



CATHAY DISPATCH

Veterans - Sounding Off Since 1931

CATHAY POST PUTS ON ANOTHER VIP ESCORT FOR NATIONAL COMMANDER VISIT By Nelson Lum



The Bay Area was soaked by the torrential rain throughout the week that preceded the visit by our National Commander Brett Reistad. As the organizer of his visit to San Francisco, I had to pray a lot for the elusive sunshine or at a minimum, no rain. One of the features I usually try to arrange for a national commander visit is the motorcycle escort provided by the San Francisco Police Department. However, if it rains, the escort detail would be cancelled for safety reasons in accordance with the policies of the police department.

Mother nature was kind. The weather cooperated and the commander's motorcade was escorted by 12 motorcycle units from the SFPD. In addition to the escort units, the commander was driven through the City in a 1953 classic Rolls Royce decorated with The American Legion emblems. This service was provided for by Comrade Carl Payne, member of Cathay Post 384 Board of Directors.

Upon arriving at the San Francisco War Memorial Veterans Building, the commander was given a tour of the facilities. He paid a visit to the Department of CA Auxiliary headquarters, the Veterans Success Center, the various Legion posts offices, and took some time to look through the WWI exhibits in the lobby and the Veteran's Gallery.

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2019 Resolution—Get Involved at the Post By Clara Pon

Happy New Year to all. Hope everyone had a happy and relaxing holiday season. Our hearts and prayers to those families that endured personal tragedy. Wishing you all a peaceful and successful 2019.

Cathay Post started off this year's event with the planning of the national commander's tour of California, as you may have read the story above by Cathay Post Commander Nelson Lum. There is already another event in the works, just a few weeks away—Superbowl 53

fundraising party at the post. If you'd like to help, reach out to George or Nelson. (See flyer on page 8.)

These and other events bring members and friends together. The post may not have a bar anymore like so many posts do to raise money and gather at, but what the post leadership has is altruism and drive for the welfare of the community at large. So while you're enjoying the good company and the lively discussions, it might be a good time to talk

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Important Dates:

- Jan 1—New Year's Day
- Jan 12—11 a.m. Monthly general meeting
- Jan 21 —Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
- Feb 5—Chinese New Year. Year of the Pig/Boar.
- Feb 9—11 a.m. Monthly general meeting

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REISTAD VISIT, Continued

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Once situated in the Rolls, the entourage headed directly to Cathay Post 384, the only post in San Francisco that has its own building. A quick tour of the facility was conducted and the commander was informed about the historical facts surrounding our unique post. The entourage then went on to the hotel where they would be staying that evening. Since Commander Reistad has never visited San Francisco before, he wanted to see the famous Fisherman’s Wharf. He took that opportunity to pose for a picture sitting in one of SF’s famed cable cars.

At precisely 6:30 p.m. that evening, the motorcade arrived at New Asia Restaurant with its SFPD motorcycle units as escort. Passersby stopped to see who the VIP was as the commander existed the Rolls. There were more than 90 people in our gathering. An unexpected incident developed which caused some confusion. The restaurant had another party that evening consisting of about 600 people. Some of the guests arriving were confused as to where they should go, but it all worked out without too much interruption.



Above: Commander Reistad with members of the SF Fire Dept. Veterans Assoc., with two being members of Cathay Post.

Right: Commander Reistad sitting in one of SF’s famous cable cars during his tour of Fisherman’s Wharf on his way to his hotel.

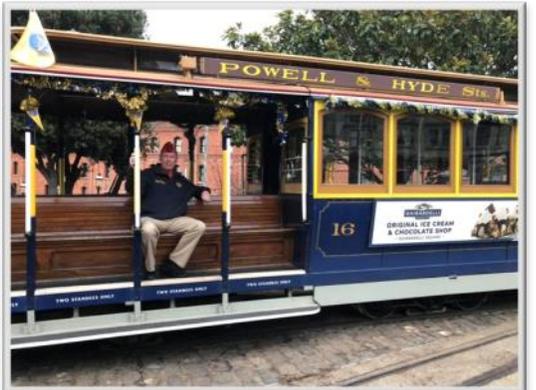
Once the commander was seated, the posting of the colors was conducted by members of the San Francisco Fire Department Veterans Association. It should be noted that two of the four members were also members of Cathay Post 384. The audience was



treated to an informative speech by National Commander Reistad. He informed us of the possibility that the Legion will revise its long-standing position to include those veterans who

served during “peacetime.” While this will require action by Congress in order to be accomplished, this is the first time that serious consideration has been given at the national level to this suggested change in membership eligibility. The evening ended after all nine courses were served and everyone was well fed.

As we said farewell to the commander, we had no doubt we have left him with a wonderful impression of San Francisco. I am certain he will always think of this day with kind reverence anytime he hears the well known song by Tony Bennett, “I left My Heart in San Francisco.” Safe travels commander.



SUPERBOWL SUNDAY

**FEB 3
3 P.M.**



**FEB 3
3 P.M.**

COME AND JOIN US FOR A SPECIAL FUNDRAISER

**CATHAY POST 384
1524 POWELL STREET**

PLENTY OF FOOD & DRINKS

PRIME RIBS

CHICKEN WINGS

APPETIZERS

COCKTAILS & BEER

(NO HOST BAR)

MINIMUM DONATION: \$20

FOOD & 2 DRINKS (NON-PREMIUM)

RSVP BY JANUARY 15, 2019

GEORGE TSANG (415) 608-3212

NELSON LUM (415) 205-0120

FOOTBALL POOL

CONTACT: RANDY TOY (415) 595-8664

COMMANDER NELSON LUM

On December 9, 2018, a small group of Legionnaires from Cathay Post 384 were present at the Chinese Cultural Center located at the Hilton Hotel in the financial district. They were there to support the annual meeting of the Rape of Nanjing Redress Coalition. This annual event features victims or relatives of victims of the atrocity that took place during the occupation of northern China by the Japanese Imperial Army. It is the mission of this group to seek an official acknowledgement and apology from the Japanese government. While Cathay Post 384 does not have any official involvement with the mission of this group, we do support the efforts of this group to honor veterans. I like to express my appreciation to our Sergeant-At-Arms C.J. Reeves, Chaplain Richard Ow, Board member Randle Toy, Comrades Phillip Leung and David Adams for their assistance with this event.

On December 14 and 15, 2018, funeral services for our beloved Dr. Dale Chow King were held at the Green Street Mortuary. Members of our post folded and presented a special flag of our nation to Mrs. Eva King, the lovely wife of Dr. Dale King. This flag has flown over the capitol

building of Congress and was given to us by Senator Dianne Feinstein. I like to thank our members for their attendance to bid our final farewell to Dr. King.

On Monday, January 7, 2019, National Commander Brett Reistad will be visiting San Francisco. The current schedule calls for him to be in Redwood City for a luncheon hosted by Redwood City Post 105 at 12:00 noon. He, along with his entourage will depart Redwood City around 2:30 p.m. and arrive at the San Francisco War Memorial Veterans Building around 3:15 p.m. The commander will be given a tour of the building and his entourage will then be escorted by San Francisco Police Department Motorcycle units to Cathay Post 384's headquarters. A brief stop will be made at Cathay Post after which the commander will be escorted to his hotel for a short rest. He will attend a banquet hosted by Cathay Post 384 at New Asia Restaurant at 6:30 p.m. The address of the restaurant is 772 Pacific Avenue. This will be a nine course Chinese banquet featuring seafood (the commander's preference). You are all welcome to join us for this special occasion. The cost of the banquet

is \$48 per person or \$475 for a table of 10 people.

The year of 2018 has flown bye and while many important tasks for our post have been completed, there seems to be a thousand things that still need to be done. I guess that is what makes life interesting. The good news is that we are in the final stages of negotiating a lease for the 2nd floor of our building. Our 1st Vice Commander Helen Wong, my wing person, has been an invaluable asset and is making sure that all the I's are dotted and T's are crossed before we proceed with the lease agreement. My other wing person, Ms. Clara Pon has been the best assistant anyone could ever ask for. She continues to lend us her support even though she has been busy moving to the great state of Indiana. I and the post owe these two wonder women a great amount of gratitude.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to express my personal gratitude to all of you for your assistance throughout the year. As we look forward to 2019, there will be new challenges and you will be asked to put on your volunteer cap, roll up your sleeves,

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Nelson Lum

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(415) 797-7384

Cathay Post Member
since: 2005

Branch: Army

Final Rank: SPC

"We must keep in mind those service members who are currently serving in faraway places and will not be home during the holiday season in order to keep us safe. For we shall never forget that freedom is never free, and we must be thankful and appreciative of our service members."



Helen Wong

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Cathay Post Member since: 1990

Branch: Army

Final Rank: Lt. Col.

“Our main object in holding social affairs is to get better acquainted with our membership. The more active participation, the more interest you will develop in your own post.”

1st VICE COMMANDER HELEN WONG

History Matters! Our American Legion National Commander Brett P. Reistad’s theme is “Celebrating Our Legacy” with a special emphasis on the organization’s centennial. While the history of the national organization is well documented since its beginning in 1918, the history of how our Cathay Post was formed is not that well known to many. There are no year-books, no plaques, no certificates, nor descendants of the WWI Veterans around to tell us about the formation. If not for a few old *Chinese Press* newspapers dated 1951 found in the “attic,” the history would be lost forever.

In 1930, a few Post 1 members helped the group form the post (although the Charter was not received until August 1931). The copy of the 1951 article is hard to read, but Post 384 was almost 21 years old at that time. The first Post 384 commander was M.S. Owyang and the headquarters was on Commercial Street. The rent was \$5 a month which was returned by the landlord so that the utilities could be paid.

The article lists all the members which numbered over 1,000 as there were WWI and WWII Veterans and possibly

Korean War Veterans by then. They were known for their community activities especially the sponsorship of Boy Scout Troop 3, the first Chinese American Boys Scout Troop in San Francisco and the Junior Legion Baseball, work towards fair employment practices, a service bureau to answer questions from thousands of Chinese Veterans, and working toward the repeal of the Chinese Exclusion Law of 1943.

The list of the commanders from 1930-1951 is interesting and impressive at the time as there were plenty of committed and dedicated members who worked through each position to eventually become commander, without anyone cycling back through. What is also an interesting fact about the post’s early leaders was that many of them were also leaders in the Chinese VFW post as well as being community leaders working with City officials to collaborate on designing the St. Mary’s WWI & WWII Veterans Memorial.

There was also a women’s Cathay Auxiliary Unit established in May 1931 which was very active. They planned parties, events, and social gatherings. Twenty one years later, Cathay

chartered a squadron in 1952, but only lasted for a couple of decades.

So why is the history of Cathay Post 384 so important that this article is dedicated to the subject? In my opinion, since this is a new year – 2019, we can learn something about why the post was able to recruit over 1,000 members, yet our present day roster hovers around 120 members. What can we do to recruit **AND** retain members? What can we offer our members today that they are not getting elsewhere? What activities will draw new members?

In the 1954-1955 copies of the *Cathay Chronicle*, they talked about annual picnics at the Marin Town & Country Club in Fairfax, pre-New Year dances, Chinese New Year parties, Valentine Day dances, Naturalization Night, fighting deportation of WWII Veterans who have applied for naturalization, annual Christmas Kiddies Party, legislative programs, Meet Your New Comrades, and much more. In Vol. 2 (1954) No. 2 edition of the newsletter, 2nd Vice Commander Jimmy Hall talked about social activities being the key to many a successful post.

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COMMANDER LUM, CONTINUED

(Continued from page 4)

and put forth your best efforts to lend a helping hand to our post and to those veterans who are less fortunate. Additionally, we must keep in mind those service members who are currently serving in faraway places and will not be home during the holiday season in order to keep us safe. For we

shall never forget that freedom is never free, and we must be thankful and appreciative of our service members. As we enjoy our time with our family members during this holiday season, please be mindful of the blessings our Lord has bestowed upon us.

Have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

VICE COMMANDER WONG, CONTINUED

(Continued from page 5)

“Our main object in holding social affairs is to get better acquainted with our membership. The more active participation, the more interest you will develop in your own post.” Words written over 65 years ago still rings true today. We can use those words of wisdom and see what we can do to attract new members and retain those who have joined, but maybe are not active. **Sometimes, something old is something new.**

HAPPY HOLIDAYS TO ALL & HAPPY CHINESE NEW YEAR TO COME!



Top: Cathay Post and VFW members showing the WWI & WWII Veterans Memorial plaque drawing to S.F. Mayor Elmer E. Robinson.

Right: Members of Cathay Post and VFW members standing with the completed plaque.



The Passing of a Post Icon By Nelson Lum



Dr. Dale King procession past Cathay Post 384.

front to render our last salute to pay tribute to Dr. Dale King.

Dr. King had an unusual military record when compared with most other veterans. He was initially drafted into the Army in 1944 while he was still in college. He served on a medical team and was deployed to the Philippines where he, along with his teammates, provided medical treatment to those wounded from the battlefield. Upon discharge, Dr. King went back to college where he earned his degree in dentistry. When the Korean conflict was at its peak and the need for medical assistance was great, Dr. King re-enlisted again, this time as a naval officer.

On December 15, 2018, about 20 members of our post were in attendance at the Green Street Mortuary for the final farewell to one of our distinguished members, Dr. Dale Chow King who was our Comrade, our past post commander, a pillar of strength for our organization, and one of the donors that helped buy our current building back in the late 40s. Doctor Dale King was a Cathay Post 384 icon from the time I first joined the post back in 2005. His presence at the meetings lent legitimacy to the existence of a post which possesses unique fibers of historical tradition.

He was a gentle giant who bridged the divisions of those who served during WWII (the greatest generation), to those who served in the Korean conflict (the forgotten war), and to the Vietnam era veterans (the most unpopular war in United States' history). We learned from Dr. King that we are all just veterans and must dedicate our efforts to helping each other no matter when we served. At the conclusion of the funeral service, the funeral procession drove past Cathay Post 384 where the members of our post lined up in

He was assigned to the aircraft carrier USS Boxer which was deployed to the seas of the Korean Peninsula. The mission of the carrier was to supply close tactical air support for the ground troops. You may ask what relevancy a dentist may have

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Cathay Post member's farewell salute to Dr. King. Procession photos by Lisa Roellig.



Passing of an Icon, Continued

(Continued from page 8)

in this situation? Well, just imagine trying to fly or maintain an aircraft if you have a toothache or other oral or gum related issues? Dr. King's expertise kept the sailors in good dental health and thus, were in shape to successfully complete the operational missions they were assigned.

Dr. King was elected as the post commander in 2008 where he took over for our late past post commander Bok Pon. It was a time of transition from the set ways that things were done to new ways of updating how post businesses were handled. I recalled that Dr. King was always approachable and opened to different points of view. The most memorable impression I have of Dr. King was his incessant smile no matter how dire the task or tasks maybe. He was always optimistic and confident that things will be fine so long as we work as a team.

As most of you are aware, on December 12, 2018, the House unanimously passed the bill to authorize the award of Congressional Gold Medals to Chinese American veterans of WWII.

An action that we have urged and promoted for the past four years. It was our plan to send Dr. King to Washington D.C. as our representative to witness the signing of the bill by our president upon the passage of this bill. We now know that Dr. King will be witnessing the signing with his WWII comrades in heaven.

Rest in peace Dr. Dale King. You will not be forgotten. For God and Country, we salute you.



Dr. Dale King cuts his birthday cake December 2017 with his son Sherman (right) and Nelson, post commander (left).

Another WWII Chinese American Veteran Passes Only Days Apart

By Adj. Gabe Mui, Lt. Kimlau Post 1291, NY



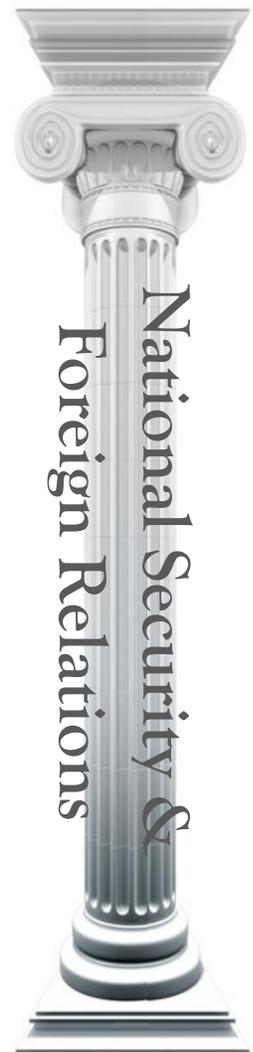
It is heartbroken that our chairman, Peter Woo has passed away unexpectedly last evening, Dec. It is a huge loss for Lt. Kimlau Post 1291 and we all will miss him dearly.

Peter was a WWII Veteran and served with the famed Flying Tiger Unit in China, Burma, and

India Theater. He is the most senior leader of American Legion Lt. Kimlau Post 1291 and mentor to all of us. He single handedly secured our permanent post

headquarters and respected by every post member. We are all saddened by the sudden loss. We will miss him dearly. RIP Chairman Woo.

Note: Lt. B.R. Kimlau Post 1291 in NY is one of our 'sister' posts. As it happens, Dr. Dale King and Peter Woo were long time acquaintances.



Call for Art - **VETERANS' ART!**

National Veterans Creative Arts Competition

Art – Creative Writing – Dance – Drama – Music



Fort Miley Veterans' Creative Arts Exhibit - 2019 at Veterans Gallery of War Memorial Veterans Building

401 Van Ness, San Francisco, California 94102

CALL FOR ART - broadly, categories* include:

Applied & Fine Arts Music Dance Creative Writing Drama & Digital



* More info from Veterans Health Administration
<https://www.blogs.va.gov/nvspse/national-veterans-creative-arts-festival>

SAVE THESE DATES!

-  ARTISTS - Deliver artwork to exhibit organizers February 11th - 15th.
-  FRIENDS/COMMUNITY - show open daily from February 18th, thru Awards and Reception February 28th

••••ELIGIBILITY••••

- Open to veterans enrolled for care within the San Francisco VA Medical Center & Community-Based Outpatient Clinics (Santa Rosa, Eureka, Ukiah, Clearlake, San Bruno, downtown SF).
- Valid VA-issued photo ID required..

••••ENTRIES••••

- Limit of 2 entries per Veteran per category
- Visual art - 16 by 20 inches, maximum.
- Sculptures, Performance Art, & Digital Creations, contact for details

••••CONTRACTS••••

All artists' entry forms will include identity info, with exhibit agreements & liability waivers.

••••CONTACT E-MAIL ADRESS••••

FortMileyVeteransArts2019@gmail.com

Top awards at local level qualify artworks to enter 2019 National Veterans Creative Arts Competition (NVCAC), presented by the Department of Veterans Affairs and the American Legion Auxiliary, with AMVETS assisting locally.



Chinese American WWII Veterans to be awarded Congressional Gold Medal

By Roger Dong

It's finally done. President Trump on December 20, signed into law the *Chinese-American World War II Veteran Congressional Gold Medal Act*. Congress unanimously passed House resolution S.1050 to award all Chinese American World War II veterans the Congressional Gold Medal for their loyal and patriotic service to our country on 12 December 2018. HOORAY. Cathay Post applauds the many people who made this momentous occasion successful, especially E. Samantha Cheng, the Project Leader and Mr. Ed Gor, Past National President of the Chinese American Citizens Alliance for their dedicated and focused effort. It was three years ago that members of Cathay Post 384 approved a resolution urging Congress to pass this bill. That resolution received approval through the various resolution processes of The American Legion organization. Final approval was received from the national level about a year later. Thus, this effort has the endorsement of the largest veteran organization of our nation and there is no doubt our congressional representatives were aware of our sentiment when they voted.

We had dozens of Cathay Post members who were among the brave warriors, but unfortunately, most have gone onto Post Everlasting while waiting for the bill's passage. One of our last few WWII veterans, Dr. Dale King, joined his WWII comrades just a few weeks ago.

Several of our current Cathay Post members have fathers who served during WWII. We will continue to honor them all for their service. Hey NELSON, are we ready to party??? That will be our first party to celebrate the good news when President Trump signs the bill, then we should have another party when the Gold Medals are distributed to the appropriate family members.

Senators Tammy Duckworth, Thad Cochran, and Mazie Hirono lead the national effort in the Senate and Congressional Representatives Ted Lieu, Ed Royce and Grace Meng led the successful charge in the House. Notably, the legislation was approved unanimously in both chambers.

It should be noted that the loyal WWII military service of almost 20,000 young Chinese Ameri-

cans persuaded Congress to pass the 1943 Magnuson Act that repealed the 1882 Chinese Exclusion Act. Beginning in May of 1943, the passage of this act allowed some of our young men and women to be called American citizens officially. Chinese women were no longer prohibited from immigrating to the United States, and the repopulation of Chinese American families. Chinese Americans in the era still faced unfair immigration quotas designed to restrict their numbers, only 105 Chinese people each year could be anointed as an American citizen, so the effort to repopulate was a "de minimus" situation.

In gratitude for our loyal defense of America, Congress passed the first of three War Brides Acts in December 1945 that allowed our veterans to apply for the immigration of their brides, fiancées, and their family members home to America. The two other War Brides Acts in 1946 and 1948 opened the welcoming gates to roughly 100,000 war brides from both Hemispheres. There were many European war brides, in addition to Japanese, Filipino, and S. Korean war

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WWII—Congressional Gold Medal, Continued

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brides that effected the repopulation of many groups after WWII.

It was not until Immigration and Naturalization Act of 1965 that Chinese

could immigrate to America with about equal immigration numbers as the Europeans. European nations had a 20,000 quota each year, the new annual quotas for Chinese were 10,000 from Hong Kong and 10,000 from Taiwan. Politics is always an issue.

Lots of Toys for the SFFD Toy Program

As in years past after the conclusion of our December meeting, many of our members take all the new toys for boys and girls that were donated down the street to the SF Fire station for their annual toy program. This year was no different. Many post members and friends after the meeting and before the annual holiday luncheon was served, carried three overflowing bags of toys for the San Francisco Fire Department Toy Program. No doubt there will be plenty of smiles on the faces of children and firefighters alike.



Cathay Post members delivering toys to the fire house.

Reviving Our Boy Scout Troop 3 By Helen Wong



FIRST PICTURE OF TROOP 3

Shortly after the troop was organized, this picture was taken showing our first Scoutmaster, Lim J. Kwong, teaching first aid. Left to right, front: Tim Wong, King Lee, Bing Moy, Steven Moy. Back row: Andrew Woo, Scoutmaster Lim J. Kwong, Edwar Lee, Nelson Wong, and Chingwah Lee. Absent was Kenneth (Lim) Wong. All are members of the founding troop.

At our last post board meeting, Troop 3 Scoutmaster Steven Chang attended and had a request for storing equipment that their troop uses for camping activities. It would be for sleeping bags, backpacks that some of their boys would borrow as they don't have the financial means to buy their own equipment yet want to participate in scouting. While the post is undergoing plans to rent out the 2nd floor and storage is an issue too, his presence gave the post a chance to connect with the troop again.

Board member Randy Toy was a Boy Scout with the troop way back when, and volunteered to be the liaison for future activities. Troop 3, which formed in 1914 also happens to be the oldest and first Boy Scout Troop in San Francisco as well as the first Chinese Boy Scout Troop in the world. Fast forward 30 years to 1944, Troop 3 started meeting at Cathay Post when they were headquartered near Chinese playground. The nine charter members were Kenneth Lim Wong, Edwar Lee, Tim Wong, Bing Moy, Stephen Moy, Andrew Woo, Nelson Wong, King Lee, and Chingwah Lee. Coincidentally, few of them later became Cathay Post commanders.





Resource guide for American Legion digital media

Websites

The primary American Legion website can be found at www.legion.org. From there, visitors can learn more about the organization, its programs, become a member and visit our online store. Here are some other notable links:

MEMBERSHIP: Information for members, prospective members and recruiters. www.legion.org/membership

NALPA: The National American Legion Press Association is a group of communicators at the post level. Resources and other information, www.legion.org/nalpa

GET PUBLISHED! Share military stories, post histories and more, www.legiontown.org

CENTENNIAL: Get updated on our 100th anniversary celebration, centennial.legion.org

MEMORIALS: We are building a digital archive of war memorials. Visit or add to the database here, www.legion.org/memorials

E-newsletters

The American Legion produces and distributes a dozen free e-newsletters with news and information for veterans, servicemembers and others. Sign up for which ones you would like to receive, www.legion.org/newsletters

Social media

The American Legion is active on the primary social media platforms, including:

FACEBOOK: The Legion's main Facebook page has an active news feed and can be found here, www.facebook.com/americanlegionhq. Other sanctioned Facebook pages can be found here, www.legion.org/socialmedia.

TWITTER: Timely news updates from the Legion and other sources for military and veterans news. twitter.com/AmericanLegion

LINKEDIN: Resource information, career advice and tips, and links to job fairs for veterans. www.linkedin.com/company/the-american-legion/

INSTAGRAM: Photos from American Legion staffers. www.instagram.com/theamericanlegion/

Publications

Download and print American Legion brochures. www.legion.org/publications

Apps

Download American Legion apps on your mobile devices, www.legion.org/mobileapps

Videos

Our videos are published on the Legion website and YouTube (search for AmericanLegionHQ to subscribe). Additionally, downloadable videos and PSAs are available on our Vimeo channel, vimeo.com/americanlegion

Text alerts

To receive a text alert when the president orders flags to be lowered, text the word 'flag' to 35893.

More Than One Way to Skin a Cat—Membership Renewal Drives

By Clara Pon

My first time participating in a membership revitalization was over four years ago at Redwood City Post 105, a joint district venture with all the districts in Area 2. There was a representative, David Baughman from national that came out to help with the revitalization. Having never participated in one before, I had no idea what it entailed or what was expected. Romie Bassetto from Post 105 and district 26 commander at the time told me he needed help and wanted me to come down with my cellphone and a charging cord, so I did.

Romie gave me a short brief overview on what we were suppose to do during a membership revitalization. There were sheets already presorted and he said to call each member up and get him/her to transfer to a local post. He gave me blank MDFs, a single sheet of paper listing all the local posts with very little information on it, and a stack of pre-sorted expired and Post 1000 members. There was no script to really follow. There was only one department roster book, and some Legion brochures lying around. I looked at him and he pointed to a spot for me to sit and call.

I looked around the room, listening in on some of the calls that various people were engaged in and I thought to myself, “Ok, there has got to be another way to do this. This isn’t efficient and so far, not very effective. I don’t know what to say to someone when I get him/her on the phone. I don’t want to sound like I’m a cold caller.” So I did what I tend to do and that was to find another way, a more effective way and came up with my own method...email, custom email transfer requests. That’s right, email requests. At the time, no one at the revitalization had done it before and if

I recall, David hadn’t heard of anyone sending out transfer requests by email either.

I told Romie that I wasn’t going to call people, but send out custom mass emails to those that had emails listed on the pre-sorted sheets. I created a new email address for Romie for this revitalization that I monitored and showed him the customized email draft that “he” was going to send out from “his” new email address. He liked the idea and out went the emails. At the end of the 2.5 day revitalization and a couple of weeks later, we had transferred or renewed about 30 members to various posts in districts 8 and 26 as a result of sending out approximately 80 emails that took only a couple of hours.

Since then and several other revitalizations, district 26, specifically Romie Bassetto has fine tuned this membership renewal drive process for the district and his own post. He doesn’t just do email. He still does calls as well as mailings and pounds the pavement. His roster is segmented by war eras because we found that veterans from different war eras respond to different contact methods. It is then further segmented for email addresses. For those addresses that are close by and are older veterans, he’d go knock on the door. The most important thing is that he does this every month for his post as well as helping other posts with their membership renewals.

His overall objective wasn’t just to transfer the member or to get them to renew. It was also to clean up the roster so he could have an accurate database of all the members in his district. Template letters were crafted for various membership types with relevant

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Membership Renewal Drives, Continued

(Continued from page 14)

merge fields that populated with their roster information, and asked if it was correct and invited them to come to a meeting or an event.

He is serious about membership. He prints out hundreds of mail merge letters, self addressed return envelopes, as well as outer envelopes that already have the US postal indicia on it, so all he has to do is drop the letters off at

the post office. In addition, he uses mylegion.org to help him with membership. Self-deprecatingly he always says, “For a Vietnam Vet, I’m not so bad with all this techy stuff. I may need a few reminders on how to do computer and internet stuff, but eventually I get the hang of it.”

So, here are new incentives for increasing membership from national. This could be easy money for your post.



myLegion

Bulletin Board



Brett Reistad, National Commander

Updated January, 2019

Post/District Officer Bulletin

NEW Membership Incentive Program

December 1, 2018 through May 8, 2019

National Commander Reistad’s new membership incentive program offers rewards for both departments and posts.

- Departments will receive \$2,500 if they achieve 100% of their 2019 membership goal by the Armed Forces Day target date on May 8th, and an additional \$5,000 will be awarded to each department that hits 105% of their goal by the Delegate Strength target date.
- Posts will receive \$5.00 for each **2014, 2015, 2016** expired member who renews at their post for membership year 2019. After the incentive program ends on May 8, 2019, checks will be disbursed to each post through their department headquarters.

To assist you in your efforts, the 2014/2015/2016 Expired members can be easily retrieved from the Report Server on *myLegion*.

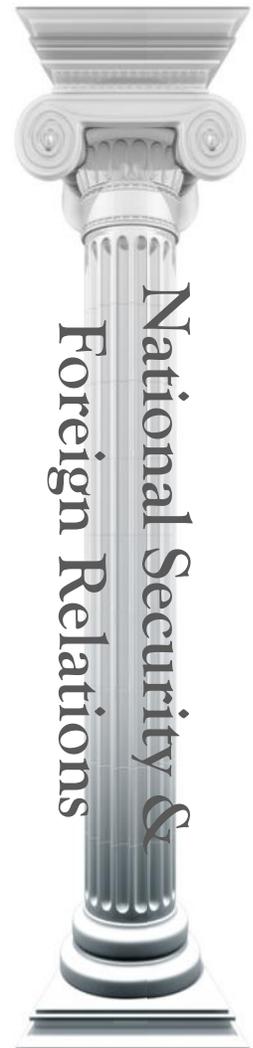
Step 1: Select “Reports/Labels” on the left-hand menu.

Step 2:

- ✓ Posts - open Post Reports folder, click on Revitalization folder to see: Un_Renewed Letters, Un_Renewed_Labels, and Un_Renewed Roster
- ✓ Districts – open District Reports folder to see un_Renewed Roster listing
- ✓ Counties – open County Reports folder to see un_Renewed Roster listing

Find Members in my Area – now includes last paid 2014/2015/2016

To receive credit for renewing a 2014/2015/2016 expired member, you must renew them in your post and use their current membership ID# found on the expired listing.



2018-19 MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL DATES

2018-2019 NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP TARGET DATES

| | | |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|----------------|
| EARLY BIRD/NEF KICKOFF | SEPTEMBER 12, 2018 | 50% |
| FALL MEETINGS | OCTOBER 11, 2018 | 55% |
| VETERANS DAY | NOVEMBER 15, 2018 | 65% |
| PEARL HARBOR DAY | DECEMBER 12, 2018 | 75% |
| MID-WINTER | JANUARY 17, 2019 | 80% |
| PRESIDENTS DAY | FEBRUARY 13, 2019 | 85% |
| LEGION BIRTHDAY | MARCH 13, 2019 | 90% |
| CHILDREN & YOUTH | APRIL 10, 2019 | 95% |
| ARMED FORCES DAY | MAY 8, 2019 | 100% |
| DELEGATE STRENGTH | 30 DAYS PRIOR TO NATIONAL CONVENTION | |

Target dates are the second Wednesday of the month unless a holiday falls on that day or at the beginning of that week.

The November target date will be on the third Thursday due to Veterans Day falling on the previous Sunday.

To maximize the December renewal notice, the January target date will be the third Thursday of the month.

2018-2019 NATIONAL RENEWAL SCHEDULE

| <u>DEPT. CUTOFF DATE</u> | <u>CUTOFF DATE</u> | <u>RENEWAL MAIL DATE</u> |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------------|
| MAY 7, 2018 | MAY 9, 2018 | JULY 2, 2018 |
| SEPTEMBER 10, 2018 | SEPTEMBER 12, 2018 | OCTOBER 8, 2018 |
| OCTOBER 9, 2018 | OCTOBER 11, 2018 | NOVEMBER 16, 2018 |
| DECEMBER 10, 2018 | DECEMBER 12, 2018 | JANUARY 4, 2019 |
| FEBRUARY 11, 2019 | FEBRUARY 13, 2019 | FEBRUARY 27, 2019 |
| APRIL 8, 2019 | APRIL 10, 2019 | APRIL 26, 2019 |

Transmittals not received by the cutoff date may not prevent a subsequent renewal notice from being delivered at or around the renewal date.

Please note that renewals transmitted and received by the cutoff (which is also a national target date) will be updated prior to printing renewal notices, assuming they can be successfully scanned. Membership that must be hand-keyed (new members and renewals that can't be scanned) will take longer to process. Please transmit as early and as often as possible in advance of the target dates to help avoid delays in processing.

SF POLICE CREDIT UNION

Providing financial solutions to take care of our own

Welcome the New Year with an SFPCU membership! When you join SFPCU, you'll receive **\$25** for your opening deposit, plus enter to win a **\$500** Amazon eGift Card at www.sfpcu.org/giveaway.*

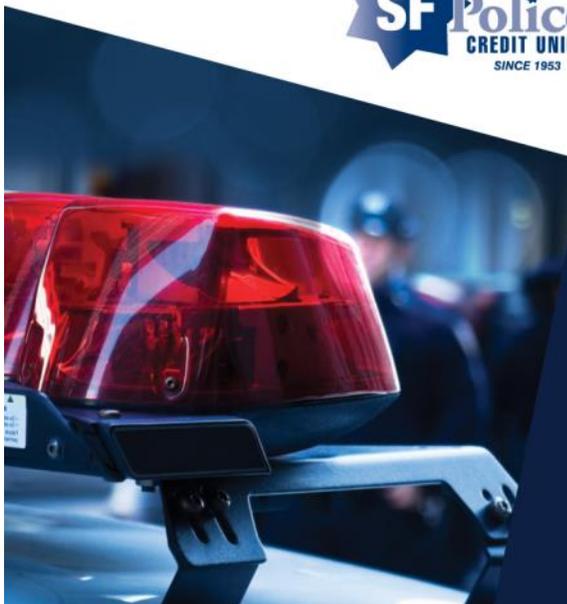
- ★ Below-market mortgage rates and low fees
- ★ Auto loans as low as 2.49% APR** with 90 days NO PAYMENTS
- ★ Checking with no monthly fees and up to 10 ATM fees rebated per month*
- ★ Platinum Visa with no annual or balance transfer fees

Join today with two easy steps!

1. Go to www.sfpcu.org/becomeamember
2. Enter **MD950** in the promo code section to get your **\$25** opening deposit bonus.



800.222.1391
www.sfpcu.org



*\$500 Amazon eGift Card winner will be chosen at random and notified on 4/5/19. Before prize is emailed, SFPCU must receive acknowledgment of winning by 04/12/19. All new accounts are subject to the SFPCU account opening procedures and standard account terms and conditions. **APR = Annual Percentage Rate. Example rate of 2.49% APR with 36 monthly payments = \$28.86 per \$1,000 borrowed, assumes .25% discount for enrollment in automatic payments (fully indexed rate of 2.74%). APR is based on evaluation of credit history, so your rate may differ. Rates, fees and terms are subject to change without notice. *SFPCU will refund ATM surcharges up to \$3 per out-of-network ATM transaction. Rates, terms and conditions are subject to change. Federally insured by the NCUA

2019 Get Involved, Continued

(Continued from page 1)

about other events that you and others can be planning such as recruiting parties, membership renewal drives, and finding students to participate in the annual oratorical contest. These activities can bring in new and inactive members, remind those who haven't renewed their 2019 dues to do so before they can no longer participate in these fun events, and encourage interest from those that may be shy or new to the organization to get involved.

Yes, we are all busy. Yes, we have family and or professional obligations. Many of you also belong to other veteran or "antler" themed organizations. However, we should also find something new and challenging to do that isn't part of our normal every day routine. We did just enter into a new year after all.

Maybe you can spare an hour a week or two hours a month. That's great. You can help the adjutant and first vice commander on membership drives, or help the second vice commander with Americanism programs such as assisting with Boys State interviews, take part in an oratorical contest, come

up with new fund raising events, support Boy Scout Troop 3, or help a slew of other programs the post supports.

I wouldn't mind someone interested in taking over the monthly newsletter duties. We've been trying to find someone more permanent for the last couple of years. I've been doing this for about the last five years or so. It is time for a Cathay Post member to finally take over the responsibilities.

Speaking of which, for over a year now due to busier schedules, relocating, and other projects, this newsletter was no longer being published monthly, but bimonthly (every other month) and supplemented with the Cathay Bulletin on those off months. Without the continued support and effort by post historian Roger Dong, this newsletter would have been nothing but a few measly pages and there wouldn't be a Cathay Bulletin to boot. So, I thank you Roger for all your articles and profound dedication to provide information these past years, at least a decade to all our faithful readers.

So really, it's time someone else steps up to help Roger with the communicating, recording

and documenting of this post's history. In essence, that's what this newsletter and the Bulletin accomplish. It is a printed historical record of what this post does for the community, the veterans and their families, the youth, and for its members every month, year after year.

With me over 2,200 miles away, its even harder for me to include relevant, current, and informative content in every issue. So, if you or anyone you know likes to dabble in writing or interested in capturing history, we'd like to hear from you. Let Nelson know you are interested and we'd be happy to have you aboard.

If you're not interested in anything I've mentioned so far, maybe you prefer social media and are into tech. The post could use your skills in redesigning the post website and managing the Facebook page. Those two areas definitely need someone's deft touch.

So if you want more info on any of these events or programs, feel free to ask me or post leadership. It's your post. Make it a good, fun active post.

Have a great year.



World War I—The Exhibit By Nelson Lum

As the war waged in Europe between combatants that took thousands of lives, the United States, under President Woodrow Wilson's administration, refused to engage in the war directly. United States did support the British and French's war efforts by providing shipments of desperately needed supplies. When Imperial Germany dispatched her submarine fleet to attack all ally shipments across the Atlantic and numerous American ships were sunk, political pressure mounted for President Wilson to take decisive action to retaliate against Imperial Germany. Thus, on April 6, 1917 at the urging of President Wilson, the United States Congress voted 373 to 50 to declare war on Germany, an action that authorized the mobilization of the entire military apparatus. American soldiers were deployed to Europe, to engage the enemy and to support our allies who had suffered great losses and were weary from combat.

While the men from the United States were deployed, the jobs they left behind and the needed increase on productivity to support the deployment fell onto the shoulders of the women. Over four (4) million women worked in factories to produce weapons and related equipment to support the war along with taking over those jobs vacated when the men left for the eastern front. In order to support the troops, another phenomenon took

place at that time—the voluntary rationing of food by the citizenry. “Food will win the war” signs urging the public to observe “Meatless days,” “Wheatless days,” and “Porkless days” were posted by the U.S. Food Administration. The public conserved so the food can be shipped to feed the soldiers.

The American Expeditionary Force (AEF), under the command of General Pershing, flooded the eastern front. These men were nicknamed “Doughboy,” a name that claims several origins. One of the origins dates back to the Mexican War of 1846. During that conflict, soldiers traveled long distances through dusty trails by horse or foot. By the time they arrived at their destination, they were usually covered by dust and dirt, and they looked as though they were covered by a layer of flour, or dough, thus the nickname “Doughboy.”

Even though the American forces were not well trained before being deployed, they nevertheless were fresh and energetic when compared with the battle wearied allies and the combatants of Germany. With the injection of new weapons and equipment from the home front, it did not take long before the AEF turned the tide. With the sacrifice of over 50,000 killed and hundreds of thousand wounded, the AEF managed to push through the German defenses and caused the signing of the Armistice on November 11, 1918 at 5:00 a.m. The agreement was to take effect at 11:00 a.m. on that same date. It should be noted more than 2,700 combatants were killed between the time of the signing and the time it took effect.

Continued on page 20)



World War I, Continued

(Continued from page 19)

Members of the various minority groups such as American Indian, African American, Chinese American, etc., were involved in the war that was to end all wars but hardly mentioned. Approximately 370,000 African American were part of the AEF, but they were not accorded equal treatment. The American officers did not allow the African American soldiers into combat since they were looked upon as inferior and could not be trusted. They were relegated to menial duties and were discriminated against just as they were by our society.

In direct contrast was the French military, they negotiated with the U.S. military and took over command of four (4) regiments of African American soldiers. These regiments were sent into combat where they distinguished themselves and fought with honor. One of the regiments was the 369th, "Black Rattler." This regiment displayed such ferocious tenacity in battle that earned themselves the nick name "Harlem Hell Fighters." A soldier named William Henry Johnson who suffered 21 wounds while engaged in hand to hand combat was awarded the Croix de Guerre, (War Cross) by the French military for gallantry in battle. Unfortunately, the United States government refused to recognize his heroics and did not award Johnson with his well-deserved recognition. It was not until 2015 that he was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor posthumously by President Barack Obama.

A local Chinese American, Frank You Tong was 25 years of age when he was drafted into the Army in 1918. He later became one of the founding members of American Legion Cathay Post 384.

As we all know, the war that was supposed to end all wars did not accomplish that goal. It, however, caused some major changes in our society.

The tremendous contributions of woman, who took over factory productions, jobs, and the well being of the homes, resulted in the passage of legislation to amend the Constitution in order to grant women the right to vote. The amendment was ratified by the states in 1920. The loyal and honorable military service of those Chinese Americans helped with the eventual repeal of the Chinese Exclusion Act. The military was the first governmental entity to fully abandoned segregation.

If you found any of this remotely interesting or want to learn more about what the world was like a century ago, come down to the WWI exhibit at the San Francisco War Memorial Veterans Building. Again, the lobby features a time line exhibit of the war beginning in 1914 through America's 1917 entry into the war, the 1918 Armistice signing, soldiers returning home in 1919, and building of the War Memorial — dedicated to 'all who served' in 1932. You can spend hours reading and looking at the artifacts that are on display. The exhibit will be on display daily from 1:00 to 8:00 p.m. until January 17, 2019. Please come down and rediscover history.



National Debt at Highest Level. Should Seniors Worry?

By Roger Dong

Many people who understand macroeconomics are very concerned about our national debt. It's looming and when our government begins to pay that DEBT, there will be major financial repercussions to many people, including and especially us seniors. Paying off our huge national debt \$21,000,000,000,000 (21 trillion), which can only be repaid with collected tax revenues, will diminish our national capability to adequately fund our major budget line items, including retirement income (Social Security), healthcare (Medicare/Medicaid), and our National Defense budget. These three of our largest national expenses, will be negatively impacted. (The Big Three). The national debt grows at thousands of dollars per second. (Check out the live National Debt clock at: www.usdebtclock.org/)

It is important to understand the difference between the federal government's annual budget deficit and the country's national debt impacts people. Simply put, the federal government generates a budget deficit whenever it spends more money than it brings in through taxes, an income-generating activity. To operate in this manner, the Treasury Department has to issue treasury bills, treasury notes, and treasury bonds to make up the difference. By issuing these types of securities, the federal government can acquire the cash it needs to provide governmental services.

The national debt is simply the net accumulation of the federal government's annual budget deficits. The many billions needed to repay our debt will shrink our available national funds for our monthly social security checks, Medicare/Medicaid reimbursements and money for defense

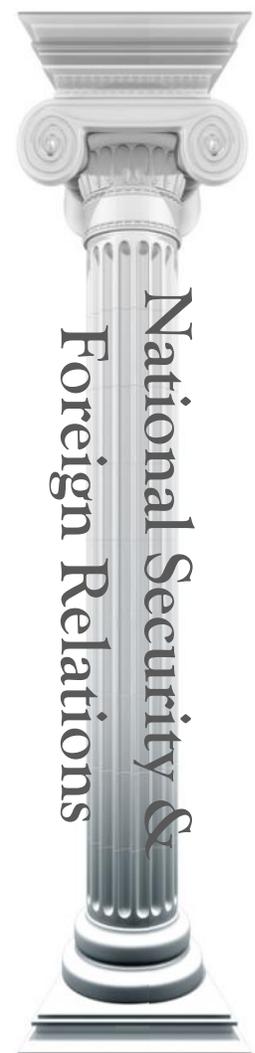
(including military retirement obligations). Got your attention? We should be reminding our elected officials to deal with this soon. The problem will only get worse, unless we deal with it now.

The "good news" is that no elected official (red party or blue party) will dare eliminate social security payments totally, if re-election is desired. However, the population of people reaching 65 years of age (grey panthers) continues to grow (10,000 per day), and that means that more and more money will be needed to fund and make monthly payments to everyone - many families that depend on that social security income. When available funds shrink, monthly social security payments will very likely shrink, too.

Our elected national leaders are aware of the threat our growing national debt poses on funding 'The Big Three,' as well as thousands of other organizations/projects that rely of federal funding. If we do not strongly urge our elected leaders to address our debt, many people will suffer in their senior years.

It will take many billions to just partially pay the national debt. Again, this means that there will be less funds to pay our social security checks, less funding for Medicare/Medicaid bills, and less funding for national defense and many government agencies that are responsible for maintaining our national energy programs, our infrastructure, parks, etc. Unless planning and action is undertaken very soon, expect smaller social security payments, expect higher healthcare expenses, and less national security.

Sources: "What the National Debt Means to You," By Troy Adkins | Updated March 26, 2018



Pentagon Reports Our Military has “Atrophied,” While China and Russia Advances. Fake News? By Roger Dong

On November 14, 2018, the Washington Post reported that our Department of Defense's National Defense Strategy Commission, composed of both the Democratic and Republican Party representatives have opined that our military capabilities have not been advancing as expected, while China and Russian capabilities have improved, jeopardizing our former strategic leadership. WHAT? How did that happen?

In my humble military opinion, the past 17 years of continuous war has diverted most of our Pentagon budget to our military campaigns in the Middle East, which has left fewer dollars for research and development (R&D). Our annual defense budget is reportedly 10 times larger than the Chinese and four (4) times larger than the Russian budget. They are not at war and burning up millions of barrels of oil and money for combat and even with much less money to invest in military R&D, our actual R&D funding is less than we need. War is very expensive, costing precious lives and other resources. As an example of a cost most people may not be aware of, it reportedly costs a million dollars every day to supply potable and bottled water to our troops serving in hot and dry Afghanistan. That's \$365 million a year just to keep our combat troops hydrated. Neither the Chinese or Russians have this expense.

There is also an often ignored reality that 17 years of war have exhausted both our active and Reserve forces. With a volunteer Army, our limited human resources have put enormous pressure on our combat troops, many of whom have repeated deployments and deprived of sufficient rest and recovery time. Less than 1% of our citizens have volunteered to serve in our

military, and thus, both our Army and Marines send our warriors back into combat before they have had sufficient rest and recovery time. Every person who has served in a combat zone, needs to receive 3 days of rest and recovery time (R&R), for every day in combat. That is time required to deal with the severe stress of combat. Our limited volunteer military headcount prevents the Army and Marines from following the R&R recommendations. No one wants to send our combat troops repeatedly without sufficient R&R, but the manpower requirements to bring troops in combat home when tours are completed, do not allow for best practices.

Our Air Force is short more than 2,000 pilots, short of maintenance personnel, and also short of drone operators. The Army only has 5 of 58 combat brigades prepare to fight right now. Our fatigued Navy personnel has had four avoidable ship collisions involving some of our most modern and best equipped war ships.

“The U.S. military could suffer unacceptably high casualties and loss of major capital assets in its next conflict. It might struggle to win, or perhaps lose, a war against China or Russia,” the report said. It is obviously very difficult to maintain our military edge when there is a shortage of manpower, and what volunteers we have, are very tired.

Recent media reports that more money is needed improve our technical military capabilities and that we may have lost our “technical edge,” over our competitors. Just adding more money to R&D, does not improve our critical manpower shortages.

Sources: Multiple including [Paul Sonne](#) and [Shane Harris](#), November 14, 2018, *Washington Post*.



January 2019

| SUN | MON | TUE | WED | THU | FRI | SAT |
|-----|----------------------------------|--------------------------|-----|----------------------------------|-----|-----------------------------|
| | | 1 New Year's Day | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 6 | 7 | 8 ALWMC Meeting, 6 pm | 9 | 10 Dist. 8 Meeting 6:00 pm | 11 | 12 Post Meeting 11 am |
| 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 |
| 20 | 21 Martin Luther King Jr. Day | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 |
| 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | | |

February 2019

| SUN | MON | TUE | WED | THU | FRI | SAT |
|---------------------------|-----------------------|--|-----|---|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| | | | | | 1 | 2 |
| 3 Superbowl party 3 pm | 4 | 5 Chinese New Year Year of the pig | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 Post Meeting 11 am |
| 10 | 11 | 12 Lincoln's birthday | 13 | 14 Valentine's Day Dist. 8 Meeting 6:00 pm | 15 | 16 |
| 17 | 18 President's Day | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 Washington's b-day | 23 |
| 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | | |

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We welcome article or letter submissions but reserve the right to publish, republish or not publish any submission and to edit articles or letters as appropriate. Submissions must include your name and an email address or phone number. All submissions should be emailed to cathaypost384events@gmail.com.

Cathay Dispatch is a proud member of the *National American Legion Press Association* (NALPA) & *California American Legion Press Association* (CALPA).



2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018



2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018



www.legion.org

Join Cathay Post No. 384 in San Francisco, one of the oldest and most active posts in San Francisco. We welcome all qualified retired or active men and women.

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

Gulf War/War On Terrorism
Desert Shield/Desert Storm/OEF/OIF
8/2/1990 to present

Panama—*Operation Just Cause*
12/20/1989 – 1/31/1990

Lebanon/Grenada
Lebanon War/Operation Urgent Fury
8/24/1982 – 7/31/1984

Vietnam War
2/28/1961 – 5/7/1975

Korean War
6/25/1950 – 1/31/1955

World War II
12/7/1941 – 12/31/1946

World War I
4/6/1917 – 11/11/1918

CATHAY POST 384 American Legion

2018-2019 Officers

Commander: Nelson Lum

1st Vice Commander: Helen Wong

2nd Vice Commander:
Charles Paskerian

Adjutant: Ernie Stanton

Finance Officer: George Tsang

Historian: Roger Dong

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