



# American Legion Cathay Post 384



## The Cathay Bulletin

### August 2019 (Volume 19-08)

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.

### Important Imminent Dates to note:

**Saturday, August 10 - 1100 hours, Post 384 monthly meeting at 1524 Powell Street**

**September 1, Chinatown History Day on Waverly Place, S.F., 1100 -1600 hours**

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### From the desk of Post Commander Helen Wong:

Community Involvement Matters! Entering my second official month of commandership, I would like to recognize and commend my officers who have accepted the “call of duty” to serve the post and in reality, the community in general. The elected officers have already been named in a previous newsletter, but the board of directors who were appointed were not. So, a big thank you to: Aaron Low, Nelson Lum, Miguel Ortiz, W.T. Jeanpierre, and Ed Wong for accepting the challenge going forward.

Community involvement takes many forms and veterans who choose to join an organization such as The American Legion has signified their commitment to serving in their own way. Some only choose to be members and pay their dues faithfully, while others join and show up for meetings and do not want to be an officer. There are others who join, show up, are voted or appointed as officers, and do not have time to attend other functions of the post. And there are those who do all of the above and still volunteer to help out in different ways, including giving hours at the local VA hospital, such as Nestor Tom and Sergeant-at-Arms CJ Reeves. CJ was recently appointed as the VAVS Representative at Ft. Miley VA Hospital by The American Legion. This really illustrates supporting the local community focusing on services under The American Legion’s founding four pillars.

**Coming up on September 1 is Chinatown History Day** hosted by the Chinese Historical Society of America (CHSA) from 11AM-4PM on Waverly Place as a Sunday Streets event. Livable City, a non-profit organization that sponsors and supports this program will have barricades on Waverly from Sacramento St. to Washington St. We will be signing up for a booth, so will be asking for Legionnaires and support members to help staff that day. We will feature our Cathay Post 384 history from as far back as we can find pictures, articles, newsletters, etc. We will have Legion literature about The American Legion and recruiting available. I plan on displaying the 58-year-old dragon costume we found in the attic that our Drum & Bugle Corps members wore in the 1961 *Flower Drum Song* movie! (If any member would like to try wearing a costume, we have several tops & pants on-hand.) By the way, our member Nestor Tom was in the Drum & Bugle Corps and was in the movie!

**October brings our annual Fleet Week luncheon and Italian Heritage Day Parade.** On Tuesday, October 8<sup>th</sup> at our Post 384 headquarters, we will be working on the logistics of hosting 150 Sailors and Marines per their request to be held at our post. Please set some time aside to help out. The

following weekend on Sunday, October 13<sup>th</sup> is the annual Italian Heritage Day Parade beginning 12:30 p.m. at Fisherman's Wharf. More details to follow.

As was announced on July 30, 2019, the LEGION Act (Let Everyone Get Involved in Opportunities for National Service) was signed into law by President Donald Trump. What this means is that approximately 6 million veterans will be eligible to join and access programs and benefits for which they had not been eligible. Now, with more eligible veterans, it is up to us individually to reach out and ask them to join. So, how about bringing a prospective member in?

By the way, members who have attended meetings since April have benefitted from board member Aaron Low's generosity in his donation of Giants tickets. Each month, we have had drawings for pairs of tickets to attend games. So, if you want to go to a game with the Giants in wild card contention, please come to the next meeting and put your name in the drawing! Thank you Aaron!!



Aaron & CJ showing off the Giants tickets!

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**From the desk of our 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Commander Chuck Paskerian:**

I am recommending that all our Cathay Post 384 members and friends who purchase on Amazon.com to join the *AmazonSmile* program, which will contribute a 0.5% of your purchase price to our post. This is at no cost to you. Please consider this *Amazon Smile* Charity contribution program because it will be a great benefit to our post treasury.



Here is summary data on the *AmazonSmiles* donation program. As the report shows, Amazon donates millions to deserving charities. Our Cathay Post income will be enhanced and that will benefit our many post programs. Log on to your Amazon account and designate **American Legion Post 384 Foundation Inc.** as your donation organization.

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### 4<sup>th</sup> Annual US Flag Retirement Ceremony

On July 20, 2019, members from Districts 8 and 26 of The American Legion, Department of California participated in a joint flag retirement ceremony at Cypress Lawn Cemetery, in Colma, California. This was the fourth year Cypress Lawn had hosted the ceremony and sponsored the reception afterwards. District 8 Commander Nelson Lum introduced Mr. Armando Santana to the crowd, Chapter 105 American Legion Riders from district 26 did the presentation of colors, District 8 Chaplain Denny Riley gave the invocation, and District 8 Sergeant-at-Arms CJ Reeves led the Pledge of Allegiance. Presentation and inspection of the flags were completed by District 8 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> vice commanders Helen Wong and Mario Benfield, respectively. Other representatives present were from the VFW, Shriners, VA Vets Center, San Mateo County Veterans Service Officer, and members from American Legion Posts 105, 315, 384, and 448.



T-B, L-R: Retired flags. Group photo of those who attended. District 8 Commander Nelson Lum. Chapter 105 Riders. Photos by William Jackson, Jr., Post 105

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## 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Legacy Run, August 18 – 22, 2019 from Lady Lake, Florida to Indianapolis, Indiana

This year's ride to the 101<sup>st</sup> National American Legion convention will depart on Sunday, August 18<sup>th</sup> from Post 347 in Lady Lake, Florida, the largest American Legion Post in the world. The five-day ride with hundreds of motorcycles, trikes, and support vehicles will take us through Georgia, Shelby, North Carolina for the American Legion World Series, Virginia, Kentucky, and finish in Indiana at Kenneth N. Dowden Wayne Post 64 on August 22<sup>nd</sup>. As you know, Indy houses the national headquarters of The American Legion and is also the host city for our 101<sup>st</sup> National convention.

Route and register by August 11. <https://www.legion.org/riders/legacyrun>  
Hotel info: <https://www.legion.org/riders/legacyrun>



## The American Legion's 93rd Baseball World Series

Shelby, North Carolina  
August 15 - 20, 2019

Champion game – August 20  
Starting at 6:30 p.m.

Schedule:

<https://americanlegion.sportngin.com/2019alws>



Information: <https://www.legion.org/convention/resources>



## Coast Guard Cutter Bertholf returns home to Alameda

Photo: Coast Guard Pacific Area Public Affairs

The Coast Guard National Security Cutter, the **Bertholf** (WMSL 750) returned home to Alameda Coast Guard Island on July 2, 2019 after a long and unusual 164-day deployment with our US Navy which visited Japan, South Korea, the Philippines, Thailand, and Singapore. It was reported that the Coast Guard joined our Navy and navigated the current hotspots, including the East China Sea, the South China Sea, and the Taiwan Strait.

The press was invited, and thus, using my American Legion press credentials, your post historian and reporter signed up for homecoming of the Bertholf. It was my intention to be present when our Coast Guard Cutter arrived and welcome the crew as they pulled up to the Island met by family and friends.

Coast Guard Cutter Bertholf had a different and much more interesting plan for the dozen media representatives who had arrived at CGI at 0800 hours the day of the home welcoming. Their plan was to transport the press via several smaller Coast Guard vessels and meet the Bertholf as it arrived at the entry to San Francisco Bay. Wow, that portended a special opportunity to enhance the welcome plan.



USCG Captain John Driscoll briefs Roger Dong.

It was also a very unique opportunity to meet and be briefed by Captain John Driscoll, the skipper of the Bertholf on this deployment until the Bertholf docked in Hawaii where the Cutter was scheduled for a change of command. Captain Driscoll was the commander of the Bertholf during the long deployment until its last stop in Hawaii before returning in Alameda. The press was briefed that the special mission was conducted jointly with the US Navy and traversed, not just horizontally across 8,000 miles of the Pacific, but met up with our 7<sup>th</sup> Fleet Navy ships in a special mission to enhance joint-ness and be prepared for potential contingences in the Western Pacific. Note that our Coast Guard becomes part of our Navy, whenever we are in a war.

I was personally interested in this ship and her crew's view of the Bartholf. Ironically, this vessel was built by Ingalls Shipbuilding in Biloxi, Mississippi, my former employer at the turn of the century. It was great to see the first National Security Cutter built for our Coast Guard, some 30 years ago. All the crew members I met said that they loved this NSC, but a few seasoned crew members did note that when the Cutter was first introduced to the Guard, there were some major changes made, including the strengthening of the helicopter land platform. The changes have long been corrected and the heliport if functioning competently.

All the reporters who convened to meet the **Bertholf** did a lot more than wait at the dock for the Cutter to dock and crew disembark. All of us were availed the opportunity to get our sea legs by jumping on board "small" 16 foot OTH which joined up with and then transferred to the medium sized craft which was an exciting 30 minute trip out of the Bay where we parked and waited for about 20 minutes just off

of Baker Beach as the Bertholf arrived. All along the way, we were in constant contact with Bertholf crew and actually saw the Cutter several miles before they were visually observed. I understand that on board cameras, depending on circumstances could locate and visually track ships about 10-12 miles away - a neat capability. The ocean was very choppy as we cruised under the Golden Gate and maneuvered to the vicinity of Baker Beach. The choppy ride was fun, but I was concerned that I might get sea sick, an embarrassing situation, but I am pleased to report that even though I have not previously been rocking and rolling in choppy seas in my entire life, I didn't expel my breakfast.



I must report that on this short jaunt from Coast Guard Island out to beyond the GGB, the views of SF and the Bay Area were spectacular. The Coast Guard crew, which lives in the Bay Area, noted that this homecoming of the Bertholf was blessed with unusually clear skies that offered this lucky reporter the best views possible (see below). You land lubbers need to get out to sea on the clear days to enjoy these extraordinary views so close to all of us. What a view to see the Bertholf sailing into SF Bay and surging under the Golden Gate Bridge (GGB). That must always be very joyful for military and civilian ships arriving in the Bay Area. I had a great time and plan to meet other National Security Cutters when they return to Alameda Coast Guard Island and hear their peacetime mission stories.

Our San Francisco Bay can be so **beautiful!!!!**



# EXPANDING OUR FUTURE

## SF POLICE CREDIT UNION IS NOW



Important news! We are excited to announce our recent name change on July 15, 2019, as it welcomes new law enforcement departments, related agencies, their employees and families to our credit union. This new name represents the inclusion of law enforcement throughout the state of California to the credit union's field of membership. Our new name is The Police Credit Union of California—for simplicity, we will be known simply as **The Police Credit Union**.

While our new name became effective on July 15th, the credit union will continue to operate in its current structure and there is no change to the administration, staff, locations and phone number(s). See below for what *has* changed:

- A new website address: [www.thepolicecu.org](http://www.thepolicecu.org)
- A new e-mail address format: [name@thepolicecu.org](mailto:name@thepolicecu.org)

For a list of frequently asked questions and answers about the name change, please visit our microsite, [www.BecomingThePoliceCreditUnion.com](http://www.BecomingThePoliceCreditUnion.com).

**We are excited to welcome new members from Cathay Dispatch to The Police Credit Union! To join online, visit our website at [www.thepolicecu.org](http://www.thepolicecu.org).**

[www.thepolicecu.org](http://www.thepolicecu.org) • 800.222.1391

Federally Insured by the NCUA.

## **Have You Ever Been Told or Ordered To Go Home (To a Foreign Country)? Or...Why Don't You Go Back To Where You Came From?**

By Nelson Lum, past post commander

This last statement above is a phrase I have heard throughout my childhood and most of my adult life. As an Asian American, I, along with the rest of the Asian Americans have all been subjected to being taunted by these words. Asian Americans were not at the receiving end of these taunts exclusively but quite often were the main targets of such taunts. While the frequency of such taunting has minimized during recent years, but when it happens, it nevertheless facilitates those long-hidden wounds for all Asian Americans to resurface.

The fact of the matter is, there is a presumption that Asian Americans are foreigners and are not considered a part of the true fabric of our society. This presumption persists even if you are wearing the uniform of our military or law enforcement officer. This stereotyping of Asian Americans as not being "real" Americans has been widely perceived by the masses and continually reinforced by all segments of our society. In a recent tweet by the President of the United States, these same words were tweeted even though they were directed at another ethnic group of Americans. For us Asian Americans, these insensitive, inappropriate, and outright insulting words brought forth the hurt and humiliation we suffered throughout the history of our existence in America.

The Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882 was enacted for the unsuccessful purpose of eliminating the presence of Chinese laborers in America. During WWII, thousands of Japanese Americans served honorably and heroically in the military while their family members were interned and their properties seized by the government. Asian Americans endured these unfair and blatant discrimination practices, and despite their struggle, they for the most part have thrived. Just when we think things are getting better, during a downturn of our economy, Mr. Vincent Chin was beaten to death by unemployed auto workers thinking he was the cause of their unemployment. The convicted killers were punished by what tantamounted to a slap on the wrist.

While Asian Americans have served in the military from the Civil War to every subsequent conflict, many have paid the ultimate sacrifice for our country, in particular, many served while discrimination against them was widely and openly accepted. It took 61 years for this act to get repealed. The Magnuson Act, also known as Chinese Exclusion Repeal Act of 1943 finally allowed limited number of Chinese people to immigrate. The exclusion act was not completely repealed until 1965.

So, why don't you go back to where you come from? These words by themselves may not seem to be overtly hostile or very harmful. However, to those of us who have been taunted by these words throughout our lives, they are extremely hurtful and cast a shadow of hate filled ambivalence toward our community. This recent tweet by the President is totally unacceptable, irresponsible, and lack of any common sense. I would like to see a sincere apology and a retraction of that tweet...though I am not holding my breath.

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### **Here's another related story:**

"Twenty years ago, I wrote an op-ed in The Post about what it was like to wear my Air Force uniform while people questioned my loyalty to the United States, all because of the color of my skin. I was in my Air Force blues when a woman asked if I was in the Chinese Air Force."

"I served on active duty in the U.S. Air Force and currently serve in the U.S. House of Representatives. Yet I still experience people telling me to "go back" to China or North Korea or Japan. Like many immigrants, I have learned to brush off this racist insult.



"I have served in the Air Force and in Congress. People still tell me to 'go back' to China."

These last quotes are from Congressman Ted Lieu, Colonel, USAF Reserves, directly from his FB account.

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**Here is one more story to share:**

By Roger S. Dong, Lt Colonel, USAF (retired) and former GS-14

In 2005, after retiring from the military after finishing several tours as an Air Attaché in Hong Kong and 4-year tour as a Defense Attaché at our de facto Embassy in Taiwan (AIT), I asked for a job interview with a major defense industry and sent my CV to the firm's HR office in Washington D.C.

I got an appointment and was met by a man in their HR office. I introduced myself and stated that I had served in the Air Force for 28 years. He then asked me whose Air Force? I was in civilian clothes, so did not reveal any obvious military bone fides, or maybe it was my California accent. But it is hard not to conclude that the man made a gross and erroneous assumption. I was also insulted for being assumed to be a foreign military officer (a Communist Chinese military officer) because of my race.

A few years ago, prior to making a presentation on China at the San Francisco War Memorial Veterans Building, I met, welcomed one of the attendees, and introduced myself as a retired intelligence officer. You guessed it! He asked, "Whose intelligence?" That was an ultimate insult for a nationally decorated American Intelligence Officer.

Many Americans do not fear or hate China these days, even though she is getting stronger and not so easy to push around. That is not true for a number of our national leaders. We have White House representatives declaring that China is an existential threat to America. These are words of war.

For the past 200 years, she was weak and many western nations took advantage of her lack of unity and weakness. However, the harsh verbiage emanating from many of our national leaders is alarming as no one seems interested seeking a peaceful solution in a very competitive environment.

Unfortunately, bad relations between China and America is a very unhealthy situation for Chinese Americans, including our loyal Chinese American veterans. The old negative stereotype that questions our loyalty to our country are being regurgitated again. For all our loyal veterans, this is an unacceptable situation. To serve and take the risk of military service should be sufficient proof of our Americanism.

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**Save the Life of Washington**

By Past Post Commander Nelson Lum

Back in 1936, a well-known Russian American artist named Victor Arnautoff, a Stanford professor and a committed communist, created a mural which was commissioned at George Washington High School in San Francisco named "life of Washington" in the lobby of the front entrance to the school. The mural depicts Washington as a slave owner and stood over what appeared to be dead bodies of American Indians. The mural, with its provocative depictions, has stood over the lobby of this great school since that time. It serves as a reminder that the father of our country, like most of our forefathers, did not live without controversy, and we along with every succeeding generation must learn from our history, the good, bad, and ugly aspects in order not to make the same mistake that our forefathers did.

Generations of San Francisco kids went to Washington and that includes yours truly. I remembered walking into the lobby for the very first time in 1963 and saw that mural. It was powerful, thought provoking, and I was in awe. I noticed the depiction of slaves and the dead bodies of America Indians, but I knew that was a reminder to us that not all things were great in our history. For the next three years, I must have walked by the mural a thousand times. There were times when I stopped and saw additional

details of the mural that I had not noticed before. One thing that I did not experience was any kind of trauma induced by the mural that affected my psyche. During my time there, I neither witnessed nor heard of complaints from my classmates that the mural had caused them any psychological discomfort.

Fast forward to the current time, the San Francisco Unified School District board of directors voted unanimously to spend \$600,000 to paint over the mural due to some parents' complaint that the depiction of slaves and dead American Indians on the mural traumatized their children. When I heard that, the first thought I had was how do these children survive if they must walk by theatres with the common depiction of violence on posters or display windows? These children must be prohibited from seeing or playing most of the video games since they contain graphic violent images that will cause harm to their overtly sensitive mind.

When questioned as to his reason for the vote, one of the board members, Mark Sanchez, stated the expenditure of \$600,000 is just a form of "reparations." Have we all gone mad? A school district that is consistently telling all the schools to cut their budget due to short falls in funding has no issue whatsoever to spend \$600,000 to cover up history? Does painting over a mural that depicts the ills of our past erase the wrong doings? Should our children not be taught and be reminded of the truth of our history? Just when you think the progressives of this city can go no further to radicalize the norm, they came up with another surprise to jolt our sense of stability.

The San Francisco Unified School District board has a history of disregarding merits by siding with political correctness. It voted to abolish the JROTC program in the school district back in 2005 even though the students of the program achieved a graduation rate of 99% compared to the rate of 70% for the rest of the student body. The JROTC program was restored after some hard-fought political battles by veterans' groups including The American Legion and concerned parents.

Folks, the board is at it again, but this self-righteous action by the board to impose its political correctness views may just be the straw that broke the camel's back. Since when have you seen a conservative commentator on Fox News, Harmeet Dhillon, and former Mayor Willie Brown of San Francisco, a progressive icon, jointly condemn the actions of this school board? Former board president Matt Gonzalez, another progressive icon who works in the San Francisco Public Defenders office, stated "Rather than attack a mural painted by an ally of theirs, opponents should focus on real villains — those who whitewash history by pretending terrible things didn't once happen."

For the thousands of students who attended George Washington High, the "Life of Washington" mural was designed to inform and educate them of Washington's legacy, the noble and ignoble. Was Washington a slave owner? Yes. Did he command troops that killed Native Americans? Yes. However, George Washington also performed an incredible service for this country. We wouldn't be here without him.

If you don't feel history should just be erased, you should be grateful to the George Washington Alumni Association and support its effort to stop this madness. The association is planning to file a lawsuit to stop the destruction of this historical mural. There is also an effort spearheaded by concerned citizens to put this issue on the ballot so that the citizenry of this city can have a say as to the preservation of its historical arts.

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### **Cyber Threat is real, growing, and potentially very devastating**

Robert Mueller, Special Counsel, Richard Clarke, former Cyber Chief serving Clinton and G. W. Bush are warning that our nation, corporations, and our citizens all face real cyber threats.

This article does not discuss the disruption of our 2016 presidential elections or the ongoing cyber offensive by Russia, China, Iran, or North Korea.

Cathay Post, *Cathay Bulletin* August 2019

The threat to governments and businesses pursued by our enemies and cyber criminals is severe and has been, and presently, a major threat. Sometimes the foreign enemies are also cyber criminals invading corporate mainframes and networks bringing handsome ransom payments that can benefit foreign intelligence organizations and criminals.

In the most famous Russian invasion of the many mainframes and computer networks in Ukraine, the malware designed against Ukraine was spread throughout the Maersk global shipping network resulted in business losses totaling around \$10 billion. Maersk operating ports in the U.S. were also impacted.

For background information, the long-held secret about our American involvement in cyber warfare is now an open reality. In 2010, our CIA and NSA working with Israeli cyber experts, shut down Syrian nuclear centrifuges with our cyber software. Preventing the nuclear weapons program was a very smart, cyber-attack. No one was killed, just nuclear weapons development was derailed, if only temporarily.

Our own cyber efforts were extremely compromised by traitors. Harold T. Martin, civilian contractor to NSA Edgord Snowden and Mr. Nghia Pho, all stole the coding for penetrating computers and computer networks and released the information to the outside world.

Today, our Defense Department has the Cyber Command which has focused most of its efforts in defensive measures to protect our government computers after we learned that many of our military and government computers had been compromised with foreign malware. We have removed some of the malware, but cannot be sure that we have removed all the invasive malware. According to Richard Clark, who I met and briefly discussed foreign invasion of our computers, Cyber Command along with other cyber warriors are dedicating cyber ware to disarm and disrupt foreign computers and networks that control foreign weapon systems. It is useful for our enemies to know that we have offensive weapons that will disrupt the command and control of weapons in time of war. The uncertainty that we may have penetrated the command and control is a very effective deterrent on all sides. We, too, are not certain that our systems will work when we really need them.

Sources:

<https://www.nytimes.com/2019/06/15/us/politics/trump-cyber-russia-grid.amp.html>

*'U.S. Escalates Online Attacks on Russia's Power Grid,' David E. Sanger and Nicole Perlroth, NYT, June 15, 2019*

Book: *"The Fifth Domain-Defending our Country, our Companies, and Ourselves in the Age of Cyber-Threats," Richard G. Clarke and Robert K Knake, 2019, Penguin Press*

*"The Untold Story of NotPetya, the Most Devastating Cyberattack in History, Crippled ports. Paralyzed corporations. Frozen government agencies. How a single piece of code crashed the world." Andy Greenberg, Wired, September 2018.*

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### **Are you ready for a natural disaster?**

A disaster can happen at any time. IT may be an earthquake. It could be a digital attack from an enemy that disables our utilities. We all need to be prepared to survive without electricity. Everyone needs to be ready.

Create an emergency supply kit. Stock up on enough supplies to last a week. Put the items in waterproof containers and store them in a place that is easy to reach. Whether you are sheltering at home or evacuating, in a disaster situation, you may need to get your supplies quickly. Remember to refresh your emergency kit at least once a year. Mobile phone service may not be available after a disaster. Here is what you'll need according to PG & E.

