



CATHAY DISPATCH

Veterans - Sounding Off Since 1931



Important Dates:

- Nov 4—Election Day
- Nov 8—General Meeting; Thanksgiving Lunch
- Nov 9—Veteran’s Day Parade
- Nov 11—Veteran’s Day
- Nov 27—Thanksgiving

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American Legion Cathay Post Salutes: The United States Navy “Blue Angels” By Roger Dong

Fleet Week. October 11, 2014. Here they come again - soaring into San Francisco.

Our readers probably think they know everything about the Blue Angels, so here’s a very brief background, so that you will know everything. They are officially known as the “US Navy Blue Angels’ Flight Demonstration Squadron.”

The Blue Angels’ team includes six demonstration pilots who currently fly the F/A-18 Hornet C/D, typically in more than 70 shows at 34 locations throughout the United States each year. Today’s Blue Angels’ continue flying many of the same formations and techniques used in their aerial displays



US Navy “Blue Angels” Soaring over Pier 39. Photo by R. Dong.

from their origins in 1946.

A total of 16 officers voluntarily serve with the Blue Angels. Each year the team typically selects three tactical (fighter or fighter/attack) jet pilots, two support officers and one Marine Corps C-130 pilot to relieve departing members.

The Chief of Naval Air Training selects the “Boss,” the Blue Angels

Commanding Officer. The Boss must have at least 3,000 tactical jet flight-hours and have commanded a tactical jet squadron. The Commanding Officer flies the Number 1 jet.

Career-oriented Navy and Marine Corps jet pilots with an aircraft carrier qualification and a minimum of 1,250 tactical jet flight-hours are eligible for positions flying jets

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Meeting Singaporean Ambassador Ashok Kumar Mirpuri

By Roger Dong

“...we should all be aware of the strong and vital political, economic and military relationship our Country has with the Republic of Singapore.”



Singapore, white dot on middle of map. Map courtesy of World Atlas.

The island nation of Singapore, all 277 square miles. Map courtesy of World Atlas.

Why are we reading this report in our Cathay Dispatch about Singapore? Most of us know very little about Singapore - a tiny city state that plays a giant role in the world.

(Defense Attaché) in Asia, I would like to share some background about the significance of our military relationship with the Singaporean. Nothing is classified in this memo, but you will not read a lot of this information in our history books or tour books.

Do you know that Singapore is one of our closest military, political and economic allies? Few people realize how important Singapore is to America and, especially to our military. In Asia this small island nation (just 277 square miles) is the transportation and business hub for more than a quadrant of the world, including Australia. FYI: Few of us know that Beijing is 6,900 square miles. Singapore is considered by many people as the freest, most innovative, most competitive, and most business friendly country in the world. But it is not a democracy. Some would call it a benevolent dictatorship.

First, a brief history about Singapore. In 1965 (not 1865), Singapore's first Premier Lee Kuan-yew began developing Singapore from a barren swamp into one of the most advanced and technically competent countries in the world. In 1965 there were only huts, no buildings, no schools, no jobs, and an illiterate population. The island did not, and still does not have, any natural resources, and not enough fresh water to sustain even the small population even in 1965. Under the leadership of Premier Lee, the unprecedented development of a desolate swamp island is considered a miracle.

The nation's overall and military strategy is diplomacy and deterrence. As a former diplomat

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COMMANDER JAY PON

Commander's Mission Statement: Post 384 is here to support fellow veterans, youth programs, and the local community. We are part of a national veterans 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 external Post 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.

Commander's Intent: To build esprit de corps within Post 384 by having events that support our mission statement where members can have pride and enjoyment in participating. Some events will be rigorous and other events will challenge the mind. If you want to take charge, let me know and the Post can find a task or passion for you. If you want to be mentored or help out, please let us know which of the 5 missions you would like to support.

What a busy October: the Veterans Memorial dedication, USS America luncheon, reception, commissioning, and the Italian Heritage Parade. For those not able to attend the USS America commissioning, thank you for attending the monthly general meeting, it shows the Post is strong enough to handle multiple events at the same time!

Special thanks to 3 of our very own: (1) Comrade Rogelio Manaois for his eloquent speech representing all veterans at the Veterans Memorial dedication. Rogelio was swing cleanup batter after Former Mayor Willie Brown, Former Secretary of State George Shultz, Senator Diane Feinstein, and current Mayor Ed Lee; (2) Comrade Morris Ng for organizing the Italian Heritage Parade. About 15 members and beauty queens help show American Legion pride throughout North Beach; and (3) support member Clara Pon for pulling off the USS America Luncheon. Clara was awarded a USS America commission challenge coin for her above and beyond effort. Thank you for making Cathay Post and the American Legion shine.

November should be a calmer month. We have an exciting monthly general meeting on November 8th...bring some popcorn and enjoy the show, followed by our annual holiday turkey luncheon, and finally the Veterans Day Parade on Sunday November 9th. Please let me know if you can attend, we will all meet at the Parade Site at 10:30am (30 minutes before the parade begins).

Also as mentioned in the October general meeting please let myself or Vice Commander Laura Renner know if you are able to attend the New York Post 1291 70th Anniversary dinner on June 6th, 2015 in the Big Apple. We plan to arrive a few days before and leave a few days after. Per-

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Jay Pon

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Cathay Post Member
since: 2001

Branch: Navy, Army

Final Rank: Major

*"...please let
myself or Vice
Commander
Laura Renner
know if you are
able to attend
the New York
post 1291 70th
Anniversary
dinner..."*





Nelson Lum

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Cathay Post Member
since: 2005

Branch: Army

Final Rank: SPC

*"There, I was
treated to the
skillful aerial
display of the Blue
Angels..."*



1st VICE COMMANDER NELSON LUM

November is here and I can almost smell the sweet aroma of the turkey roasting in the oven. We had an incredible month of October and Cathay Post No. 384 met every challenge with flying colors. We began our month with the preparation to host 200 plus sailors and Marines for lunch on Tuesday, October 07. A task that is not easy without the outstanding organizational skills of our support member Clara Pon. What made it even more amazing was the fact that she accomplished most of the tasks while she was in Seattle. Department of California Commander Janet Wilson and some of her staff members pitched in to help with setting up tables, chairs, and serving food. Many of our members showed up to assist, even a new member that has yet to be sworn in. They were put to work and their contributions were immeasurable. Once again, American Legion shined brightly with the devotion of the members of our Post.

As the outgoing Chair of the American Le-



USS America Luncheon. Photo courtesy of Nelson Lum.

gion War Memorial Commission, I was invited to go aboard the Coast Guard ship William Cobb on Thursday, October 09. We sailed from Yuba Buena Island and stopped in the middle of the Bay near Alcatraz Island. There, I was treated to the skillful aerial display of the Blue Angels while they used the ship as their point of reference to practice their acrobatic flying formations. The sight of these planes strafing directly at where I was standing was beyond words to describe.

Next came the dedication of the Veterans Monument on Friday, October 10. On a hot sunny day in San Francisco, a project that

took 83 years to complete was finally a reality. A large number of our members led by Commander Jay Pon were there to witness the dedication along with 500 other distinguished guests and an assembly of veterans ranging from WWII to those who are currently serving. Our own Service Officer Rogelio Manaois was selected as one of the speakers. He delivered an impressive speech that articulated the veteran's perspective of the monument. On the same date, a formal evening reception aboard the USS America was held and our Post was represented by Commander Jay Pon and Historian Roger Dong.

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2nd VICE COMMANDER GALIN LUK

Chapel Hill, North Carolina is one of my favorite college towns. I used to make the two-and-a-half-hour drive from Jacksonville, North Carolina on a fairly regular basis. The drive was “torture” before that word was “invented” by our Giants. I hated driving [and still do]; my hatred then was amplified by many multiples because my car did not have air conditioning to cool me down during the hot, humid summers.

There were many things I loved about Chapel Hill. But, at the end of the day, it really came down to UNC’s iconic basketball teams. While I didn’t follow college basketball, I knew enough about it to know every time I was within Chapel Hill city limits, I was on hallowed grounds. Although there are many UNC campuses, everyone knows UNC equals Chapel Hill and everyone knows Chapel Hill equals basketball. Their hoops program is as storied as their most famous alum, Michael Jordan, was gifted. Little did its fans and admirers

know that UNC’s athletic program was involved in possibly one of the largest collegiate academic scandals; one that, according to Yahoo Sports, involved up to 1,500 athletes over an 18 year time period.

The scandal involved enrolling students in “paper classes.” There was no classroom instruction; to pass, students simply submitted a paper. Various sources reported that the student would receive inflated grades regardless of the quality of the work, or its contents. The grade inflation allowed many “student athletes” to graduate, and many, many more to continue playing. The bogus classes apparently were an open secret; academic counselors directed student athletes to those classes. The fraud finally unraveled. How that happened is, in itself, a fascinating story. For now, the immediate question is: how did the fraud last for so long?

UNC Chancellor Carol Folt, who was appointed to the position last year, summed it up

best. According to Yahoo Sports, she said “I think it’s a case where you have bad actions of a few and inaction of many more.” She hit the nail on the head. You may not have thought of the fraud, but did you have any role in perpetuating it?

There are many ironies to this scandal. How’s this for one: a complex scandal, 18 years in the making, summed up by Chancellor Folt in one sentence. Another? Quite honestly, as storied as UNC’s basketball program is, it was never as great as UNC’s academics. It may become so shortly, at least on a relative scale.

While UNC’s athletics department will take a hit, people tend to forgive the programs that bring national attention. UNC’s academics? The part of the institution that gives meaning to “higher learning?” That’s a different story. What a shame that the acts of a few, and inaction of many, will affect the 99% who are at UNC to actually learn and plan their futures.



Galín Luk

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Cathay Post Member
since: 2009

Branch: Marine
Corps

Final Rank: Captain

“I think it’s a case where you have bad actions of a few and inaction of many more.”





Laura Renner

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Cathay Post Member since: 2013

Branch: Air Force

“Do your daily actions match up to your core values? If not, what are you going to do about it?”



3rd VICE COMMANDER LAURA RENNER

What are your core values?

Recently, I attended a Lunch-n-Learn where the speaker gave us an equation: experience + identity = core value. What are your core values? Do you know? And if you do, do you live by them?

For me, many of my experiences while traveling has helped shaped my identity. Thus I would consider traveling to be a core value of mine. Indeed, while starting my business, I make a lot of cuts to my style of living. One thing I did not cut, though, was traveling. Also, the first perk I offered to

employees was unlimited PTO. Many people are shocked when I tell them that. They wonder, how can a small business afford to offer that? My response is, how can I not? I love to travel so much that I must offer that opportunity to my employees—it is a core value.

Additionally, my core values center around women, veterans and multilingualism. Many of my volunteer efforts focus on these three areas. But volunteering doesn't have to be just handing out food or participating in a special event. Get behind the scenes; volunteer your leadership; plan an event!

Think about your experiences and who you consider yourself to be. Do your daily actions match up to your core values? If not, what are you going to do about it?

External activities.

Recently, we held two events. We offered tickets to a baseball game and a senior tour of BART. We continue to look for and plan opportunities in the future. Thanks for your ongoing support and participation! If you'd like to help plan an activity, please let me know.

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*.

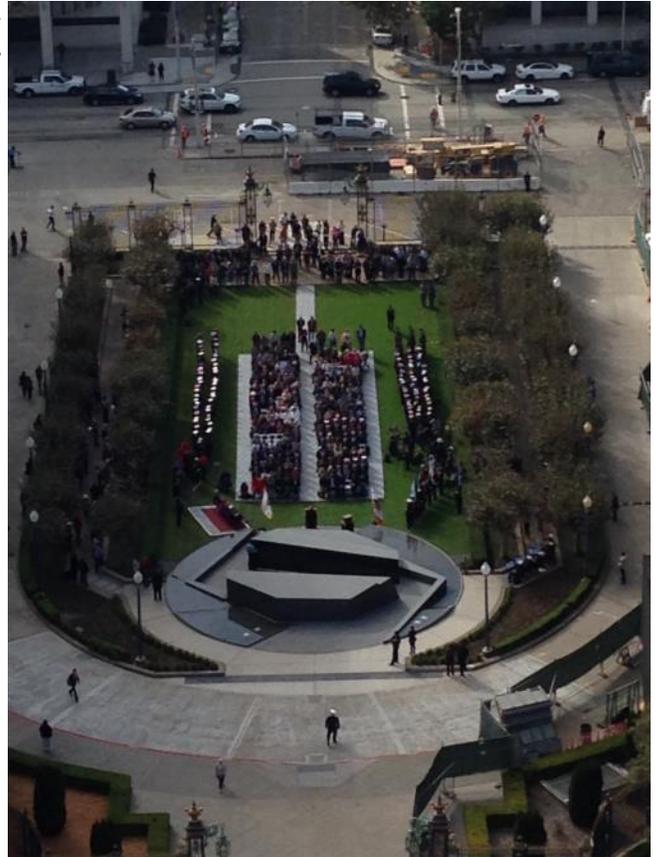
Passage of Remembrance By Nelson Lum

It was an unusually hot day in San Francisco. October 10, 2014 felt more like a day in mid-summer than a day in the fall. A large crowd gathered at the Veteran's Court of the War Memorial Complex located between the Opera House and the War Memorial Veterans Building. There was a large contingent of veterans ranging from WWII to the recently discharged along with representatives from all branches of the Armed Services in their respective dress uniforms.

High ranking officers from every branch of service and elected government officials were in attendance to witness the fulfillment of a promise made more than 83 years ago. That promise was to build a monument

to honor veterans of all wars for their sacrifice and service to our nation. At long last, the veteran's monument was completed. To commemorate this historic event, a spectacular dedication ceremony took place that began with the presentation of colors by an all services color detail, the singing of the National Anthem, speeches by elected officials, and the most important aspect of the dedication was the entombment of the chest that holds the soils from all the wars our military has fought into the monument.

When the War Memorial Complex was built in the late 1920's, plans had included a monument to honor those WWI veterans to be located in the east end of the Veteran's Court. Unfortunately, due to budget shortfall, the monument was not built. Over the past 82 years, a few attempts to build a veteran's monument were not successful for various reasons. It was not until Major General Mike Myatt (USMC Ret.), formed a committee about five years ago to make that promise a reality. The Committee organized fund raisers to solicit funds from organizations



View from City Hall of the Monument Dedication. Photo J. Lopez.



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American Legion Cathay Post Salutes: The United States Navy "Blue Angels" By Roger Dong

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Number 2 through 7. The Events Coordinator, Number 8, is a Naval Flight Officer (NFO) or a Weapons Systems Officer (WSO) who meets the same criteria as Numbers 2 through 7. The Marine Corps pilots flying the C-130T Hercules aircraft, affectionately known as "Fat Albert," must be an aircraft commander qualified with at least 1,200 flight hours.

Career-oriented officers specializing in maintenance, administration, aviation medicine, public affairs and supply fill support positions. The Blue Angels base their selection of officers on professional ability, military bearing and communication skills. Blue Angels officers are well-rounded representatives of their fleet counterparts.

Demonstration pilots, the Events Coordinator, Maintenance Officer and Flight Surgeon serve two years with the squadron. The other officers typically serve three years with

the team. Blue Angels officers return to the fleet after their tours of duty.

Here is a list of the various fighter aircraft flown by the Blue Angels since their inception:

1. Grumman F6F-5 Hellcat: June–August 1946
2. Grumman F8F-1 Bearcat: August 1946 – 1949
3. Grumman F9F-2 Panther: 1949 – June 1950 (first jet); F9F-5 Panther: 1951 – Winter 1954/55
4. Grumman F9F-8 Cougar: Winter 1954/55 – mid-season 1957 (swept-wing)
5. Grumman F11F-1 (F-11) Tiger: mid-season 1957 – 1969 (first supersonic jet)
6. McDonnell Douglas F-4J Phantom II: 1969 – December 1974
7. Douglas A-4F Skyhawk: December 1974 – November 1986
8. McDonnell Douglas F/A-18A/B Hornet (F/A-18B was #7 aircraft): November 1986 – 1992
9. McDonnell Douglas F/A-18C/D

Hornet (F/A-18D is #7 aircraft): 1992–present

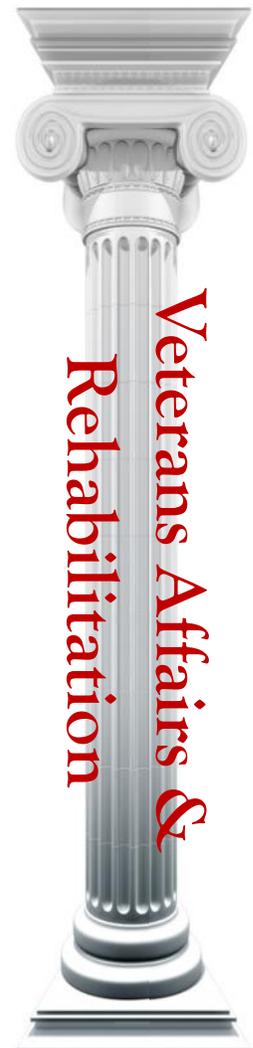
Twenty seven (27) Blue Angels pilots have been killed in air show or training accidents. There have been 294 pilots in the squadron's history giving the job a 9% fatality rate. Don't think for a minute that flying demonstration exhibitions is a safe tour of duty.

In 2013, because of deep cuts in the defense budget, there was no Fleet Week and the Blue Angels had to cancel most of their previously schedule demonstration flights.

No sequestration this year, so Fleet Week re-appeared and so did our favorite Blue Angels, the US Navy Flight demonstration Squadron. They soared into the City after two earlier days of practice flights on Saturday, October 11, 2014 to the delight of thousands of cheering citizens and jet fighter pilot wannabees. That includes me.

Their routines were not new, but all of us

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Pentagon Police Officer, Musician
Photo Credit: Richard Avedon
<http://americanhistory.si.edu/>



Chinese American Hero of the Month ISAAC JESSE WAIPULANI HO'OPI'I

Name in English: Isaac Ho'opi'i **Birth Year:** 1963

Name in Chinese: n/a

Birth Place: Wai'anae, Hawaii

Name in Pinyin: n/a

Current location: McLean, Virginia

Profession: Police Sergeant. Pentagon Force Protection Agency.

Education: Wai'anae High School.

Awards: 2004, Winner, World Music Vocalist, Washington Area Music Association; August 1, 2003, "Isaac Ho'opi'i Day," proclaimed by the Governor of the State of Hawaii; 2003, J. Edgar Hoover Award, Veterans of Foreign Wars, presented annually to our nation's most outstanding law-enforcement officer; March 5, 2002, Secretary of Defense Medal of Valor, the Department of Defense's highest civilian honor, awarded to Isaac Ho'opi'i and 38 other 9/11 heroes; 2002, Certificate of Recognition, Fairfax (Virginia) County Board of Supervisors.

Contribution:

Isaac Ho'opi'i was born and raised in Hawaii. Like many native Hawaiians, he is of mixed descent; Hawaiian, Chinese, and Portuguese. After military service, he settled in Virginia and, in 1997, joined the Defense Protective Service (now the Pentagon Force Protection Agency) as a police officer.

On the morning of September 11, 2001, then-Officer Ho'opi'i was on duty and driving his K-9 partner Vito to the veterinarian when the dispatcher announced that a jetliner had just struck the Pentagon. He immediately returned to the Pentagon and was one of the first rescuers to arrive where American Airlines flight 77 had crashed.

Wearing his standard police uniform and no protective equipment, he entered the burning building, working his way around wreckage from the plane, live electrical wires, unburned jet fuel on the floors and walls, sharp glass and other hazardous debris that was scattered everywhere, and the charred corpses of victims. The fires and thick smoke inside the darkened building made visibility impossible or limited at best.

Sergeant Ho'opi'i would recall: "My job was just to react, and when you react, it is more like tunnel vision. You try to focus and your adrenaline just kicks in. You really don't realize what you're doing, except just to save lives." Each time Ho'opi'i re-entered the burning structure, he would repeatedly shout: "If you can hear me, head toward my voice." The victims

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American Legion Cathay Post Salutes: The United States Navy “Blue Angels” By Roger Dong

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were “wowed” anyway. I have seen the Blue Angels and our Thunderbirds, our Air Force Demonstration Team over 25 times in my younger days and now even in my senior years, and still love watching our premier demonstration teams as they zoom in low and then quickly reform into their tight diamond formation, suddenly bolting straight up to the heavens and then moments later flaring apart into the famous “Fleur de lis” separation formation. And then the show was over before we knew it, 40 minutes had slipped by in seconds before our very eyes. What are we going to do between now and the next time the Blue Angels return to San Francisco? At the moment, the Giants are giving us some thrills other than the Angels.

This year was a very significant year for the Blue Angels, the team included Lt Commander Michael Cheng, who is a combat pilot, (born in San Francisco and attended St Ignatius High School) and Cheng is the pilot number 8, the Events Coordinator. As noted above, the Events Coordinator is also a combat pilot with the same qualifications as the six demonstration pilots, but he does not fly as part of the demonstration team.

Michael joined the Blue Angels in September 2012. He has accumulated more than 1,765 flight hours and 343 carrier arrested landings. His decorations include three Air Medals (Strike/Flight), a Navy and

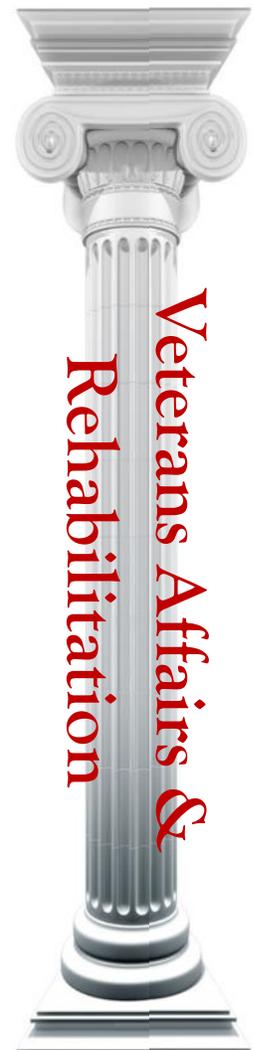


Lt. Commander Michael Cheng at Pier 39. Photo courtesy of R. Dong.

Marine Corps Commendation Medal, three Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medals, and various personal and unit awards.

Next year will be another first for the US Navy Blue Angels. In July 22, 2014 US Marine Corps Captain Katie Higgins was selected to be the pilot for C-130 logistics aircraft “Fat Albert” for the Blue Angels squadron. Captain Higgins will be the first female pilot flying with the Blue Angels unit. The first female member of the Blue Angels was Navy Lt. Cmdr. Amy Redditt Tomlinson who was the first woman to wear a Blue Angels number when she became Blue Angel No. 8 in 2010. However, Tomlinson never flew as part of the Blue Angels team.

So next year, be on the look-out for Captain Katie Higgins a US Navy Academy graduate and pilot. She will lead off the show commanding “Fat Albert” and surveying the friendly skies to start the show and call in the Blue Angels to wow us all again.



Meeting Singaporean Ambassador Ashok Kumar Mirpuri

By Roger Dong

(Continued from page 2)

The first thing Lee did was negotiate (with the enemy) and contracted for long term fresh water piped in from Malaysia, the country that just kicked Singapore out its alliance with Malaysia due to growing racial unrest between the Malaysians and the Chinese Singaporeans. One of the provisions of that contract was that if the Malaysian water were ever cut off, Singapore would be immediately at war with Malaysia. The joint water pipeline has never been disrupted, and today the two countries have a great relationship and thousands of Malaysians travel daily to work crossing the bridge into Singapore, and the two countries have a healthy and robust trade relationship. What a great international role model for the rest of the world!

Because Singapore is so small, there is not a square foot of space for their military to train. Lee Kuan-yew dedicated 10% of the island to well groomed parks and greenery. Singapore's armed forces train and are stationed in Australia, France, Taiwan and the United States. Because of the very strong relationship with America, the Singaporean military is one of the few foreign nation military that trains alongside our three military services. Their

Air Force pilots and aircraft fly in our strategic Red Flag training exercises in Arizona using dissimilar aircraft, their Army and armor units train alongside our Army at Fort Bliss with their Navy trains with our Navy at San Diego.

Few American ports allow our nuclear carriers visit, but the Sings have built a special harbor facility capable of mooring and servicing our carriers and all our U.S. Navy ships. U.S. Air Force planes land almost daily at their military/civilian Changi Airport. With all our military activities in Asia and the Middle East, Singapore's naval and air force facilities are critical to our military operations in times of peace and combat. Changi Navy Base is 1 mile from Changi Air Base which is 2.5 miles from Changi International Airport. Hey! This is a small island.

I learned from a former Singaporean Ambassador that I worked with in Taiwan and Hong Kong that during the President Bill Clinton administration, he and his wife dined monthly at the White House. That would mean that he dined at the White House more often than our Secretary of State.

Recently the current Singaporean

(Continued on page 18)

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.



1st VICE COMMANDER NELSON LUM, Continued

(Continued from page 4)

The following morning, the official commissioning of the USS America, a historical event since she is the first of a new class of amphibious assault ships for the 21st century, took place and a group of our Post members along with myself were in attendance. The Honorable Secretary of the Navy Ray Mabus presided over the commissioning ceremony of the ship and turned over command of the ship to Captain Robert Hall Jr. The sailors that I observed were exceptionally self assured and dedicated, and their display of professionalism went well beyond their young age. At the conclusion of the ceremony, we were treated to a tour of the ship, and believe me, she is magnificent.

On Sunday, October 12, the Italian Heritage Parade along with the conclusion of Fleet Week took center stage in the North Beach neighborhood. Our Post members participated under the leadership of Comrade Morris Ng and marched proudly along the parade route to represent the Legion.

For those who are members of the Executive Committee and some members of the Board of Directors, a special meeting was held on Tuesday, October 14, to examine the financial health of our Post. Our infatigable support member Clara Pon prepared a thorough financial report of our Post. She meticulously detailed all the expenditures of our Post during this past year item

by item. Those in attendance were given a clear picture of our Post's financial standing. The attendees were made aware, due to the unanticipated major expenditures that our Post must undertake in the near future, we must be vigilant with our budget and to alleviate unnecessary spending. We must also plan to raise funds to support our future financial commitments. Commander Jay Pon, Comrade Roger Dong and myself have also been hard at work to establish the 501(c)(3) foundation. We hope to be able to report some positive progress to you by our next monthly meeting. Speaking of the next monthly meeting, it is our tradition to serve a Thanksgiving luncheon following the November monthly meeting at our Post. However, there has been an unexpected development which caused our building to be under the scrutiny of the San Francisco Fire Department. The lawful occupancy number for our building is restricted until either major renovation is rendered or a waiver is obtained. We are currently looking into viable alternatives so that we will be able to enjoy a celebratory Thanksgiving luncheon in the company of our members and their family.

I look forward to seeing all of you on Saturday, November 08, 2014. If I don't see you for whatever reason, I wish you and your family a joyful Thanksgiving, be thankful of the blessings that we have and don't forget those who are less fortunate.





The US Navy By Jay Pon

[Editor's note: Commander Jay Pon has endeavored to explain the various branches of United States Armed Forces. In the previous editions, Commander Pon wrote about the U.S. Army and USMC].

In part 3 of 5, in looking at how our military is structured we sail with the Navy. At the end of WWII, the Navy had nearly 6,800 ships with 99 carriers and 23 battleships. Now there are approximately 432,000

sailors (per navy.mil) on naval bases and a fleet of 290 ships to include 11 carriers. 75% or 323,639 are on active duty, 82% are enlisted, 16% female. About 35% of the fleet is currently deployed along with 2 aircraft carriers, one in the Atlantic and the other in the Indian Ocean/Middle East. The US Navy has more aircraft carriers than the world combined of 8. The US Navy operates over 3,700 aircrafts, compared with the 5,600+ aircraft of the US

Air Force. The US Navy is the 2nd largest military airpower after the US Air Force with Russia and China trailing. The US Navy is the 3rd largest naval fleet in the world with North Korea and Russia operating more ships, and the 2nd largest submarine fleet after North Korea (per globalfirepower.com). To augment the US Navy is the US Naval Reserve consisting of 107,556 sailors of which approximately 3,600 (or 3-4%) are currently deployed.

COMMANDER JAY PON, Continued

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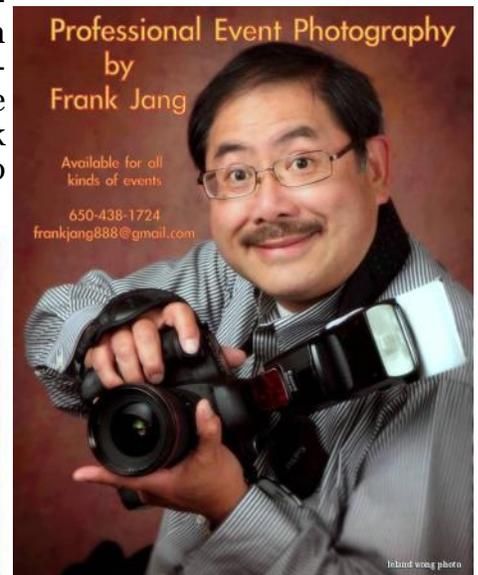
haps even catch a Yankee's game and a Shake Shack burger. Planning this trip will take some effort, but much fun will be had.

Looking outside of Post 384, our number one mission is preserving the rights of veterans and patriotic organizations in the War Memorial Veterans

Building. Last month, Comrade Paul Cox of post 510 was elected Chairman of the War Memorial Commission replacing our Vice Commander Nelson Lum, who served 3 years as chairman. Thank you, Nelson, for 3 years of service to all San Francisco Veterans and the best of luck and strength to

Paul, in securing the right of veterans at the War Memorial Veterans Building. Post 384 has your back.

All the best from the Pon Family.
Jay Pon
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American Legion Cathay Post Salutes: American Legion Post 180

By Roger Dong.

Sometimes it's important to get out of Dodge and see the world. It's different out there. And the American Legion is more than the dozen Posts in our own District 8 Council. Vice Commander Nelson Lum and I ventured to Washington DC for Major Kurt Lee's Memorial service and then took some time to visit a local post – just to see how the rest of the American Legion lives.

We were quartered in Vienna, Virginia, so we decided to visit whatever American Legion Post was indigenous to Vienna. We found Post 180 a few miles away so we dropped in on a Tuesday afternoon and learned that their monthly meeting was the next evening. Great, we were still in town, so scheduled our visit before returning home. We were most fortunate to find that Post 180, and exactly like Cathay Post, was chartered in 1931.

Arriving at 6 p.m. to hopefully enjoy a brew or two, we entered their "Club house" en-

trance and found a real, full size bar - with all the amenities (lots of American beer).

Most of us in District 8 Council are only familiar with the portable, roll-out bar we see a few times a year. But here at Post 180, we had a real American Legion bar with a bartender who was better looking than the Post 180 members.

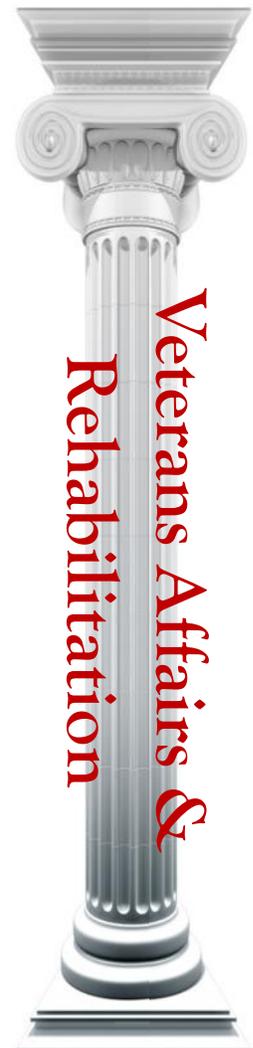
After introducing ourselves, our Post 180 comrades warmly welcomed us and we enjoyed free beer. It was not free to our new found comrades, but it was free for us. Another round of "Thank you's" are in order. I think this is the real American Legion, veteran comrades meeting in the afternoon, unwinding, and enjoying a real cold beer. Most of our comrades were enjoying a Bud along with us.



L to R: Nelson Lum, Daniel Dellinger, and Roger Dong.
Photo courtesy of R. Dong.

At 7 p.m. we "rolled" up to their Patriot Hall community room and joined their monthly meeting. Post 180 has around 900 paid members, and there were roughly 60 attendees including their very active Ladies Auxiliary and Sons of the American Legion present. This was a night of great coincidence. Attending this monthly meeting (for the first time in 2 years) was our immediate Past National Commander Daniel Dellinger. It was a pleasure and honor to meet and shake hands with NC Dellinger. If you are wondering why Post 180 member Dellinger was away for two years, please be informed that if anyone aspires to be our Na-

(Continued on page 16)



Chinese American Hero of the Month

ISAAC JESSE WAIPULANI HO'OPI'I

(Continued from page 9)

he rescued were brought to a safe grassy area about 100 yards away. Although some of the victims would die, Ho'opi'i was credited for saving at least eight lives. Survivors whom Ho'opi'i saved would never forget the rescuer with the deep voice and distinctive Hawaiian accent.

Exhausted after working at the disaster site for 36 hours, Officer Ho'opi'i and Vito went home, where Ho'opi'i's wife Gigi, like so many Pentagon employees' spouses and relatives, did not know the status of their family members. When Ho'opi'i and Vito returned to duty, they were deployed to locate other victims in the rubble.

In a Washington Post story in October 2001, a Pentagon contract employee, William "Wayne" Sinclair, credited an unidentified "angel" with a Hawaiian accent for leading him and others to safety. Sinclair's story would gain national attention, including on CNN. The next day, Sinclair talked to Officer Ho'opi'i over the phone and immediately recognized the voice of his rescuer. It was the first time that Ho'opi'i would learn of any of the victims whom he had saved. The two men would meet on NBC's "Today Show" and, to this day, call or see one another at least once every year.

In Hawaii, the Ho'opi'i name is synonymous with native Hawaiian music. Sergeant Isaac Ho'opi'i is also an accomplished musician and singer. He is a member of an award-winning Hawaiian band, Aloha Boys. The group was formed among native Hawaiians in the Washington, DC area. In addition to performing for wounded military personnel at Walter Reed Hospital, the Aloha Boys have performed throughout the East Coast and in Rheims, France; and, in 2005, played at New York City's Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts.

On September 11, 2006, Sergeant Ho'opi'i sang "God Bless America" at halftime on NFL Monday Night Football at FedEx Field in Landover, Maryland, home of the Baltimore Ravens. In January 2009, the Aloha Boys performed at the Hawaii State Society Inaugural Ball; and, on January 20, 2013, were among the bands to perform at one of President Barack Obama's inauguration balls in Washington, DC.

Sergeant Hoopii and his third K-9 partner Lava continue to protect the Pentagon, its satellite facilities, and its thousands of employees. Off duty, when he is not performing with the Aloha Boys, Sergeant Ho'opi'i, a father of three, coaches football and basketball at a high school in McLean, Virginia.

(Continued on page 16)



Chinese American Hero of the Month

ISAAC JESSE WAIPULANI HO'OPI'I

(Continued from page 15)

Despite all the acclaim that Sergeant Isaac Ho'opi'i has received since 9/11, he still feels haunted by the thought that he could have done more and saved more people that day. "I'm not a hero. There are people who gave their lives. They're heroes." "I was only trying to be a good Hawaiian and share the spirit of Aloha."

(Revised Oct 4, 2014 by Gary Gee, President, Chinese American Heroes.)

External Links:

<http://www.alohaboys.net/7001.html>

http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2005/09/07/AR2005090701593_pf.html

[http://akaka.senate.gov/public/index.cfm?](http://akaka.senate.gov/public/index.cfm?FuseAction=speeches.home&month=3&year=2002&release_id=1012)

[FuseAction=speeches.home&month=3&year=2002&release_id=1012](http://the.honoluluadvertiser.com/article/2002/Sep/11/ln/ln16a.html)

<http://the.honoluluadvertiser.com/article/2002/Sep/11/ln/ln16a.html>

<http://the.honoluluadvertiser.com/article/2008/Nov/21/ln/hawaii811210382.html>

American Legion Cathay Post Salutes: American Legion Post 180

By Roger Dong.

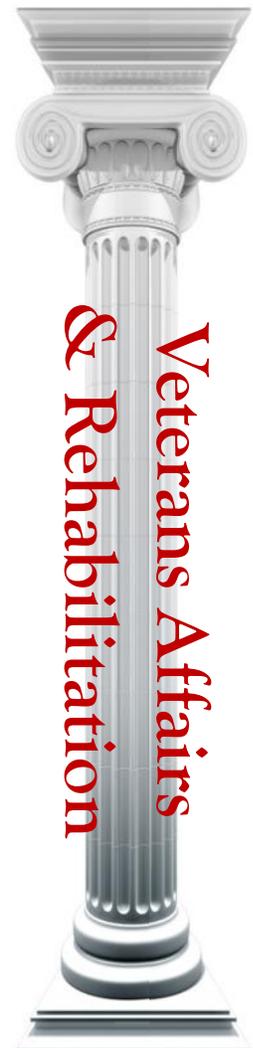
(Continued from page 14)

tional Commander, it takes a lot of time and energy. You need to have 1 year to raise several hundred thousand dollars to pay for your campaign, and then, if elected, you will be calling on all our State departments, a dozens of Districts and less than 1% of our 14,000 Posts. Then you also build up your frequent flyer points by flying to Hawaii, Korea, Taiwan, the Philipines, Guam and Afghanistan (or somewhere else in the Middle East). You will be on the road more than 320 days on your year as the National Commander. (You get to go home for about 30 days to do all your laundry.)

After the meeting we had enjoyed a homemade dinner - tossed green salad and a great spaghetti and meat balls with all the trimmings. Ed Wong, eat your heart out. You are not the only great spaghetti and meatballs specialist in the American - just the only one with the surname Wong.

It was a great experience for two of our senior Cathay Post members to have the good fortune to visit Post 180, a senior Charter Post like our own, and getting a really warm reception to our surprise visit.

Let's do this more often. Thanks to our Board of Directors for funding most of our travel expenses.



American Legion Cathay Post Salutes: The 2014 Italian Heritage Parade

By Roger Dong



The 1st Division Marine Band. Photo by R. Dong. CP 384 Representatives. Photo by R. Dong.

On Sunday, October 12, 2014 the exciting Italian Heritage Parade strutted from Fisherman's Wharf southward to the edge of Chinatown, then sharply reversing course to parade by the many ristorante and bistros on Columbus Avenue, and finally ending at picturesque Washington Park - across from the historic St Peter and Paul's Catholic Church. It was a beautiful, sunny and warm day, perfect for a perfect parade.

The crowds loved the fanfare of costumed paraders, military and high school bands, special Italian heritage floats adorned with queens with full entourage of princesses from around the neighborhood, and Cathay Post was there too.

This year's Italian Heritage parade seemed bigger than last year's parade. The popularity of this Sunday parade in North Beach is quite a crowd pleaser. Everyone had a good time and we all look forward to the 2015 Italian Heritage Parade. I will surely be there, see everyone next year.



Cathay Post Color Guards. Photo by R. Dong.



Meeting Singaporean Ambassador Ashok Kumar Mirpuri

By Roger Dong

(Continued from page 11)

Ambassador Ashok Kumar Manpuri visited San Francisco, and I met him and spoke with him in the Four Seasons Hotel. The Ambassador advised that today about 7,000 multi-national firms do business in Singapore. General Motors has moved their Asia headquarters from Beijing to Singapore to manage all the Asian operations. Many other multi-nationals have done likewise. Commercial office space in Singapore was, is, and will, continue to be a booming business.

Singapore is very friendly to business. Singapore is now the top oil rigging nation in Asia. Its airline, Singapore Airlines is now the hub for many flights throughout Asia because you can fly directly anywhere in Asia.

It is generally recognized that Singaporean Airlines provides the best customer service of any airline in the world. OK, Royal Thai and Cathay Pacific claim they are the best,

but that's just their own opinion.

Singapore trades and has strong diplomatic relationships with almost all nations. Their relationship with China is very strong, and like most nations, trade with China is one of their biggest connections.

Lee Kuan-yew when he was the Prime Minister and even today, as the Senior Minister, is a brilliant leader and diplomat who skillfully balanced the delicate triangle of US-China-Taiwan relations. Singapore has economic and political relationships with virtually every significant country in the world, regardless of political systems.

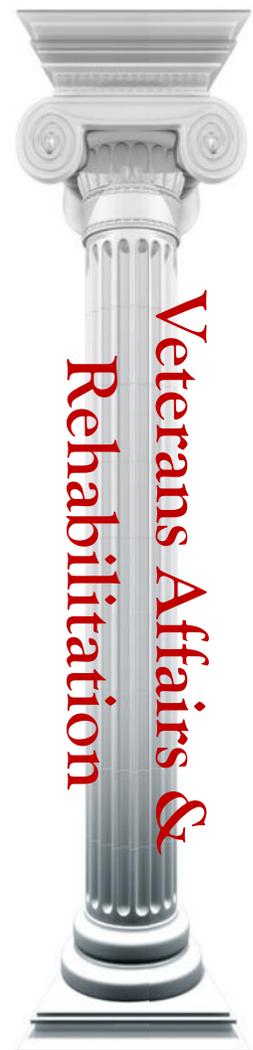
The Prime Minister instituted private home ownership, strictly limited public housing, and created a booming housing industry that has made every sixth Singaporean citizen worth at least a million dollars. The Prime Minister created an education system, using traditional Chinese values,

putting the teaching profession at the highest rung of society.

Teachers were selected among the top 33% of all college graduates. Today, high school students in Singapore are ranked either #1 or #2 in the world each year they are evaluated. In America, the status and respect for teachers is dismal, and we are paying dearly for that national lack of wisdom.

Space is precious in our Dispatch, so I will stop here. This tutorial is intended to inform our readers that we should all be aware of the strong and vital political, economic and military relationship our Country has with the Republic of Singapore.

I would recommend we invite the Consulate General of Singapore to our annual dinner. They are one of our most important military allies. Our San Francisco CG is Mr. Christopher Cheang, who like many of the Singaporean diplomats, is very open and great to meet and chat.



San Francisco Firefighters Toy Program By Connie Tseng

San Francisco, CA. – What do burning houses and small children under the age of 12 have in common? They are both served by San Francisco fire fighters; one with hoses full of water and the other with the S.F. Firefighters Toy Program. The program seeks to bring that special time of year to children who have lost everything in a devastating fire.

Since fire fighters are routinely the first on the scene, they have direct knowledge of what damage and pain a fire can wreak. To help cope with a life changing event, such as a fire, San Francisco fire-fighters started helping 15 neighbors in 1949, and has since spread like a wildfire to helping hundreds of children in the area.

S.F. Firefighter's Toy Program, a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization, has partnered with many different charities and events over the years such as Run Wild San Francisco and various small businesses throughout San Francisco. The various sources of funding have helped the program distribute over 200,000 toys to 40,000 children.

The S.F. Firefighter's Toy Program exists solely through donations; most of these donations come from toys that are left in large red barrels that are strategically located throughout the city. The S.F. Firefighter's Toy Program runs all year long, but there is a big push around the holidays to seek donations, to ensure that no child will go without their favorite toy.

For more information, or to make a donation, call 415-777-0440.

We are asking that all contributions be made online at www.sffirefighterstoys.org or it can be mailed at the following address:

San Francisco Firefighters Toy Program
2225 Jerrold Ave
San Francisco, CA 94124

Toy Guidelines- toys must be unwrapped, we serve ages infant through 12. Our biggest need is girls, ages 8 through 12. Some ideas are sports equipment, ball, art and crafts, games.



Passage of Remembrance By Nelson Lum

(Continued from page 7)

and individual donors that ultimately raised approximately \$3 million. With the assistance of the Arts Commission, a paradigm of what the design of the veteran's monument must represent was established by the Committee. Those parameters were published and a final design was chosen amidst submissions from artists from around the country.

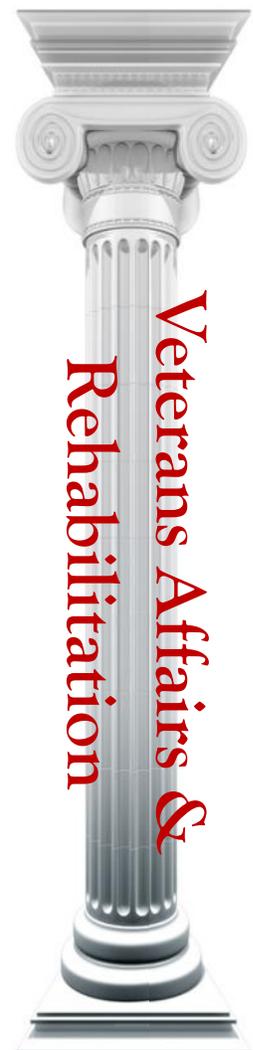
After numerous meetings, hearings, design modifications, and obtaining approvals from various governmental agencies, the project finally held its groundbreaking ceremony on March 20th of this year. The dedication ceremony marks the recognition by the City and County of San Francisco for those who served, are serving, and will serve in the Armed Services of our nation. A somewhat unknown element of the Veteran's Court was brought forth to the public during the ceremony. The Honorable United States Senator Diane

Feinstein informed the gathering that soils from all the previous wars since WWI have been entombed in an octagonal shaped lawn within the court where the monument now stands. She took the opportunity to explain the historical significance of the soils and their connection with the monument. At the beginning of this project, those soils were carefully removed and kept. One of the main requirements of the design of the monument was for it to be able to facilitate the entombment of those soils and soils from future conflicts.

The staff members of the War Memorial Performing Arts Center designed and built a beautiful and dignified wooden chest to hold the soils for its entombment into the monument. Soils from Iraq and Afghanistan were added to the chest prior to it being entombed. Like all projects of this magnitude, there were many obstacles that presented themselves and each one had to be dealt with by the Com-

mittee. For the members of the Committee, witnessing the dedication of the veteran's monument was truly a dream come true.

As a member of the Committee, my heartfelt gratitude extends to Co-Chairs Major General Mike Myatt and Trustee Wilkes Bashford, Committee members Ms. Jamie Lopez, Mr. Roger Dong, Mr. Wally Levin, Colonel William Hyde, Sr., Mr. James Jacobs, Mr. Patrick Otellini, Ms. Susan Pontious, Ms. Mary Powell, and especially Ms. Elizabeth Murray who worked tirelessly to coordinate and supervise the entire project. Aside from all the distinguished dignitaries who spoke, Cathay Post No.384 member, Service Officer Rogelio Manaois, provided the crowd with his perspective of what the memorial monument means to him as a veteran. He and I were then given the honor to entomb the chest of soils into the monument. A moment that will live in my memory forever.



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8/24/1982 – 7/31/1984

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2/28/1961 – 5/7/1975

Korean War
6/25/1950 – 1/31/1955

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World War I
4/6/1917 – 11/11/1918

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