



Important Dates:

- Feb 8—Chinese New Year
- Feb 13—Monthly meeting at 11 a.m. @ Post headquarters
- 2 p.m. Four Chaplain's Inter-Faith Service @ St. Mary's Church, Sanger, CA
- Feb 14—Valentine's Day
- Feb 15—President's Day
- Feb 20—Chinese New Year Parade
- Feb 27—Joint Casino Fund Raiser @ Post 105

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CATHAY DISPATCH

Veterans - Sounding Off Since 1931

VICTORY FOR THE VETERANS!

By Nelson Lum

On January 29, 2016, the Honorable Superior Court Judge Andrew Y. S. Cheng issued his ruling on the petition filed by the San Francisco Posts of the American Legion (American Legion).

The American Legion's Petition is GRANTED. As used in paragraph 10, (C) (1) of the Trust, the term "patriotic organizations" is not limited to veteran membership organizations. The Trustees are instructed to allow the American Legion to allocate rent-free space in the Veterans' Building to veteran service organizations, such as Swords to Plowshares. The organization's use of the facilities must fall within the uses prescribed in 10, (C) (2) of the Trust—club and meeting rooms, executive offices, and auditorium purposes.

With the above ruling, Judge Cheng made a clear and decisive interpretation without any ambiguity on an issue that has been the point of contention between the American Legion and the Trustees who are appointed by the Mayor of our City since 2009. Some of you may argue that the disagreement goes back much further than 2009, but that was the beginning point of the current dispute which led to the litigation. In the Judge's 14 page opinion and finding, he disputed and struck down just about every argument raised by the Trustees who are represented by the City Attorney's office. If you would like

to read the ruling in its entirety, please contact me (nelson1431@aol.com) and I will send you the document.

The following is a brief summary of the Judge's opinions and his statement:

"The Court finds that the term "patriotic organizations" is not limited to veteran membership organizations, but can include veteran service organization. Such an interpretation best effectuates the intentions of the original Trustees who created the Trust.

Under the four corners of the Trust, the most obvious "intent" in drafting the Agreement was "to honor the memory of the soldiers, sailors, marines, and war workers-men and women-who brought imperishable glory to California by their splendid contribution to the winning of the World War."

The American Legion's broader reading of the preamble's reference.... Taken a step further, this language could be construed as intending to allow non-veteran membership organizations, such as VSOs, to occupy space in the Veterans' Building if selected by the American Legion.

The Court agrees with the American Legion that it is too restrictive to find that the only unifying characteristic of those organizations is their composition.

(Continued on page 2)

VICTORY, CONTINUED

(Continued from page 1)

The Trustees are correct that the word "patriotic" in the Trust does not stand alone and thus cannot be interpreted in a vacuum.

In a City Attorney Opinion from 1932, the Court finds and agrees with the quote "that the—wish and will of the American Legion Post, with respect to veterans and patriotic organizations, is superior to that of the Board of Trustee...."

The Court takes no position on the veracity of the suggested motivations of the Trustees in narrowly construing the American Legion' discretion under the Trust. However, it agrees that the Trustees' interpretation would constrain the American Legion' rights "to the point of near non-existence."

All the veterans in The City owe a tremendous amount of gratitude to the law firm, DLA Piper, especially to lead attorney Todd Toral and his team of excellent attorneys who not only devoted their time and effort pro bono to litigate this case, but they exhibited a genuine care and concern for the well-being of veterans that is above and beyond the call of duty.

What does this "victory" mean to us veterans? It certainly is not a time for us to boast or gloat, nor should we view the Trustees as any lesser prestigious people. They are honorable people appointed by the Mayor of our City to oversee the War Memorial Performing Arts Complex. The fact that we have differences of opinion on issues should never be

interpreted that they are anti-veterans.

We must still be patient to see what if any legal maneuvers that might still take place. The Trustees may ask the Judge to reconsider his ruling or they may direct the City Attorney's office to appeal the ruling. It has been an arduous and long journey thus far and we are beginning to see the light at the end of the tunnel.

Our conduct must be governed by our ultimate aim to establish our veteran's building as a hub for future veterans whenever they are in need of services that they have earned by their service to our country. Please remember, the Judge's ruling does not insinuate we are the conquerors of Rome and should not act as such.



Southwest



Chinese New Year
Festival & Parade

Miss Chinatown USA Pageant

Saturday, February 13, 2016 at 7:30 pm
Palace of Fine Arts Theater

Southwest Airlines® Chinese New Year Parade

Saturday, Feb. 20, 5:15 pm - 8:00 pm starts at Market & Second St.

Community Street Fair

Saturday, Feb. 20, 10 am - 4:30 pm & Sunday, Feb. 21, 9 am - 5 pm
On Grant Ave. from California to Broadway

REDWOOD CITY POST 105
& CATHAY POST 384

CASINO NIGHT FUNDRAISER



Saturday, February 27, 2016
Post 105

651 El Camino real,
Redwood City, CA

Seating is limited.

Pre-registration required.

Texas Hold 'em prizes

1st: \$500 / 2nd: \$300 / 3rd: \$150

Other card games
with prizes available

Please contact us for more information:

Redwood City Post 105

William (650) 279-0552

wmjack557@aol.com

Jim (650) 207-2265

jamespeters777@msn.com

Cathay Post 384

Nelson (415) 205-0120

nelson1431@aol.com

Helen (650) 576-7875

helenleewong@yahoo.com
cathaypost384events@gmail.com

TICKETS
\$60 Per Ticket
\$200 Table Sponsor

COCKTAIL
LOUNGE OPENS
AT 4:00 PM
TOURNAMENT
BEGINS AT
6:00PM

BENEFITING
Programs for
children, veterans
and their
communities.

Hors d'oeuvres
served.



American Legion

Cathay Post No. 384 & Redwood City Post No. 105

Is jointly hosting a fundraising event to fund various charitable programs that benefit children and veterans in their respective communities. Come join us.

Casino Night

Fundraiser

Located: Post 105 - 651 El Camino Real, Redwood City, CA 94063

Player Tickets

\$60

Sponsor Tickets

\$200

4:00PM – Doors Open

6:00PM – Tournament Begins

*Must be 21+ to participate. ID will be checked at the door.

Hors d'oeuvres served and cash bar available

Seating for Texas Hold'em tournament limited – Must reserve in advance

Tournament Prizes: 1st \$500, 2nd \$300, 3rd \$150

Black Jack 21.5 and other games and prizes available

Pre-registration for all games highly-recommended.

For more information, please contact:

Cathay Post No. 384 – Clara (415) 669 - 4192

Redwood City Post No. 105 – William (650) 279 - 0552

PLEASE FILL IN REGISTRATION FORM BELOW

Name (First & Last) : _____ Telephone #: _____

Email (Required): _____

Sign me up as: Player

Table Sponsor

Reserve for: Tournament

Other Card Games

Sponsor Name/Company: _____

Email (Required): _____

Player Name(s): _____

Telephone#: _____

Ticket Number(s):
Received Payment \$ _____

COMMANDER NELSON LUM

Gung Hay Fat Choy. Wishing all of you a healthy and prosperous Chinese New Year. The year 4714 of the lunar calendar is also the year of the Monkey. We all look forward to the parade (February 20, 2016) that will mark the annual celebration of this revered cultural event. Since our post was founded by Chinese American Veterans, we will celebrate the new year by serving "traditional" Chinese food at our luncheon after our monthly meeting on Saturday, February 13, 2016.

In addition to celebrating the new year, there will be some serious business to discuss that will require you, our members, to consider and lend your opinions on these issues during the meeting. As we go further into the year, we will be confronted by many challenges. The future viability of our post depends heavily upon how well we are able to meet these challenges. I will do my best to keep you all informed and educated with the issues involved so that you will be able to render intelligent decisions for the betterment of our post and the next generation of veterans.

The highlight of our January monthly meeting was the swearing in of three new members. Comrades Sam Eddy, Francis Hall, and Earnest Stanton were sworn in accordance with the protocols of the American Legion. We look forward to your comradeship, contribution, and participation with our post activities.

January was one of those months that required many hours of commitment, yet without much to show for. The earnest work of organizing the 85th anniversary banquet and yearbook has begun and the members of the committees have met to map out their strategies. We are in need of many more volunteers to work on these committees. Please let us know if you are able to assist us with the planning and organizing efforts.

The God Bless USA Show, jointly sponsored by Linking Rings and our post took place on January 29. This musical variety show is very popular among the senior veterans who reside at Yountville. A large group of them and staff, about 50, were bused to Herbst Theatre in the War Memorial Veterans Building. They were served a delicious lunch,

after which, they were seated in the front rows for the show.

It has been many, many years since Cathay Post No. 384 as a group participated in the Chinese New Year Parade. Two years ago, I drove the late Major Kurt Lee in the parade when he was selected as the Honorary Parade Marshal along with two of our members that provided a color escort. That was an honor and privilege I will always remember and that experience provided the impetus for our decision to return as participants of the parade. We are set for our return to the parade this year. On Sat., February 20, our members, support members, and their families are welcome to participate. Please let us know if you would like to join us so appropriate arrangements are made.

At the district level, the Court issued its ruling on our petition on January 29, 2016, and we are victorious. Please read the accompanying article on the front page for details. The on-going effort to equip the meeting rooms with modern technological appliances is aided by a recent large donation. While this donation will not be sufficient to take

(Continued on page 8)



Nelson Lum

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1 (415) 797-7384

Cathay Post Member
since: 2005

Branch: Army

“...the Court issued its ruling on our petition on January 29, 2016, and we are victorious.”



Roger Dong

rogerdong@hotmail.com

1 (650) 339-0010

Cathay Post Member
since: 2005

Branch: Air Force

“Even though many of us will not be around to be accountable for this decision, all of us must take this huge responsibility with urgent thoughtfulness. We need to make a wise decision.”

1st VICE COMMANDER ROGER DONG

To all our post members and friends who celebrate and recognize Chinese New Year's on February 8 this year, HAPPY NEW YEAR. As you are reading this note, New Year's Day has passed, and the next related and pending event is the Chinese New Year's parade, the biggest and most colorful parade for San Francisco, to be held on Saturday, February 20, 2016. Cathay Post will be in that parade, so be there, or be square.

Our 85th anniversary planning committee has met three times, once virtually by phone conference, and thanks to guess who? Ms. Clara of course. The long list of tasks to be accomplished is work in progress. Our dinner menu is almost complete and if anyone is wondering what they are going have for dinner on Saturday, May 21, 2016 at New Asia Restaurant, we will have many dishes including Peking Duck served with hoisin sauce and green onions, lamb chops, and sea bass. There are other dishes, but we don't want to tell you everything in advance and ruin the fun.

In our next Cathay Dispatch, we will give you more information about a truly great 85th anni-

versary dinner party. David Louie, our favorite ABC reporter, and USMC veteran, Richard Gibson, who sang our national anthem at one of the 2014 World Series games, will be our MCs. More to come next month.

On January 17, 2016, Commander Lum wrote to our Board members conveying a proposal from contractor and tenant Tony Zhang requesting an extension to his current lease through 2031. The request for a lease extension would allow him to obtain a loan of approximately \$750,000 to fund all the remodeling improvements needed for our building and also to meet current City compliance issues.

Our Commander suggested a modified counter-proposal that would move us down to the 1st floor and release our 2nd floor and basement for leasing to the current tenant to sub-lease if he chooses. I concur with his recommendation, and our Board will need to consider this alternative plan. Since this matter has an impact on every member of our Post, I strongly encourage all our members to think about this development and tell our Board mem-

bers what your wishes are.

Whatever final decision is made by the Board on this vitally important matter, we will be stuck with that decision for decades, maybe longer. This is probably the most important issue facing our Post for many years, and if things do not work out, future generations will need to live with the consequences of our decision. Even though many of us will not be around to be accountable for this decision, all of us must take this huge responsibility with urgent thoughtfulness. We need to make a wise decision.

I fully concur with Commander Lum's comment that our forefathers were extremely insightful and thoughtful when they acquired our building decades ago so that we would have a "future" home. Today is that future, and we are the beneficiaries of that wise action. Now it is this generation's responsibility to decide on the best ideas to maintain and protect our Post's headquarter. That does not mean that someday, we may be made a great offer, and the Board and members at that time, may recommend to the Chinese

(Continued on page 8)

2nd VICE COMMANDER HELEN WONG

Gung Hay Fat Choy!

February is going to be such a busy month for our post with our regular monthly post meeting, special lunch celebration of Chinese New Year, and the Chinese New Year's Parade on Saturday, February 20 in which we will be marching. So start practicing your cadence steps and get your red shirts and black pants ready to go! Our Commander Lum did an outstanding job making sure our Post was entered into the parade. This is the 85th anniversary of our post being chartered so this year should be especially fortuitous and will be memorable. We will need as many of you as we can get to participate and show pride in our post by carrying the banner, the flags, or just walking with the group.

The meeting and parade will follow the successful "God Bless the USA" cabaret show that took place on January 29 which our post hosted 50 veterans and staff from the Yountville State Veterans Home. It was a good way to showcase

the beautifully renovated War Memorial Veterans Building and the Herbst Theatre to others in the community on top of showing our hospitality to other veterans. Thank you to all the volunteers who came to help out.

As our 85th anniversary yearbook and dinner committee work on gathering articles on the history of the post to include in the yearbook, it has been a time of discovery from artifacts found up in the attic.

In 1945, Cathay Post elected the first World War II Veteran, Andy Wong, to be commander in California and possibly in the USA. Does anyone know if his family is still in the Bay Area? It would be good to include them in our upcoming celebrations. Someone from the past membership also saved certain editions of *The Chinese Press* newspapers from 1950-1955 which mention activities of our post along with a number of joint ceremonies with VFW Chinatown Post 4618. Unless you were a member in the 1950s and read the June 1955

article in *The Chinese News* (it looks like the paper was re-named from *The Chinese Press* and became a monthly publication), you wouldn't have known that American Legion Post 1 in San Francisco helped form Cathay Post in 1930. It just shows the comradery of veterans wanting to help other veterans even back before World War II as these men were probably from World War I.

Also very significant for our post was that in 1951, there were about 700 members and all their names are listed in the May 25, 1951 edition of *The Chinese Press*. And no, Chaplain Richard Ow was not listed as a veteran in the post, yet!

If any of our members have photos, newspaper clippings or stories from the past about our post or other members, please share them with our committee. It would be more meaningful to gather these wonderful memories directly from members or from their families. Thank you so much.



Helen Wong

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1 (415) 797-7384

Cathay Post Member since: 1990

Branch: Army

"It just shows the comradery of veterans wanting to help other veterans even back before World War II as these men were probably from World War I."

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COMMANDER LUM, Continued

(Continued from page 5)

care of all our needs, it will go a long way to facilitate the conversion and upgrade our spaces. I will remind you once more that these spaces are there for you, and unless we put them to use, you can't blame the City for cutting back our allocation of space.

Since her arrival to our post about three years ago, our Editor-in-Chief, Ms. Clara Pon has been one of the strongest pillars. She has not only volunteered thousands of hours working for our post, she systematically changed just about every aspect and organizational structure within the post. She has converted

our post from its amateurish ways of doing things to an organization that exhibits utmost professionalism. There are very few people that can accomplish such tasks like her and Cathay Post No. 384 has really been blessed to have benefited from her brilliant contributions.

What really sets her apart is her inability to accept anything less than perfection. No, she is not perfect, but she sets perfection as her standard and thus, the results of her work radiates that level of devotion to the very last detail. She recently decided to move down to Southern California where the sun shines more often. Being

the caring and devoted person that she is, she has promised us that she will continue to support our post and to publish our monthly newsletter until a proper replacement is found. In recognition and appreciation of the efforts and guidance that she has provided us, we have planned a farewell dinner in her honor on February 12, at 6:00 p.m. at Original Joe's restaurant. Seats were limited and on a first come, first serve basis and unfortunately, we had to tell some people that all the seats have already been filled.

I look forward to seeing you at our next monthly meeting at headquarters, 1524 Powell Street.

1st VICE COMMANDER DONG, Continued

(Continued from page 6)

American War Veterans Association (which actually holds the deed to our building) to sell 1524 Powell Street.

We now know that 1524 Powell St. is the largest community size building in North Beach, and therefore, it is very desirable for organizations that need a building that size. San Francisco is a peninsula and therefore, land is very limited and very valuable. The price

of homes and the cost of renting property confirms this reality.

In my opinion, our building is already very valuable, and barring rising tides and a big earthquake, our building will be much more valuable after proper upgrades and remodeling. I surmise that in 10 years, we could get an offer for more than \$10M. I can't make that offer, but there are community organizations that can raise that amount of

money if they are buying valuable property which can be used as collateral. I believe that one of our large banks would lend \$10M to a number of local organizations that want to bid on our property. When that happens, we will need to find a new home, one which might be smaller and better for our future needs. Wish I live long enough to see this.

Our next meeting this coming Saturday, February 13. Don't miss it!

Announcing
Wells Fargo Veterans
Scholarships and
Wells Fargo Veterans
Emergency Grants

Scholarship
AMERICA®

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FARGO



Scholarship America and Wells Fargo are pleased to announce the launch of the Wells Fargo Veterans Scholarship and Wells Fargo Veterans Emergency Grant programs, designed to fill funding gaps to help veterans complete the postsecondary education or training they need to return to -- and succeed in -- civilian life and work. These programs can make a significant impact on students across America, and we need your help to spread the word.

Both programs are accessible via scholarshipamerica.org/wellsfargovets, and will be linked in the “Student Opportunities” section of your website. Please take a moment to share the link with veterans, military families and veterans’ organizations in your hometown, so we can ensure that they get the help they need. Thank you!

The Wells Fargo Veterans Scholarship Program

Applications for the scholarship program are being accepted today through February 29, 2016. Awards will be made to honorably discharged veterans or spouses of disabled veterans who are high school or GED graduates. Renewable scholarships for up to \$10,000 per year will be granted, determined by financial need and consideration of academic performance, work experience, leadership and community service, and challenges to completing a postsecondary program. Each award renewal will increase by \$1,000 over the previous year to encourage program completion for each recipient. Visit www.scholarsapply.org/wellsfargoveterans for more information and to apply.

The Wells Fargo Veterans Emergency Grant Program

Emergency grants are available on an ongoing basis for eligible veterans who are enrolled in postsecondary education and experience unexpected financial difficulties that might cause them to drop out of school. Grants will be available for a one-time distribution up to \$1,000 based on the cost of the emergency need, such as rent, utilities, daycare and medical expenses. Visit www.scholarsapply.org/wellsfargoveteransemergency for more information and to apply.

More information about Wells Fargo’s support of service members, veterans, and their families is available at wellsfargo.com/military/veterans.

God Bless USA Show By Nelson Lum



Performers taking their curtain call.
Photos for this article by Frank Jang.

After being absent for the last two years due to the closure of the War Memorial Veterans Building (WMVB) for seismic retrofit and renovation, God Bless USA, a show sponsored in partnership between Linking Rings and Cathay Post No. 384 to provide entertainment to veterans and members of the community, is back again. Most of the attendees were awe struck by the beauty of the newly remodeled Herbst Theatre in the WMVB.

On the morning of Friday, January 29, members of Cathay Post No. 384 were gathered at the WMVB waiting for their assignments. Every member was told in addition to whatever assignments they may have; their most important task was to be a greeter when the buses carrying the senior veterans from Yountville arrive. Just like clock

work, those buses arrived at 11:00 a.m. Our members sprung into action and they went onto the buses and gave the senior veterans the warmest Cathay Post greeting along with our sincerest welcome. These senior veterans, about 45 of them, are all residents at the Veterans Home of CA, Yountville and they have very limited opportunity to visit another city. They were very happy to make this trip to the WMVB in San Francisco. Most of them who have not seen the WMVB before marveled at how majestic and beautiful of a building it is.

It did not take long before we were able to gather all our special visitors in the lobby. There again, our visitors were treated to a grand view of the interior of the building with its 360° of genuine marble surrounding and lighting provided by chandeliers

originated and replicated from the 1930s. Our visitors were escorted to the second floor where they were gathered into one of our large meeting rooms where lunch was served. I can continue on and boast about how well everything was taken care of, but that would not be the truth. Truth was we had a major mishap. The caterer that I thought was contracted was not available and I had misread the email. With a group of hungry visitors sitting in the room expecting lunch, we had no food at all. I am sure you can picture how stressful it was for us being the hosting party. A phone call was made to a local sandwich shop located about five blocks away. The conversation was very simple, "Can you make 50 sandwiches in less than half an hour?" The response was "Yes." Our 1st Vice Commander Roger Dong was assigned the task of keeping our visitors entertained. He mustered his years of experience and charm to deliver what amounted to a delay tactic. Our Junior Past Commander Jay Pon and Comrade Ralph Wong picked up the sandwiches and drinks. Our visitors were fed without too

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God Bless USA, Continued

(Continued from page 10)

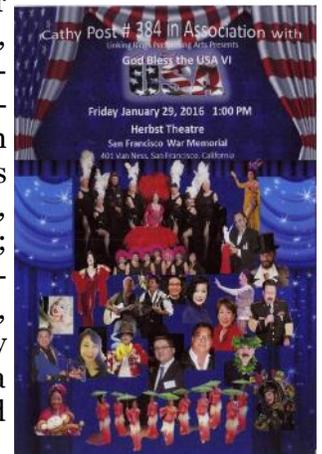
much delay.

We managed to convince Linking Rings, our partner of this event, to delay the show for 15 minutes so our visitors can have time to finish their lunch and be seated for the show. The auditorium was packed and a live band was performing to keep the audience entertained. Cathay Post No. 384's Color Guard Detail, directed by our Junior Past Commander Jay Pon, presented the colors to open the show and the rest of our members were busy working hard as ushers.

The show was very professionally produced and the variety of performances was thoughtfully arranged. There were patriotic songs, oldies, magician acts, fan dancers, burlesque, and of course, the ever energetic Grant Avenue Folly Dancers. From my perspective, the audience was enthused and filled with enjoyment. I

would like to take this opportunity to congratulate our partner Linking Rings for a fabulous show and we look forward to being partners again next year for the 7th performance.

I also would like to express my appreciation to the following members of our post who volunteered and participated in this event: 1st Vice Commander Roger Dong, Past Commander Dale King, Junior Past Commander Jay Pon, Finance Officer Vic Lum, Activities Director George Tsang, Chaplain Richard Ow; comrades Collyn Fong, Francis Hall, Ed Lee, Ralph Wong; support members Eva King, E m i l l y Onglatco, Lisa Roellig, and Lillian Lee.



War Memorial Veterans Building Update By Jay Pon

Thank you for letting me serve as your representative to the War Memorial Commission. I only have a few items to report this month.

1) Cathay Post and Linking Ring held the 6th annual God Bless USA show at Herbst Theatre. This variety show was well attended with a special group of senior veterans that came down from Yountville who were prominently seated in the front rows. The Cathay Post color guard opened the show.

2) The litigation between the SF Posts of the American Legion and the City of San Francisco has recently come to a conclusion. The judge presiding over

the petition has ruled in favor of the position the SF Posts of the American Legion have taken over the definition of "patriotic organizations."

3) A donor, that wants to remain anonymous, donated a sum of \$50,000 to help aid the War Memorial Commission to outfit several conference rooms with audio/visual equipment and kitchen appliances. Thank you for your very generous donation.

4) Lastly, please submit all WMVB room requests to jpon@jps.net, as we encourage all post veterans to utilize this wonderful resource. Use it. If you don't, we will lose it.



Legalization of Marijuana, Yes or No? By Nelson Lum

Currently, it is against the law for doctors to prescribe marijuana to their patients as medical treatment while on federally owned property. It matters not that the property may have been in the midst of a state that has legalized such transactions.

In the January issue of the American Legion Magazine, this topic was presented with points and counterpoints by Congressional members. I am here to urge for your support of legalizing the prescription of medicinal marijuana by doctors to their patients for the purpose of medical treatment on federal property.

Before I continue onto this subject, some of you that have known me must think that I must be under the influence of marijuana or some kind of psychedelic drug to propose for such legalization. As a retired law enforcement officer who has served for more than 30 years with the San Francisco Police Department, I have witnessed the destruction of our youths by the so called "recreational" usage of drugs which includes marijuana and have made thousands of

arrests involving drug related offenses. I have been and still am an avid anti-drug proponent, but I don't see my support of legalizing prescription medical marijuana by doctors to patients on federal property as being hypocritical.

Extensive study has shown that recreational usage of marijuana has been proven to cause diminishing memory, attention, and IQ. In cases involving teenagers, it also leads to poor school performance as well as symptoms of depression and other ill effects. Therefore, I am not in any way advocating for the legalization of marijuana for recreational use. I, however, feel very strongly in cases where a doctor has determined that his/her patient would benefit from marijuana as a medical treatment, and is monitoring the effects. There should not be such prohibition by the federal government.

Why am I advocating for the legalization of such a procedure in the Cathay Dispatch you may ask? I am writing about this particular issue in hope of raising your awareness to the problem. Since all VA facilities are

located on federal property no matter which state they are in, the doctors working in the VA facilities are not allowed to treat those veterans who are suffering from combat related seizures and depressions with medical marijuana. While usage in recreational settings can be destructive, marijuana has been proven to be effective in providing relief for the suffering veterans when used under the supervision of doctors for medicinal purposes.

There is currently a legislation sponsored by Rep. Dana Rohrabacher of California which will require the federal government to respect states that have legalized medical marijuana. If passed, it would mean the doctors at the VA in states where medical marijuana usage are legal may prescribe marijuana to their patients for medicinal purposes.

I urge you to contact the Congressman as well as your local representative to support the passage of this legislation. It is the right thing to do for our veterans who are suffering from illnesses that can be aided with medicinal marijuana.



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*Offer is valid on new personal loans only, must be \$10,000 or higher and the application and funding date must both take place within the promotional period to qualify. Internal refinances are eligible but must be \$10,000 in additional funding. Maximum aggregate unsecured loan balances cannot exceed \$25,000 per member. Rates terms and conditions are subject to change without notice. Your actual APR may vary and will be determined when a credit decision is made, and may be higher than the lowest rate available. Certain eligibility requirements, conditions and exclusions may apply. While supplies last. SFPCU reserves the right to end this promotion at any time, without notice. For more information, please contact Loan Services at 800.222.1391. Certificate recipient is responsible for: 1) a one-time registration fee of \$19 per person (Certificate is transferable prior to registration and during registration period), 2) Port charges, taxes, customs and fulfillment fees of \$39.60 per day/per person, 3) transportation to and from the port, 4) any applicable identification and 5) any applicable incidental/gratuity charges and/or fees. Certificate must be used within 18 months of receipt and is non-transferable after registration. One Cruise Certificate per member. For complete details and other restrictions, see Full Terms and Conditions on our website.

Membership—Delinquent By Connie Tseng

Happy Chinese New Year! May your lives have many new adventures and good wishes! It is going to be a wonderful year of the monkey!

According to the American Legion National Constitution Bylaws, Article IV, Section 4;

“A member whose dues for the current year have not been paid by January first shall be classed as delinquent. If his (or her) dues are paid on or before February first, he shall be automatically reinstated. If he (or she) is still delinquent after February first, he shall be suspended from all privileges. If he is still under such suspension on June thirtieth of such year, his member in The American Legion shall be forfeited. A member so suspended or

whose membership has been so forfeited may be reinstated to active membership in good standing by vote of the Post and payment of current dues for the year in which the reinstatement occurs. Provided, however, that the Posts, Departments and the National Organization may waive the provisions hereof, upon payment of dues for the year in which reinstatement occurs, with reference to former members who have been prevented from the payment of dues by reason of active military service.”

To put it simply, members who have not paid for their membership yet are now delinquent. Please make sure to renew your membership as soon as possible. We do not want you to become a suspended member.

CC Thomas Navy Post 244 Part I

By Daniel Fahey, Alexander Hamilton Post 448, Navy Veteran

This article is the second in a series based on archival material stored at the War Memorial Veterans Building in San Francisco.

San Francisco has a rich maritime history that starts with the native people who explored and utilized Mission Bay and the waterfront for centuries before the first Spanish ship came through the Golden Gate in August 1775. During the 1800s, seafarers brought the goods and people that transformed San Francisco from a town into a city, and as the city's commercial importance grew, so too did its strategic significance. It is true that soldiers inhabited the

Presidio since the founding days, but San Francisco grew up as a navy town, shaped by its connection to sailors and the sea. Part of this proud nautical tradition is the C.C. Thomas Navy Post 244 of the American Legion, which existed from 1920 until 2014.

C.C. Thomas

On 29 April 1917, Lt. Clarence Crase Thomas—a Naval Academy graduate from Grass Valley, California—was in charge of the naval armed guard on the

merchant steamship *SS Vacuum* as it traveled northwest of Scotland. After a lookout reported seeing a submarine periscope, Lt. Thomas rushed to the aft deck gun, but it was too late: a torpedo fired by the German submarine struck the ship, and the explosion threw Thomas into the frigid sea. A rescue boat picked him up, but he had been in the icy water too long, and became the Navy's first officer to die in World War I. The Navy

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CC Thomas Navy Post, Continued

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posthumously awarded him the Navy Cross, and named two destroyers after him.

C.C. Thomas Navy Post 244

In December 1920, a group of Navy and Coast Guard veterans formed the C.C. Thomas Navy Post, which the American Legion certified as Post 244 in January 1921. As an all-Navy post, it quickly attracted hundreds of members in San Francisco. During the early 1920s, the Post met in the Civic Auditorium at 99 Grove St., but by 1928 was meeting at the Native Sons Building at 414 Mason. The Post initially maintained an office in the Merchants Exchange building at 465 California, but moved in 1928 into an office at 417 Montgomery St. In 1933, the Post consolidated its office and meeting space in the new Veterans Building at 401 Van Ness Ave.

Notable Members

At its height in the 1940s, the C.C. Thomas Navy Post had more than 500 members. Many of these Legionnaires were Regular Joes who worked in San

Francisco, but some lived more privileged lives. For the most part, their stories are now long forgotten, but the Post's records contain slivers of insight about people who distinguished themselves, or were otherwise notable. Where the Post records left off, Google helped to round out some of their portraits.

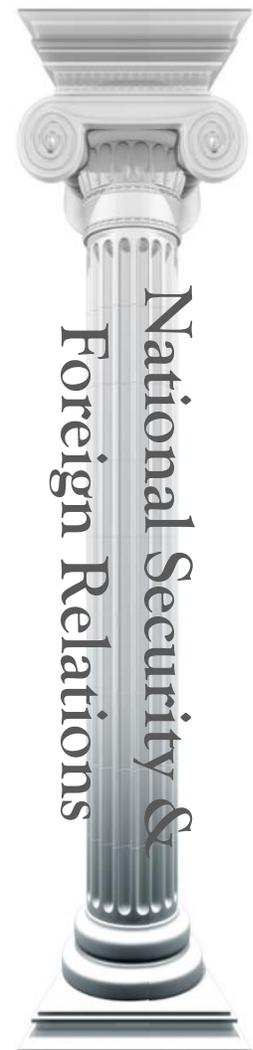
Among the first members of the C.C. Thomas Navy Post was Washington Irving—the grand nephew of the famous author—who went to the Naval Academy, served on a ship in the Spanish American War, and retired from the Naval Reserve as a Lt. Commander. Then there was Henry “Harry” Lyon, a Navy veteran known for having been the navigator on the aircraft *Southern Cross* that made the first trans-Pacific flight in 1928, leaving on 31 May from Oakland and arriving on 9 June in Brisbane, Australia, after nearly 84 hours of flying time and stops in Hawai'i and Fiji. There was also Knight Starr Jordan, who served as a Lieutenant in the Naval Reserve but is better known as the son of David Starr Jordan, the first President of Stanford University.

Following are the stories of four other Post members remarkable for their charity, leadership, civic engagement, or sacrifice.

Charles Hayes Weaver was born in Alabama and joined the Navy in 1918, when he was 42 years old. He served four years as a Wardroom Cook, and then settled in San Francisco, where he joined the C.C. Thomas Navy Post. He was working as a messenger during the day and as a janitor at night, struggling to survive, when in 1924 he met a man named Fred Aikens, who was begging for the price of a meal in front of Weaver's house at 1253 Pacific Street. Aikens had joined the Army in 1923 but was discharged the same year for disability, and ended up on the streets in San Francisco. Weaver invited Aikens into his home for a meal, but took such pity upon the man that he allowed him to stay and live in the small apartment Weaver already shared with his son.

Weaver took care of Aikens for two years, but Aikens' health declined, and in 1926, he died. This story of empathy

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CC Thomas Navy Post, Continued

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might be lost if not for an article in the 31 July 1926 edition of the *San Francisco Bulletin*, titled "Negro's Love of White Lad Goes to End." In the article, Weaver is quoted as saying: "He needed me. He was just like a little child, afraid of the dark. And the negro's skin may be black, but the heart is full of love and compassion for suffering. I did for him what I would want someone to do for my own boy if he was in need." The Post Commander typed up this article and sent it out to the Post members, asking them to donate \$1 each for a fund to help Charles Weaver for the costs he incurred in selflessly taking care of a fellow veteran. When Weaver died in 1935, the C.C. Thomas Navy Post officiated his funeral.

Frank Joseph O'Doul, known as "Lefty", was born in San Francisco. He attended Bay View high school before joining the San Francisco Seals, the city's semi-pro baseball team. While playing for the Seals in 1918, Lefty joined the Navy, serving on Goat Island (known today as Yerba Buena Island) in San Francisco Bay. In 1919, he joined the New

York Yankees, starting an 11-year major league career with five teams. His .349 lifetime batting average is still fourth all-time, and his 254 hits in 1929 stands as the third highest single-season total in major league history.

After his storied playing career ended, Lefty accepted the job of manager of his hometown Seals. In 1935, Lefty traveled to Japan, where he helped to popularize baseball, and spoke at the Post's June meeting about his trip. The same year, Lefty coached San Francisco native Joe DiMaggio, who in 1936 joined the Yankees and went on to become one of the all time greats. Lefty continued to coach the Seals until 1951, and also helped to promote the growth of baseball in Japan after World War II.

Louis Legler Ghirardelli had the good fortune to be born into a family of famous chocolate makers. Louis's grandfather Domingo arrived in California as a gold seeking '49er, but soon became a businessman, and by 1852 had established a company that sold coffee, spices, and chocolate. Louis played semi-pro baseball after

graduating from the University of California (there being only one campus then, in Berkeley), but when the United States entered the Great War in 1917, Louis joined the Navy. After his stateside service, he became sales manager of the chocolate company.

Louis and his wife, Marian, were fixtures of San Francisco society and friends with celebrities like actor Boris Karloff and director Otto Preminger. Louis was a member of the C.C. Thomas Navy Post and served as Commander in 1932, but was also active with the Shriners and Masons, and a member of the Olympic Club. Louis had an interest in the plight of prisoners, and in addition to advocating for prison reform, brought baseball to San Quentin Prison in the 1920s and coached some of the first inmate teams. During World War II, he helped establish a branch of the Stage Door Canteen in San Francisco, which provided free entertainment to servicemen and women.

George Snavely Rentz was a Princeton-trained theologian who joined the Navy during World

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CC Thomas Post, Continued

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War I. After serving as a Chaplain with the 11th Marine Regiment in France, Rentz was Chaplain on several ships during the 1920s and 1930s, rising to the rank of Commander. He joined the C.C. Thomas Navy Post, and in 1938—while he was based in San Francisco—officiated at the funerals of several Post members. Rentz shipped out in 1940 for his final assignment on the cruiser USS *Houston*, which was the flagship of the U.S. Asiatic Fleet, based in Manila.

When the Japanese navy attacked Pearl Harbor, the *Houston* suddenly became the tip of the American spear in the western Pacific. The *Houston* saw its first action on 4 February

1942, and distinguished itself in combat during the weeks that followed. At 2300h on 28 February, the *Houston* was in transit with the Australian cruiser HMAS *Perth* when they encountered a large Japanese navy convoy including a dozen warships in the Sunda Strait, near the Indonesian island of Java. During a fierce battle that ended shortly after midnight, both the *Perth* and the *Houston* took fatal gunfire and torpedo hits. When the *Houston* rolled over and sank, two-thirds of its crew was dead, and one-third was in the water.

From 1942 until 1945, the C.C. Thomas Navy Post listed Commander Rentz as “Missing in Action” in a section of its newsletter devoted to members on active duty.

His fate—and his final, heroic act—was unknown in the United States because all of the *Houston*’s 368 survivors were captured by the Japanese and held as prisoners until the end of the war. When the 291 *Houston* sailors who survived captivity returned home, the story finally emerged: after the *Houston* sank, Commander Rentz surrendered his lifejacket and abandoned an overcrowded float so that others could live. The Navy posthumously awarded him the Navy Cross, and later commissioned the frigate USS *Rentz* (1984-2014) in his honor. During World War II, five C.C. Thomas Navy Post members died while on active duty, in addition to 93 Post members and 25 Sons of Post members who served.

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eBenefits

Fact Sheet

What is eBenefits?

eBenefits is a joint VA/DoD web portal that provides resources and self-service capabilities to Veterans, Service members, and their families to research, access and manage their VA and military benefits and personal information. eBenefits uses secure credentials to allow access to personal information and gives users the ability to perform numerous self-service functions. It also provides a list of links to other sites that provide information about military and Veteran benefits. It is an essential way for Veterans, Service members, and their families to receive access to and service from VA and DoD.

What can I do in eBenefits?

Some of the features within eBenefits allow Veterans and Service members to access official military personnel documents, view the status of their disability compensation claim, transfer entitlement of Post-9/11 GI Bill to eligible dependents (Service members only), and register for and update direct deposit information for certain benefits. For a full list of features, see the reverse side of this fact sheet. New features are being added regularly.

How do I access eBenefits?

eBenefits is located at www.ebenefits.va.gov. Before Veterans can access and use eBenefits they must be listed in the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS) and obtain a DS Logon. Service members can access eBenefits with a DS Logon or Common Access Card (CAC). They can choose from two levels of registration, DS Logon Level 1 (Basic) and DS Logon Level 2 (Premium). Note: If Veterans attempt to register and are informed they have no DEERS record, VA will first need to verify their military service and add them to DEERS. All VA Regional Offices have staff familiar with procedures for adding a Veteran to DEERS.

What is a DS Logon?

A DS Logon is a secure identity (username and password) that is used by various DoD and VA websites, including eBenefits. If you are already registered in DEERS, you are eligible for a DS Logon. Once you have a DS Logon, it's valid for the rest of your life.

How do I register for an eBenefits account?

You can register for an eBenefits account online using the eBenefits DS Logon Account Registration Wizard. There are two types of registration, Basic and Premium. You will be walked through a series of questions to assist you in obtaining a Premium eBenefits Account, which gives you the highest level of access to eBenefits features. With a Premium Account you can view personal data about yourself in VA and DoD systems, apply for benefits online, check the status of your claims, update your address records, and more. To get a Premium eBenefits Account, you must verify your identity.

Many people will be able to verify their identity online by answering a few security questions. Service members may verify their identity online by using their CAC. Military retirees may verify their identity online using their Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS) Logon. For those unable to verify their identity online, you will instantly receive a Basic Account. A Basic eBenefits Account lets you customize the site and access information you enter into eBenefits yourself; however, you cannot see your personal information in VA or DoD systems. However, there are other options available to you. Veterans in receipt of VA benefits via direct deposit may have their identity verified by calling 1-800-827-1000 and selecting option 7. Others may need to visit a VA Regional Office or TriCare Service Center to have their identities verified in person.



Senate Bill 685—For Post’s with Bars

Senate Bill No. 685

CHAPTER 423

An act to amend Section 23453 of the Business and Professions Code, relating to alcoholic beverage service.

[Approved by Governor October 1, 2015. Filed with Secretary of State October 1, 2015.]

Legislative Counsel’s Digest

SB 685, McGuire. Alcoholic beverage service: veterans’ club license. The Alcoholic Beverage Control Act provides for the issuance of licenses for which various annual fees are charged depending upon the type of license issued. The act authorizes the issuance of a veterans’ club license authorizing the sale of alcoholic beverages for consumption within the licensed establishment only to members of the veterans’ organization and their guests.

This bill would additionally authorize a holder of a veterans’ club license to sell and serve alcoholic beverages for consumption within the licensed establishment to members of other veterans’ organizations, active duty or reserve members of the Armed Forces, or veterans, as well as to the members of the veterans’ organization and their guests.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

SECTION 1. Section 23453 of the Business and Professions Code is amended to read:

23453. (a) The holder of a veterans’ club license may exercise all of the rights and privileges permitted by an on-sale general license but may sell and serve alcoholic beverages for consumption within the licensed establishment only to bona fide members of the veterans’ organization and their bona fide guests, bona fide members of other veterans’ organizations, active duty or reserve members of the Armed Forces, or veterans as defined in Section 18540.4 of the Government Code.

(b) A veterans’ club license is not transferable to another person from the person to whom issued or by whom renewed. The provisions of Article 2 (commencing with Section 23815) of Chapter 5 do not apply to the issuance of veterans’ club licenses.

(c) A bona fide member of a veterans’ organization, bona fide guest, active duty or reserve member of the Armed Forces, or veteran is not required to sign in to a roster before purchasing or being served alcoholic beverages for consumption.



Fiona Ma Honors San Francisco JROTC Leader Lt. Col. Doug Bullard

By Sfnewsfeed.us



Lt. Col. Doug Bullard accepting award from Board of Equalization Member Fiona Ma.

SAN FRANCISCO, CA (12/3) - Flanked by cheering current and former students, State Board of Equalization Member [Fiona Ma](#) presented her [JROTC](#) Youth Equalizer Award to Lieutenant Colonel Doug Bullard, who has been the chief instructor at the Lowell High School JROTC Program since 1997. The award was presented to Colonel Bullard during the Annual JROTC Fall Competition held this past weekend.

“I am so proud to present my Youth Equalizer Award to Col. Bullard in recognition of his decades of service, first as a soldier in the army, and later as a member of our community who has instilled the values of discipline, service and self-reliance to thousands of students in his nearly 20 years as head of Lowell High School’s JROTC program,” said Board Member Ma. “I was thrilled to work with him to keep JROTC in San Francisco Schools, and I have been proud to call him a dear friend.”

Lt. Colonel Bullard was born and raised in Vermont, where he was an enthusiastic outdoorsman. In 1974, he graduated from the University of Vermont, with a Bachelor of Sciences in Forestry. He later attended the University of Oklahoma, where he earned a Masters in Communications. Upon completing his masters, he was granted a commission in the Army Corps of Engineers, beginning his military career attached to the 326 Engineer Battalion, 101st Airborne Division at Fort Campbell, KY. He was later stationed in Germany, as Aide de Camp to the Commanding General, US Army Engineering School and as a Professor of Military Science at the University of San Francisco.

During his service in the Army, Colonel Bullard was awarded the Meritorious Service Medal with 4 Oak Leaf Clusters, the Army Commendation Medal with 2 Oak Leaf Clusters, and the US Army Corps of Engineers deFleury Medal for service to the Corps of Engineers. He retired from active service in 1997, and joined the JROTC at [Lowell High School](#) as Senior Army Instructor, a position he continues to hold today.



In 2008, Colonel Bullard worked with Fiona Ma and community leaders, veterans and JROTC students across San Francisco to pass Measure V, an advisory ballot measure which declared "It is hereby the policy of the City & County of [San Francisco, California](#) that students in San Francisco public high schools should continue to be able to choose to participate in the schools' Junior Reserve

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Lt. Col. Doug Bullard, Continued

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Officers' Training Corps (JROTC) program.” After a spirited public campaign, Measure V passed with a strong majority 55 percent vote.

“Colonel Bullard has been such a positive influence in the lives of young San Franciscans. He is one of the bright, shining leaders of our community, and it is my honor to recognize him,” added Ms. Ma.



The JROTC Program mission philosophy is "To Motivate Young People to be Better Citizens." The JROTC Program is a service to our nation that provides cadets the motivation and skills to remain drug free, graduate from high school, and become successful citizens. The Program works to instill in students in secondary educational institutions the values of citizenship, service to the community and the

United States, personal responsibility, and a sense of accomplishment. Junior ROTC cadets may qualify for an advanced placement in the Active or Reserve Components of the Armed Forces. There is no military obligation associated with JROTC.

The five-member [California State Board of Equalization](#) (BOE) is a publicly elected tax board. Established in 1879 by a constitutional amendment, the BOE was initially charged with responsibility for ensuring that county property tax assessment practices were equal and uniform throughout the state. Currently the tax programs administered by the BOE are concentrated in four general areas: sales and use taxes, property taxes, special taxes and the tax appellate program. The BOE collects \$60 billion annually in taxes and fees supporting state and local government services. It hears business tax appeals, acts as the appellate body for franchise and personal income tax appeals, and serves a significant role in the assessment and administration of property taxes. For more information on other taxes and fees in California, visit www.taxes.ca.gov.

[Fiona Ma](#) represents close to 10 million people living in District Two on the State Board of Equalization. Her district includes the following 23 counties: Alameda, Colusa, Contra Costa, Del Norte, Glenn, Humboldt, Lake, Marin, Mendocino, Monterey, Napa, San Benito, San Francisco, San Luis Obispo, San Mateo, Santa Barbara, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, Solano, Sonoma, Tehama, Trinity, and Yolo.

For more information, please visit Board Member Ma's website at: <http://www.boe.ca.gov/ma/>. - John Vigna 916-445-4081



February 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2 ALWMC Meeting, 6:00 p.m.	3	4	5	6
7	8 Chinese New Year	9	10	11 Dist. 8 Meeting 6:00 p.m.	12 Lincoln's Birthday	13 Post Meeting 11 a.m.
14 Valentine's Day ♥	15 Presidents' Birthday	16	17	18	19	20 Chinese New Year Parade
21	22 Washington's Birthday	23	24	25	26	27 Post 105 & 384 Casino Night 6 pm
28	29					

March 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 ALWMC Meeting, 6:00 p.m.	2	3	4	5 Area 2 Meeting, Post 419
6 1 p.m. Dept. Oratorical Contest, Post 43	7	8	9	10 Dist. 8 Meeting 6:00 p.m.	11 DEC, Santa Maria, Post 56	12 DEC, Santa Maria, Post 56
13 Daylight Savings DEC, Santa Maria, Post 56	14	15	16	17 St. Patrick's Day	18	19 Post Meeting 11 am—moved
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27 Easter Sunday	28	29	30	31		



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The Editor-in-Chief may call to verify authenticity. All submissions should be emailed to cathaypost384events@gmail.com.

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www.legion.org

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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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American Legion
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2015-2016

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