



CATHAY DISPATCH

Veterans - Sounding Off Since 1931

AMERICAN LEGION'S ANNUAL WASHINGTON D.C. CONFERENCE By Clara Pon



CDR Helm and other leaders testifying in Washington D.C.
Photo by Lucas Carter, American Legion.

Every year, American Legion leaders meet with members of Congress, White House officials, and representatives from the Department of Veteran Affairs to address and discuss important issues regarding initiatives and concerns for our veterans and their families.

This year's conference was recently held on February 22-25, 2015 at our nation's capital where National Commander

Mike Helm, along with a couple of hundred veterans and their families in a show of support, addressed members of the conference concerning the backlog of VA claims, veteran unemployment, rise in TRICARE fees and co-payments, and the sequestration effects on national defense. It was during this conference that National Commander Helm called out VA Secretary Robert McDonald for his "spontaneous" response to a homeless veteran. (See page 2—*American Legion Head Calls Out VA Secretary For Lying.*)

On the last day of the conference, Commander Helm with several committee chairpersons testified in a joint session of the House and Senate Committee members on Veterans' Affairs, his "wide-ranging legislative agenda" that emphasizes "transition assistance." Provided below are links to read more about Commander Helm addressing Congress, watch a video of Commander Helm's testimony, and a video of US Congressman Jeff Miller (R-FL) commending the Legion on its position regarding the VA scandal.

Helm addressing Congress article:

<http://www.legion.org/washingtonconference/226220/commander-congress-we-face-%E2%80%99historic-opportunities%E2%80%99>

Helm Testimony video:

<http://www.legion.org/commander/226219/see-video-national-commander%E2%80%99s-testimony>

Miller video:

<http://www.legion.org/washingtonconference/226192/miller-praises-legion-taking-va-scandal>

Important Dates:

- Mar 7—CNY Parade
- Mar 8—Daylight Saving
- Mar 14—Monthly Meeting—11 a.m.
- Mar 15—Boys State Delegate Reg. Fee Due
- Mar 17—St. Patrick's Day
- Mar 20—Spring Begins
- Mar 26—Apr CD Article Deadline
- Apr 1—April Fool's Day
- Apr 3—Good Friday
- Apr 5—Easter

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AMERICAN LEGION HEAD CALLS OUT VA SECRETARY FOR LYING—PRESS RELEASE

WASHINGTON (Feb. 24, 2015) – The head of The American Legion called VA Secretary Robert McDonald’s characterization of his service “a poor choice of words.”

“In an effort to bond with a homeless veteran, Secretary McDonald told him he was in the Special Forces,” National Commander Michael D. Helm said. “He did complete Ranger training and served honorably with the Army’s 82nd Airborne Division. But a lie is a lie. I can’t believe people do this. What a disappointment from the leader of a department whose number one issue right now is the restoration of trust. He should be held to a higher standard. The secretary has apologized, as he certainly should. We hope that he can restore the trust that he lost.”

With a current membership of 2.3-million wartime veterans, The American Legion was founded in 1919 on the four pillars of a strong national security, veterans affairs, Americanism, and youth programs. Legionnaires work for the betterment of their communities through nearly 13,500 posts across the nation.

Media Contact: *John Raughter*, (317) 441-8847, jraughter@legion.org; or *Marty Callaghan*, (202) 341-8900, mcallaghan@legion.org. <http://www.legion.org/pressrelease/226185/american-legion-head-calls-out-va-secretary-lying>

Very Touching 50th Anniversary Observance By Nelson Lum



Retiring of the Colors with bagpiper Sgt. Larry Chan, SFPD, (Center)

Photo by Richard Carpino, Dept. of CA Historian

In last month's issue of the Cathay Dispatch, the heroic story of the Four Chaplains was told in detail along with the time and place where the 50th anniversary observance would be celebrated in their honor sponsored by the American Legion, Department of California. Representatives of the Legion from all over California were present at Saint Mary's Cathedral where the mass was ushered in by a bagpiper from the SFPD, followed by

color details from a few Legion posts along with units from the JROTC of the SF Unified School District and AFROTC Detachment 085.

Each chaplain's story was told, followed by the placing of calla lilies on an empty chair, and the tolling of the bell. It was a very touching and well planned event. The Department of CA officers, staff, and several district and post leaders deserve a lot of credit for their organizational efforts.

Unfortunately, I do have one sad note to report. Even though the event was published in the Cathay Dispatch and announced during the February meeting, Cathay Post's participation at the event was represented by only two members. As one of the most active posts in the area, our participation or attendance at these events must be better in the future.



COMMANDER JAY PON

Thank you for a very exciting February meeting! We discussed over 25 different issues, passed many motions, and had a terrific lunch. Loved those fried chicken wings. Thank you to all that donated and mailed in your spring donations to the Post. So far, we raised just over \$3,500 with more donations coming in the mail. There is still time to donate!

A special thanks to the anonymous donor for donating \$1,000 during the donation drive at the February meeting. Also a big thanks to Judge Advocate and Historian Roger Dong for incentivizing the donation drive by donating two new Apple iPads that were raffled off. Newly nominated Finance Officer Vic Lum and past Commander Dale King walked away with a smile and a new iPad. For those new and caught off guard by the spring donation, and those that could not afford to donate, 'Thank You' for your past, current, and future service to Post 384. The donations are great; your time and service to Post 384 is precious. Congratulations to everyone for making this the best

post in the Bay Area.

Just in case you didn't know, the post commander position has a personal mission inherent in the job. The post commander must try to ensure that Post 384 is here to support fellow veterans, youth programs, and the local community. As part of a national veterans non-profit group established by Congress after World War I, chartered in 1931, we serve San Francisco and the areas around it. As the current commander, my focus will be: (1) preserving the rights of veterans and patriotic organizations at the War Memorial Veterans Building; (2) increasing external post events for members; (3) preserving our post history, culture, and traditions; (4) support youth and educational programs; and (5) increasing the use of our club house to the community.

While it may sound like a lot, and it is, my job as your commander boils down to this: I have, and will continue to work towards building esprit de corps within Post 384 by having events that support our mission statement and where members can take pride

and enjoyment in participating. Some events will be rigorous to the body and other events will challenge the mind. If you want to take charge, let me know and we can find a task or passion for you. If you want to be mentored or provide assistance, please let us know which of the five missions you would like to support.

For March, spring is in the air. Don't forget to move your clocks forward one (1) hour this coming weekend on Sunday, March 8. There are several chores you are supposed to do on Daylight Saving Day: (a) change the batteries in your smoke and carbon monoxide detectors; (b) change your air filters; (c) reverse the direction of your ceiling fan; (d) flip your mattress; and (e) check for expired food and medicine.

It's spring cleaning time! A cleaning detail will be formed after lunch for a few hours to clean the post. Please join the officers in finding lost treasures. Last month, almost two hundred dollars in cash was found buried in a filing cabinet. We need about 15-20 volunteers to clean, or-

(Continued on page 5)



Jay Pon

jpon@jps.net

1 (415) 409-8858

Cathay Post Member
since: 2001

Branch: Navy, Army

Final Rank: Major

*"Thank you for
your past,
current, and
future service to
Post 384. The
donations are
great; your time
and service to
Post 384 is
precious."*



Nelson Lum

nelson1431@aol.com
1 (415) 797-7384

Cathay Post Member
since: 2005

Branch: Army

Final Rank: SPC

*“...developing
our future leaders
is just as
paramount, for
without them,
our organization
will not survive
for long unless
our efforts in this
area is
successful.”*

1st VICE COMMANDER NELSON LUM

March is here already. Father time continues his rapid pace as winter inches closer to its end.

While there is still three months left for the current term of elected and appointed officers, it is time again for you, our members, to start contemplating what role you would like to take on for the coming term. As we have stated many times before, Cathay Post No. 384 will not be able to survive unless it is able to recruit new talent. It is also just as important to develop our future leaders as it is to manage our current activities.

Managing our current activities require a great amount of effort and its significance is notably apparent. In addition, developing our future leaders is just as paramount, for without them, our organization will not survive for long unless our efforts in this area is successful.

Nomination for all thirteen (13) elected officer positions will be accepted at our March regular meeting. This process will remain open until the April meeting. The Adjutant of our post will certify the names of those nominated and the

positions for which they were nominated. The Adjutant will then officially close the nomination process at the end of the April meeting. The election of new officers will take place during the regular monthly meeting on May 9, 2015.

Only those members whose membership status is in good standing and in attendance will be given a ballot for them to cast their vote. The Election Committee, under the supervision of the Adjutant, will tally up the votes and announce the results at the conclusion of the meeting. The newly elected officers will then be sworn in at the anniversary dinner on Friday, May 29, 2015. The term of the new officers will run from June 1, 2015 to May 31, 2016. I strongly encourage all of you to give serious consideration to the various positions that you may like to serve. Remember, every elected position is open.

Since our last meeting, our post has executed a contract for the installation of sprinklers in our building. The exact time of the actual installation has yet to be determined, but we will strive to minimize the expected inter-

ruptions as much as possible. While the installation of fire sprinklers and a fire alarm system will still not bring our building up to all current codes, it will go a long way towards enhancing the overall safety for the occupants. We will notify you once we learn of the scheduling from the contractor. The project is expected to take about three months to complete.

Post 105 in Redwood City has been managing a very successful bingo event twice a week. Members of Cathay Post were invited to observe the operation in January and gained many useful tips and bits of information. Post 105 has extended another invitation to do more than observe. They are giving us the opportunity to roll up our sleeves to be an active participant during our next visit. There is a lot for us to learn about the type of organizational skills that will be necessary in order to run such an operation. The learning process will take some time and we will keep you posted as to our progress.

I look forward to seeing you at the March meeting.

Jay Pon, Continued

(Continued from page 3)

ganize, and rearrange things. Please email the post's secretary at cathaypost@gmail.com by March 10, 2015 if you can help.

Post 384's continuing resolution to its mission statement (specifically goal number #4), the opening of the sponsorship to both The American Legion Boys State and the American Legion Auxiliary Girls State is on its way for review at the Spring D.E.C. (Department Executive Committee) meeting next weekend. Click <https://app.box.com/Cathay384-Resolution2015> for a copy of our resolution. It is Post 384's intent to: 1) make it easier for both the Department of California and the Auxiliary Unit to sponsor both boys and girls to California Boys and Girls State; and 2) bring the number of girls attending Girls State (about 400 girls) to a level that is EQUAL to Boys

State (1,000 boys). Other states allow this, California does not. Any excuses about why this can't happen here in California whether physical constraints, mental reservations, or past traditions will show how Legionnaires and Auxiliary members don't strive for equality is simply unacceptable.

Lastly, our most important mission at Cathay Post 384 is to preserve the rights of veterans at the San Francisco War Memorial Veterans Building (WMVB). We are scheduled to move back in September. We have submitted the necessary paper work to the War Memorial Commission for a dedicated space. When the building is open, Post 384 must do its part to use the WMVB. We cannot let this building go unused. We already reserved the Herbst Theatre for another *God Bless America* variety show in early 2016. It's not too late to start planning events at the WMVB. Texas Hold'em in 2016?

Call Before Using Your Choice Card From Dept. of CA News Section

Many veterans have recently received a white card in the mail from the U. S. Department of Veterans Affairs (USDVA). This card is called the Choice Card or VACAA Card. VACAA stands for the Veterans Access, Choice, and Accountability Act of 2014, a law enacted by Congress and signed by President Obama in August to improve health care for Veterans.

These cards do not give a veteran permission to go

wherever they want, whenever they want for health care. This is not a fee basis card for emergency treatment!

You must call USDVA at 1 (866) 606-8198 to get permission before using this card. The veteran who mistakenly uses this card without VA pre-approval will most likely be held responsible for the medical charges.

Distribution of the Choice Card began on November 4, 2014 and ended in January 2015.

All cards should be received by mid-February 2015.

The cards were born out of the desire of the USDVA to make sure veterans did not have to wait for medical care in light of the problems experienced last year in dealing with waiting times for veterans to see a primary care physician. The Choice Card is designed to supplement the care you receive at your VA medical facility,

(Continued on page 6)





Choice Card, Continued

(Continued from page 5)

not replace or limit that care.

The Choice Card provides a safety net for Veterans who are on a USDVA waiting list because a health care appointment could not be provided to them within 30 days of their preferred date or the date that is medically determined by their physician or who live more than 40 miles from the closest VA medical fa-

cility.

If you believe those circumstances apply to you, contact the USDVA at 866-606-8198 to verify that you are eligible to use the card. Once they determine eligibility, they will help you through the process of obtaining an appointment for care.

If you would like to obtain a regular Veteran Health Identification Card (VHIC), you can apply at your local

County Veteran Service Office in your county of residence: <http://www.cacvso.org/county-contacts/>

The VHIC is issued only to Veterans who are enrolled in the VA health care system.

For more information, contact your local County Veterans Service Officer: <http://www.cacvso.org/county-contacts/>

<http://www.calegion.org/html/s.htm#card>

Nomination Time, 2015-16 Officers

By Clara Pon

It's that time of year again. The nomination of Cathay Post officers for the 2015-16 term will be accepted during the March and April meetings with the election to be held during the May meeting. There are 13 positions that are available for candidate nominations. All members current on 2015 dues are eligible for making nominations as well as accepting a nomination.

Our post by-laws describes the duties and responsibilities for each of the elected positions are as follows:

Post Commander: The Post Commander shall preside at all meetings of the Post and has general supervision over the business affairs of the Post. Such officer shall be the chief executive officer of the Post and shall perform such other duties as directed by the Post.

First Vice-Commander: The 1st Vice-Commander shall assume and discharge the duties of the office of Commander in the absence or disability of, or when called upon by the Post Commander.

Second Vice-Commander: The 2nd Vice-Commander shall assume and discharge the duties of the office of First Vice-Commander in the absence of or disability of such officer and shall perform such other duties as directed by this Post.

Third Vice-Commander: The 3rd Vice-Commander shall assume and dis-

(Continued on page 7)

Officer Nominations, Continued

(Continued from page 6)

charge the duties of the office of Second Vice-Commander in the absence of or disability of such officer and shall perform such other duties as directed by this Post.

Adjutant: The Adjutant shall have charge of (1) membership and (2) supporting/maintaining Post events. Duties include the transportation of colors, equipment (chairs/tables/banners/prizes...), and supplies to and from the Post for external events. The Post Adjutant is the building/facility manager.

Finance Officer: The Finance Officer shall be charged with the custody of the funds of the Post. He or she shall keep its accounts and report thereon at regular meetings of the Post. He or she shall receive all funds of the Post and pay all bills approved by the Post and Finance Committee. He or she shall be bonded under a blanket bond to be procured from the Department Headquarters and paid for by the Post.

Secretary: The Secretary shall have charge of and keep a full and correct record of all proceedings of all meetings and under the direction of the Commander handle all correspondence of the Post.

Historian: The Historian shall, be charged with the individual records and incidents of the Post and Post members, and shall perform such other duties as directed by the Post or Executive Committee. The Post Historian is also charged with photographing and documenting Post Events.

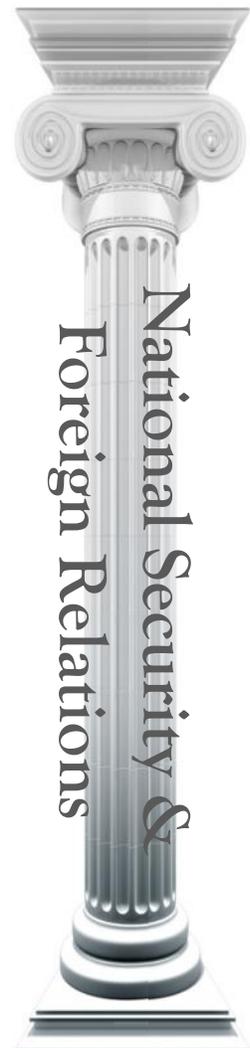
Sergeant-at-Arms: The Sergeant-at-Arms shall preserve order at all meetings and shall perform such other duties as may be from time to time assigned to him by the Post.

Chaplain: The Chaplain shall be charged with the spiritual welfare of the Post comrades and will offer divine but nonsectarian service in the event of dedications, funerals, public functions, and adhere to such ceremonial rituals as are recommended by the National or Department Headquarters from time to time.

Service Officer: The duties of the Service Officer shall be generally that of prosecuting claims and protecting the rights and privileges of all veterans, their dependents and survivors and to handle such other matters as may properly be considered service work.

Judge Advocate: The duties of the Judge Advocate shall be to advise the Post Officers on the construction and interpretation of the Post Constitution and By-Laws; and to perform such other duties as are usually incident to the office.

Quartermaster: The Quartermaster shall supply and purchase all goods and materials necessary for Post operations.



Is Your Membership Suspended? By Connie Tseng



I would like to thank everyone at the meeting for electing me as the Post's new Adjutant. I am excited to be able to serve our post and the veterans' community.

According to the American Legion National Constitution and 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."

For clarification, those who have paid your membership is good to go. Those who have not paid yet are now classified as suspended. Being a suspended member means that you will not be able to vote at our meetings, take advantage of membership prices at

certain events, or use the amenities such as the building at a nominal or fee-free rate. Beyond the post level, you may not be able to use the discounts that are available at large retailers such as Home Depot, CVS, Apple, or T-Mobile.

If your membership is suspended, there is still time! Make sure to pay before June 30, and you may be reinstated once the membership votes to have you back. If you don't renew your membership by June 30, then your membership will be forfeited. This means that you are no longer a member of the American Legion. You will have to fill out a new application form, pay the membership fee, and be voted in by the membership as if it was your first time. Please make sure to find me to get your membership squared away before then!

If you don't want to mail in your dues, you can renew your membership online at: www.legion.org/renew. You can pay your membership with a credit card and print a temporary membership card. Bring in your receipt and I will give you your 2015 membership card.

While you are online, you can now set your account for automatic annual renewal. All you need to do is just click on "Renew Now" and follow the directions. Your membership dues will automatically be charged to your debit/credit card on or about July 15th of each membership year. It's fast and easy.

Disclaimer

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Women's Military History Week



CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT
OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

ADVISORY

Contact: Ron Brand
916-503-8094
February 17, 2015
CalVet 15-015

The California Department of Veterans Affairs (CalVet) honors Women Veterans by hosting a free, public reception celebrating Women's Military History Week.

Reception Scheduled for March 18 at Stanford Mansion

WHO: Guest Speakers from CalVet and the State Legislature present awards to two outstanding women Veterans recognized for their distinguished achievements and service.

WHAT: Governor Edmund G. Brown Jr. proclaimed the third week of March as "Women's Military History Week."

WHERE: Leland Stanford Mansion, 800 N Street, Sacramento, CA 95814.

WHEN: Reception on Wednesday, March 18, 2015 – 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Pre-registration is required at www.calvet.ca.gov/womenvets

BACKGROUND: California is home to nearly 200,000 women Veterans. Each year, the 3rd week of March is set aside as a time to reflect on the outstanding and honorable service of our women who have served or who are serving in the United States Armed Forces. Our California women Veterans are part of a long and proud legacy of military service, and we owe them our deepest appreciation and respect.

As Californians, it is our duty to recognize the contributions and sacrifices of the brave and often overlooked women service members and Veterans. As proclaimed by the Governor, Women's Military History Week is celebrated this year from March 16 – 22, and it is dedicated to the women who have given so much in defense of our nation.

The reception is free, includes appetizers and refreshments, and is open to the public, thanks to the generosity of VetFund Foundation Board Members Michelle Oushakoff, with CA Technologies and Dr. Richard Pattenaude, President of Ashford University. For information regarding the reception please call 916-653-1402, or email womenveterans@calvet.ca.gov.

Veterans Cemetery Groundbreaking Ceremony



CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT
OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

Contact: Carolyn Ballou

[916-653-1355](tel:916-653-1355)

February 25, 2015

CalVet 15-018

ADVISORY

California Central Coast Veterans Cemetery Groundbreaking Ceremony

WHO: California Department of Veterans Affairs (CalVet), U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, Fort Ord Reuse Authority, and Monterey County.

WHAT: California Central Coast Veterans Cemetery (CCCVC) Events

WHEN: 1. CCCVC Groundbreaking Ceremony – Photo Opportunity Only

Due to limited cemetery site parking, only invited guests and credentialed press can attend the brief site groundbreaking

Friday, March 13, 2015, 9:35 a.m.
2900 Parker Flats Road, Seaside, CA 93955

2. Community Ceremony

The public is invited to attend the Community event that includes speakers and recognition of local CCCVC leaders.

Friday, March 13, 2015, 10:30 a.m.
General Stilwell Community Center
4260 Gigling Road, Seaside, CA 93955

Press availability from 10:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. in Gold Room

BACKGROUND: Nearly 25 years ago, a group of Veterans and family members began a mission to honor Veterans by establishing a Veterans cemetery on the Central Coast. The CCCVC site, covering more than 78 acres on the former Fort Ord Army post, memorializes the Monterey Bay area's rich military history. The CCCVC will provide a place of final rest for Veterans and their spouses. The Phase I construction plan includes the construction of the main entrance, roads, an assembly area, a committal shelter, columbaria, 5,000 columbarium niches, landscaping, a memorial walkway, and supporting infrastructure for 17 acres. The CCCVC is expected to serve more than 100,000 Veterans and their families living within Monterey, Santa Cruz, San Benito, Santa Clara, and San Luis Obispo counties. CalVet currently operates cemeteries in Yountville and Igo. For more information about the CCCVC, please visit www.fora.org.

**Volunteers
& Sponsors
Needed**

Traveling Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall

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

is coming to the Bay Area

April 8-12, 2015, at Golden Gate National Cemetery in San Bruno

Volunteers and Sponsors Needed



Help

* * * **How You Can Help** * * *

Help

Event Volunteers

50+ volunteers needed.
Meetings held at 10 a.m.,
1st & 3rd Saturdays, Jan 17
through April 4, at Golden
Gate National Cemetery.

650-303-2725, leopmcardle@yahoo.com for details

Event Sponsors

Cash donations and Gifts-in-Kind are
needed. 650-303-2725, leopmcardle@yahoo.com for details
Sponsors will be listed in promotional ma-
terial and invited to special viewings and
recognition.
501(c)3 receipts provided.

To learn more about volunteering and donating contact Leo McArdle
650-303-2725, leopmcardle@yahoo.com for details

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)

“Honor a Hero, Hire a Veteran” By Roger Dong

On Monday, February 23, 2015 our friends and supporters at the State of California's Employment Development Department (EDD) hosted a job fair themed "Honor a Hero, Hire a Veteran," at South San Francisco Municipal Social Hall. Dozens of human resource personnel representatives from the City and County of San Francisco, the State of California, and Federal government organizations participated.

Our good friend and supporter Mr. Craig Newmark and several local hotels provided food and refreshments, including breakfast and lunch for this job fair. The Honor Guard was provided by the Coast Guard members stationed at Alameda; and I, Cathay Post Judge Advocate and Historian conducted the POW/MIA memorial ceremony. Representing our Eighth District Council's Veterans Success Center (VSC) were Deputy Executive Director Helen L. Wong and Facility Manager Mr. Cyrus Wade. They were there to provide information to veterans about the services available at the VSC.



Helen Wong (second from the left) with volunteers.

Our Veterans Success Center, an operation jointly supported by The American Legion, AmVets, and VFW is administered primarily by volunteers from Cathay Post No. 384. The VSC is open Monday - Friday from 1 p.m. to 5

p.m. Any veteran with a DD-214 and/or their spouse can use the free services offered by the VSC. Visit our website at www.sf-vsc.org for updates and information on our two locations — Salvation Army Harbor Recovery Facility and EDD at 801 Turk St. The varying locations will continue until The American Legion moves back into the War Memorial Veterans Building in September.

We currently have more jobs listed than job seekers to fill them in the Bay Area.

For labor opportunities, the California Labor Pool has many listings in CALJOBS website. Any physically able veteran who can handle a laborer position should be able to acquire one of the entry level positions, initially a short term job for a few days to allow the employer to observe the new employees' reliability, work capabilities, and habits. Starting pay is around \$20 to \$25/hour. If the new temporary hires demonstrates potential, there are opportunities for longer term employment. Firms are looking for management as well as front line employees. One of our hired veterans moved from labor to management in two months.

Most financial institutions and the food industries are hiring veterans in a variety of positions. Many jobs are entry level, but can lead to management positions. Financial institutions are frequently looking for sales representatives whose salary is based primarily on commissions.

The US Forestry Service (USFS) are always sending us leads for many different types of positions including In-

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Hire a Veteran, Continued

(Continued from page 12)

formation Technology. For young veterans, a Park Ranger position can be highly desirable if qualified and trained by the USFS. She/he gains an unusual opportunity to work at a national park. The additional benefit of free housing and the unnecessary need for a privately owned vehicle while working at a national park allows the individual the opportunity to save money. To see what opportunities are available, see ad on page 13.

Our friends at Bay Ships in Alameda, CA are always looking for opportunities to assist veterans by hiring and training them to provide maintenance services for most of the private and government ships in the Bay Area. They pay their trainees during the training period and they have both labor and management openings. Positions that are currently available are power painters and power welders. Please contact the VSC if interested.

Bay Area Rapid Transit (BART) has a variety of openings for veterans and are given a 5 point preference in their job

application rankings. BART also provides BART transportation passes to veterans who have recently separated from the military (within 6 months of separation).

The City and County of San Francisco has a large variety of openings throughout the city from bus drivers to labor and administrative positions. You need to look up the appropriate links for the jobs you are interested in. Since just about all the jobs are under Civil Service classifications, you must allow some time for your application to be processed and even longer before interviews are scheduled. Generally speaking, City and County retirement pensions are commensurately lucrative once you've fulfilled the required length of service. However, changes may take place periodically due to budget limitations.

Local police and fire departments frequently have openings for permanent employment. The application, testing, and background investigation process takes anywhere from six months to a year. Once selected, you are paid a salary during the training period which takes about

a year.

Many hotels and restaurants in the Bay Area have on-going openings, and the jobs vary from labor to management positions.

There are always openings for security guard positions with a number of corporations.

Driving opportunities, especially for long distance truck drivers are always in demand. There is an urgent need for long haul drivers now that the dock workers strike is over.

Technology companies are always looking for veterans with hi-tech experience in the military. Salaries are generally excellent. Google, Cisco, and many other technology companies have positions for qualified veterans. They also have a variety of non-technical support and logistics positions available.

This is just a partial listing of the opportunities available and will be updated as new job information is received. Be sure to check back frequently for new openings.





Agency Vets 2 Feds (V2F) Career Development Program - STEM

(Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics)

Positions Open February – March 2015!

- Do you want more than just a job?
- Are you a veteran searching for a career?
- Are you a student veteran, a recent graduate, or looking for a career development position?
- Do you want to continue to serve your country?

If you answered “YES” to these questions, we may have a career for you!

Several agencies will be posting positions for various locations across the United States. Applicants can apply to positions through the individual Agency’s Vacancy Announcements that will be listed on USAJOBS and other Federal job sites. Applicants must meet requirements listed on the Agency’s Vacancy Announcements.

The Vets to Feds (V2F) Career Development Program for Science, Technology, Engineering, & Mathematics (STEM) is sponsored by the Interagency Council on Veterans Employment. This program is designed to recruit and support the development of our Nation’s Veterans for careers with the Federal Government. The program will offer you the opportunity to gain valuable on-the-job training and experiences related to the STEM fields. Applicants who complete the program may transition into permanent Federal positions – in one of the Government’s most mission critical STEM positions.

Agencies will open positions in the February to March timeframe. To find a position go to www.U.S.A.J.O.B.S.gov and search key words “V2F” or “Vets to Feds Career Development Program”

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Victor Lum By Lisa Roellig

Vic at Cathay Post, 2015.

In 2014, Victor Lum, Marine Corps Veteran (1966-69) and a Legionnaire, set out to find an American Legion Post that measures up to his expectations. "I wanted an active post and a post where I could contribute and be of service to the veteran community." Vic had known about Cathay Post 384. It has been an integral part of the Chinese American veteran community for years, but it wasn't until after the death of his father, who served with the Flying Tigers during WWII, that he made the commitment.

"Like anything else, you just have to show up. The post had an open house. I went and was greeted quite warmly by the commander at the time, David Wong. He gave a tour of the post, a run-down of all the post's activities, and gave me a copy of the newsletter, Cathay Dispatch. I knew I had found my new American Legion home."

I won't say what post he transferred out from!

Born in Canton, China in 1946, Vic came to the United States in 1947 with his parents and settled first in the North Beach area of San Francisco, just a few blocks from Cathay Post. At ten years old, his family, with the addition of two more brothers, made the move across the bay to Berkeley. Vic attended Berkeley High School and graduated in 1964, about the time the US escalated the war in Vietnam. "I attended Laney College for a short period of time until the lottery system for the draft was instituted. I was number 10 in the first round and later, number one in the second round."

It was at this time that Vic enlisted in the US Marine Corps. "With the possibility of going overseas, I enlisted in the Marine Corps, believing they had the best training." As it turned out, Vic never made it overseas. "I received orders twice to go to Vietnam but two of my brothers were already over there and like "Saving Private Ryan," they wouldn't send me, even though I volunteered."

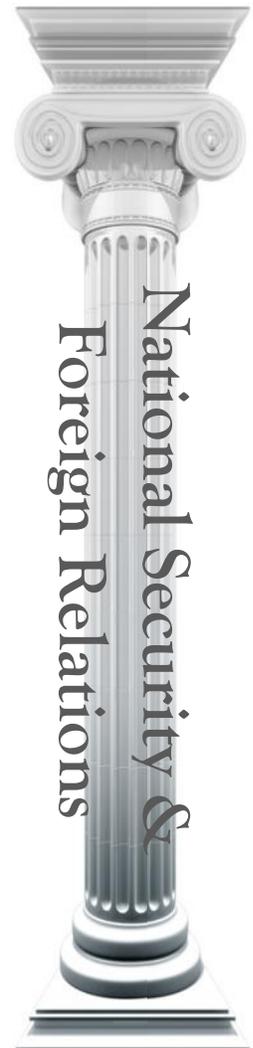
Vic comes from a military family. Besides his father and two brothers, Vic's uncle was a Major in the Army in both WWII and Korea. There was however no family pressure to enlist, just a strong sense of duty to serve. Service has been the basis for Vic's life. After leaving the Marine Corps, Vic joined the Army Reserve as a military police officer. After his commitment to the Army Reserve, Vic joined the Alameda County Sheriff's Department (ACSD) in 1975 until he retired in 2005, after 30 years of service.



Vic in 1998 with the AC Transit Police Service.

Lum was the first Chinese American hired by the department. While with the Sheriff's Department, Vic worked at various assignments. He has worked in custodial settings, courts, work furlough, civil division, AC Transit, and Airport Police. Vic's more favored assignments included bicycle patrol and undercover

(Continued on page 16)



Victor Lum, Continued

(Continued from page 15)

work. He was on the department during the 1989 Loma Prieta Earthquake, the 1991 Oakland Firestorm, and the events of September 11, 2001.



In the back yard in my sheriff's uniform, 1995.

A man not prone to sit idle, Vic returned to work with ACSO as a retired annuitant for a year. He took a retirement job at the Golden Gate Fields Race Track as a security specialist with other retired law enforcement officers, some from his old department. So, he retired from his retirement job in September 2014.

Now, he thinks he is really retired!

Initially, Vic's vision of retirement consisted of—no plans, no schedules, just relaxing and enjoying life's simple pleasures such as enjoying the outdoors, traveling, hiking, biking, visiting with his daughter and going to his 11 year old grandson's sporting events. Those things just didn't fill up enough time in a day, week or month. He needed something else to do. Luck would have it, an opportunity came up at his new Legion home, Cathay Post. After over a decade, the Post's Finance Officer wanted to take a break from handling the Post's finances. After some nudging and encouragement from a few of his new friends at the post and from his significant other, Vic decided to fill the vacant spot.

So as of February's meeting, he was appointed acting Finance Officer and accepted the nomination to be the Finance Officer, which will be voted on at the next meeting.

Vic is excited to get to work. "There are constant projects for the advancement of the Post and the betterment of the veteran community." And it's not all work, all the time at the Post. There is a lot of fun to be had there, too. "This June, I will be traveling with my fellow Legionnaires and support members to the east coast." The first stop will be to New York to celebrate the 70th anniversary of the LT. B.R. Kimlau Post and then up to Boston to attend Boston Chinatown Post's anniversary dinner. "I am really looking forward to this trip."



MAY—Mark Your Calendars / Save The Date / Don't Miss Out

May is packed full of events. Take out your smartphones, open your calendar, and start entering these dates. More details to come.

~ Asian Heritage Month & Poppy Program (American Legion/Auxiliary Unit) ~

- May 9 Cathay Post No. 384 meeting, election of new 2015-16 officers
SFUSD JROTC Spring Drill Competition 10 a.m. at Lincoln High School
- May 24 USS San Francisco Memorial at noon
St. Mary's Square WWI & WWII Memorial & lunch
- May 25 San Francisco National Cemetery, Presidio Memorial Day Ceremony
- May 29 Cathay Post 84th Anniversary Banquet Honoring First Responders

Reserve Officers' Training Corps By Jay Pon

I previously wrote articles about our five Armed Services. Last month, I wrote about the high school JROTC programs and how it can impact America's youth. In keeping with that objective, this month is a continuation in the Armed Forces program from JROTC to college Reserves Officers' Training Corps (ROTC), the service academies, and Officer Candidate School (OCS).

For Reserve officers, there are only three ROTC programs - Army, Navy which includes Marines, and Air Force. The Coast Guard has its own similar program called College Student Pre-commissioning Initiative (CSPI).

According to Wikipedia, the Army ROTC has 20,000 cadets in 273 universities and provides about 40% of the Army's 2LTs; the Navy ROTC is in 150 universities and provides about 17% of Navy's Ensigns and 2% of USMC's 2LTs; and the Air Force ROTC has 13,000 cadets in 145 universities and provides about 40% of the Air Force's 2LTs.

Other than ROTC, there

are five service academies. Per Wikipedia, about 20% of the US military officers are commissioned from the service academies located at:

- ◆ West Point, NY (USA)
- ◆ Annapolis, MD (USN & USMC)
- ◆ Colorado Springs, CO (USAF)
- ◆ New London, CT (USCG)
- ◆ King Point, NY (USMM-US Merchant Marines)

To get into any of the service academies, you must also obtain a congressional nomination or a service connected nomination from a member of Congress, or as a child of a career military personnel. Each academy has slightly different nomination sources.

In addition to the service academies, there are five federal Officer Candidate Schools in the United States for those that have already received their college degrees and want to enter the military. They are:

- 1) Fort Benning, NC

(USA) is a 12 week program;

- 2) Quantico, VA (USMC) is a 10 to 12 week program;
- 3) Naval Station Rhode Island (USN) is a 16 week program;
- 4) Maxwell AFB, AL (USAF) is a 10 week program; and
- 5) New London, CT (USCG) is the longest OCS at 17 weeks.

As a side note, Air Force is the shortest because of tee times (just my opinion).

Overall, through a combination of high school JROTC and college ROTC, the military plays an important and essential role in developing the future of America's youth through these programs. Not only does it provide support in the uncertain and oftentimes turbulent high school years, but it also creates viable opportunities for the youths of the nation to receive a college education, structure, and discipline. It's a wonder more students don't join these programs.



CHINESE AMERICAN HERO HEATHER JEANNE FONG



Name in English: Heather Jeanne Fong

Name in Chinese: 方宇文

Name in Pinyin: Fāng Yǔwén

Birth Year: 1956

Birth Place: San Francisco, CA

Current Location: San Francisco, CA

Profession: Law Enforcement

Education: 1977, Graduate, San Francisco Police Academy; 1979, Bachelor of Arts, University of San Francisco; 1988, Master of Social Work, San Francisco State University

Awards: 2009, Women of Achievement Award, Legal Momentum; 2009, Leadership, Courage and Commitment Award, Pacific Asian American Women Bay Area Coalition (PAAWBAC); 2003, Outstanding Public Service Award, Asian Pacific American Community Center; 1988, Women Warriors Award, PAAWBAC; 1979, Officer of the Year Award, San Francisco Police Department

Contributions:

Heather Fong was born raised in San Francisco's North Beach, the neighborhood next to Chinatown. She is the second of two daughters of the late Lum and Mabel Fong. Lum emigrated to the United States from southern China when he was 19 and enlisted in the U.S. Army during World War II.

Returning to San Francisco, Lum Fong married Mabel and opened a grocery store in Oakland's Chinatown that he managed until his death in 1997. Mabel worked as a legal secretary and lived to see her youngest daughter become San Francisco's first Chinese-American woman police officer, first woman chief of police, and the first Asian woman to lead a metropolitan city police force in the United States.

During her junior year at St. Rose Academy, an all-girls high school in San Francisco, Heather Fong met a visiting police officer, which led to her decision to pursue police work as a career. While attending the University of San Francisco, where she was a member of the Air Force ROTC, Fong worked as a part-time San Francisco police cadet. She first volunteered as an unpaid Police Activities League Cadet; and had achieved the position of a salaried civil-service Police Cadet by the time she was sworn in as a San Francisco police officer in 1977.

Fong was a recent police-academy graduate and in field training when, at age 21, she was assigned to assist in a major homicide investigation in Chinatown. The incident on September 4, 1977 received extensive national and international media attention; and became known as the Golden Dragon Massacre after the popular Chinese restaurant where the violence occurred. Five persons were killed and 11 were injured when three armed Chinatown gang members fired indiscriminately at diners in an attempt to strike

(Continued on page 19)



CAH—Heather Jeanne Fong, Continued

(Continued from page 18)

members of a rival gang. Since the suspects, witnesses, and all but one of the shooting victims were Chinese, Fong's Cantonese language skills were utilized throughout the investigation.

The community and public outrage and media exposure from the Golden Dragon Massacre led to the formation of the SFPD's Gang Task Force; focused on the need to hire more Asians as police officers; increased opportunities for incumbent Asian officers to be promoted or selected for special assignments; and forced the city to pay greater attention to crime and gang violence in Chinatown.

For her work in the Golden Dragon Massacre investigation, Fong received praise from the police chief and her fellow officers for her expert translation of hundreds of hours of live and recorded interviews and conversations from Cantonese to English. Her contribution led to the identification, arrest, prosecution, and conviction of the suspects and masterminds behind the shooting and other Chinatown gang-related crimes.

Heather Fong earned her promotions through her determination and reputation for working as hard as the most dedicated officers. In her 32-year career with the SFPD, Fong served in each of the department's sworn ranks: officer; sergeant-inspector; lieutenant; captain; commander; deputy chief; and assistant chief. In January 2004, she was appointed interim chief of police; and permanent chief three months later. Fong retired in April 2009 after five years as police chief.

In November 2014, after 5½ years of retirement from public service, Heather Fong was appointed an assistant secretary of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and heads the Office for State and Local Law Enforcement.

Assistant Secretary Fong is the primary liaison for the DHS to the nation's 18,000 local, state, tribal, and territorial law-enforcement agencies. Her responsibilities include ensuring the timely coordination and distribution of counterterrorism and intelligence data between DHS and law enforcement across the nation.

(Revised February 24, 2015 by Gary Gee)

External Links:

http://www.sfgov.org/site/police_index.asp?id=24103

http://www.bookrags.com/wiki/Heather_Fong

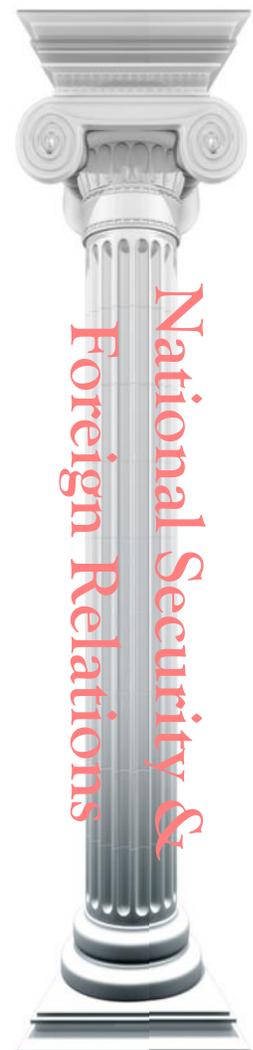
<http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?file=/c/a/2004/05/02/FONG.TMP>

<http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=3814811>

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

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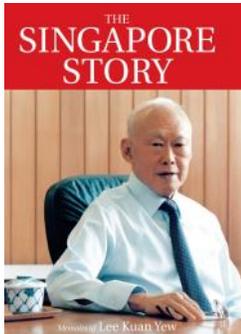
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The Singapore Story
by Lee Kuan Yew.
eBook cover. 2009.



Harry Lee-Not a Hero, But a Superman

By Roger Dong

Part 1 of a 2-part Story

[Note: Former Premier Harry Lee was admitted into Singapore General Hospital on Feb 5 with severe pneumonia. As of March 6, his condition remains unchanged.]

This is the story of Harry Lee who is not an American, but is a Singaporean Chinese. He never served in the military, but is considered one of the world's greatest strategists. Harry Lee is considered by many as one of the greatest leaders in the 20th Century, and many unfamiliar with Asia hardly know his story. In my humble opinion, Lee's story is about a man who performed a miracle. His achievements are incredible. I invite you to read about this great strategist and leader, Harry Lee.

By the way, readers of our Cathay Dispatch will recall that January's edition featured another Harry Lee, the famed sheriff of Jefferson Parrish, Louisiana. There is no relationship between the two Harry Lees. While both these Harry Lee's are famous and may be considered heroes, the Harry Lee in this article should be considered a "Superman."

This Lee was born in Singapore in 1923. As a young man, he lived in an environment that was in great turmoil. Communism was growing in response to the imbalance of power/wealth throughout the world. Many Chinese people living in Asia became Communists in reaction to the abuse of the people by

their local and/or national leaders. Overlaying the political tapestry at the time, Lee was impressed with England and her implementation of the rule of law in that part of her empire. During the 1930s, the Japanese Imperial Army invaded Asia including many parts of the Indonesian Archipelago.

Lee experienced and hated the cruelty of the Japanese conquerors, but he learned that with a strong government, criminal activity could be contained. Harry Lee decided to study in England to better understand British politics and form of government. He studied law at Fitzwilliam College in Cambridge, England and earned a law degree. After finishing his studies in England, Lee returned home to Singapore. He dropped his English name and reverted back to his Chinese name Lee Kuan Yew. He entered into the political arena in the early 1950s and later became the first prime minister of the new independent Singapore in 1959.

Singapore in 1965 was a swamp with no permanent structures, a weak and limited government, an illiterate population, little food, no water, and no infrastructure. Life was mostly primitive, an everyday camping experience. Twenty years later, under the leadership of Lee, Singapore was transformed into a modern nation of advancement

(Continued on page 22)

Lee Kuan Yew, Continued

(Continued from page 21)

and high-growth economy. Most of the population became educated and a manufacturing industry was well established. Singapore was one of the Four Asian Tigers, along with Taiwan, Hong Kong and South Korea. A designation given to them for their status as dominant power players in Asia.

Singapore was different than the other Tigers because she had the most obstacles to overcome. Premier Lee implemented many extraordinary measures and policies that resulted in an economic miracle. He negotiated with Malaysia to purchase fresh water with the covenant that any disruption of the water pipeline would mean war. Initially, public housing was provided because there was no housing, but that was a temporary measure. Lee knew that free housing was bad policy, and a few years later, most government housing was shut down forcing those tenants to pay rent or buy their home. With property ownership, people took pride in maintaining their home and housing deterioration was kept to a minimum which was a common occurrence with public housing. Lee also understood human nature. He rejected communism because he considers it "half baked." In his mind, no country can succeed if everyone was treated equally.

Lee was autocratic and pragmatic. His approach to governing is that

if a nation did not reward their best and brightest, the country would never be great. Innovation would not occur if there were no incentives. Education was high priority and teachers, in Confucian tradition, were given the highest status and pay. Lee also created a police force based upon authoritarian methods. Criminals convicted of certain crimes are caned in public to provide a very strong deterrent against crime. Today, Singapore enjoys one of the lowest crime rates in the world.

Lee believes in a strong military. Today, Singapore has a very well trained and competent military be it small in size. Her Air Force has about the same number of aircrafts, mainly jet fighters as Australia. Her Navy is one of the largest in Southeast Asia. Lee opines a small country must have strong ally countries. He reached out and befriended the United States and Europe. As a result, United States is Singaporean military's strongest ally. In 1998 under the direction of Lee, special navy berths to support American aircraft carriers and other US Navy ships were built. Today, US military aircrafts and navy ships routinely land/moor in Singapore for logistics and rest. During peace and or war time, Singapore is there to support the US military.

[Note: We hope you enjoyed Part 1. Part 2 will be published in next month's issue.]



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Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2 ALWMC Meeting 5:30	3	4	5	6	7 CNY Parade 5:15
8 Daylight Saving	9	10	11	12 District 8 Meeting, 5:30	13 Ground Breaking, Seaside	14 Post Meeting Spring D.E.C.
15 Spring D.E.C.	16	17 St. Patrick's Day	18 Women's Reception, Sac	19	20 Marine Recruitment Training	21
22	23	24	25	26 April CD story deadline	27	28
29	30	31				

April 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 April Fool's Day	2	3 Good Friday	4
5 Easter	6 ALWMC Meeting, 5:30	7	8 Traveling Vietnam Veterans Wall GGNC	9 Dist. 8 Mtg, 5:30 Traveling Vietnam Wall	10 Traveling Vietnam Veterans Wall GGNC	11 Post Meeting Traveling Vietnam Wall
12 Traveling Vietnam Veterans Wall GGNC	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23 May CD story deadline	24	25
26	27	28	29 Legislative Day, State Capitol	30 CALPA 2015 deadline		

The American Legion—God and Country



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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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3rd Vice Commander: (Open)

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Secretary: John Li

Treasurer: Vic Lum (Nominated)

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