against much more experienced softball players half our age, who were twice as fast and many times more athletic. And, yet there was still optimism. The third game, however, proved to have a much different outcome. We left the field as winners!

Why and how did this possibly happen? First, the team believed in a chain of command. For each and every game, we had a manager [who was also a player] who set the lineup, assigned positions and served as the *leader*. The manager made decisions based on what he felt was best for the team and the players respected the decisions. Our pitcher and

shortstop Oliver Hack said it best: being the team manager is “managing the unmanageable.” The subtle message: decisions must be based on what’s good for the team, not the player.

The players? Well, each and every one of us worked together as a team. We took our limited skills [and our strained muscles] and played whatever position we were asked to play and hit in whatever order we were told to hit. That position or the batting order may not have been our “best natural,” but we sacrificed, knowing we were doing what was best for the team. Not once did I hear anyone complain or whine.

Overlay all of these managerial moves over the disastrous first two games, and you can only begin to appreciate how much everyone still bought into the team concept.

Selflessness? It was there, in spades. Every player ran hard, played through injuries, took grounders in the shin, pulled muscles, slid, dove, rolled and crawled to get that out, hit or run.

Not once did I hear

any teammate berate another for dropping a ball, or failing to make the cut-off, or for lacking any relevant “softball skills.” This didn’t mean that things “slid” through. As teammates, we helped each other, but did it constructively, in an environment that fostered camaraderie.

Another critical factor? I didn’t see one teammate quit. Any one of us could have walked off that field after the first inning of that first game or after the last inning of the second game. Quitting wasn’t in anyone’s DNA. Each and every teammate worked through what any reasonable person would consider to be humiliating defeats and “soldiered” on.

The final score of our third game? 23-18. But, even that score doesn’t tell the whole story. With nine minutes to play [yes, the SF Softball League limits the games to 1 hour], we were down 18-13. Somehow, asking the Upper Deckers to muster up at least 6 runs [in nine minutes] and to preserve that lead [we were the

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It's Unprecedented: 2 Wins at National, Continued By Clara Pon

(Continued from page 1)

Legion's NALPA awards luncheon in Charlotte, North Carolina, as Nelson Lum, Roger Dong, and I accepted the 1st place award plaque in the "Jack R.C. Cann" category for all Posts with under 200 members. Wow! Our little nondescript newsletter is now an award winning national publication.

Many faithful Cathay Dispatch readers from Los Angeles to New York came up to Roger, Nelson, and me to congratulate us on our win during the convention. I am amazed and a bit shocked that we have so many admirers and fans of our newsletter who aren't our own Post members. So many came up to tell me that they look forward to receiving each month's newsletter or that they read it from beginning to end. Let me just say, if you aren't familiar with our newsletters, past or current, reading it from cover to cover can take some time. The average page count for the past year is around 28-30 pages every month. And yes, our Post is that active and we do have that much to report.

Also a surprise to all of us at Cathay Post No. 384 was that our Facebook page, "Cathay Post #384 took" won 3rd place. Another wow! The judge thought it was a "Colorful page with lots of post activities. I'm inspired to visit this post." NALPA Executive Director Mike Duggan mentioned to Nelson, "No single post has won in two different categories. It's unprecedented!" Hopefully we will have our

website redesigned so we can try to submit entries in all four categories for next year's competition! The awards luncheon started off with lunch, then proceeded with NALPA President Pat Rourk going over administrative business rather than getting to the most exciting part of the luncheon: the awards portion.

It's a good thing he went over the administrative stuff because it gave all 80 of us an understanding of the criteria the judges used and the maximum number of points (300) allowed for each submission. Only the winning submissions were displayed for everyone to see, while the other submissions were stored in three big bags with no means to lay them all out. At the conclusion of the luncheon, the new 2014-2015 NALPA president was named. Congratulations to Mike W. Moses from Florence Boone Post 4, in Florence, Kentucky. His experience as the current District Public Relations officer, past Post Commander, and his outstanding writing skills, as was evident in his sweep of the William E. Rominger Award in editorial category 6-A Original Efforts of Editor, will certainly aide him in his new position.

Congratulations to our own Department of California editor David Eby, our friends at Palisades Post 283, Newport Harbor Post 291, Department of Michigan editor Mark Sutton, and all the 2013-2014 NALPA Media Award winners. Until next year...happy writing.





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LRD614

VSC And EDD Team Up for our Unemployed Veterans

By Susan

Curtis & Roger S. Dong

California's Employment Development Department (EDD) is sharing work space at 801 Turk Street (San Francisco) with American Legion District 8 Council's **Veterans Success Center.**

Local **AmVets** and **VFW** posts will be helping VSC serve veterans (and spouses) with job opportunities and the broad services of EDD. VSC and EDD will be ready to serve the estimated 100,000 veterans who will be returning to California next year from active duty in Afghanistan and the Middle East.

EDD offers veterans a vast array of services including claims processing, job training, workshops, job fairs and CALJOBS, an online resource that links job seekers and employers, facilitating the job search process for the job seeker and employer.

VSC provides resume services and interview opportunities with dozens of local and national employers. VSC Deputy Director Helen Wong also provides essential services, including interview attire and BART tickets for eligible veterans.

The joint EDD/VSC facility is open from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays. On Mondays and Wednesdays, the VSC is open at the Salvation Army Harbor House Recovery Center at 407 - 9th Street from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.

Veterans visiting the center for the first time must bring proof of military service (DD214). EDD requires proof of citizenship to receive EDD support services.

Please check in our website (www.sfvsc.org) for the latest hours for all our operations centers.

Third Vice, Continued

(Continued from page 6)

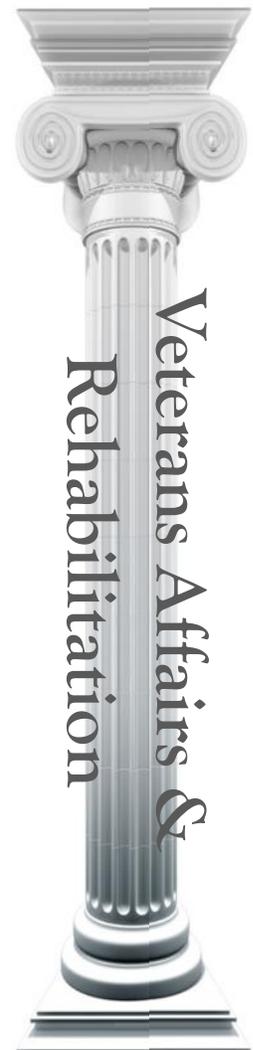
er of the War Memorial Commission; Travis Groft invited us to an event for a non-profit he is involved with. If you aren't involved in something beyond yourself and your work or school, consider getting started. Being a member of Cathay Post shouldn't be just about our events and

activities. Get involved, volunteer and give back in any way and to any organization that attracts your attention.

Even if it's because it's a block you're supposed to check off or a bullet point on your resume, do it. I'm confident you'll eventually find that higher calling.

On another note, we continue to plan for external activities. Please fill out this survey to indicate events you'd like to see Cathay Post put together:

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





1st Vice, Continued

(Continued from page 4)

and their political survival may depend on how they are viewed by us veterans. This reminds me of the times I have been asked by younger veterans why he/she should join the Legion, and I responded by telling him/her how the Legion can influence legislations that benefit us. However, that will only hold true if the Legion can continue to recruit new members. As our numbers dwindle, and if we are not successful in replacing those Legionnaires who have transferred to Post Everlasting, we will be looked upon by the politicians as irrelevant and thus, legislations that benefit us will cease to be introduced or passed. The Convention will start in earnest

Monday morning. I am thankful that you have chosen to have me as your delegate and representative. I will do my due diligence as your ambassador of good will and to represent the District and our Post on issues of interest and importance. I will report back to you at our next monthly meeting on issues that may be of interest to you and/or the District. As it is the tradition of the Legion, a grand parade will take place later this afternoon. I am hoping the weather will cooperate since it looks like rain is in the forecast.

I just heard that an earthquake struck the Napa area. I hope you are all safe and incurred no damage. I look forward to seeing all of you at our next monthly meeting.

2nd Vice, Continued

(Continued from page 8)

“away” team] seemed quite the impossible task. Well, we managed to score ten runs. And, in a game where runs come easier than points in a pinball machine, we managed to keep the other team from scoring another run even though they loaded the bases with no outs in the final inning!

Yes, we can learn a lot from one softball team; even one that got whipped for 10 straight weeks over two seasons before winning its first game. Some have suggested we make our lives easier by picking up ringers and prima donnas. We don’t need ‘em. I’d rather play with a bunch of broken-down -past-their-prime “athletes” who don’t

know how to quit, but who buy into the team concept. You don’t learn much about yourself and your teammates when the “W’s” come easy.

The best measure of a person's character is their objectivity and the willingness to work as a team when he or she is down for the count.

Membership Renewal By Nelson Lum

It is membership renewal time again. Please be ready to renew your annual membership when you attend our next meeting. Just a quick note about the annual membership fees: of the \$40 that our Post collects, \$28.50 goes to The American Legion and Department of California, \$1 goes to the District; \$10.50 goes to our Post.

The American Legion 96th Annual Convention in Charlotte, North Carolina, Continued By Roger Dong

(Continued from page 7)

test winner, Eagle Scout of the Year, Baseball Player of the Year, Boys Nation President, and two Shoot Sporting Champions.

Five Service Members were honored with Spirit of Service Award at this 96th Convention.

The Legion awarded the Spirit of Service Awards for exceptional community volunteer work to Army Specialist Cassandra Rousayne, Navy Petty Officer Second Class Porfirio Pimentel, Marine Corporal Ricardo Gonzalez, U.S. Coast Guard Operation Specialist Third Class Kristina Manson and Air Force Staff Sergeant Jessica Day.

We met with Spirit of Service honoree USMC Corporal Ricardo Gonzalez. He is now an American Le-

gion member who is seeking to join an exceptional American Legion Post.

He will be visiting San Francisco in September and accepted the author's invitation to join Cathay Post No. 384 on September 12 during the monthly Post meeting. Corporal Gonzalez is still on active duty and serving in Guam. Cathay Post would be honored to welcome a new American Legion member at our Post.

[Reporter's note: this is the end of part 1 of the 96th American Legion Annual Convention report. Look for part 2 next month as we visit Charlotte with Nelson, Clara and Roger. You'll see many photos of the good times we had in Charlotte, the big Parade, and many other surprises.]



Cathay Post No. 384 BART Field Trip by David Wong

Cathay Post No. 384 will be participating in BART's free senior citizen field trip on Friday, September 26, 2014 at 10:00 a.m. BART will provide a complimentary round trip ride to qualifying riders [the trip will begin at the San Francisco Powell Street station and go to the San Francisco International Airport station before returning to the Powell Street station]. BART will provide lunch, along with a travel tote bag with BART guides and other helpful information.

Seating is limited to only 20 guests; you must RSVP by emailing David

Wong at dwong900@yahoo.com by 3 p.m. on September 15, 2014 [David will have to confirm your seat; if you are confirmed, David will provide you with additional instructions]. Priority will be given to veteran and support members and friends of the Post. Eligible members from the VFW 91st Division/Chinatown Post 4618 will be joining Cathay Post on the field trip.

Participants who have Senior Clipper Cards should bring it to the trip. If you do not have a Clipper Card, please let David know.

Not Just A Convention By Nelson Lum

The Convention is very impressive and I am very aware of the enormity of the tasks involved and the tremendous logistical support that was required to sustain such endeavor. As your representative to this event, I devoted my time here to be your ambassador of good will. Aside from being your delegate and casting votes on your behalf, I spent many hours interacting with legionnaires from across the country. I want to get off the main path in order to illustrate to you the hidden aspects of the convention that were not readily transparent. Specifically, what went on behind the scene of the National Convention and how some of these transactions may benefit us in the future.

During the National American Legion Press Association (NALPA) luncheon, Roger, Clara, and I met a group of legionnaires from Palisades Post 283, CA. Commander Scott Wagenseller, a reserve Navy Officer, has a great amount of interest as a publisher. He is surrounded by very talented people, like Adjutant Scott Erickson and Historian/

Photographer Jared Morgan. They publish a monthly newspaper that has a circulation of 13,000. (By the way, their newspaper won 1st place in their category.) They made me very jealous when I learned they have a paid staff to work on their newspaper. I detected their sincerity when they told us how impressed they were of our Dispatch after they carefully examined the entire layout of our publication. Commander Wagenseller told us he will try to attend the dedication of the Veterans Monument in San Francisco in October. He is looking forward to meeting the rest of our team and to visit our Post.

We met the Department of Michigan, Director of Public Relations Mark Sutton. He was impressed with the Dispatch and enjoyed the lively and thought provoking conversations at the table. He seemed keenly interested in hearing more about our former Managing Editor and Creative Director Clara Pon's other valuable skills. In addition to Mark Sutton's interest, she actually received quite

a few inquiries for her assistance from others in various parts of the country.

At the conclusion of the NALPA luncheon, Mike W. Moses from Kentucky was introduced as the President of NALPA for the years of 2014 and 2015. We exchanged ideas and got to know his vision of which direction he will lead the association.

3rd Vice Commander/Honor Rifle Squad Ken George of Newport Harbor Post 291 told me he is willing to lend some coaching tips to our Color Drill Team. I first met him at the Color Drill Team competition at the American Legion Department of California Convention in Santa Clara.

Department of California, Parliamentarian Wayne Yee was there with his lovely wife Rachel. They both encouraged members of our Post to be more involved by running for official positions at the District and Department levels. Where would a trip to the convention be if

(Continued on page 16)

"...I am very aware of the enormity of the tasks involved and the tremendous logistical support that was required to sustain such endeavor."



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 group 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: _____

Not Just a Convention By Nelson Lum

(Continued from page 14)

we, Roger, Clara, and I did not meet up with the wonderful folks from New York's Lt. Kimlau Chinese Memorial Post 1291? We met with Commander Mark Eng, Past Commander Mimi Wang, Adjutant Gabe Mui, and of course, our Past National Commander Fang Wong, and his wife the Past First Lady Barbara Wong. We were treated to a nice dinner by them and exchanged ideas about how we can serve our

veterans better. We along with our Post members are invited to attend their 70th anniversary celebration next year.

These were just a small sample of some of the behind the scene activities and encounters we experienced while at the convention. The reputation and the good work of our Post is beginning to spread across our country. Comrade Roger Dong was interviewed by local Charlotte TV station, Time Warner Ca-

ble News during the parade and he spoke eloquently of the need to employ veterans. As you can see, the real benefits to attending the convention is how you interact with others. The exchange of ideas is vital to our future success and the betterment of our Post. If elected as the representative again, I look forward to attending next year's national convention in Baltimore, Maryland.





USS AMERICA Commissioning



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](#)

Lieutenant Colonel John Stevens

On 1 May 1962, Lieutenant Colonel John R. Stevens retired from the Marine Corps after nearly 23 years of service to the Corps.

John Stevens was born on April 22, 1921 in Butte, Montana. He enlisted in the Marine Corps in 1939. After completing boot training at the Recruit Depot in San Diego, and attending Field Telephone School at the Signal Detachment, San Diego, he was assigned to the 1st Defense Battalion. The 1st Defense Battalion was moved to Pearl Harbor in February 1941 aboard the USS Enterprise. Detachments of the 1st Defense Battalion were sent to Wake Island, Palmyra Island and Johnson Island. Late in 1941, Lt. Col. Stevens, then Sergeant Stevens, was among a group from the 1st Defense Battalion who were sent to Midway on a relief mission, returning shortly before the attack on Pearl Harbor on 7 December 1941. Shortly after Pearl Harbor, the remnants of the 1st Defense Battalion who were still at Pearl Harbor were moved to Palmyra Island. Lt. Col. Stevens was field commissioned a second lieutenant,



The Three Marines: Lt.Col. John Stevens with the late Major Kurt Lee and Captain Gerry Parker

from Master Technical Sergeant, in August 1942, on Palmyra. Subsequent to that, he was sent back to Midway to act as the communications officer for Sand Island.

Then Lieutenant Stevens returned to the U.S. in July 1943. After a short tour as a coding officer for General H.M.

Smith., at Camp Elliot, he was assigned to Fort Monmouth, New Jersey for further training. This was followed by a number of other training assignments before being assigned to the 1st Marine Division in 1944 as executive officer of the 1st Signal Company, on Pavuvu Island, Russell

(Continued on page 26)



VA Secretary Robert McDonald By Jay Pon

[Note by Jay Pon: On July 30th, 2014, Robert McDonald became the Secretary of Veterans Affairs. Secretary McDonald is a West Point graduate who served in the Army for 5 years. He retired as Chairman, President and CEO of Procter & Gamble. American Legion Cathay" Post No. 384 wishes Secretary McDonald all the best as he serves our veterans. I delivered the following letter to Secretary McDonald.]

Dear Secretary of Veterans Affairs Robert A. McDonald,

My name is Jay Pon. I am a United States Navy and Army veteran and Commander of American Legion Cathay Post No. 384, headquartered in San Francisco, California. On behalf of our Post, I congratulate you on your selection and confirmation as the United States Secretary of Veterans Affairs and I wish you the best as you lead Veteran Affairs.

I will be accompanied by two members of Cathay Post No. 384 as we say farewell to Korean War hero and honorary Cathay Post and Legion of Valor member, Major Kurt Chew-Een Lee (U.S.M.C.) at Arlington National Cemetery on September 30, 2014. We would be honored if we could visit with you on the 29th of September or the 1st of October to speak with you about our historic Post and veterans' issues.

Established in 1931, Cathay Post is very active in the San Francisco veterans and charitable communities. Among its regular charitable contributions, Cathay Post awards scholarships to ROTC and JROTC cadets, recognizes and honors heroic local police officers and firefighters and community volunteers, visits veterans at the local V.A. care facility, hosts Marines and sailors during Fleet Week, provides free citizenship classes and supports Hepatitis B awareness programs.

Our Post is also active on many other fronts. We regularly send our award winning Color Guard to parades and ceremonies and we send our Honor Guard to services at the request of family members of our departed comrades. Our Post's newsletter, the "Dispatch," has won several state American Legion press awards and recently the National American Legion Press Association recognized the Dispatch as the best American Legion newspaper [for Posts with 200 members or less].

Currently, one of Cathay Post's primary missions is preserving the rights of veterans to utilize the San Francisco War Memorial Veterans Building, which was built in 1932. A group of private citizens, many of whom were veterans, raised over \$2,000,000.00 to build the Veterans Building and

(Continued on page 19)



VA Secretary Robert McDonald By Jay Pon

(Continued from page 18)

the adjoining Opera Building. The historic veterans building was the birth place of the United Nations when then President Harry Truman and other heads of state signed its charter in 1945.

Unfortunately, we are currently at an impasse with the building trustees who are appointed by the city's mayor over the interpretation of the Trust Agreement governing the operation of the building. The trustee's very narrow interpretation of the Trust Agreement deprives our veterans the opportunity to utilize or take advantage of many veteran services.

Whether or not we are able to meet while we are in the Washington D.C. area, our Post would be honored if you visited our membership at our headquarters in San Francisco. In the past, Secretary Principi, who served as the keynote speaker during our Post's 2004 annual gala dinner, and Secretary Shinseki visited our Post.

On behalf of Cathay Post No. 384, I send you the best and thank you again for serving our country and veterans. We look forward to meeting with you soon.

Very respectfully,

Jay Pon
Commander, Cathay Post No. 384
1524 Powell St.
San Francisco, CA 94133
Email: jpon@jps.net
Phone: 415-409-8858

2014 Cathay Dispatch Ad Rates

The annual advertisement rates are for 12 monthly issues.

Space size and rates:

¼ page (B&W/Color) - \$50

½ page (B&W/Color) - \$100

Full page (B&W/Color) - \$200

Contact a Post commander or Cathay Dispatch staff member to place your ad in the award winning *Cathay Dispatch*.





Photo courtesy of
David Lim

Chinese American Hero of the Month

DAVID WAYMOND LIM

Name in English: David Waymond Lim

Name in Chinese: 林维敏 [林維敏]

Name in Pinyin: Lín Wéimǐn

Gender: Male

Birth Year: 1956

Birth Place: Chinatown, New York City

Profession: Police lieutenant (retired), Port Authority of New York and New Jersey.

Education: Queensborough Community College; Farmingdale University.

Awards: 2002, Justice in Action Award, Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund (AALDEF); 2002, Special Recognition Award, Committee of 100.

David Lim is the son of immigrants from Toishan, China. He grew up in the New York City borough of Queens, where his parents owned a restaurant in the Far Rockaway neighborhood. David decided to pursue a law-enforcement career after meeting many of the restaurant's customers who were police officers. In February of 1980, David was hired as a police officer for the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey. He was only the second Asian-American to become a Port Authority police officer.

Officer Lim's first assignment was at the World Trade Center, which is owned by and under the jurisdiction of the Port Authority. On July 17, 1996, when all 230 passengers and crew of TWA flight 800 died in the crash that was initially suspected as a terrorist attack, Officer Lim decided to apply for the department's K-9 Unit and specialize in explosives detection. After being selected and trained, Officer Lim and his K-9 partner Lena, a yellow Labrador retriever, were assigned to New York City's three major airports.

In March of 2000, Officer Lim and Lena were transferred to the World Trade Center, where they were responsible for checking for improvised explosive devices in packages brought into the buildings or in vehicles entering the garages; and sweeping the buildings for IEDs prior to visits by dignitaries. Lena retired that year to enjoy the rest of her life as the Lim family pet. Officer Lim started with his new partner, Sirius, also a yellow Lab, on July 4, 2000.

(Continued on page 21)



David Waymond Lim, Continued

(Continued from page 20)

On September 11, 2001, Officer Lim and Sirius had just completed their morning rounds and were in a police room in the World Trade Center garage when Officer Lim felt the building shake. His first thought was that a bomb had been detonated. Officer Lim immediately rushed to help evacuate the North Tower, leaving Sirius in his kennel with the promise: "I'll be back for you."

Officer Lim radioed that he saw a body land on the outdoor plaza when several more bodies fell from the burning building. He was advised that help was needed on the upper floors. Officer Lim had ascended the stairs to the 44th floor when he saw the second plane crash into the South Tower. The blast and debris from the explosion shattered the windows and walls and knocked him down, along with everyone else around him. Officer Lim got up and, from the 44th floor, worked his way down utilizing his training in structural firefighting and rescue to lead and assist hundreds to safety.

Officer Lim was in the stairwell of the 4th floor, where he and a firefighter were assisting a disabled woman, when the North Tower collapsed on top of them. Miraculously, five hours later, Officer Lim, 12 firefighters, and the woman he was rescuing were among the last survivors to find their way out from the ruins of the collapsed buildings. Officer Lim suffered only minor injuries.

Sadly, it was not until the winter of 2002 that Sirius, still in his kennel, was excavated from the ruins. Sirius was the only police dog killed in the 9/11 attacks. His remains were given salutes and full honors by the police, fire, and recovery personnel as his flag-draped body bag was removed from the site.

As a result of his heroism and valor on 9/11, Officer Lim was honored by Governor George Pataki when he joined other police and fire personnel to start the trading day when the New York Stock Exchange reopened the week after 9/11. When asked about his heroic actions, Officer Lim's response was: "I would have expected that, given the same circumstances, any cop would have done what I did."

On January 31, 2001, the Asian Jade Society of the Port Authority police filed a discrimination claim with the federal Equal Employment Opportunity Commission on behalf of 12 officers and detectives, including Lim. The claim included the fact that no Port Authority police officer of Asian descent had ever been promoted to sergeant. In 2003, the EEOC ruled that the plaintiffs had grounds for a discrimination lawsuit against the

(Continued on page 22)



David Waymond Lim, Continued

(Continued from page 21)

Port Authority.

Officer Lim was promoted to sergeant on May 6, 2005, less than a month after the Asian Jade Society filed a discrimination lawsuit against the Port Authority on behalf of Lim and the 11 other Asians who had sought and were denied promotion to sergeant. "The jury found that the Port Authority discriminated against seven of the plaintiffs, including Officer Lim, and awarded \$1.6 million in damages."

On July 25, 2008, Sergeant Lim was promoted to lieutenant. As a lieutenant, he was assigned as an executive officer and watch commander at LaGuardia Airport. Nearly six years later, on July 17, 2014, Lieutenant Lim retired after more than 34 years of service as a police officer.

Reflecting on his career, Lieutenant Lim said, "I believe that I am living proof that becoming a police officer offers opportunities to truly make a difference. I have always been proud of my decision to become a member of the force, and my family, friends, and many members of the Asian community from all over the world have expressed pride in my career choice."

Lieutenant Lim added that the best assignment he ever had was being a K-9 handler working alongside his partners Lena, Sirius, and Sprig. The gun belt and boots that David Lim wore on 9/11, along with one of Sirius' leashes and police badge, number 17, are on display in the 9/11 Memorial Museum.

External Links:

http://www.9-11commission.gov/hearings/hearing1/witness_lim.htm

<http://www.cnn.com/SPECIALS/2002/america.remembers/stories/heroes/lim.html>

http://www.asianconnections.com/community/david_lim/

http://www.geocities.com/nine_eleven_ark/davidlim.htm

<http://www.allbusiness.com/legal/legal-services-law-practice-major-us-firms/12269837-1.html>



Article courtesy from our Friends & Partners:

CHINESE AMERICAN HEROES
chineseamericanheroes.org

Contributing Reporter's Note to David Lim Feature by Gary Gee

In 1982, Nelson Lum and I were among the officers from our respective police departments to attend the first conference of the newly-formed National Asian Peace Officers' Association in New York City. The two things I recall most about the conference was the hospitality of our hosts and how few Asians there were on the NYPD and Transit, Housing, and Port Authority PDs.

On the day that the conference attendees went to the World Trade Center towers, we were met by two young Port Authority police officers, Christian Eng and David Lim. As we all got to

know each other, I remember how impressed and respectful many of our Asian-American peers from the East Coast were that I had been a sergeant for five years. Little did those of us from the West Coast realize the struggles that Chris, David, and other Asian officers, and not only those from the Port Authority PD, would face in their efforts to be promoted to sergeant or selected for choice assignments.

For David, it would be another 23 years of harassment and race discrimination before he and another officer would become the Port Authority PD's first ser-

geants of Asian descent. To reach that milestone, 12 Asian-American officers had to file an EEOC claim and lawsuit against the Authority. How sad that, in the 21st century, a police force of over 1,700 sworn personnel and based in New York City would have barely a dozen officers of Asian descent; and, until only nine years ago, none had reached the rank of sergeant.

I am proud to call David Lim and Chris Eng my friends and glad that both are in good health to enjoy their hard-earned and well-deserved retirements. – Gary Gee

The U.S. Army By the Numbers By Jay Pon

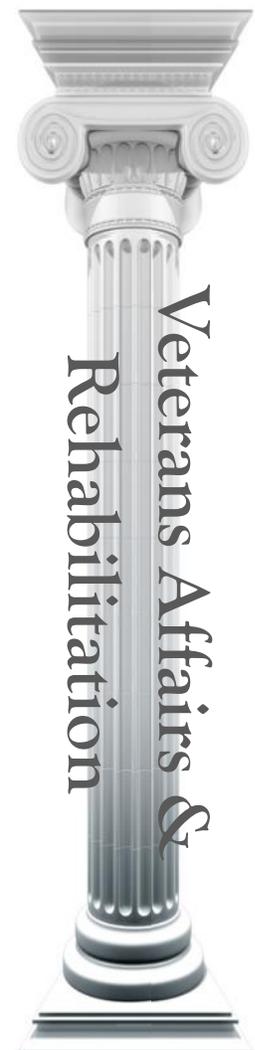
This month, I am beginning a 5 part series on our military forces. I am fascinated with the different branches that make up the strongest military in the world. The U.S. Army has approximately 1.1 million soldiers. Some interesting facts: 49% of soldiers are active duty; 80% are enlisted; 14% are female. Only 81,000 of the active duty force is part of combat arms [infantry, armor, artillery, cavalry, and air de-

fense artillery]. The other soldiers belong to support units playing the critical role of keeping the big green machine rolling.

The United States Army Reserve makes up 19% of the entire Army. The majority of Army Reserve Units are support units. All of the Army's training divisions and brigades are in the reserve. Ninety percent of the Psychological Operations and Civil Affairs

units and 25% of Special Forces Units are reservists.

The Army National Guard, which provides half of our country's combat forces, makes up the rest of the Army. Founded in 1636 by the Massachusetts Bay Colony, the Army National Guards can be used overseas by the President of the United States, as well as domestically by the state governors for natural disasters and civil unrest.



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Lieutenant Colonel John Stevens, Continued

(Continued from page 17)

Island group. While in this capacity, Lt. Col. Stevens, then Captain Stevens, participated in the assault and subsequent occupation of Okinawa.

From August 1945 until June 1946, Captain Stevens served as the communications officer of the 7th Marines during the occupation of North China, based at Peitaiho Beach, North China. He returned to the U.S. in June 1946. After a tour as the Communications Officer for the Marine Corps Recruit Depot in San Diego, then Captain Stevens was sent to a one year tour at the electronic engineering school in Great Lakes, after which Lt. Col. Stevens joined the 1st Marine Division at Camp Pendleton. He was assigned as the commanding officer, A Company, 1st Battalion, 5th Marines in 1949 and took that unit to Korea as part of the 1st Provisional Marine Brigade in July 1950. While in Korea he participated in the Pusan Perimeter campaign, the Inchon landing and capture of Seoul, the Wonsan Landing, and the Chosin Reservoir Campaign up

to the end of November 1950.

Returning to the United States, Lt. Col. Stevens was assigned to various tours, including Commanding Officer, Marine Barracks Naval Supply Center, Oakland; as assistant G3, Parris Island Recruit Training Depot, Senior Instructor Weapons Training Group Basic School, Quantico; Student Junior Amphibious Warfare School; and Commanding Officer Headquarters Battalion, Basic School. This was followed by a tour at the University of Maryland, where he received a BS Degree in Military Science.

Subsequent to that, Lt. Col. Stevens was assigned, under the cross training program, to the 2nd Marine Air Wing at Cherry Point, N.C., where he served in various general staff assignments for two years. Following that assignment, Lt. Col. Stevens joined the 1st Marine Brigade in Kaneohe, Hawaii in July 1959, as assistant G3.

From June 1960 to July 1961, he was Executive Officer of the 4th Marine Regiment, Rein-

forced and in July 1961 until retirement, was assigned as the Commanding Officer, 1st Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Brigade.

Following his retirement, he joined IBM where he served in various systems engineering and marketing management positions. He left IBM in 1969 to found a software consulting company specializing in the insurance industry. In 1980 that company entered into a joint venture with Quotron Systems and the Continental Corporation to market turnkey hardware/software computer systems to the independent insurance agency marketplace. He left the active management of that company (Insurnet) to co-found a new telecommunications management company in 1983. That company became public in 1987. Leaving the active management of that company in 1986, he founded an information management company, Stellar Net, where he served as the Chief Executive Officer until 2001.

John is married to Joanne (Jody) Stevens, formerly Jody Swartz.

(Continued on page 27)



Lieutenant Colonel John Stevens, Continued

(Continued from page 26)

He has four children; Carole Ann Clark in Great Falls Mt, Mitch in Benicia, Sherry Wilson in Belize and Steve in Walnut Creek. He has 7 grandchildren and 9 great grandchildren.

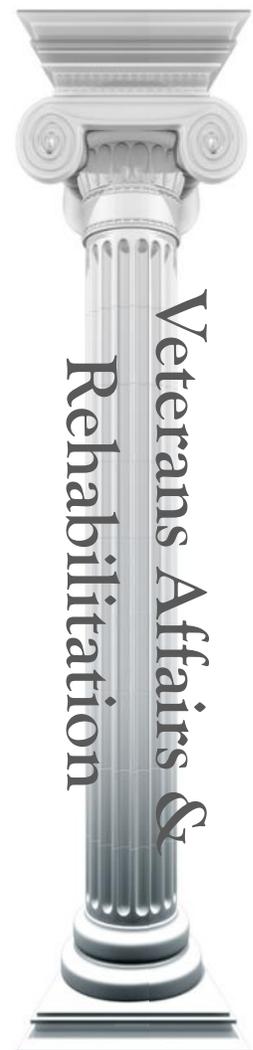
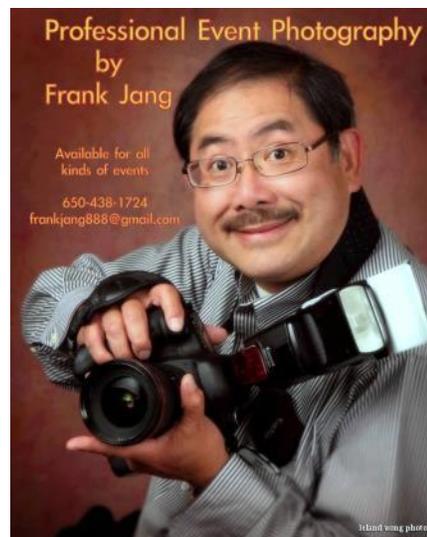
John Stevens' awards include the following: 2 Bronze Star Medals with Combat Vs; Combat Action Ribbon; Presidential Unit Citation with 2 Stars; Good Conduct Medal; China Service Medal; American Defense Medal; Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal/ 2 stars; American Campaign Medal; Victory Medal WWII; National Defense Service Medal; Korean Service Medal with 3 Stars; UN Service Medal; Korean PUC.

John Stevens' business

executive positions include: Chairman and Founder 1969-Current American Information Development, Inc.; Chairman 1971-1974 Life Equity Information, Inc.; President 1980-1983 Inurnet, Inc.; Vice Chairman 1983-1985 Inurnet, Inc.; Co-founder, Chairman, CEO and President 1983-1985 Centex Telemanagement, Inc.; Vice Chairman 1985-1989 Centex Telemanagement, Inc.; Founder and Chairman 1987-2001 Stellarnet, Inc.; Chairman 1986-2001 Industrial Work Hardening Center.

John Stevens has served his community in other leadership positions including: Past President Pacific Heights Homeowners Association; Vice President and Founder Honolulu Civilian Club; Past President

Northern California Chapter 1st Marine Division Association; Past Vice President 1st Marine Division Association (National); Past Deputy Vice President, West, 1st Marine Division Association; Past Board Member Marines Memorial Association, San Francisco; Past Board Member VantageMed Corporation, Sacramento; Past Board Member Collimated Holes, Los Gatos; Founding President of the Chosin Few Golden Gate Chapter; Member, Marine Corps Coordinating Council of San Francisco; Board member, USS San Francisco Memorial Foundation; Founding Board member and Secretary, Korean War Memorial Foundation.



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Koret Foundation Approves \$250,000 Grant to Korean War Memorial Foundation by Gerard Parker

San Francisco, CA, August 1, 2014: In a ceremony at the Korean Consulate General in San Francisco on July 25, Mrs. Susan Koret, Chair of the Koret Foundation, www.koret.org, presented a Grant Agreement to Donald Reid, Treasurer of the Korean War Memorial Foundation, <http://kwmf.org>. Consul General Han Dong-man hosted the gathering and officiated at the ceremony. The agreement confirms that the Koret Foundation has approved a grant of \$250,000 to KWMF. Thanks to this generous grant, KWMF's fundraising total now stands at just under \$1.9 million. With an additional \$1 million pledge from the Republic of Korea pending, the total could reach or exceed \$3 million before the end of the year, and bring KWMF closer to its target of just under \$3.5 million.

Based in San Francisco, the Koret Foundation supports organizations that promote a vibrant and distinctive Bay Area. Joseph Koret was the foundation's founder and first chairman—a position he held until his



L-R: KWMF Executive Director Gerard Parker; KWMF Vice President Man J. Kim; Koret Foundation Chair Susan Koret; KWMF Treasurer Donald Reid; and Korean Consul General Han Dong-man. Photo by G. Parker.

death in 1982, when his portion of his substantial estate flowed to the foundation, and his wife, Susan, became board chair for life. Over the years, the Foundation's priorities have evolved along with the landscape

(Continued on page 30)



Korean War Memorial Foundation Koret Foundation Approves \$250,000 Grant, Continued

(Continued from page 29)

of the Bay Area. Today, Koret's primary focus areas include connecting and strengthening the Jewish community and supporting Bay Area anchor institutions. Since 1979, Koret has invested hundreds of millions of dollars in strengthening the communities of the Bay Area, Israel, and, most recently, Poland. Its cumulative philanthropic investment is currently approaching \$500 million.

The Korean War Memorial Foundation is a San Francisco-based 501(c)3 non-profit organization, EIN 27- 2773272. Its mission is to design and build a Korean War Memorial in San Francisco to commemorate the sacrifices made by all those who fought in the so-called "Forgotten War," to educate future generations about those sacrifices, and to ensure that those generations never forget the true cost of war and the true price of freedom.

The San Francisco Bay Area was chosen for the Memorial site because it was the embarkation point for so many who went off to fight in that long-ago, far-away war, and the end of the journey for so many who returned, the living and the dead. The Memorial will stand in a prominent place in the Presidio, on high ground adjacent to the National Cemetery, facing west across the Pacific toward the now prosperous and democratic Republic of Korea. Donations to the Foundation are tax deductible to the fullest extent of the law.

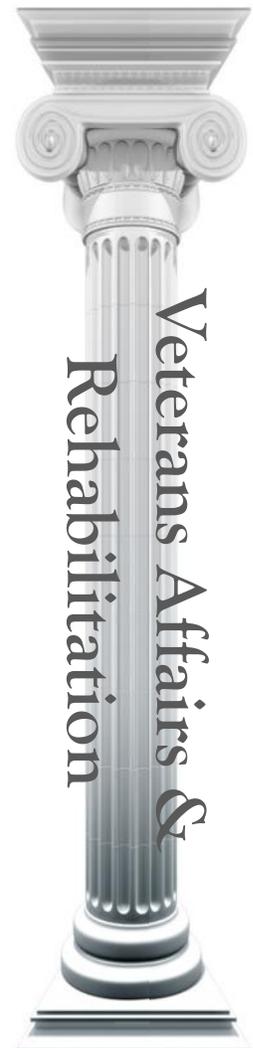
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KOREAN WAR MEMORIAL FOUNDATION

81-Year-Old Korean War Vet and Grandson

To Compete in Alcatraz Swim By Gerard Parker

San Francisco, CA, September 3, 2014: On Sunday, September 14, youthful 81-year-old Wallace T. “Wally” Stewart, a Marine Corps veteran of the Korean War, will compete in the 2014 Alcatraz Invitational Swim. This 1.25-mile open-water event, presented by San Francisco’s South End Rowing Club, will begin at a point abeam Alcatraz Island and finish at the South End Rowing Clubhouse at the foot of the Hyde Street Pier. The swim will begin at approximately 10:00 am, depending on tide conditions.



Wally Stewart and grandson Tom Farrar

Wally is requesting that people make a donation to the Korean War Memorial Foundation of San Francisco in support of his efforts. He feels that this would be most appropriate because the following day, September 15, is the 64th anniversary of the Marines’ Inchon Landing in 1950, a crucial turning point in the war that will be honored by a large bronze bas-relief at the Korean War Memorial in the Presidio.

Wally has completed the Alcatraz Invitational Swim five times between 1970 and 1990, and has also swum the Golden Gate four times. He’s back in the water this year because his grandson Thomas “Tom” Farrar invited him to make it a family affair. The two will also be celebrating Tom’s 40th birthday. Wally is a long-time San Francisco resident and former math teacher at Lowell High School.

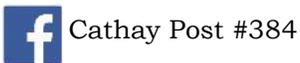
For additional information, or to make a donation to the Memorial in Wally’s name, please contact:

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8/24/1982 – 7/31/1984

Vietnam War
2/28/1961 – 5/7/1975

Korean War
6/25/1950 – 1/31/1955

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