



CATHAY DISPATCH

Veterans - Sounding Off Since 1931

ANNUAL "HILL WALK" - AMERICAN LEGION 57TH ANNUAL WASHINGTON D.C. CONFERENCE

By Clara Pon

Hundreds of Legionnaires from around the world descended upon the District of Columbia in the latter part of February. The American Legion held its annual Veteran Service Officer training prior to the 57th annual Washington Conference held on February 26-March 1, 2017.

Nearly two dozen Legionnaires from California traveled to the Capitol to attend various commission call-ins, talk with our next national commander candidates, meet with our representatives on the Hill, and to watch National Commander Charles E. Schmidt give his testimony on American Legion's position on the VA and the legislative agenda to Congress.

On Tuesday, February 28, the morning of the 'Hill Walk,' we heard speeches by Senator Jon Tester from Montana, new VA Secretary Dr. David Shulkin on VA modernization, and this year's American Legion Distinguished Public Service award recipient, a member of Arizona's Legion Post 2, Senator John McCain. This was an interesting experience and I encourage you to watch the videos.

Commander Schmidt give his opening address: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DJIQUBGshBM>

VA Secretary Dr. Shulkin address VA modernization: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LwzOiU21wI>

Senator McCain receive his award: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7sawaIBETXs>

Important Dates:

- Mar 10-12—DEC in West Covina
- Mar 12—Daylight Saving
- Mar 17—St. Patrick Day's
- Mar 18—Post monthly meeting @ 11 am Powell St.
- Mar 25—Area 2 Meeting, Santa Clara
- Apr 8—11 a.m. Monthly general meeting

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California representatives at the Washington D.C. Conference with National Commander Schmidt.

Photo by Clara Pon.

The American Legion Legislative Agenda, 115th Congress

Highlights of the top issues for 2017

Maintaining force strength, protecting defense funding (Resolutions 17 & 86)

Congress could pass the proposed 2017 president's budget of \$582.7 billion in discretionary funds, which complies with the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2015, to fund the Department of Defense.

Transition assistance program

Congress could adjust the Transition Assistance Program (TAP) so that it is mandatory at different intervals leading up to discharge—18 months and 12 months prior to separation or transition.

Congress could return the employer panel back to TAP. The TAP program provides a full day of effective resume writing and branding; however, it no longer has an employer panel, which provided relevant information regarding employment and training opportunities.

Protect the U.S. flag from desecration (Resolution 360)

Congress should pass House Joint Resolution 61 introduced by Rep. Steve Womack (Arkansas) to give power back to the people to decide how best to honor and protect the flag under which every U.S. service member has fought.

Protect the best care anywhere

Congressional members and their staff are urged to attend American Legion town hall meetings prior to System Worth Saving site visits to hear stories from veterans, understand their frustrations and help them find solutions.

Congress could give VA enhanced hiring and firing authority.

Congress could help VA offer competitive recruiting incentives.

Congress could address VA's aging infrastructure.

Accountability at VA

Congress can request a special prosecutor to investigate and vigorously enforce appropriate repercussions on any VA employee who engages in fraudulent practices in pursuit of bonuses or other awards.

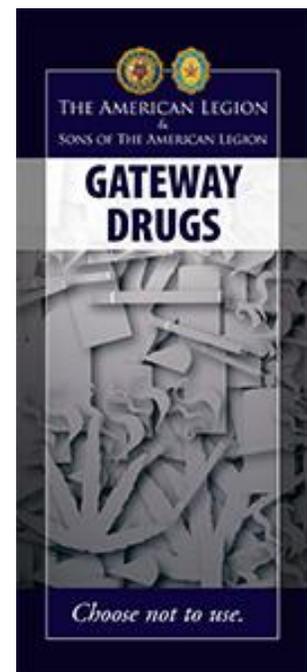
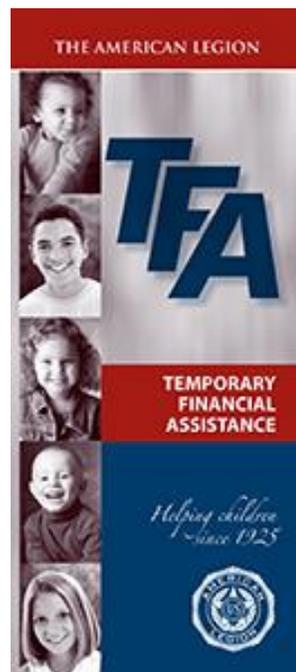
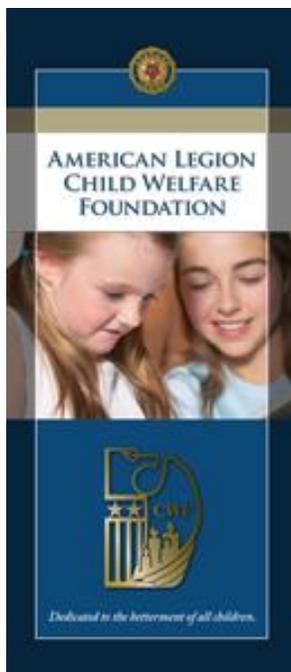
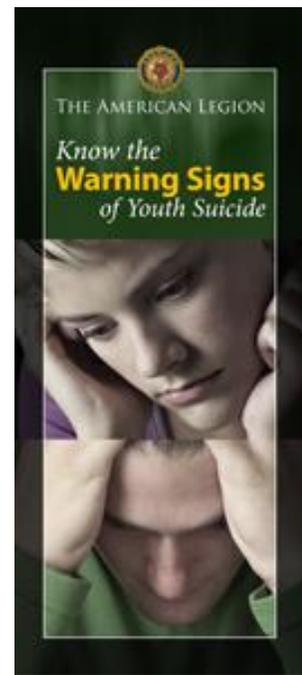
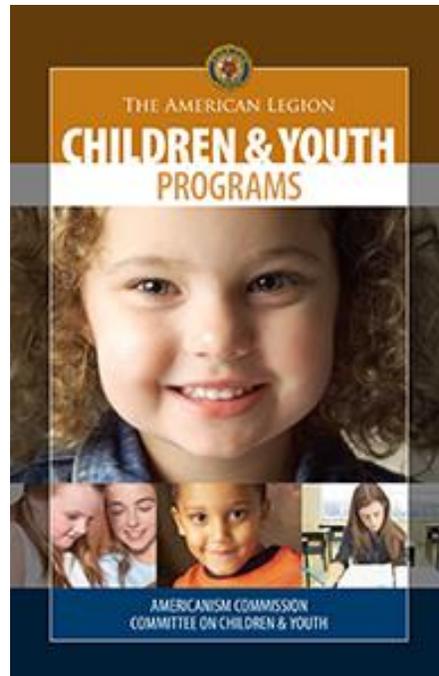
Congress could ensure that bonuses for VA senior executives are tied to qualitative and quantitative performance measures that are transparent to the public.

Congress could continue to offer protections, and see to their enforcement, for whistleblowers who step forward to expose mismanagement and other practices that can harm veterans or their families.

(Continued on page 8)



APRIL IS CHILDREN & YOUTH MONTH



https://www.legion.org/publications#children_&_youth

COMMANDER NELSON LUM

March is here and it promises to be an extraordinary busy month involving Legion activities. Before I list the upcoming events for March, let me first tell you about the events that were held in February.

Right after our regular monthly meeting on February 11 and after partaking in the delicious food prepared especially for the celebration of Chinese New Year, a group of members immediately went right to work in preparation for the Southwest Chinese New Year parade. Banner, flags, harnesses, uniforms, and escort rifles were all gathered and readied for transport over to the staging area. We were met there by other members, support members, friends, along with representatives from American Legion Post 315. Our main attraction for the parade was the elegantly decorated 1954 Rolls Royce driven by Comrade Carl Payne. The weather cooperated (no rain) and up to 750,000 parade watchers lined the streets and cheered on the participants enthusiastically.

I would like to take this opportunity to express

my appreciation for the generous donations our members gave to our post at the February meeting. I promise every penny will be put to good use and will all be accounted for. Thank you.

The ongoing effort of the renovation continues throughout the month and I am still waiting to hear back from the City Inspectors' office. Once the inspection is done, we can firm up the arrangements for the rededication of Cathay Post.

On February 26, I flew to Washington D.C. to represent California on the National Legislative Council of The American Legion. As one of about 16 other Legionnaires representing their home districts, we met with available congressional representatives to advocate for the passage of several important legislation that will benefit and/or fulfill the needs of veterans.

I was one of the few to sit up front to watch our national commander give his testimony to Congress. It was such an exhilarating experience. For me, the entire trip was full of new experiences while attempting

to negotiate the chaotic and fast moving schedule. I was completely exhausted by the time I touched down at SFO at 12:30 in the morning on March 2, 2017.

A week later, I attended the Department Executive Committee meeting at West Covina on March 10 and 11. Many important subjects were communicated and issues discussed. The Area 2 meeting is scheduled for this Saturday, March 25 down in Santa Clara. Nomination for the position of Area 2 Vice Commander for 2017 to 2018 will take place. I have been approached and have accepted the challenge of having my name be put up for nomination. If elected, I will be representing veterans in a large swath of area between Santa Rosa to Carmel.

I will be joining a group of friends to travel to the Far East at the end of the month and our 1st Vice Commander Helen Wong will take over the reins until I return. We are very fortunate that we have Helen. Our post is in very capable hands, however, she maybe calling upon you for support if needed. I will see you all when I return.



Nelson Lum

nelson1431@aol.com
(415) 797-7384

Cathay Post Member
since: 2005

Branch: Army

Final Rank: SPC

"I was one of the few to sit up front to watch our national commander give his testimony to Congress. It was such an exhilarating experience."



Helen Wong

wong_helen@sbcglobal.net

(415) 797-7384

Cathay Post Member since: 1990

Branch: Army

Final Rank: Lt. Col.

“Networking Matters!!”

1st VICE COMMANDER HELEN WONG

Networking Matters! According to the free encyclopedia Wikipedia, networking may refer to: science, technology and communications, in organizations, business, postsecondary education, and art, entertainment, and media. Within each of these categories, there are sub-categories as you may guess.

So, how does networking apply to The American Legion? In which category does it fit the best? Why does it even matter? Interestingly enough, within the category of science networking, there is social network, and social science research. The social network is used to study relationships between individuals, groups, organizations, or even entire societies. Social groups exist that link individuals with shared values and beliefs.

If you go to the Constitution of The American Legion, the Preamble states that “For God and Country, we associate ourselves together for the following purposes...to consecrate and sanctify our comradeship by our devotion to mutual helpfulness.” The Preamble is recited at the beginning of each

meeting as a reminder to all in attendance that you share in this belief. You may also be there for additional reasons such as business networking.

Business networking, as defined by Wikipedia, “is a socioeconomic business activity by which business people and entrepreneurs meet to form business relationships and to recognize, create, or act upon business opportunities, share information and seek potential partners for ventures.” There is a possibility that members are being helpful when they share resources that they know about, whether it is a business contact or social contact or a health related contact.

At Cathay Post, examples that come to mind are the contacts that Commander Lum and support member Clara Pon have in the community which helps the annual installation & awards banquet run so well (along with their hard work). It isn’t limited to the local community, but even more far reaching. Recently, Clara in her networking with Legionnaires up and down the state these last few years has been very important to Cathay Post and its members.

Due to her networking and attending Legion functions and activities, she and Commander Lum reached out to Pacific Palisades Post 283 Commander Jere Romano to request financial aid to help with the post’s renovation costs. They gathered and compiled the necessary documents, submitted a proposal outlining the project, the renovation estimates, and summarized why Cathay Post needs financial help. Putting the submission request took hours of her time. The post benefitted with an \$18,500 grant that was used for the ongoing renovations. Networking with other Legionnaires locally and throughout the state is a beneficial activity.

Most recently at the 8th District Council meeting, I gave the report for the Veterans Success Center (VSC) which I oversee at the War Memorial Veterans Building. At the end of January, one of our veterans had been selected for a studio apartment and moved out of the shelter where he had been staying after being referred to the VA by the VSC when we found out he was homeless. Previously he had been living in his car which got

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VICE COMMANDER WONG, CONTINUED

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impounded when he couldn't pay his tickets so he lost a lot of his belongings. He had not worked in a while so he was living in the streets. He was so glad to be out of the shelter that moving into an unfurnished studio was better than staying in a bed bug infested shelter. He was just starting a part time job so he hadn't received a paycheck yet.

Through networking, other post members were aware of his situation and had furniture they could donate to him. Within a week of this veteran moving into his studio, another veteran came in who also had moved into his/her unfurnished studio. We were able to help with donated linens and clothing.

So, networking matters and in these cases, it has helped make lives better!

4th ANNUAL CLASSIC CAR SHOW

“WELCOME HOME VIETNAM VETERANS DAY”



APRIL 1, 2017

HELD AT THE VETERANS MEMORIAL SENIOR CENTER

1455 MADISON AVE, REDWOOD CITY, CA

SPONSORED BY

THE STEVE WARREN MEMORIAL CHAPTER 464
OF THE VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA

10 AM – 2 PM

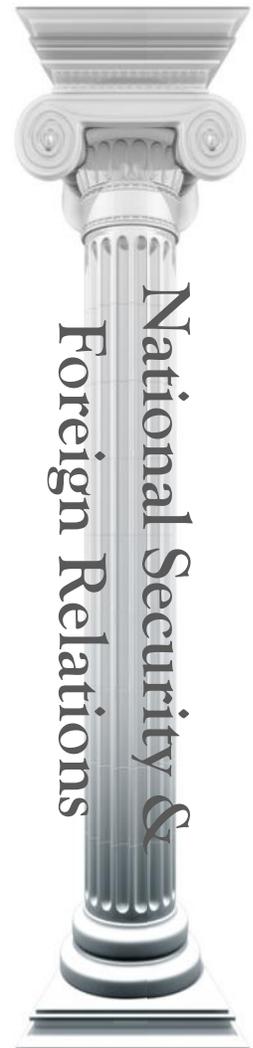
Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Recognition Program at 11 AM

Raffle – Displays – Barbecue Lunch

Best of Show Award

For Additional Information or Car Registration Form Contact: President Gary Higgins

(650) 368-6713 or email: je.higgins07@comcast.net



IN REMEMBRANCE OF THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY
OF THE BATAAN DEATH MARCH ★ 1942-2017

***** *Bataan Legacy* *****

7.5K VALOR RUN



PRESIDIO, SAN FRANCISCO

SAT, APRIL 8, 2017

8:30 AM - Bataan Legacy 7.5K Valor Run
Starts at Presidio Officers Club, San Francisco

9:00 AM - Wreath Laying Ceremony at WWII West Coast Memorial
1340 Kobbe Ave @ Lincoln Ave, Presidio, San Francisco

10:00 AM - 75th Anniversary Commemoration
Presidio Officers Club, 50 Moraga Ave, San Francisco

» RSVP to the 75th Anniversary Commemoration at <http://bit.ly/BDMCommemoration>

» REGISTER for the Bataan Legacy 7.5K Valor Run at www.FilAmRacing.com

» FOR MORE INFO go to www.BataanLegacy.org



115th Congress, Continued

(Continued from page 2)

Congress could provide VA secretary the legal authority to better manage all employees, and hold them accountable when they fail to perform their duties in a manner befitting of a federal servant.

Modernization of VA appeals

Congress could pass appeals modernization legislation (H.R. 457) that has been introduced into the House by Re. Dina Titus of Nevada.

Support for veteran caregivers (Resolution 146)

Congress could review current legislation and public laws to ensure that benefits are provided equitably and consistently for all veterans from the current conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan and those from previous war eras.

Congress could direct VA to provide the same level of benefits for any veteran, regardless of the dates or theater of operations during their military service.

Congress could fully fund the caregiver program.

Quality care for women veterans (Resolutions 147)

Congress could pass legislation to better facilitate the needs of VA to obtain gender-specific care to include clinicians, mental health providers and prosthetics.

Congress could pass quality-of-life legislation such as permanent extension of the VA child-care program for veterans.

VA recruiting and retention

The American Legion supports legislation addressing the recruitment and retention challenges that VA has regarding pay disparities among physicians and medical specialists who are providing direct health care to veterans.

Study cannabis to treat veterans (Resolution 11)

Congress could create and pass or amend legislation to remove marijuana from Schedule I and reclassify it in a category that, at a minimum, will recognize cannabis as a drug with potential medical value.

The American Legion urges Congress to work with the DEA to license privately funded medical marijuana production operations in the U.S. to enable safe and efficient cannabis drug development research.

The invisible wounds of war (Resolution 160 & 165)

Congress could provide VA necessary funding to make complementary

(Continued on page 9)



115th Congress, Continued

(Continued from page 8)

and alternative therapies part of its health-care treatment plan for veteran suffering from injuries such as PTSD, TBI, and other mental health conditions.

Congress could increase the budgets for DoD and VA to improve the research, screening, diagnosis and treatment of TBI and PTSD, as well as oversee DoD and VA to develop joint offices for collaboration.

Congress could continue to provide oversight on DoD and VA mental health-care services.

Discreet care for MST victims

Congress could ensure that all VA medical facilities employ MST professionals to conduct proper screenings and treatment referrals.

Congress could improve investigation and prosecution of reported cases of MST so they are on par with the civilian system. DoD should examine the underreporting of MST and to permanently maintain records of reported MST allegations. This will expand victims' access to evidence necessary for future VA claims.

Congress could pass the Military Sexual Assault Victims Empowerment Act/Military SAVE Act, introduced by Rep. Andy Barr of Kentucky.

Maintain integrity of the GI Bill (Resolution 21)

The American Legions urges Congress to reintroduce the provisions of the "Protecting Our Veterans From School Closures Act" (H.R. 6003-114th) restoring GI Bill benefits for veterans affected by closures of educational institutions.

Congress could correct the Title 38 oversight by amending it to acknowledge all National Guard and Reserve orders (12304B) in combatant-command support as active duty and eligible for GI Bill benefits and amend Section 3301(1)(B) of Title 38, United States Code, to include "12304b" and "12301(h)," thereby qualifying these orders as 'active-duty.'

Credentialing and education

Congress could eliminate the requirement that post-9/11 GI Bill recipients use an entire month's worth of benefits for a certification or licensing test fee, even when the fee amount is far less than the full month's entitlement.

The American Legion recommends VA's credential program approval process be reviewed by the Government Accountability Office to ensure it meets legislative and other standards.

(Continued on page 10)



115th Congress, Continued

(Continued from page 9)

Access to capital for businesses

Once the Veterans Entrepreneurial Transition Act is reintroduced, Congress should act quickly to pass this legislation, allowing the SBA to begin the pilot program to help veterans start, buy, or expand businesses.

Federal small business contracts (Resolution 154)

The American Legion urges Congress to fully fund the SBA Office of Veterans Business Development's programs.

The American Legion calls for parity for veterans in all small business government contracting programs, ensuring that no veteran's procurement program is at a disadvantage in competing with other government programs.

Vocational rehabilitation and employment services

Congress could fully fund VR&E so it can employ more vocational rehabilitation counselors and employment coordination to lower caseloads. With proper staffing, more individualized attention can be provided for veterans throughout the process.

Congress could provide training programs geared specifically for VR&E counselors through Management Concepts Incorporated. Contracting for standardized or specialized training for VR&E employees can strengthen and improve overall program performance.

A hand up for homeless veterans (Resolution 340)

Congress can appropriate funds (\$300 million) and permanently reauthorize the Supportive Services for Veteran Families program, which prevents many veterans from becoming homeless and assists those who need little more than short-term rental assistance and limited case management in getting back on their feet.

Congress could support the homeless veterans Grant and Per Diem transitional housing program. The program provides short-term housing help to homeless veterans, allowing them to get connected with jobs, supportive services and more. They could provide funding for dental care and legal services for homeless veterans.

Legion centennial coin proposed

Congress sign on as a co-sponsor and vote for legislation for the U.S. Mint to strike a limited-edition American Legion centennial commemorative coin with proceeds from sales dedicated to the organization's four pillars of service.

These highlights are taken from the Legislative Agenda booklet from Commander Schmidt's March 1, 2017 testimony. <https://www.legion.org/sites/legion.org/files/legion/publications/55VAR0217%20Commander%20Testimony.pdf>



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*APR = Annual Percentage Rate. Promotional offer effective through March 31, 2017. Purchases and balance transfers must be made within 60 days of account opening to qualify for the 0% APR promotional rate. The new card purchase rate of 0% APR is valid for 6 months from the first qualifying transaction. After the promotional period, the 0% APR promotional rate will return to standard purchase/balance transfer rate (Rate based upon Prime Rate + a Margin of 6-12%). The balance transfer rate of 0% APR is valid for 6 months from each transaction date. Offer is only valid for balance transfers from existing credit card balances at other financial institutions. A balance transfer fee of \$5 or 1% of the amount of each transfer, whichever is greater, will be applied to transfers made during the promotional period (the first 60 days after account opening). All new applications are subject to terms, conditions and credit approval. You must be at least 18 years of age to apply, and show ability to repay future balances or apply with a co-signer if you are under the age of 21. Rates, fees and terms are subject to change at any time, contact us for more information.

PROMO CODE: VNC17

Generous Donation to VSC from Craig Newmark By Roger Dong

The American Legion Eighth District Council's Veterans Success Center (VSC) continues to operate Monday - Friday from 1300- 1700 hours in room 241 in our War Memorial Veterans Building on 401 Van Ness Street in San Francisco. Managed by Executive Director Helen Wong, the VSC is dedicated to our veterans and their spouse who need a job. Founded by American Legion Cathay Post member Roger Dong, the VSC is supported by other veteran organizations like American Veterans (AMVETS) and Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW).

The mission of the VSC is to assist all our veterans and their spouse's transition back to civilian life with a suitable job in society. We provide one-on-one support to get a viable and effective resume finalized and then introductions to potential employers. Applicants who may need extra support with local travel vouchers or appropriate attire for job interview can count on the VSC.

If a veteran needs housing, we will refer them to other veteran service organizations. We also work with the local Veterans Administration facilities, the state of California's Employment Development Department and other veteran service organizations such as Swords to Plowshares.

So if you want to begin or continue your job search and need some help on conducting a successful job search,

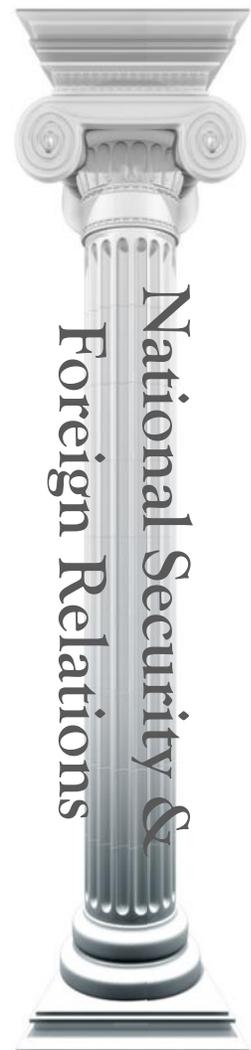
please visit the VSC. We have computers available to assist veterans and our service is free.

The VSC is proud to be a very cost effective organization and our annual budget is around \$25,000 minus the cost of a part-time employee. Our many volunteers and generous donations of goods, services, and dollars keep our operational expenses very minimal.

Since January of 2017, we were able to help our veterans obtain three (3) full time positions and three (3) part-time positions. These are exceptional results since the VSC only had a few people using our services on any one day. We have access to thousands of positions available to our veterans and encourage all our readers to send any veteran who needs our services to come and see how we can help.

Our most generous donor and supporter is Mr. Craig Newmark, founder CraigConnects, who has been financially supporting us for several years. We would not be operating if it wasn't for his strong support and annual donations. Thanks again Craig for your generous donation.

Mr. James Bartha, US Army Corps of Engineers has generously supported us with donations to purchase laptop computers. Thank you Mr. Bartha for your support. We will put the new laptops to good use.



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God Bless the USA 7th Annual Show By Helen Wong



For the 7th year, Linking Rings Performing Arts presented God Bless the USA cabaret show with assistance from American Legion Cathay Post 384 at the War Memorial Veterans Building, Herbst Theater on Feb. 3, 2017.

The annual fundraising show was dedicated to the veterans and seniors in the community. Veterans Home of California-Yountville (Yountville), the largest veterans' home in the United States sent a bus load of eager veterans down to San Francisco. They all enjoyed having lunch

provided by Cathay Post prior to the start of the show.

Several members assisted with the show by being a member of the color guard team that presented the colors and or as ushers who enjoyed being hosts. We were also joined by District 26 Commander Romie Bassetto and District 26 Historian William Jackson.



Cathay Post 384 Color Guard & Cmdr. Lum

The show was hosted by special guests Jan Yanehiro, Doris Grover, and Rick Quan. The audience enjoyed the variety of cabaret acts of magician, singers, and dancers. But the special showing of Rick Quan's award winning documentary "Dancing Through LIFE -The Dorothy Toy Story" was the feature that everyone

really cherished. Long-time San Francisco residents remember the Forbidden City Night Club, Dorothy Toy, and the Grant Avenue Follies. Seeing the documentary was reliving history from many years past and which will probably not be experienced again in our life time.

District 26 Commander Bassetto especially enjoyed watching the Lion Dancers and said if they are in the show next year, he will certainly attend again!



Back: Performers. Front: R. Bassetto & R. Toy.

Many thanks to Cynthia Yee for organizing and bringing the performers together for another outstanding show.



God Bless the USA performers at Herbst Theatre. Photo courtesy of Frank Jang.



Rick Quan & Helen Wong. All other photos by Helen Wong.

Let Me Put You to Sleep!! By Roger Dong

Today, few people get enough rest and sleep. How many hours of sleep a night do you get and what does that mean to you and me?

When we are young and indestructible, our youth could overcome and mask our fatigue when we don't get enough rest. As some of us get older, insufficient rest and especially insufficient sleep will have a negative effect on most of the vital parts of our bodies, most notably the functions of our brain.

Recent medical research, initially with rats (not the human version), has revealed that sleep deprivation disrupts all of our bodies significant systems, including our hearts, the lungs, the digestive system, the nervous system, and the control functions of our brain. Do I have your attention yet?

Resulting from studying humans, there is now little doubt that insufficient sleep negatively impacts the brains control of all parts of our body, including our aging process and memory. While lack of sleep affects everyone at all ages, the older we get, the more vulnerable we are to damaging key parts of the brain such as memory functions.

They also have a higher risk of developing other diseases that are likely all familiar to us such as Diabetes, heart disease, high blood pressure, and obesity. Even more serious and detrimental to your health resulting in poor sleep is Alzheimer's, even suffering from dementia is possible. Mood disorders such as depression, anxiety, and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) are as likely. Do I have your total attention now?

To anyone who is suffering from PTSD or stroke, rest and sleep are critical to recovery, even when the recovery is only partial. Stroke victims are usually rehabilitating for life and should always be resting and sleeping at least 8-9 hours per day. Healthy adults should still sleep for 7-8 hours each day. Napping is helpful, but recent health studies show that there is no substitute for a good night's sleep.

According to Professor Mathew Walker, in Neuroscience and Psychology, University of California, Berkeley, "Sleep is the single most effective thing you can do to reset your brain and body for health."

As modern man is now living longer, he must still make sure that he gets enough sleep. So if you are, or live to 80 or 90 years old, you must get sufficient sleep or your long life may end sooner than it should. In our senior years, you should have greater options to rest during the day, so take a nap, young fellow!

Final note and supporting advice. According to Associate Professor Robert Stickgold, Harvard Medical School who states that "The biggest thing I do to improve my sleep is to pull the plug. It is not easy. I make the decision that my sleep comes before catching up on life. So at 11 p.m., I stop emailing, and shut off my cell phone and computer. Warm baths and warm milk also help."

This report for our veterans and friends is a summary of the article "The Sleep Cure, The Fountain of Youth may be closer than you ever thought." by Alice Park, *Time* magazine, Feb 27-Mar 6, 2017, pp 70-79.





Is the Medal of Honor Still in the Cards? By Roger Dong



Skeptics told me that it could not be done. So far, they are right.

The efforts to upgrade Major Kurt C. Lee's Silver Star during the Korean War to the Medal of Honor have been stone walled.

Our Cathay Post Honorary member Major Kurt C. Lee's heroic combat actions of December 2-3, 1950 are not appropriately recognized by the past, or current, USMC leadership. Our Post and Chinese American Heroes, which have studied then 1st Lt. Kurt C. Lee's extraordinary combat leadership during his combat service during the Korean War and his leadership of December 3, 1950 do not agree.

For those readers who are familiar with Major Lee's combat achievement that famous mission of December 3, 1950, here is a refresher just in case.

Lt. Lee served in Korea from 20 September 1950 – December 8, 1950. He

received the Navy Cross and his 1st Purple Heart for his military combat leadership in battle from 2-3 November 1950. He did receive the Silver Star and his second Purple Heart for combat action during 27 November – 8 December 1950. He was severely wounded by machine gun fire of December 8, 1950 and was medically evacuated from the Korean War zone. Lee was severely wounded and two levels of his immediate supervisors were KIA during this war.



Major Lee's military medals and honors.

Very notable about Lt. Lee's combat history during his active tour in Korea from 20 September 1950 – 8 December 1950, was that he was sufficiently wounded from enemy fire that he was told that he would be medically evacuated

to Japan for further treatment and recovery. Lee believed he could still help his comrades who were taking severe casualties in North Korea and ignored the Mash doctors, and "borrowed" an Army jeep and quietly drove back to join his fellow Marine warriors.

Even though his right shooting arm was in a sling, he was still selected to lead a reinforced "B" Company of Marines to reinforce Tok Tong Pass where USMC "Fox" Company had been fighting ferociously and bravely, but taken 90% casualties. The mission was so critical. Fox Company was battling desperately and holding Tok Tong Pass was essential for the safe withdrawal of the 1st Marine Division, which had already taken 50% casualties.

Had Lee and his brave warriors in "B" Company failed, the entire remaining famous 1st Marine Division would likely have been decimated and become POWs. According to Marine Corps historian Colonel Ken Hamberger, such a calamity would have had huge negative impact on

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Major Lee, Continued

(Continued from page 15)

the history of our Marines Corps and the entire Korean War campaign. Accordingly, this successful Marine Corps campaign called the Battle of Chosin Reservoir is legendary in Marine Corps history. The battles in bitter cold snow conditions with minus 20 degree average temperatures were a challenge for our toughest Marines. Ice cold conditions can take the fight out of many humans, even some Marines.

At that time, this war zone in North Korea was completely uncharted and that hampered effective military planning and movement. In 1950, there was no readily available GPS (Global Positioning System) to facilitate navigation anywhere in the world. Today, if GPS was suddenly not available, our entire military would have to stand down to avoid potential disasters. In 2017, many automobile drivers would be helpless and lost without GPS.

On that historic evening of December 3, 1950, Lt. Lee had only a handheld lensatic compass to lead his 500 Marines rein-

forced company (Marine companies are normally 200 Marines) silently, in single file in pitch darkness crossing rivers and streams and overcoming rough terrain with hills and gullies. They were told that the enemy was everywhere and that they were surrounded. Thus, a silent mission was ordered.

He displayed extraordinary courage and military leadership when confronting enemy forces by single handedly drawing fire at his position which revealed enemy locations. The exposed enemy was then subsequently wiped out by his well trained and disciplined machine gun company. Lee's "B" Company machine gun company was teamed with a mortar company to attack and destroy enemy units ahead of our Marine Corps combat units.

"B" Company, led by Lt. Lee succeeded in reinforcing "Fox" Company and subsequently held onto Tok Tong Pass. Controlling the pass facilitated the safe withdrawal of the famous 1st Marine Division. After the successful military mission, while Lee was recovering from his severe bullet wounds,

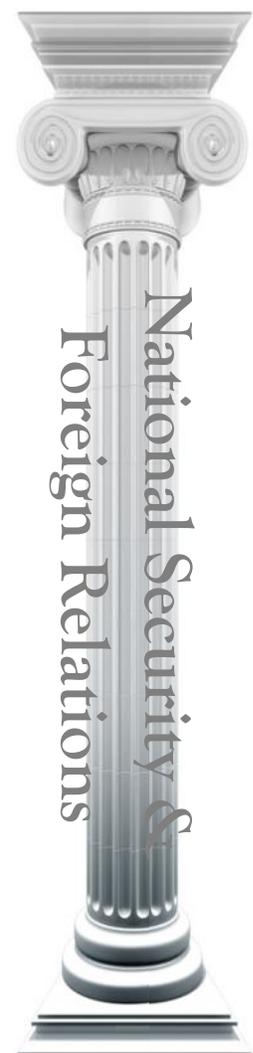
his Battalion Commander Lt. Colonel Ray Davis was awarded the Medal of Honor. Davis played a key role in the Battle of Chosin Reservoir as the Bn Commander, he was doubtlessly involved in the selection of Lt. Lee to lead the critical element to reinforce and control Tok Tong Pass.

The description of Davis's role on the night of December 3, 1950 reads that he was the leader of the unit that reinforced Tok Tong Pass. Based on research by the Smithsonian Institute, it was Lt. Lee and his reinforced "B" Company that successfully performed that mission.

Recent Actions

Our post and Chinese American Heroes learned about Major Kurt C. Lee's heroics from the 2010 DVD published by the independent research and documentation by the Smithsonian Institute. The Institute carefully studied Marine Corps history and discovered that then Lt. Kurt C. Lee and his "B" Company were responsible for the mission to protect Tok Tong Pass which

(Continued on page 17)



Major Lee, Continued

(Continued from page 16)

protected the evacuation of our 1st Marine Division. After viewing the Smithsonian video “Uncommon Courage Breakout at Chosin,” we queried and located Major Kurt C. Lee who was living in Washington D.C.

We invited him to visit our post and San Francisco, where we learned was the city of his birth place. Lee visited Cathay Post in early 2011 and was simultaneously honored by one of our current post members, Major General Michael Myatt who hosted a luncheon at the Marines Memorial Club for Major Lee and several other Marine Corps recipients of the very distinguished Navy Cross, the highest military valor award that is presented by the US Navy.

At the reception and luncheon, many visitors and veterans who met Lee and learned of his military combat in the famous Battle of Chosin Reservoir and Lee’s specific leadership voiced their opinion that such a stupendous military achievement that saved half (8,000 warriors) of a Marine Division was worthy of the Medal

of Honor (MoH). As one visitor stated, “What more can a warrior do to earn the MoH?”

Lee’s visit received great media coverage and afterwards, the office of Congresswoman Jackie Speier initiated action to consider upgrading Lee’s Silver Star to the MoH. More than a year passed without a response.

In 2013, I contacted the office of Congresswoman Nancy Pelosi, then Speaker of the House also wrote a letter of inquiry to the US Navy and the Marines. (Note the Marine Corps is managed under the aegis of the US Navy.) A year later, the office of Speaker Pelosi had not receive a written reply.

This motivated me to contact the office of Senator Diane F. Feinstein who also agreed that Major Lee’s achievements in the Korean War appeared to need further review and reconsideration for the MoH. In May of 2015, Senator Feinstein sent a letter of inquiry to the USMC via the US Navy. It was presumed that an inquiry from the Senior Senator who is a key member of important committees including Budget, Appropriations,

and Intelligence would get proper attention and timely response.

In January 2016, the US Navy Liaison Officer finally responded to Senator Feinstein, and in the carefully worded response did not address the basic question of the leadership for the mission to rescue and reinforce “Fox” Company defending the vital high point at Tok Tong Pass. The response was an obfuscation.

That it took more than half a year to respond to Senator Feinstein’s inquiry reveals that it was not easy to respond to the inquiry. A comparison of Lt. Colonel Ray Davis’s MoH justification revealed an alternate write up. First, Battalion Commander Davis could not have led a lower tier company level unit on the critical mission to save “Fox” Company. The research by the independent and credible national level research organization the Smithsonian Institute clearly identified Lt. Kurt Lee as the designated “B” Company Commander on the critical mission that has become the legendary Battle of Chosin Reservoir during the Korean War.

(Continued on page 18)



Major Lee, Continued

(Continued from page 17)

Then Lt. Colonel Ray Davis eventually was promoted to a four star general and became an Assistant Commandant of the US Marine Corps before retiring in 1972. Promotion opportunity is greatly enhanced when a military member receives a MoH. There is no doubt that General Davis was a great Marine Corps officer. He also received the Navy Cross for action during WWII. Simply, Davis was not the "B" Company Commander on the critical December 3, 1950 Marine Corps mission.

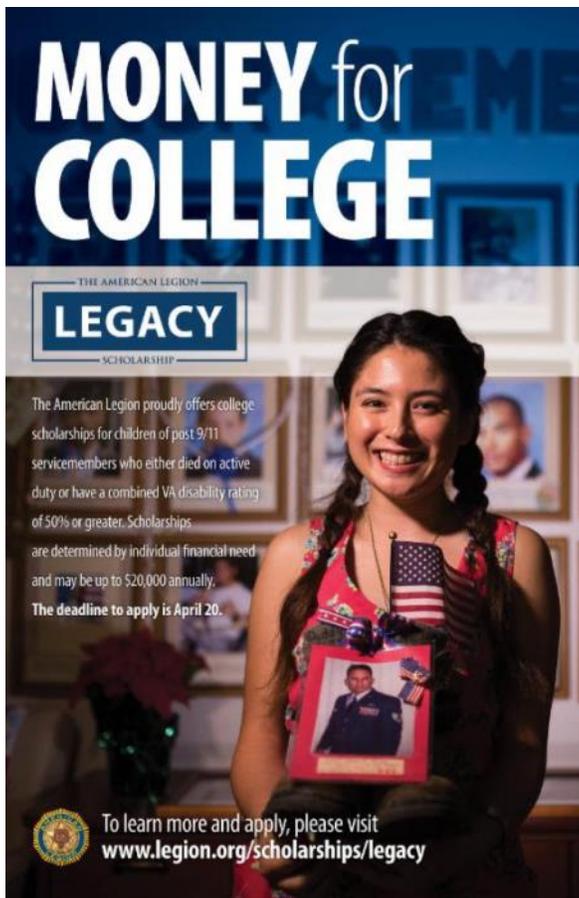
Major Kurt Lee was not recognized for

his extraordinary combat achievement for the Battle of Chosin Reservoir during the Korean War. He would not have retired as a Major and would have served many more years of service to his country had he received his deserved MoH. In fact, after his retirement, the Marine Corps did ask Major Lee to teach classes on military tactics and strategy which he did.

We have not quit in this endeavor and will seek other opportunities to get Major Lee his deserved recognition. Lee was an extraordinary hero among many other heroes in our Marine Corps.

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March 2017

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1 Legion D.C. Conference	2	3	4 Dept. Oratorical Contest 1 p.m.
5	6	7 ALWMC Meet- ing, 6:00 pm	8	9 Dist. 8 Meeting 6:00 pm	10 Spring DEC	11 Spring DEC
12 Spring DEC Daylight Savings	13	14 Legion Legislative Day Sacramento 9am	15 Legion Birthday	16	17 St. Patrick's Day	18 Post Meet- ing 11 am
19	20	21	22	23	24	25 Area 2 Caucus
26	27	28				

April 2017

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1
2	3	4 ALWMC Meeting, 6:00 pm	5	6	7	8 Post Meet- ing 11 am
9	10 Passover	11	12 95% Membership Target	13 Dist. 8 Meeting 6:00 pm	14 Good Friday	15
16 Easter	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

CATHAY POST NO. 384



Headquarters
1524 Powell Street
San Francisco, CA
94133
Tel: (415) 797-7384
Fax: (415) 797-7384

E-mail: cathaypost@gmail.com
www.cathaypost384.org

 Cathay Post #384



*San Francisco War Memorial
Veterans Building Office #2*
401 Van Ness Ave, Rm 213B
San Francisco, CA 94102

CATHAY DISPATCH STAFF

Clara Pon — Interim Publisher & Editor-in-Chief
cathaypost384events@gmail.com

Nelson Lum & Helen Wong—Cathay Dispatch Writers

Roger Dong — Contributing Reporter
rogerdong@hotmail.com

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

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2014, 2015, 2016



2014, 2015, 2016



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

Gulf War/War On Terrorism

Desert Shield/Desert Storm/OEF/OIF
8/2/1990 to present

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

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

Vietnam War
2/28/1961 – 5/7/1975

Korean War
6/25/1950 – 1/31/1955

World War II
12/7/1941 – 12/31/1946

World War I
4/6/1917 – 11/11/1918

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American Legion
Executive Committee
2016-2017**

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- 1st Vice Commander:** Helen Wong
- 2nd Vice Commander:** VACANT
- Adjutant:** Francis Hall
- Finance Officer:** George Tsang
- Secretary:** VACANT

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