



## American Legion Cathay Post 384



### The Cathay Bulletin

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#### April 2019 (Volume 19-02)

Welcome to our bi-monthly Cathay Bulletin, which is intended to provide important and useful information for our veterans nestled between our bi-monthly national award winning Cathay Dispatch (CD), edited by Ms. Clara Pon. This Bulletin is not intended to replace the CD, but supplements it between our special CD publications. All Cathay Post members are encouraged to submit reports for future Bulletins, of interest to our veterans. Your input submissions, feedback, and comments are requested, needed and always welcome.

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#### Important imminent dates to note:

**April 13, 2019 - 1100 hours, our April post meeting at 1524 Powell St.**

**Thursday, April 25 10 - 4 p.m. free Veteran portraits by Gigi Morton at War Memorial Veterans Building, room 210**

**May 11, 2019 - 1100 hours Cathay Post 384 May meeting at 1524 Powell St.**

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#### From the desk of Post Commander Nelson Lum:

##### Commander's Message

March was a fast moving month due to the postponement of our monthly meeting to the third weekend of the month. The postponement was necessitated due to conflict of scheduling between our post and that of the Department of California. The Department Executive Committee met on March 15 through 17, 2019 in Santa Maria. The most urgent topic was the impending bills introduced in both the House and Senate to change the eligibility time frame of Legion membership. If these bills passed the House and Senate and signed into law by the president, any and all veterans who served after the attack at Pearl Harbor will be eligible for membership in The American Legion. If we put forth our best effort to recruit the newly eligible veterans into our ranks, our membership number will be greatly increased, and our ability to advocate for issues that benefit veterans will also be reciprocal.

One of the most important missions of the Legion is to provide paid veteran service officers to assist veterans with their claims for benefits at the VA that they have earned. As most of you are aware, the funding for our Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation (VA&R) which is the responsibility of the Ways and Means Committee, has experienced budget short falls of approximately \$300,000 plus for the past few years. Money from the general fund account along with donations from various posts have been used to offset the shortages. Efforts have been made to find ways to cover these shortages. One of those efforts is the *Helmets for Heroes* program and it's slowly gaining momentum. The one theme that is in common with all these fundraising projects is that they all target Legionnaires, and there are only so much our Legionnaires can or should be asked to fund. We are open to suggestions as how we can improve upon these efforts.

I recently discovered a unique way to raise funds to supplement or eliminate the shortages. For all of you that are on Facebook, you all get a special notification from Facebook automatically when your birthday

is approaching. This notification will ask you this question. For your birthday, would you like to ask your friends to donate to a charity of your choosing. All you must do is to click “yes,” and Facebook will offer up a list of charitable organizations for you to choose from. Please choose “The American Legion CA Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Foundation.” After that, all you have to do is invite your friends (I suggest your non-veteran friends) to help with the cause. I did it and received over \$1,300 in a week. If one out of four of our Legionnaires on Facebook (estimate number is 20,000) can get their friends to donate the total of just \$50, we will receive approximately \$250,000. This really works and it will only take you about three minutes. The donation will be deposited directly into the charitable account by Facebook. You may send your friends a personal thank you note if you choose to do so.

On March 29, 2019, our brother/sister organization, the San Francisco Asian Police Officers Association (APOA), held its annual scholarship and celebration of member promotions banquet. There were approximately 300 attendees and our post members purchased two tables to support the APOA. Congratulations to all the recipients of scholarship awards and to those APOA members who were recently promoted. Special congratulations go to newly promoted Commander Daryll Fong. We look forward to working with the APOA on issues of common interest.

At our March membership meeting, nominations of officers for the year 2019 to 2020 were made along with the first reading of the revised post bylaws. There is ample time for more nominations to be accepted at this upcoming meeting. Those of you who are thinking about being more involved with the post, please don’t hesitate to have your name entered during the nominating process.

With the passage and the signing into law of the Congressional Gold Medal project for WWII Chinese American veterans behind us, it is time to do our best to locate those eligible veterans and or their family members so they can apply for the medal that they so deservedly earned. Working in conjunction with members of CACA and OCA, we plan to have a west coast celebration where we will be able to present these awards to the recipients. We will keep you informed as more details are provided.

There is a *Committee to Elect* meeting scheduled on April 13, 2019 in Bakersfield. The Committee to Elect is an independent organization formed for the sole purpose of determining the endorsement of candidates for department commander and NEC persons. Those who seek these positions are asked to attend without any financial subsidy from the department to present their qualifications and views. As I have announced during our March meeting, I will be seeking the position of department commander for the year of 2020 to 2021. While I seek the endorsement from *Committee to Elect*, I will not accept any financial assistance from this group for my campaign.

Due to scheduling of the above event, I will not be able to attend the April membership meeting. Our 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Commander Helen Wong will be chairing the April 13, 2019 membership meeting in my absence. Please mark your calendar and attend this meeting. The meeting will begin at 11:00 A.M. The meeting of the executive board will take place at 9:30 A.M.

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**From the office of our 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Commander, Helen Wong**

**Involvement matters!** It was really heartening to see over 25 members attend the March meeting and in the last few months, the numbers have been over 25 per meeting. I have always believed that if you want to know what is going on, you need to show up and hear it directly from your leaders. And if you don’t like what is going on, then you will be in a good place to give input or take matters into your own hand and run for an office. It so happens, we are in that time of year where we have nominations for office. So far, these are the nominated members and nominations will continue in April:

Commander: Helen Wong  
1<sup>st</sup> Vice: George Tsang  
Adjutant: Ernest Stanton (incumbent)  
Finance Officer: Randy Toy  
Sgt-At-Arms: CJ Reeves (incumbent)  
Chaplain: Richard Ow (appointed position)  
Service Officer: David Wong (incumbent)  
Quartermaster: Phillip Leung  
Judge advocate: Stan Ellexson (incumbent)  
WMVB Commission Delegate: Nelson Lum

CAWVA NOMINATIONS for 3 open board positions:  
Board of Directors: Nelson Lum, Roger Dong, Chuck Paskerian

Voting will be at the May meeting, so please make sure your dues are current, otherwise you are not eligible to vote.

After four years as post commander, Commander Nelson has already declared he will be running for department commander in the upcoming 2020 year. We wish him luck going up against Autrey James, the present department judge advocate. We know he has great commitment to The American Legion and has given so much of his time to making it better for the good of all.



**CMDR Nelson with District 8 CMDR Eddie Ramirez**



**March meeting with speaker Dr. Dana Lombardi, WWI expert**



**Happy 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday!**



**2019 APOA dinner with 20 members from the post attending.**



**Watch out for those lions, CJ & James!**



**Mayor Breed Gary Chew & Chaplain Richard Ow.**

We have an opportunity to get free professional portraits taken April 19 and 25, 2019 at the War Memorial Veterans Building. Please make a point to stop by one of those days. I am requesting that our members wear their Legion hats and wear a red or black long sleeve shirt that we can use for future photos either in the newsletter or on the website, especially for officers. You can also bring clothing for a professional or casual look.

# Free Portraits For Veterans with Gigi Morton

Friday, April 19 and  
Thursday, April 25  
10am-4pm, Room 210  
San Francisco Veterans Building  
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Just drop by—first-come-first-served  
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## **Our 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Commander, Chuck Paskerian**

It was a great honor for American Legion Cathay Post 384 to have our Sgt.-At-Arms CJ Reeves honored with three First Prize Blue Ribbon awards at the Veteran's Creative Arts Exhibit on February 20-23 at the War Memorial Bldg. in San Francisco. A Certificate of Appreciation for his talent was presented to him by 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Commander Helen Wong at our March meeting.

Below is one of his winning poems about our Flag.

### THE AMERICAN FLAG

By CJ Reeves, S.F. Ft. Miley VAMC

Flag of our nation  
Long may you wave  
Under sunny blue skies  
Through long endless days.

You fly over a grave,  
Of a soldier brave and true  
Who gave his young life  
In defense of you.

You fly on the ships  
That go out to sea  
Wherever you wave  
All men are free.

Flag of our nation  
Your image is in my heart  
And as long as you wave  
We shall never part.

Flag of our nation  
All America loves you  
Put them together  
That's the red, white and blue.

At our March post meeting, Richard Ow was asked to draw the winning comrade post raffle number and guess what? He drew his own number out of our total membership!!! Wow! The pot was at \$200. Richard graciously gave back \$100 to the post. So at our next meeting, we now have another \$100 pot for the raffle drawing from comrades present! COME TO THE MEETING AND WIN!

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**California American Legion College (CALC) by Nelson Lum**



On March 19 to 21, 2019 in Carson, Calif., the 3<sup>rd</sup> session of California American Legion College was held. There was a total of 17 students in attendance and their Legion status ranged from area vice commander to blue caps. The facilitators, led by Autrey James and Mick Sobczak were all wearing their blue caps to signify the most important core of the Legion. This emphasis was centered on the idea that no matter what position one may have achieved in the Legion, once he/she has completed his/her term, he/she will revert to wearing the blue cap, and thus, the blue cap is the only position and uniform that is permanently assigned to all Legionnaires.

The day began with classroom instruction and discussion of Legion related topics and added into the mix, some of the common issues dealing with leadership. Students were encouraged to participate and no one was left unchallenged. All students were given assignments (homework) prior to their arrival and their work were examined meticulously. The course was structured around the Legion's reliance on resolution driven concept, and how that concept translates into practical reality that supports the missions of the Legion. It is somewhat surprising that most Legionnaires have never written a resolution or witnessed such procedures implemented by their post. Those Legionnaires that have attended Department Executive Committee meetings and or conventions are familiar with the resolution process, but the overwhelming majority of Legionnaires are in the dark or has very limited idea as to how the resolution process works. One of the main goals of the Legion College is to address these issues in order to have more Legionnaires educated with this procedure. In addition to resolution centric discussions, instructions were provided to the students about the duties and responsibilities of various post officer positions.

The second day provided the students with an opportunity to put their resolutions to the test. They were divided into four groups, each group must submit a resolution, and advocate for its passage. The stumbling blocks were the members of the other groups, since they were told to look for flaws and advocate for the defeat of the submitted resolution. I personally like this interactive exchange the most and feel very strongly that the students would benefit from being on both sides of the aisle. When armed with this type of knowledge, the students will be able to draft their resolutions, keenly more aware of the steps they must take to improve the chances of passage. The topic of social media was taught and the students learned of the newly formed social media programs available to them and the general membership.

Forms, forms, and more forms. That was my complaint of the Legion for many years. Thank God we have finally entered the 21<sup>st</sup> century and all the required forms are now available to be filled out and completed online. If you are still doing everything by snail mail, please call the department staff in Sanger. They will be happy to assist you with how to fill it online. It will save you time and the staff in Sanger will buy you lunch when you go visit them. In addition to the staff in Sanger, all the graduates of department Legion college will be able to assist you in completing your required forms online.

On the last day of the course, the students were treated to a surprise guest, National Judge Advocate Kevin Bartlett. He was present and gave the class some very useful information regarding the Legion trademark. He was able to clarify many questions from the students. Graduation followed and each student was presented with a certificate of completion by our Department Commander Larry Leonardo and the Dean of California American Legion College, Autrey James.

With each session of graduates, the learning paradigm of CALC experienced a shift upward and the magnitude of Legion knowledge reverberates throughout the department. CALC may still be in its infancy, but it has already solidified its relevancy as a project that we must support.

While the dates for the next class has yet to be set, I strongly recommend those of you who may entertain the idea of attending the next class to complete the Legion Basic Training online (prerequisite for enrollment to CALC) as soon as you can. Once we learn of the dates, we will let you know and hope you will decide to attend.

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In this issue, all the following articles of possible interest to our veterans were written, or selected, by our CB Editor/Post Historian, Roger S. Dong. If you have any gripes, you can email me (rsdong@sbcglobal.net). I have a very large round file. For now, let's roll with our first article.

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**Medicare for All. It's Needed, But Probably Not Going to Happen.**

MEDICARE is our national healthcare system provided to eligible adults over 65 years old. Medicare supports almost 60 million members, most of whom are seniors, slightly more than 10% of our permanently handicapped citizens are also included in Medicare coverage.

What change would Medicare for All (M4all) mean to our citizens? First, it would result in the end of the dominance of private health insurance and M4all would provide a single payer medical healthcare system to serve all our citizens not covered by Medicare. That huge population could be reduced if Medicare coverage were expanded to include all citizens over 50 years old. That would put a lot of pressure on Medicare which is already under great pressure and it is likely that Medicare benefits need to be shrunk to continue satisfactory service levels.

Medicare's total cost in 2017 was \$3.5 trillion, averaging \$11,000 for each covered Medicare member. Note that most Medicare members have paid for this service from deductions from paychecks when they were working. (Eligibility for Medicare is 40 credits of work. You get one (1) work credit for each \$1,320 of earnings.)

Last month we published, "Is a single payer Medical Healthcare System possible?" and some of our readers responded that a single payer system would never happen, especially "Medicare for All." This issue, we read, is going to be a major platform issue with the Blue Party. To no one's surprise, it will cost a lot of money. My point was no matter how much it will cost to provide medical care for our citizens, that cost will not disappear just because the bill will be huge and the government is not willing to foot the bill. Here is a summary of some great media reports published in the last 30 days.

First, on April Fool’s Day, an OP-ED in the Wall Street Journal: “Confessions of a Health-Care Optimist,” by Jack Hough, who notes that “Medicare for all isn’t going to happen anytime soon, because private insurance is a trillion dollar industry, and we are not going to take a chance on losing all of those jobs. Also, Medicare isn’t going away, because it polls better among participants than private insurance.” Hough also notes that “... whether we should provide universal healthcare, but we already do that, to the extent that emergency rooms must treat everyone. The only question is whether we should provide a cheaper path for the poor and uninsured seeking routine care.”

Hough adds that “States are mulling whether they can do a better job of providing healthcare coverage than the federal government does.” Private companies are banding together to figure out how to bring down costs. CVS Health, acquired from AETNA, is converting their stores into walk-in clinics which would relieve pressure on our busy medical facilities.

But, despite all the negativity, Economic Professor and co-director of the Political Economic Research Institute at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst Professor Robert Pollin, detailed a plan to fund M4all. On March 19, 2019, his article, “The Case for Medicare for All,” was published in the OP-ED section of the Wall Street Journal, pA17.

Here summarized are the main points Pollin suggested to fund M4all. First, Pollin reports that M4all would provide medical insurance to over 100 million citizens who are uninsured, or under insured and would increase the total cost from \$3.5 trillion to \$3.6 trillion. The professor suggests that reducing administrative costs in accounting, claims processing, credentialing providers, and payment validation, all which would be consolidated in a single payer system would save about 9% of total costs. Private insurers use huge staffs to administrate. Medicare operates much more efficiently with equivalent administrative costs around 2%. For doctors, the reduction in administrative staff and less paperwork would be well received and provide more time for patients.

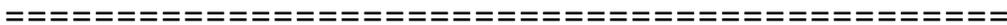
The next major savings within the system would be the direct savings in medicines and drugs. Emulating the Veterans Administration practice, the cost of drugs would be reduced by 40%. M4all would be a national project that would have national computers that reviews billing and expenses nationwide and control fees for doctors and hospitals, reduce unnecessary treatment and fraud and promote preventative care. When artificial intelligence is used to offer doctors and patients the capability to compare all the treatments national wide for success rates for a specific medical condition, outcomes should be improved and costs reduced.

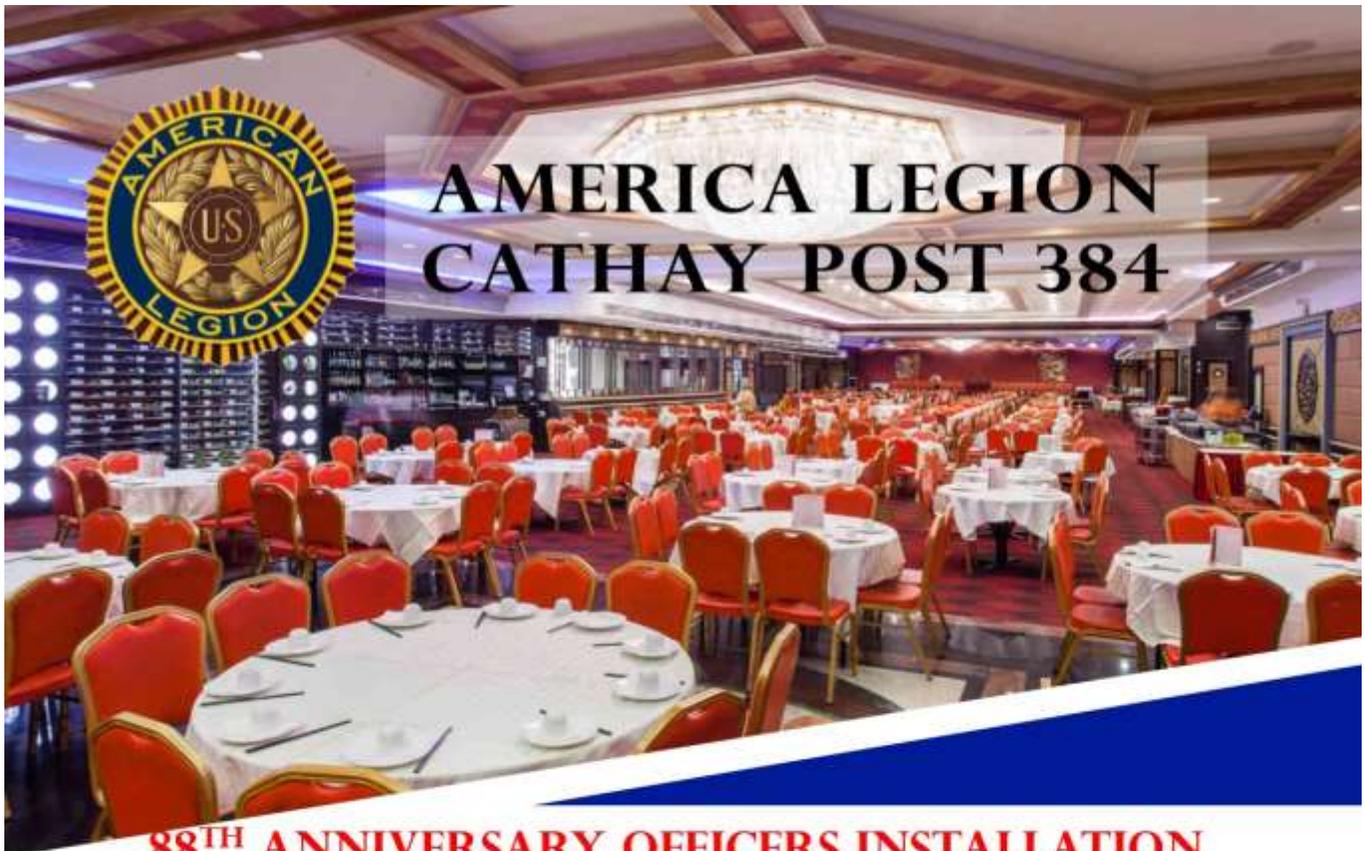
Pollin estimates that with these major financial benefits, the overall cost of M4all compared with the current cost of private insurance can save 10% from the current total costs. Money now collected by private insurance would be collected by the M4all national project and companies that are paying for their employee’s health insurance coverage would need to be paid into M4all.

M4all is a huge and complicated project, and it is very doubtful that politicians have any idea how to make this happen without the engagement of knowledgeable experts in the real costs in managing or current healthcare costs. Pessimism about getting needed political support to plan and implement an M4all system is still justified.

**Sources:**

“How 'Medicare for All' Could Mean Change for Everyone” John Tozzi , Danielle Parnass , Bloomberg, March 30th, 2019  
“Confessions of a Health-Care Optimist,” Jack Hough, 190401, WSJ, p7  
“The Case for Medicare for All,” Robert Pollin, 190329, WSJ, A17





# AMERICAN LEGION CATHAY POST 384

## **88<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OFFICERS INSTALLATION & FIRST RESPONDER'S AWARDS BANQUET**

**SATURDAY, JUNE 15, 2019**

No host cocktails 5:30 p.m. / Dinner 6:30 p.m.

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## Diet counts when it comes to health and longevity

Most people know, or believe, that we not only are what we eat, but what we eat is directly linked to health and longevity.

When we are young and foolish, we ignore the rules of a healthy diet because we do not believe that we are vulnerable and eating whatever we like will eventual impact our health. When we are young, our young bodies are strong enough to mask the damage that unhealthy food does to our bodies.

Then middle age comes along, we slow down. The initial health problems begin to surface. Realizing that we are aging, some of us may begin a new exercise routine. We may not even realize yet that exercising daily is very essential for health throughout our lives. When we are seniors, daily effective exercise actually becomes very important.

Seniors learn that sugar and salt are bad for us, and must reduce our intake of both condiments. But so much of what we eat routinely is loaded with salt and/or sugar. A drastic change in dieting may be necessary, but most people do not make drastic changes. Unfortunately, most of the time, we do not even know that ingesting a lot of salt or sugar opens up the opportunity for health problems like diabetes, which may be a precursor to potential serious health problems including the big three, heart attacks, stroke and cancer. Unlucky people may be afflicted by more than one of the big three.

Today, we learn that bad diets are linked globally to 20% of all deaths. Do we have your attention?

Adding healthy foods to our diet is an important first step for humans of all ages. Reducing ingestion of unhealthy food is a highly recommended pursuit. According to the University of Washington's Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation, "Low intake of healthy foods and high intake of unhealthy foods is the leading cause of mortality, everywhere."

And what is the one food additive that is the greatest threat to our health and life? It is the SALT of the earth. Salt (sodium) is the main cause of high blood pressure and heart disease world-wide. (That includes where you and I live!) So, eat more of what is good for you and less of what is bad for you. This formula may be the easiest suggestion to reduce potential suffering and increase your life span.

Diets that include sugary drinks, trans fats and processed meats, and too light in whole grains, produce, and nuts are associated with death and disease all over the world. You probably heard this type of health advice before. This time you should take warning seriously.

Here's another healthy hint. Eat more nuts because whole grain diets are useful to avoid chronic threats like cancer, Type 2 diabetes, and serious heart diseases. Note that it is still highly recommended that all people eat several servings of fruits and vegetables daily. Good eating means that you are working on health improvement and avoiding threats to your health and life which are under your control.

Wishing you a healthy diet and long life.

**Source:** Poor Diets Are Linked to 20% of All Deaths Worldwide, Study Says. But These Foods Could Help, Jamie Ducharme, Time magazine, April 3, 2019

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## **Follow-up to past reporting on our national opioid crisis.**

In a recent issue of Cathay Dispatch, we reported that on December 14, 2018, CBS's 60 Minutes, featured a special report on our "national opioid crisis." In that report Mississippi State Attorney General Michael Moore, conducted a monumental lawsuit in 1996 which resulted in \$250 billion settlement with our tobacco industry for all the harm done to our smokers in American. Recently, now private Attorney Moore, initiated similar legal action against the opioid industry.

We are pleased to report that Attorney Moore's legal action on behalf of the state of Oklahoma has resulted in a \$270 million settlement with the major opioid manufacturer, Purdue Pharma L.P. Additionally, Moore's anti-opioid legal crusade now includes 32 state governments and over 1500 cities, all entities are seeking fiscal remedies to cover the huge expenses treating and burying opioid victims.

The opioid addiction scene has been ongoing for several decades. Why did the government not step in and take action to deal harshly with the drug and contain the crisis before an epidemic of deaths totaling to several million lives? Some might consider this a mass murder situation.

The government agency responsible to monitor and control drug safety is the FDA. It is the FDA that regulates and approves the release of drugs for sale to the public. When the initial wave of deaths due to opioid use did not result in FDA sanctions, and the deaths crescendo to several million lives, does our government (FDA) have any responsibility and liability? The obvious answer is yes, otherwise, why do we have an FDA?

With over 1500 potential lawsuits targeting the FDA, a federal agency, our Treasury Department is going to need to print a lot of money to settle future litigation. The December 60 Minute program also noted that a number of drug manufacturers legal counsels had joined the FDA legal staff and maintained close contact with their past employers and other opioid manufacturers. Collusion was intimated.

Source: Did the FDA ignite the opioid epidemic? A drug manufacturer denounces his own industry and explains to 60 Minutes how a label change by the FDA expanded the use of opioids, 2019 Feb 24, 60 Minutes, Correspondent Bill Whitaker

The Axe Falls. On March 24, 2019, it was reported in Bloomberg, that one of the largest manufacturers of the popular opioid, Oxycontin, manufactured by Purdue Pharma, LP is seeking bankruptcy to protect from the avalanche of future lawsuits. Source: "Oxycontin-maker Purdue Pharma preparing for possible bankruptcy" By Drew Armstrong,| Bloomberg |Mar 04, 2019

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## The Boeing 737 MAX 8 Mess, what happened?

First, let's look at the basic facts about the 737 MAX 8 – from Wikipedia:



“The Boeing 737 MAX is a narrow-body aircraft series designed and produced by Boeing Commercial Airplanes as the fourth generation of the Boeing 737, succeeding the Boeing 737 Next Generation (NG).”

The new 737 series was launched on August 30, 2011. It performed its first flight on January 29, 2016. The new series gained FAA certification on March 8, 2017. The first delivery was a MAX 8 on May 6, 2017, to Malindo Air, which placed the aircraft into service on May 22, 2017. The 737 MAX is based on earlier 737 designs. It is re-engined with more efficient CFM International LEAP-1B engines, aerodynamic improvements (including distinctive split-tip winglets), and airframe modifications.

The 737 MAX series has been offered in four variants, typically offering 138 to 230 seats and a 3,215 to 3,825 nmi (5,954 to 7,084 km) range. The 737 MAX 7, MAX 8, and MAX 9 are intended to replace the 737-700, -800, and -900, respectively. Additional length is offered with the further stretched 737 MAX 10. As of January 2019, the Boeing 737 MAX has received 5,011 firm orders and delivered 350.

Following two fatal crashes of MAX 8 aircraft in October 2018 and March 2019, regulatory authorities around the world grounded the aircraft series for an indefinite time period, as of March 13, 2019. On March 19, 2019, the U.S. Department of Transportation requested an audit of the regulatory process that led to the aircraft's certification in 2017.”

In a nutshell, here's the tragic story of Boeing Aerospace's 737 MAX 8. The MAX 8 was an upgrade of the most successful airliner, the 737-800 series for decades. The 737 MAX 8 was rushed out, before complete testing and approval of their Board of Directors, to compete against her greatest rival, Airbus. With larger more powerful engines, the center of gravity of the MAX 8 was shifted forward. This caused the plane to nose upward and potentially stall, at slow speeds. Boeing engineers used software programming to direct the nose downward to counter the nose tipping upward. When the software is in effect and directing the nose downward, the pilot does not control the aircraft.

Unfortunately, when sensors malfunctioned and repeatedly signaled that the nose was tilting up, the software would repeatedly tilt the nose downward. The pilots could not override the software program and disaster was unavoidable. This tragic scenario occurred in both deadly incidents with the Indonesian Lion Airlines in October 2018 and Ethiopian Airlines in March 2019. The pilots in both instances had 8,000 hours flying experience, so the initial speculation on pilot inexperience was not relevant.

After the first tragedy in October 2018, pilots were alerted to the stall prevention system, but this warning had not been published in training manuals. That information was available to the crew of Ethiopian Air, but could not prevent that tragedy, as again the pilot and co-pilot could not regain control of the MAX 8, once sensors started sending repeated signals that directing the nose downward.

The following significant issues have surface:

1. The FAA has reportedly been allowing the manufacturer to conduct some of its own testing certifications.
2. The MAX 8 was rushed to sale before the approval of the Boeing Board of Directors.
3. In November 2018, shortly after the first tragedy on October 29, 2018, the following comments were reported in Associated Press and the Dallas Morning Star:

“The fact that the plane’s nose could be automatically and repeatedly pushed down clearly due to one false signal shocked Peter Lemme, a former Boeing flight controls engineer, who said it looks like a design flaw.”

“To contemplate commanding the (horizontal tail to pitch the jet) nose down is a major concern. For it to have been triggered by something as small as a sensor error is staggering.” Lemme said. “It means somebody didn’t do their job. There’s going to be hell to pay for that.”

Likewise, Dwight Shaeffer, a former Boeing electronics engineer and senior manager who oversaw development of systems, including the 737’s stall management computer, said the brief description in the FAA’ airworthiness directive “blows me away.”

Records show that a captain who flies the MAX 8 complained in November that it was “unconscionable” that the company and federal authorities allowed pilots to fly the planes without adequate training or fully disclosing information about how its systems were different from those of previous 737 models.

4. The hesitation to ground the MAX 8 after the first accident is also being questioned.
5. The reputation of the FAA has been severely tarnished. Several countries including Canada and a few European countries intend to do their own evaluations, no longer just accepting the validations by the FAA.

Boeing CEO Dennis Muilenburg publicly mourned the victims of the two crashes and admitted that the anti-stall system on the aircraft known as MCAS, was at fault in both crashes. "It's our responsibility to eliminate this risk. We own it and we know how to do it," While it is very noteworthy and honorable for that the Boeing CEO to publicly admit that his firm is responsible for the two tragedies, the potential loss of future business is ominous, and the lawsuits are reportedly giving many international attorneys much business opportunity. On April 10, 2019, “Boeing 737 Jet Orders Dwindle After Crashes,” Doug Cameron, WSJ, A1, A2. reports that “Boeing Co. didn’t book any commercial orders for its 737 jetliners in March, the first month without a sale of the aerospace giant’s bestselling aircraft in almost seven years.”

This report is a summary from multiple media sources. For all the details we may have missed, here is a list of useful sources:

"Boeing Design Attracts Scrutiny," Andy Pasztor and Andrew Tangel, WSJ, March 19, 2019, A18  
 "With regulators wary, Boeing faces more hurdles to restore 737 MAX fleet," Mike Baker, Dominant Gates, Seattle Times, March 19, 2018  
 "Boeing's Zeal to Revive 737 Left Pilots in the Dark," Andy Pasztor, Andrew Tangel, Alison Sider, March 28, 2019, A1, A8  
 "Between Two Deadly Crashes, Boeing Moved Haltingly," Andy Pasztor, Andrew Tangel, Alison Sider, April 2, 2019, A1, A10

"Several Boeing 737 Max 8 pilots in U.S. complained about suspected safety flaw," Cary Aspinwall, Ariana Giorgi, Dom DeFrio, Dallas Morning News, Mar 12, 2019

"FAA evaluates a potential design flaw on Boeing's 737 MAX after Lion Air crash," Dominic Gates, Seattle Times, November 18, 2018.

"Ethiopian Airlines Boeing 737 pilots 'could not stop nosedive,' BBC, April 4, 2019

"Boeing 737 Jet Orders Dwindle After Crashes." Doug Cameron, WSJ, April 10, 2019, A1, A10

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## **Russia is Manipulating GPS to Protect Putin and Causing Other Havoc in the Cyberworld**

According to security experts with the group C4ADS, the Russian President Vladimir Putin travels with a mobile GPS spoofing device to shield him from potential drone attack, and also that the Russians are manipulating global navigation systems for devious reasons.

The Russian military has focused on electronic warfare, and has been increasing its ability to jam enemy communications to counter U.S. networked warfare technology.

The Russian military believes that electronic warfare a critical part of the denying U.S. dominance in precision weapons and airspace assault. The disruption of GPS could seriously disrupt our war fighting capabilities.

Russia has developed these technologies in Ukraine and Syria, jamming radio, GPS, and radar signals. In Syria, U.S. commanders have complained of an "aggressive electronic warfare (EW) environment," and the U.S. must now counter the Russian counter EW techniques.

The Russians use electronic warfare enhance Putin's personal security detail, which has engaged GPS spoofing as a way to protect the Russian leader against drone attacks. A GPS spoofer accompanies Putin and impersonates civilian GPS signals and provides the receiver with false coordinates for local airports.

C4ADS documented the deployment of anti-drone GPS spoofers in official Russian residences and unofficial government buildings, including an Italianate palace on the Black Sea. The Kremlin has always denied that the palace is Putin's, but the presence of the system suggests otherwise. C4ADS was able to determine that a GPS spoofer is in near-constant operation on or near the grounds of the palace.

The Russian military isn't alone in practicing to jam GPS signals. This year, the U.S. military warned that GPS interference exercises would likely affect systems across a huge swath of the southeastern United States. It's unclear exactly what technical systems the U.S. Secret Service uses to protect American leaders from drone threats.

Such activity illustrates that GPS systems are vulnerable to manipulation. Security researchers have pointed out for years that such systems can be easily spoofed, and that the manufacturers of such systems must include countermeasures to protect them.

GPS systems have become omnipresent in the modern economy, used in smartphones, cars, and industrial control systems. The U.S. electric grid, for example, uses GPS for a variety of purposes and is also vulnerable to electronic manipulation.

With the advent of software-defined radios, spoofing GPS signals has become both easy and cheap. Electronics to spoof GPS signals cost a few hundred dollars to manipulate other electronic systems.

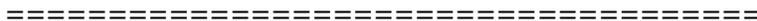
Source: "Russia is Tricking GPS to Protect Putin, in more extensive than previously understood. BY ELIAS GROLL, | APRIL 3, 2019, FOREIGN POLICY

Thanks to Post member retired AF Colonel *Joe Chan* for referring this article.



**Coast Guard unloads more than 7 tons of seized cocaine in San Diego.**

On 5 April 2019, the Coast Guard news reported that Alameda home base Coast Guard Cutter *Waesche* had off loaded 7.1 tons of cocaine seized in the western Pacific. (This is in the Pacific Ocean locations west of Mexico, Central America, or South America.) The crew of the *Waesche* and two other Coast Guard National Security Cutters, the *Active*, and the *Steadfast*, were involved in separate interdiction operations. In October 2018, the Coast Guard National Security Cutter Stratton, also home based in Alameda, CA was involved with other Coast Guard cutters in seizing more than 11 tons of cocaine. These operations are very joint, as our U.S. Navy, the FBI, and our Coast Guard coordinate their efforts to locate and target cocaine smuggling operations at sea.



**The Flu season is still here. We are still at risk. Flu shots are free!**

According to the one media source, the normal flu season runs from October to the following March, but this season's flu headaches are still with us. That means that if you are one of the those who did not get their flu shot, get your free flu shot now. The statistics for flu victims is not good. More than 450,000 victims were hospitalized since last October. More than 25,000 flu victims have died, including 76 pediatric fatalities. Flu is not just a winter threat. It can strike at any time. On the average, total flu deaths each year ranges from 12,000 to more than 56,000. Don't be a statistic, if you did not get your flu shot, do it now. Medicare covers the cost of this vaccination.

Source: "Flu Season is Lingering Longer," Taylor Umlauf, Brianna Abbot, WSJ, 34-24 Mar 2019, pA3



**The IRS gives us a break. (not fake news)**

Early in March, the WSJ reported that taxpayers who paid at least 80% of the 2018 income taxes can avoid penalties. That is down from the past 90% requirement. Congress has encouraged leniency due to taxpayer confusion with recent changes. Early filers who can benefit from this announcement should file Form843 for a refund.

Source: "IRS Offers More Cushion to Taxpayers Who Paid Too Little," Richard Rubin, WSJ, 23-24 Mar 2019



**Great News.** Our defense contractors have gone to war against drones. Today, drones not only threaten our military aircraft, but the presence of drones available in our retail outlets (some modified to disrupt civilian aircraft) are a serious problem that threatens air travelers. There is now a great business opportunity for our military industrial firms to focus on neutralizing the drone problem at our airports. That business is forecasted to be valued at \$1.2 billion this year, growing up to #1.5 billion in 2021 - not too soon for all of us who fly. Both governments and related industries are involved in joint efforts. There is much at stake, including potential lawsuits. Currently, there are systems that jam (disrupt) radio and navigation links that guide drones. **Boeing Corporation** in 2015 disrupted a drone with a system that generated up to 10 kilowatts of power that destroys drones several hundred yards away with heat. That's a great and hot solution! Other defense contractors are seriously focused on other types of drone defense. More sophisticated systems are needed to protect our military aircraft. You can bet defense contractors are fully focused on this technology.

Source: "Arms Makers Declare War on Drones," Robert Wall, WSJ, 4 Mar 2019



**Digital Home Assistance are almost ready to provide great company to Seniors and relieve loneliness.**

We have previously reported on the rapid development of digital assistants (robots) to wake up seniors, monitor their health situation, and respond consistently to frequently used dialogues and call 911 if there is an emergency. The most advanced mechanical buddies have been developed for many years in Japan. Researchers in America have learned from Japanese technology and have enhanced the responsiveness of robots to serve our English-speaking American seniors. In San Francisco, the ELIIQ system with a female voice, has been improved to provide variable verbal responses to their Masters. This provides a much more interesting and more natural and humanlike partner. ELIIQ will be available later this year for approximately \$1500.00 with a monthly service charge of \$35.00-50.00. ELLIQ recognizes faces and acknowledges her Master with variable attitudes, making her more humanlike. Seniors who have been testers for ELIIQ like a partner who does not respond the same each interaction. ELIIQ can even connect the Master with family members and friends. The system has an app for children and grandchildren to have video chats with relatives and /or friends, send notes and links, and share photos. ELLIQ is completing her trials in Toronto, Canada and at the University of San Francisco, with further testing a retirement community in Palo Alto, CA. The system may be finance by Medicare Advantage for eligible seniors in the future.

Source: "Digital Cures for Senior Loneliness," Christopher Mims, WSJ, 23-24 Feb 2019

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**Discounted SAT scores and Asian Americans.**

In an OPED discussing cheating on SAT scores for college entrance, it was reported that it has been revealed that Harvard University raises the SAT scores of students who are Black, Hispanic, or Caucasian so that they can reduce the number of Asian Americans attending the world's most prestigious university. It noted that if there were no deliberate adjustments to the SAT scores of non-Asians, the population of Asians at Harvard would be a whopping 43%, just like at CalTech, where race is not a factor. Asian Americans applying to Harvard may not wish to answer the question revealing race. Of course, if your surname is Wong or Chin, forget the suggestion. If your surname is multi-racial like Lee or Young, let Harvard discover your race after you have received your admissions welcome letter.

**"Cheating on the SATs," William McGurn, April 9, 2019, WSJ, A15**

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Until our next issue, see you at our next Post meeting this coming **Saturday, April 13, 2019**. Same Bat time, Same Bat place at 1524 Powell Street. As always George Tsang will see to it that we get a great lunch. See you there to enjoy the food and comradeship.