



CATHAY DISPATCH

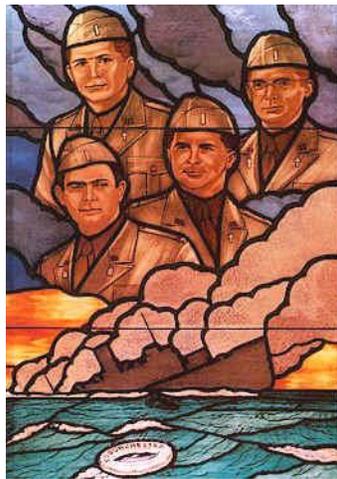
Veterans - Sounding Off Since 1931

Important Dates:

- Feb 3—Four Chaplain's Day
- Feb 12—Lincoln's B-day
- Feb 14—Valentine's Day, Monthly Meeting—11 am, Four Chaplain's Service—2 pm
- Feb 16—President's Day, Washington's B-day
- Feb 19—Chinese New Year's
- Feb 26—Mar CD Article Deadline

FEBRUARY 3—FOUR CHAPLAIN'S DAY

By Nelson Lum & Lisa Roellig



Stained glass window of the Immortal Chaplains at the Pentagon.

Photo from Wikipedia.

“Not for my safe return, that wouldn't be fair. Just pray that I shall do my duty...Just pray that I shall be adequate.” Chaplain Clark V. Poling to his father before boarding the troop ship United States Army Transport (USAT) Dorchester.

February 3, 2015 marks the historic 72nd anniversary of the sinking of the United States *SS Dorchester*. The United States Congress, by declaration proclaimed February 3, 1998 to be *Four Chaplains Day* to honor the four Army chaplains who gave up their life jackets to other sailors in the life boat as the USAT Dorchester was sinking after being struck by a torpedo from a German U-boat in the Atlantic off the coast of Newfoundland in 1943. The Four Chaplains, also referred to as

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CHINESE NEW YEAR—YEAR OF THE SHEEP

By Clara Pon

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Chinese New Year or Spring Festival this year is on Thursday, February 19. It is the year of the sheep or ram. The Spring Festival is traditionally celebrated beginning on the eve of the new moon and lasts for 15 days when it becomes a full moon according to the lunisolar year.



You can catch a preview of the parade on Saturday, February 14, which also happens to be the day of our Post's monthly meeting. The mini-procession and ribbon-cutting ceremony starts at 10:30 a.m. at St. Mary's Square. Lion dancers, giant walking puppets, drummers and dancers, and

stilt walkers will be marching along Grant Avenue from California Street to Pacific Avenue. Members attending the meeting, please allocate extra time to get to the post and find parking.

The annual Chinese New Year parade which began in the 1860s in San Francisco is one of the largest celebrated Asian parades in the world. The Southwest Airlines Chinese New Year Parade will be on Saturday, March 7 beginning at 5:15 p.m. The parade will start from Market & Second streets and end at Kearney and Jackson streets.

The two and a half hour parade will feature over 100 units of elaborate floats, school marching bands, lion dancers,

(Continued on page 2)

The Four Chaplains, Continued

(Continued from page 1)

the Immortal Chaplains, were all of different religious faiths. They were Reverend George L. Fox (Methodist), Reverend Clark V. Poling (Dutch Reformed Church in America), Father John P. Washington (Roman Catholic), and Rabbi Alexander B. Goode (Jewish).

They were posthumously awarded the Distinguished Service Cross and the Purple Heart in 1944. Each of them were also conferred the Four Chaplains' Medal in 1960 which Congress approved and deemed to be of the same importance and value as the Medal of Honor. Additionally, they



were immortalized with a USPS commemorative postage stamp in 1948.

At the American Legion's 88th National Convention held in Salt Lake City in 2006, the National Executive Committee passed a resolution that supported awarding the Medal of Honor to Fox, Goode, Poling, and Washington urging Congress to reconsider conferring to them the Medal of Honor.

Every year, American Legion posts nationwide remember Four Chaplains Day with memorial services as one of its official activities. On Saturday, February 14, 2015 following our regular monthly meeting and luncheon, an inter-faith service to honor the Four Chaplains will be held at Saint Mary's Cathedral at 2:00 p.m. A reception in the Parish Hall will follow immediately after the service at 1111 Gough Street, San Francisco. RSVP to Department of CA HQ at: 415-431-2400 or by email to: mj@calegion.org. We strongly encourage all of you to attend this remembrance.

Chinese New Year, Continued

(Continued from page 1)

folk dancers, gorgeous costumes, stilt walkers, Chinese acrobats, martial arts performers, Miss Chinatown USA accompanied by her court, and of course, the 268-foot long "golden" dragon.

You can experience the sounds and excitement of the parade with the explod-

ing firecrackers in person along the parade route or you can buy bleacher seat tickets. If you prefer a more relaxing experience, you can watch the parade live on KTVU Fox 2 or KTSF 26 beginning at 6 p.m.

For more information about the Southwest Airlines Chinese New Year Parade 2015, please visit www.chineseparade.com/.



Illuminated Golden Dragon—SF Chinese New Year parade, 2013. Photo by Thomas Parry.



COMMANDER JAY PON

Commander's Mission Statement: Cathay Post No. 384 is here to support fellow veterans, youth programs, and the local community. We are part of a national veteran's non-profit group established by Congress after World War I. Chartered in 1931, we serve San Francisco and the areas around it. My focus will be: (1) preserving the rights of veterans and patriotic organizations in the War Memorial Veterans Building; (2) increase Post external events for members; (3) preserving our Post history, culture, and traditions; (4) support youth and educational programs; and (5) increase the use of our clubhouse to the community.

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

Sun Nin Fai Lok! Happy Chinese New Year! This is the year of the sheep, ram, or goat.

Thank you for all those that attended the January general meeting. What a great way to start the year by initiating our newest member Vince Neeson. The initiation was performed according to the American Legion tradition by having Comrade Neeson take the American Legion oath and receiving instructions on our Legion emblem. A US flag, Legion pin, and a flag etiquette book were presented to him.

The traditional initiation separates us from most other groups. Its ritual links all American Legion posts together, sim-

ilar to the oath we all took when we joined the military. Comrade Neeson... welcome aboard, saddle up, it's time to contribute toward the pillars of the American Legion.

A special thanks to Judge Advocate and Historian Roger Dong for organizing our Fort Miley trip that was scheduled for January 24. Unfortunately, due to an outbreak of the flu virus in the hospital, the visit was canceled. A new date will be scheduled for our members to spend time with those veterans who are hospitalized at Fort Miley.

To many veterans, the Veterans Administration (VA) system is their only option when private ser-

vices are not feasible nor affordable. The American Legion must continue to lobby the VA to provide better services and demand reasonable waiting time for those that served and sacrificed for our nation.

Past comrades who served before us had the foresight to purchase the building which has greatly benefited our members, but the building is old and will need a tremendous amount of renovations in order for it to meet the current codes and regulations. In order for Cathay Post to continue hosting events like the luncheon during Fleet Week, Texas Hold 'em night, holiday lunches, or any other special events, fire sprin-

(Continued on page 5)



Jay Pon

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1 (415) 409-8858

Cathay Post Member since: 2001

Branch: Navy, Army

Final Rank: Major

"The American Legion must continue to lobby the VA to provide better services and demand reasonable waiting time for those that served and sacrificed..."



Nelson Lum

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Cathay Post Member
since: 2005

Branch: Army

Final Rank: SPC

“Cathay Post No. 384 will embark upon the new year with more commitments toward fulfilling the four pillars of The American Legion.”

1st VICE COMMANDER NELSON LUM

Being Chinese American has its uniqueness. Every year, we get to participate in two new year celebrations. This year happens within a two month span. Chinese New Year will fall on February 19, 2015. I would like to take this opportunity to say Gung H a y F a t C h o y (Cantonese) or Gung Xi Fa Cai (Mandarin) 恭禧發財, wishing you all a prosperous new year. Cathay Post No. 384 will embark upon the new year with more commitments toward fulfilling the four pillars of The American Legion.

As most of you already know, our post building is old and many things need to be repaired and upgrades need to be installed in order for it to meet the needs of our members. We are in the midst of prioritizing what renovation projects we should begin with as we endeavor to gradually bring our headquarters up to building code. We are looking into quotes that have been submitted by contractors for projects such as the installation of fire sprinklers, exterior and interior painting, and heating. There will be many projects and activities in the

months ahead. We are working diligently to establish the 501 (c)(3) foundation. The creation of the foundation will enable us to apply for various corporate and city grants and charitable donations that our current 501(c)(19) designation does not qualify for.

While engaging in these efforts to enhance our ability to fund the many activities and commitments, we will still have to look to you, our members, for contributions both physically and financially in order to keep our post financially solvent. Out of the \$40 annual membership dues you pay, only \$11.50 is paid to our post. That is less than one dollar (\$1) a month. In conjunction with the Chinese New Year celebration, we have commenced our Spring Festival donation drive. An anonymous member has pledged to match the total donations by our members up to \$4,000 at the end of the February meeting. This selfless Legionnaire has also hinted at offering a very nice incentive award or two to encourage and stimulate the members to open their wallets. Please support our post by donating generously at the Febru-

ary meeting. If you are unable to attend, please mail in your donation to the post.

On January 13, a group of us went to observe a bingo game hosted by Redwood City Post 105 Charitable Foundation, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization established by American Legion Post No. 105 in Redwood City. Members of the Post 105 Foundation have been hosting this event twice a week for over five years. What we saw was a very professional operation, and Post 105 is benefiting greatly from the dedicated efforts by these committed Legionnaires. The members of Post 105 have extended an open invitation to us to learn from their methods of operation and organization. We look forward to learning from them and to discuss opportunities of coordinating some joint activities. Thank you again Post 105 Foundation officers for your hospitality.

Please RSVP your intent to attend our next meeting and luncheon in order to facilitate the preparation of the traditional Chinese New Year celebration lunch. I look forward to seeing all of you at the meeting.

Jay Pon, Continued

(Continued from page 3)

klers are necessary to comply with current regulations governing the expected occupancy level for the building. We have begun the process to hire a contractor for the installation of fire sprinklers.

I want the membership to be well informed on this issue and the significant costs associated with this required upgrade. Our current financial situation is insufficient to bring the building up to code, and it was our hope that we could phase in the repairs as funds became available.

For clarification and to cease any further false accusations, the need to install fire sprinklers was not because of the current tenant. Based on factual events, the assessment by the fire department prior to the USS America luncheon resulted in the notification

that we will need to install fire sprinklers if we are to continue our occupancy levels. It is an expense that we did not anticipate, allocate, or plan for at this time. On the bright side, once installed, the sprinklers will enhance the overall safety of the building for our members.

To end on a positive note, Cathay Post is interviewing prospective candidates for this year's Boys State from Saint Ignatius, Galileo, and Lincoln high schools. Only 1,000 high school juniors can attend California Boys State. Many are on a waiting list, and many will be disappointed. This once in a lifetime opportunity allows an incoming high school senior hands-on experience in politics, campaigning, and learning how the government runs. Good luck to all the applicants!

We are still waiting to hear back about Girls State from the Auxiliary post.

The Importance of the Indian Ocean By Roger Dong

Our world has changed dramatically and continues to change in very new and unexpected directions. For example, in this 21st century, we are witnessing a great power shift, and that shift of power along with influence have gone from the West/Europe to the East/Asia-China.

While the growth of the Chinese economy is obvious, the less obvious is the geographic shift of very significant activities

that are transpiring in the Indian Ocean.

As the Post Historian, Judge Advocate, and retired Department of Defense and US Air Force China specialist, I have prepared a series of briefings on the power shift alluded to in the previous paragraph. For part 1, I will discuss the role of the Indian Ocean. For part 2, I will discuss the activities in the South China Sea.

If there are more than half a dozen members and guests interested in these briefings, the first presentation will be presented by me at our next post meeting after lunch. This will be an interactive presentation and not a lecture. Audience participation and questions are welcomed and expected.

The presentation is current and looks into the future power structures of the world.





Junior Reserve Officers Training Corp By Nelson Lum & Jay Pon

Junior Reserve Officers Training Corp (JROTC) is a program partially funded and supported by the Department of Defense to enable high school students to get their first peek into military structure and discipline. JROTC is a program that is sponsored by the various branches of the Armed Forces. It was started in 1916 to instill high school students the values of citizenship, service to the country, and personal responsibility and accomplishment.

There are seven (7) high schools in San Francisco out of approximately 3,225 high schools around the country that offer a JROTC program. The program focuses on leadership and discipline along with classes about military science and history. Cadets wear their uniform once or twice a week and are subjected to inspections by their superiors. They may also participate in a drill team, drum corps, and/or color guard duties. Cadets with a high grade point averages are eligi-

ble for various military honor societies. JROTC cadets are NOT OBLIGATED to join the military after they graduate from high school.

Unfortunately, JROTC in many towns and cities to include San Francisco have found themselves mired in controversy, where many groups and politicians use the JROTC program as the scapegoat to protest against America's venture into wars in Middle Eastern countries and the Global War on Terror. Back in 2005, the San Francisco Unified School District Board voted to eliminate the JROTC program from San Francisco schools despite the proven successes of the program. The average graduation rate of regular students was around 70% with less than 50% of those going on to college. Students in the JROTC program were graduating at a rate of over 98% and more than 97% of those went on to college.

The district school board voted to phase out the program in three years.

They did so by cutting the portion of funding for the program that the schools were obligated to fulfill, thus, forcing the program to shut down.

The survival of the program seemed hopeless until a concerned group of veterans from many organizations including Cathay Post No. 384 joined by parents and educators to form an alliance named "Friends of JROTC." The goal of the alliance was to keep the JROTC program in San Francisco by informing the public of the virtues of the program and to identify the false arguments that were presented by the anti-military politicians.

The battle to keep the program was heated. The progressive members of the district school board were adamant in their stand to abolish the program. After three years of protracted political maneuvering by both sides, a ballot initiative to reinstate the JROTC program in all seven high schools was placed

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JROTC, Continued

(Continued from page 6)

on the ballot for the 2008 election by *Friends of JROTC*.

The citizens of San Francisco were finally given a chance to express their views for the reinstatement of the JROTC program. The initiative received over 57% of the votes which was considered by political pundits to be impossible. After all, San Francisco was supposed to be an anti-military

city. However, this campaign showed the whole country that perception is nowhere near accurate. Sensing the political realities, many school district board members shied away from any further attempts to eliminate the program.

Since 2002, Cathay Post No. 384 has been presenting \$1,000 scholarships to two (2) selected JROTC cadets annually and is proud to continue its relationship with the JROTC program.

SF No Longer Exclusively 415 By Clara Pon

Last month, we informed you of the impending area code change in San Francisco. February 21 is just around the corner. Have you gotten into the practice of dialing 1 + area code + 7-digit phone number yet? In just a few more weeks, you will have to enter four (4) more digits when you make a telephone call from a 415 phone number. If you don't, your call won't go through.

If you happen to be getting a new phone number on or after March 21, you will automatically be given a telephone number with a 628 area code.

Don't be surprised come March 21, that many of the traditional Chinese residents that live in these areas will be letting you know they changed their phone number starting with the new 628 area code.

According to Chinese numerology for the new 628 area code, it is deemed auspicious and sounds like "easy money" or "sure to become wealthy." I think the PUC will have a lot of unexpected 415 numbers available after the first quarter. For more information, click on the link- www.cpuc.ca.gov/PUC/Telco/generalInfo/Area+Codes/415+Area+Code.htm

Annual Fort Miley Visit—RESCHEDULED

By Roger Dong (future Ft. Miley resident)

Happy New Year!

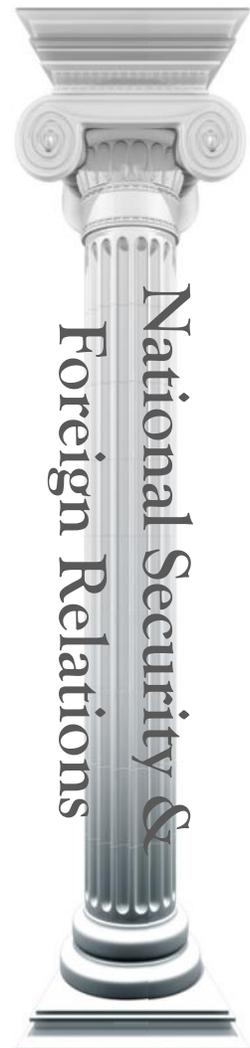
Cathay Post's annual visit to San Francisco VA Medical Center scheduled for Saturday, January 24 was canceled due to the spread of the terrible flu virus. As soon as a new date and time have been arranged, we will let you know.

The gift bags have all been prepared and approved by the coordinator at Ft.

Miley. No more food. No more candy treats allowed in the gift bags.

Hopefully we and the patients at Ft. Miley won't have to wait too long before we can go visit and share in some delightful company and conversation.

In the meantime, stay healthy and well. Go visit a medical professional to get a flu shot if you haven't already.



**In Memoriam Comrade Earva Smith Jr.
January 6, 1948 - December 4, 2014**

By Nelson Lum



On December 4, 2014, Cathay Post No. 384 lost a beloved comrade, strong supporter, innovative and dedicated member. Comrade Earva Smith Jr. also affectionately nicknamed by our members as Earva Smith Wong was the first African American veteran to join our post. He became a member of Cathay Post No. 384 in 2005. From day one, he let it be known that he would not be a wallflower at our meetings. He participated in the discussion of issues regarding the post, suggested ways and means to resolve those issues, and became a vocal and visible representative of our post.

As a licensed construction contractor, he had dreams of creating low-income housing for veterans, especially those who were homeless. He worked tirelessly to fulfill those dreams and followed every lead to obtain funding. Unfortunately, during one of his many trips to secure funding, he suffered a stroke while he was in our nation's capital. The stroke took away his energy and Earva could no longer function sufficiently to achieve his dream. He continued to attend meetings at the post even though he had difficulty with the long travel to and from Sacramento until he was no longer physically capable to do so.



Earva was born on January 8, 1948, in Fresno, California and moved to Sacramento in 1950 where he grew up. He majored in architectural and engineering drafting, construction, math, and humanities. Earva enlisted in the US Air Force and served a tour of duty in Vietnam in 1968. He worked as a construction contractor for over forty-years building custom homes and remodeling commercial buildings. Earva was also a gifted wood carver with a passion for eagles. His work has been displayed at the State Capital Building. He is survived by his two sons, one daughter, and ten grandchildren.

For those of us at Cathay Post No. 384 who had the privilege of knowing Earva, we will forever miss his infectious smile, dedication, and comradeship. May he rest in peace.



In Memoriam Mack Pong
April 19, 1920 - December 20, 2014

A tribute to a Chinese American Hero By Helen Wong

For many members of Cathay Post 384, the name and face may not be familiar to them. Yet, Mack Pong attended many Cathay Post dinners in the past as an honorary member. He was on hand to greet Korean war hero Major Kurt Lee in 2011 and American Legion National Commander Fang Wong in 2012.



L: Mack Pong with Major Kurt Lee 2011 at Cathay Post gala dinner.

C: American Legion Past National Commander Fang Wong and Mack Pong 2012.

R: Roger Dong presenting Mack Pong a certificate from Chinese American Heroes 2013.

He always said a man cannot serve two masters. So, even though he was asked to join other veteran organizations, especially The American Legion, his loyalty was to AMVETS (American Veterans) where he served in different officer positions. His other devotion was to his Army Reunion group.

Mack was born on April 19, 1920 in Ft. Worth, Texas, and in 1953, his family moved to San Francisco. In 1943, he joined the 407 Air Service Squadron of the U.S. Army 14th Air Force, better known as the Flying Tigers. While deployed in China, he developed many lifelong friendships with his Army buddies. Later he helped organize and attended all the 407 Service Squadron and Combined Reunions, the first in 1956 and the last in 2013 where Roger Dong, a member of Cathay Post and the founder of Chinese American Heroes presented him with a Chinese American Veteran Heroes certificate.

It was with great sadness to hear he passed away on December 20, 2014 after a brief illness. Mack leaves us with many happy memories of his support for veterans.

Publisher Note: In the March 2014 issue of the Cathay Dispatch, there was a story about the WWII Flying Tigers that includes a brief mention of Mack Pong receiving awards at the "last" west coast Flying Tigers reunion dinner.

Disclaimer

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105 Youth Day



Redwood City

American Legion Post 105
651 El Camino Real, Redwood City

Saturday, 28 February 2015
10:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m.



Arrive when you can. Leave when you want to.

Honoring Post 105-Sponsored Youth Organizations

- RWC Police Activities League (Homework, Enrichment, Sports, Field Trips, Fun and More)
- USNSCC Band of the West (Getting ready to perform in D.C.)
- Boy Scout Troop 10 (Celebrating 100th anniversary)
- Redwood City PAL (Police Activities League)
- Redwood City Post 105 Blues Baseball
- Legion Boy's State Participants
- Legion Scholarship Recipients
- Sea Scout Ship Sea Eagle

Questions and RSVP

Keith Blackey
650-704-2985
Keith@Blackey.net

Who Should Come

Redwood City

- Fire
- Police
- Scout Units
- City leaders
- Youth Leaders
- Veterans
- USNSCC Leaders
- Pacific Skyline Council leaders
- Police & Sheriff's Activity League Leaders
- American Legion Posts, District, Area & Department leaders

Schedule

- 10:00 Opening Ceremony with Flag Retirement
- 10:15 Youth Project, Skills Demonstrations and Facility Tours
- 11:15 Youth Band Entertainment and Appetizers
- 11:45 Flag Ceremony, Invocation & Lunch
- 12:45 Youth Band Entertainment
- 1:00 Speakers and Awards
- Closing Ceremony and Youth Band Entertainment



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CATHAY POST NO. 384

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Make life easy.

CA Commander Wilson’s Travels with National Commander Helm By Janet Wilson

This was the entire trip, day by day. We had quite the excursion with over 1,700 miles, over 25 posts, SFPD and Legion Rider escorts, two veteran home facilities, boat rides, wreath laying and MOH memorial site, a Basilica, park, beaches, and more. This is “my diary.” I did not take notes. I lived in the moment and thoroughly loved it!

If I didn’t mention your name here, I will just say sorry. I did not mean to overlook anyone. I want to thank each of you that came to see the National Commander, and especially those that did the behind the scenes work. We all know how our posts could not function without you worker bees. A huge thank you to the posts that stepped up to the plate and donated the accommodations.

Evening prior-Wednesday, December 10:



Commander Helm, his wife Debbie, his aide Don Suchy, his wife Marge arrived in San Francisco from Hawaii after their Asia tour. We met him at the gate thanks to special SF Police dignitary detail, and then had a motorcycle unit escort up Highway 101 at 10:00 p.m. (Cmd Mike’s first with sirens). Our California Department entourage consisted of NEC (National Executive Committee) Hugh Crooks, Adjutant Bill Siler, Sgt-At-Arms Larry Leonardo, Parliamentarian Wayne Yee, and myself.

Day 1, Thursday, December 11:

Commander Helm and crew were welcomed to the morning in SF with the biggest, wettest rain storm to hit us in many years. Parts of the City lost power. Light continental breakfast at *Cathay Post 384*, tour of the post, meet and greet, and then moving over the Far East Café for lunch. We did adjust our schedule in a true military style as they had lost power, and it had just gotten back on when we arrived. Many thanks to the troopers who braved the heavy storm to see the National Commander including Area 2 VC Jerry Redford, who really battled weather & traffic to attend. Wonderful dim sum style lunch. Thanks to the post and Commander Jay Pon for a great start on our adventure. We had planned a SF tour of the city, but the weather did alter those plans. We did treat the Commander and his crew to a wonderful dinner at Pier 39.

Day 2, Friday, December 12:



Breakfast with General Myatt (Ret.) at the Marines Memorial Club. What a museum. Wonderful company and good food. The weather was still making its presence known. We adjusted with a couple of SF police cruisers and lovely officers to escort us out of the City. Still very impressive. Thanks to retired Captain Greg Corrales (*Police-Fire Post 456*) and the SFPD.

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Commander Wilson's Travels, Continued

(Continued from page 12)

Lunch at *Fair Oaks Post 383* (1.75 hrs & 108 miles northeast). A first time hosting of the National Commander. They did an outstanding job, great turnout, (even with the weather) good food, and hospitality. I don't know how they achieved it, but they stopped the rain as we arrived and didn't start again until after we were on the road. Thank you Commander Ben LaPolla and the post family, Area Vice Commander Mike Hughs and to the lovely "desserts" the ladies of the Auxiliary.

Dinner at *Mission City Post 564* Santa Clara (2.25 hrs & 135 miles southwest). This post really excels at hosting the National Commander. Commander Shirley Butler and the entire Legion family, Sons, Riders, and Auxiliary work as a team, and it made for a great evening. Great event, full house with Area 2 VC Jerry Redford and the local dignitaries. Thank you for accommodations, thoughtful room baskets, and our Legion Riders escort in the morning.



Day 3, Saturday, December 13:



Legion Riders Escorts met us early (and very cold) for our post hopping along Area 2 Monterey Peninsula. First stop, *Gilroy Post 217* (40 mins & 37 miles south). Commander Robert Armendariz and members for coffee and doughnuts, meet and greet before going to the local cemetery for Wreaths Across America Project. We just missed the ceremony, but did get an opportunity to lay a wreath.

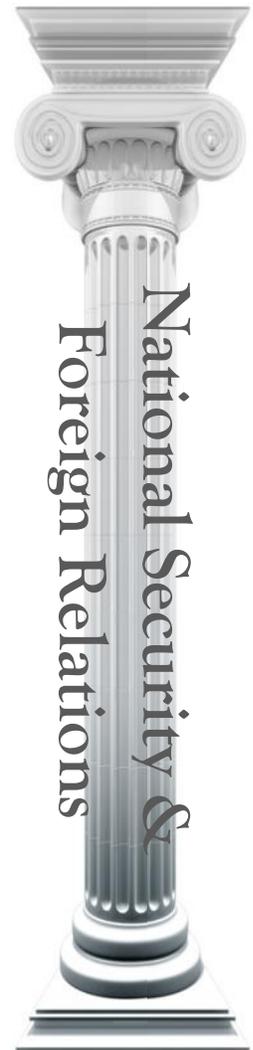
Next hop over to *Prunedale Post 593* (21 mins & 20 miles southwest). Commander Mike Cabael and members hosting continental style muffins, fruits, and juices: Mary's and Mimosas for some attendees. Good group. Lots of spirit and warmth.

We changed some of our Rider escorts and moved over to lunch hosted by *Salinas Post 31* (10 mins & 8 miles south). Quite the sight as we approached the post. The Honor Guard were all lined up at attention as we descended the van making for the door. Like walking an honor guard gauntlet. Very nice touch! Great food, inspired esprit de corps, to be saluted: Commander Phil Orosco and his family crew. Very fulfilling and fun lunch.



Our last stop was at *Monterey-Cypress Post 694* (18 mins & 12 miles west) where Department Chaplain Mary Estrada and Post Commander Jon Baker and members were there to greet us. Just a quick stop on our way down to Carmel. We said goodbye to our Riders escorts, but one and moved down to a hotel in Carmel. Commander Helm, Aide Don, wives, and myself were escorted to

(Continued on page 14)



Commander Wilson's Travel, Continued

(Continued from page 13)

Carmel Mission Basilica (20 mins & 15 miles south) by Past Area 2 VC Paul Rodrigues and Chaplain Mary Estrada for Saturday evening services. Breath taking venue. So awe inspiring.

Dinner hosted by *Carmel Post 512* and family at the Mission Ranch. No visit by Clint Eastwood, but what amazing food and friendship... (Not to mention, a wee bit of the Vino).

Day 4, Sunday, December 14:



Commander Helm's wife Debbie and Aide Don's wife Marge departed for the Monterey airport at 4 a.m. Fresh made to order breakfast at *Seaside Post 591* (15 mins & 10 miles back north) greeted by Adjutant Mike Ryan to start our day. Before moving on to the pier, we toured Monterey Bay Veterans' Boat Inc. They take any and all veterans out for a day of fishing. If you would like more information on the program, go to mbv.org. NEC Crooks did not have to use his Dramamine since we did not leave the dock.

Lunch at *Hollister Post 69* (40 mins & 37 miles east) was a unique treat-- brown bag lunches and homemade cookies! A newly and beautifully restored Veterans Memorial Building, Commander Joe Love and company are proud to show all of theirs and the community's hard work and dedication.

Dinner at *Lodi Post 22* (2 hrs & 156 miles northeast). The best "prime rib" and the fixings just made to order. Commander Bill Gross and Adjutant Martin Jones really outdid themselves. Besides having full house, we had a poker hand of "5 of a kind"-- California Past Department Commanders: Floyd Martin, Al Lennox, Ken Kramlich, Hugh Crooks, and counting me is 5! Area 3 VC Eric Kurtz was our wild card. Commander Helm had a good time "roasting" me. My son Daniel who had planned on attending anyway, had to bring me an extra dress from home. Cmd Mike had fun relating my fitting woes.



Day 5, Monday, December 15:



Clovis Veteran's Memorial District (2.25 hrs & 138 miles south). We were given a tour by Past National Commander Bruce Thiesen. What a superb facility. We did drop in on one of the impromptu classes with veterans' of the community.

Lunch at *Fresno Federal Post 509* (11 mins & 6 miles west) was another well attended event, nice variety and well prepared Mexican food. Commander Helm

(Continued on page 15)



Commander Wilson's Travels, Continued

(Continued from page 14)

really had a good appetite and really seemed to enjoy the festivities. Commander John Hernandez and the Legion, Auxiliary, Riders and Sons all pitched in to make this a very memorable visit for all of us.

We were then escorted on a visit to one of the very newest California Veterans' homes to open in Fresno (11 mins & 8 miles west). It is so state of the art, amazing does not do it justice. It is not a place to be put on a retirement shelf, and it is a place to live with other veterans in a community. If you are thinking of a future home for yourself, please be sure to visit this home.



Dinner at *Bakersfield Post 26* (1.75 hrs & 112 miles). Ok by now, I am confused as to where I am or where I have been....I did forget the name of the city, but did get the post number correct when I got up to speak. State Auxiliary President Harriet Clendenin and VC Area 3 Eric Kurtz had to prompt me. Each one of our stops at our posts never disappoint me, like this post. The live band of Legionnaires was a very nice touch, entertaining us before the wonderful meal. The M.C. Joel Park was terrific and kept us very entertained. Commander Richard Smith and the Legion family really work well together.

Day 6, Tuesday, December 16:

Lunch at *Newhall-Saugus Post 507* (1.5 hrs & 83 miles south) in partnership with *L.A. Police Post 381*. Fabulous food, great turnout and just an amazing story of the Post's home building. It was built as a theatre by John Hart, of some movie fame to show Westerns. Commander Helm took photos and put a quiz on Facebook to see if the actors could be named. It is also the home post of VC Area 6 Robert Heinisch.

Our next dinner was hosted by *Ontario Post 112* (1.25 hrs & 65 miles south). Great made to order steaks and sides. Not an overly large group, but very intimate. Area 4 VC Commander Bill Miller showed up as he was going into the hospital for surgery. He put in his visit in Ontario. He is home and doing fine as of this writing. Our accommodations were less than perfect, but as Commander Helm said, "It beats a foxhole."

Day 7, Wednesday, December 17:



We shared the National Riverside Cemetery (32 mins & 30 miles south) experience with the Commander. Wow! It is just an impressive place, and what a final tribute to our veterans. The Medal of Honor monument addition is breathtaking. We did manage to locate the name of Leslie Bellrichard who was a recipient of the Medal of Honor, and was the husband of Shirley Butler, commander of Mission City Post 564.

(Continued on page 16)



Commander Wilson's Travels, Continued

(Continued from page 15)

Lunch was hosted by *Perris Post 595* (10 mins & 8 miles south). MC Joanne Evans did a fantastic job teaming with Commander James Bieger, and Area 5 VC Buzz Waltz. Local dignitaries were included in the full house. Great sandwiches, salads and terrific sweets thanks to the Auxiliary of the Post.



Dinner at *Post 79 Riverside* (23 mins & 20 miles south) started with full Legion Rider escort. After arrival, we entered the banquet room under drawn saber like tubes held by Post members and riders. Then we entered the area, one at a time and shook hands and gave high fives though the large crowded room. After seating, we were

so very happy to hear and see the high school band! I had to record them and they were posted and reposted on Facebook. Then the "tube" or hand held cannons were fired! Streamers popped out everywhere... like New Year's but better. Best start of an event to date! Kudos to the entire Legion family at this post and Commander Dino Blankenship. One for the memory books.



Day 8, Thursday, December 18:



Chula Vista Veterans Home (1.75 hrs & 107 miles south). National Commander Michael Helm and I (State Commander) presented the Administrator, Lael Hepworth a plaque for the home in honor of past resident Joan De Munbrun's 68 years as a member of the American Legion and for founding the *Charles W. Turner Post 867* here. Joan recently passed at the age of

101. The plaque will be proudly displayed in honor of her commitment to the American Legion and to her fellow veterans. Thanks to District 29 Commander Tony Stewart for the arrangements.

JB Clark Post 149 (42 mins & 40 miles back north) in Escondido. Great power point presentation for the Commander by a group of (youthful) Legionnaires. *Kirt Wilson of *Alvin Myo Dunn Post 365* and Tony Stewart Dist. Cmd. 22, prior to lunch. Fabulous food and hospitality. And really great desserts from the great kitchen crew and Legion family. (Great turkey. One of my favorites. If you didn't know better, you might think I really like the sweets.) But Commander Mike REALLY liked all of them.



Dinner at *Larry E. Holmberg Post 731* San Diego (28 mins & 28 miles south). This post hit a new highlight in my journal. Robust crowd. MC Chris Yates (Post 365) and Commander Chuck Camarto kept things lively in a "Navy" majority house, such fun, and great food with cooking by

(Continued on page 17)



Commander Wilson's Travels, Continued

(Continued from page 16)

Ed (past Dept. Sgt-At Arms) and Annette Grimsley. I was so honored to have my poster made, and I can "oar" on my own.

Day 9, Friday, December 19:



Are we in Kansas anymore? Traveling to *Newport Harbor Post 291* (1.5 hrs & 87 miles back north). I have to say, this is a jewel in the bay. Great brunch spread and beautifully decorated hall for Christmas. And then the BOAT RIDE! This was a real pleasure cruise for most of us, even NEC Hugh Crooks who sat in his corner of the cabin and didn't go out and about on the smooth water of the harbor. We know he doesn't have "sea legs." Thanks to the post for my Yacht club slicker. I stayed warm and even looked the part of a veteran Northeastern fisherman!

Dinner hosted by *Chinatown Post 628* at the Golden Dragon (1 hr & 45 miles north). Too many courses of great food. Huge crowd. Some in attendance: Chinatown Mayor Woo and the ROC (Taiwan) Veterans Organization, other local dignitaries, and a great many of our own Legionnaires, also Jr. Past Dept. CMD Joe Garcia. A premiere event. Also a noted author Victoria Moy who has written a book: *Fighting for the Dream, Voices of Chinese American Veterans from World War 1 to Afghanistan*.



Day 10, Saturday, December 20:

Brunch at *Lakewood Post 496* in Long Beach (30 mins & 23 miles south) was the prettiest meal so far. The Auxiliary at this Post and the entire Legion family make this a very special place. Past Dept. CMD Dennis and Past Dept. President Linda Fercho were in attendance and Commander Steve Murray was the MC.

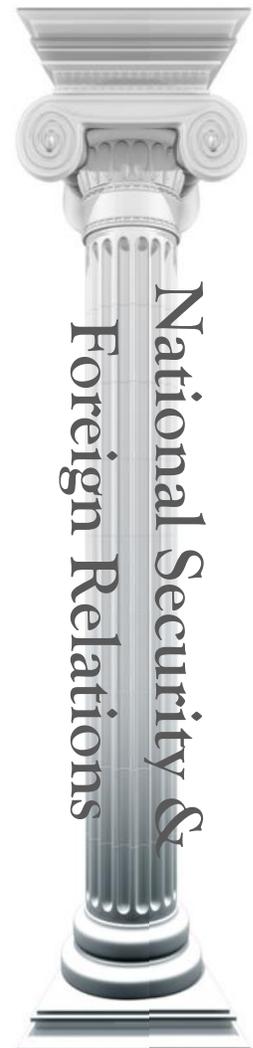
Commander Helm was treated to a hike at the Will Rodgers State Historic Park (50 mins & 38 miles north) escorted by Post 283 Commander Scott Wagenseller and two other young men of the post, Francisco Munoz and Eddie Gutierrez. The rest of our entourage were treated to a private beach resort Bel-Air Bay Club to watch the surf. (Tough duty).



Dinner that evening was at *Pacific Palisades Post 283*. Commander Wagenseller was MC for the event. Standing room only in attendance, terrific food and wonderful hospitality. Palisades always is the most gracious of hosts.

Sunday, December 20, Commander Helm and his Aide

(Continued on page 18)



Commander Wilson's Travels, Continued

(Continued from page 17)

Don Suchy left at 6:00 in the morning. Thank you Eddie for taking them to the airport.

For the entire trip, all 11 days, Bill Siler drove his van with Larry Leonardo and the luggage, lots and lots of luggage. Wayne Yee drove the other van with the entourage and led most of the way. (He did his best to try to lose Bill and Larry).

Special thank you to NEC Hugh Crooks, who did the most of the travel agenda; (you can tell by how we zigzagged across the state); the ever helpful M.J. at department that cleaned up our mess, stuffed baskets for the Commander and his crew; and Bill Siler, who had to "adjust" our schedule. It takes a team to undertake a voyage like we just did. If you would like to have the National Commander visit your post next year, please contact Bill Siler at Department HQ.

If you haven't been on Facebook to see the photos, you can go to the Aides' website and see all of his great shots of our whole trip. <http://imageevent.com/donfarms?n=16>

I want to thank every post in California for your support for this event and for all you do on any given day. Thank you to Auxiliary, Son's, and Riders.

*Love My Legion,
Commander Janet M. Wilson
2014-2015*

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Have you signed up for your LegionCare benefits yet? I bet National Commander Mike Helm and CA Department Commander Janet Wilson have.

Don't know what LegionCare is? In short, get accident protection **FREE** when you travel for post business, participate in post events, or attend monthly post meetings. Up to \$5,000 in cash benefit is paid to your family or loved ones if you are involved in a fatal covered accident and up to \$1,000 on all other covered accidents.

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CHINESE AMERICAN HERO WEN TSING CHOW

Dear Reader:

This month's Chinese American Hero is someone you never heard of. He is the Uber engineer, Mr. Wen Tsing Chow, an immigrant student, who was so brilliant that as soon as he completed his M.A. at M.I.T., and before he could even begin his doctoral studies, was hired to work on some of our most sophisticated and sensitive military defense systems. You can get more details below, but his most notable and brilliant invention was that of "Programmable Read-only Memory." PROM technology miniaturized circuitry so that computers could fit in rocket nose cones, including the Atlas E/F intercontinental ballistic missile, which deterred the Soviet Union's massive ICBM systems for several decades.

Name in English: Wen Tsing Chow

Birth Year: 1918 – 2001

Name in Chinese: 周文俊

Birth Place: Taiyuan, China

Name in Pinyin: Zhōu Wénjùn

Profession (s): Aerospace and Electrical Engineer, Computer Pioneer

Education: 1940, B.S. in Electrical Engineering from Jiaotong University, Shanghai; 1942, M.S.E.E. from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Awards: In 2004, the United States Air Force posthumously awarded Wen Tsing Chow one of their highest awards, the Air Force Space and Missiles Pioneers Award, held by only 30 individuals. Chow is one of only a handful of civilians to receive this award, and, along with Dr. John von Neumann, one of only two computer scientists so honored. The Organization of Chinese Americans honored Mr. Chow in 2006 posthumously as a Pioneer and "Unsung Hero."

Contribution (s): Wen Tsing Chow produced many breakthrough inventions while he worked for American Bosch Arma Corporation (now a part of United Technologies Corporation), Aerospace Corporation, and IBM. He was first employed by General Electric during World War II, redesigning anti-aircraft fire control systems based upon work done for his master's thesis on servomechanisms. Anti-aircraft guns linked to electronic fire-control system, which were among the first real computers but driven by primitive vacuum tubes, could redirect their fire automatically based upon sensor feedback about the speed and position of the target aircraft.

While working for American Bosch Arma Corporation in the late 1950s he designed the first all-inertial guidance computer for the United States Air Force Atlas E/F ICBM (Intercontinental Ballistic Missile.) His was the first production digital computer now used to guide all missiles, satellites, and spacecraft guidance systems accurately through space. Chow became known as the "Father



Father of American ICBM guidance systems.

Photo from 2009
www.asianweek.com



(Continued on page 22)

CAH—Wen Tsing Chow, Continued

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of American ICBM missile guidance.” His invention helped make satellite communications possible, instantly linking up the entire world in the late 20th and 21st Centuries.

While there were many American scientists and engineers who helped develop the Atlas ICBM system, Chow played a critical role. In the 1950s, mainframe computers were too large to fit into the nosecone of an ICBM so there was little accurate guidance beyond unreliable mechanical controls. A missile or satellite could very well end up miles off target. Chow’s breakthrough was in designing and miniaturizing a computer that would fit using the new process of photochemical circuitry. Central to this was his invention of “Programmable read-only memory” or PROM that enabled guidance instructions to be locked into a computer. This invention was kept a secret for national security reasons for several years during the operational life of the Atlas as an ICBM but eventually found civilian use in many different products such as video game machines.

Mr. Chow, uniquely, worked on the guidance systems for every major United States Air Force ICBM and NASA manned space program from the very beginning with the Atlas, through Titan, Gemini, Saturn, Skylab, and the Space Shuttle, to the Minuteman ICBM still in service today.

Publications/Patents: Mr. Chow invented and held the patent on what is now commonly known as programmable read-only-memory or PROM. PROM, in the late 1950s called a "constants storage matrix," was invented for the Atlas E/F ICBM airborne digital computer.

External Links:

www.afmissileers.org/newsletters/NL2003/SEP03.PDF

www.famouschinese.com/virtual/Wen_Tsing_Chow

<http://www.afspc.af.mil/shared/media/document/AFD-100405-081.pdf>

<http://www.afspc.af.mil/heritage/spacemissilepioneers.asp>

Revised 1/29/15 by Philip Chin. Written by Roger Dong.

Publisher’s Note: The above article is being published as it was submitted by Chinese American Heroes. It was not reviewed or proofread by any member of the Cathay Dispatch newsletter staff.

Article courtesy from our friend & partner:

CHINESE AMERICAN HEROES
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Greetings from Brigadier General Garrett S. Yee— Good Bye 2014!

A Message to Chief Reporter, Roger Dong from Brigadier General Garrett S. Yee

December 31, 2014

Dear Roger,

December? Done. 2014? Done. December highlights include a trip to the USS Carl Vinson, National Day at the US Embassy, a trip to the United States, December Birthdays, Christmas in Kuwait, and a trip to Qatar.

USS Carl Vinson, Arabian Gulf—who gets to land on an aircraft carrier in the middle of the Gulf during combat operations? On December 1, 2014, I got the "E-ticket" ride to fly from Kuwait on a C2 Airplane and land on the deck of the USS Carl Vinson. When our tail-hook caught the cable, we went from over 100 mph to zero in about two seconds. When the catapult launched us off the carrier, we went from zero to over 100 mph about three seconds. Land on aircraft carrier...done.

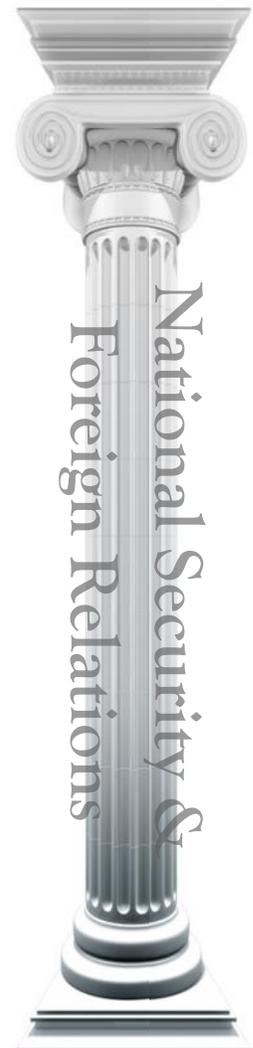


National Day--the US Embassy in Kuwait celebrates National Day in December, which is a blend of Independence Day and Thanksgiving. It's always a treat to visit the US Embassy when it's decorated. Why December? It's better than July when it's over 120 degrees.



United States--The US Army Central Command has its headquarters at Shaw Air Force Base in South Carolina and its forward headquarters in Kuwait. I spend most of my time in Kuwait and travel to Shaw on occasion. For this trip, I spent a day in Washington DC, two days in Atlanta, one day at Ft Gordon, GA, and two days at

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Greetings from BG Garrett S. Yee—Good Bye 2014!

(Continued from page 23)

Shaw. It's a 14-hour flight one-way and 13 the other. There is an 8-hour time difference between Kuwait and the East Coast. Exhausting.

Birthdays--Both my mom and my father in law celebrated their 80th birthdays in 2014. My mom's was in December. This year my mom spent her birthday and Christmas with my sister Grace Anne and her family in Texas since I'm deployed and Brendan was in Southern California.

Christmas while deployed can be a difficult time. For me, the absence of my father didn't help. Fortunately we have our military family. Our headquarters had a BBQ and white elephant gift exchange--we had a lot of fun and I got some sox (new). My mom sent me a care package full of candy and Maria sent me a care package with an electric toothbrush. Were these gifts coordinated? On Christmas Eve, I attended mid-night mass at our tent-chapel. The next day, the highlight for me was serving



the holiday meal to our Soldiers in the dining facility. Later that day, I called my mom and face timed with Maria and the family. I am thankful for technology but it does not replace being there in person with Maria, Gilbert, Michael, Alissa, my mom, and the rest of our wonderful extended family. Sometimes I think back to when the kids were young, and we were young. I found a photo from about 20 years ago and think back on how fast time has passed.

A few days after Christmas, our leadership team took a tour of one of the Army's watercraft stationed in the Gulf. In honor of my rank, the ship raised my General Officer one-star flag on the mast. That was pretty neat.



Just before year-end, my Command Sergeant Major and I traveled to Qatar for a few days to visit our troops and assess the progress of a major project underway. Our pilot on the C-12 was Chief Munson, the husband of one of my fellow Santa Clara University ROTC alumni, Ginger. Ginger was one class after me at Santa Clara.

Thank you all for continuing to keep us in your thoughts and prayers.

Sincerely,

Garrett Yee

P.S. I've included a few photos from my recent travels.





Traveling Wall That Heals

Half-Scale, Traveling Replica of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C.

is coming to the Bay Area

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To learn more about volunteering and donating contact Keith Blackey
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Traveling Wall courtesy of Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund (www.vvmf.org)

This is the kickoff event for the Bay Area's three-year commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the Vietnam War (www.vietnamwar50th.com)

Keith@Blackey.net. Mobile: 650-704-2985

Updated 31 December 2014

What You Should Know If You Inherit A Few Bucks or Real Estate By Roger Dong

Property values are very high in the Bay Area. Many residential properties in the Bay Area today are worth a million dollars and more. Many Asian families are savers and frugal. Some even have substantial savings and/or substantial accumulation in employer retirement plans. Property along with liquid assets will be passed on to heirs when the principal owner passes on. Be warned, the tax collector wants its share.

Some of our post members will likely inherit a large sum of money or valuable property in the future. No one is going to live forever. If your parents or you own property in the Bay Area, and/or have saved money like you were told, someone is going to inherit "valuable property and/or a pot of gold."

Therefore, when either you or your offspring inherit anything valuable, you are strongly encouraged to talk to your accountant or get an accountant immediately to review your financial situation. You should do so before accepting your inheritance. If you are going to leave anyone a pot of gold or property, leave them this same advice.

Anyone who takes a lump sum payout may be incurring a much larger tax bill than might be expected. It might be as high as 40%, so get the advice of a tax accountant so that you can manage and minimize your tax obligation.

Don't get caught in a position where you might be saying, "I sure wish I knew about inheritance taxes before I accepted my inheritance because I would've done things differently."

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1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12 Lincoln's Birthday	13	14 Valentine's Day, Post Meet- ing, Four Chap- lain's Service
15	16 President's Day; Washing- ton's B-day	17	18	19 Chinese New Year	20	21
22	23	24	25	26 March CD deadline	27	28

MARCH 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7 CNY Parade 5:15
8 <i>Daylight Savings</i>	9	10	11	12	13	14 <i>Post Meeting</i>
15	16	17 <i>St. Patrick's Day</i>	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26 April CD Deadline	27	28
29	30	31				

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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

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