



Important Dates:

May

- 6—11 a.m. Re-dedication ceremony
- 13—10 a.m. monthly meeting & election
JROTC Competition
11 a.m. @ Lincoln HS
- 14—Mother's Day
- 20—Armed Forces Day
- 26—Nat'l Poppy Day
- 28—12 p.m. USS SF Memorial @ Ft. Miley
3 p.m. WWI & II Memorial @ St. Mary's Sq.
- 29—Memorial Day & SF Nat'l Cemetery & Parade 10:30 a.m.
- Jun 3—86th Installation & Awards Banquet @ Far East 5:30

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CATHAY DISPATCH

Veterans - Sounding Off Since 1931

CATHAY POST 384 REDEDICATION CEREMONY IS BLESSED BY CHINESE GUARDIAN LIONS

By Clara Pon



Cathay Post 384 Commander Nelson Lum (center) with Carmen Chu, Assessor-Recorder of SF (left) and Fiona Ma, member of the CA Board of Equalization (right) is joined by members of the post as well as visiting Districts 26 (San Mateo) and 29 (Orange) commanders to celebrate this auspicious day.

Rich gold fur flowing from head to tail, a mirror on its head to repel evil, bad spirits, strong powerful stances, and agile movements were what the two Chinese guardian lions demonstrated when they came to offer their blessings at American Legion Cathay Post 384's rededication ceremony on Saturday, May 6, 2017. Accompanied by the impressive sounds of blood pumping drummers and cymbalists, the lions danced in front of the building and then went inside the newly renovated space to bring good luck and prosperity to Cathay Post while warding off bad spirits and negative energy away.

The beautiful lions from the Yau Kung Moon Dance Association performed to the music of rhythmic drums and cymbals in front of a crowd of posts members, friends and supporters of Cathay Post, and visiting Legionnaires from other posts and districts. The celebration also attracted many tourists and locals walking by and were treated to an amazing show of strength and controlled martial arts movements that are always inspiring to watch.

(Continued on page 2)

Rededication, Continued



L-R: W. T. Jeanpierre, Matt Hutchinson, Travis Scott, Len Caulder, and Tony Lyau presenting the colors.

(Continued from page 1)

A few of the post's newest members from the San Francisco fire department were there as part of the color guard team that kicked off the ceremony by presenting the colors. From what I've heard and what little I saw when they presented the colors, they are a sharp group. Their marching was smart and their movements were precise. There is no doubt that if they were to compete at the department convention color guard competition, Newport Harbor team could see some strong competition.

We were honored to have Carmen Chu, Assessor-Recorder of SF and Fiona Ma, member of the CA Board of Equalization attend the rededication ceremony. They have both been long supporters of Cathay Post and the veteran community. They presented Commander Lum with

certificates of honor.

Following the ceremony and the lion dance, everyone was welcomed inside to tour the new digs and enjoy a traditional Chinese ceremonial repast, which of course included a whole roasted pig!

The post's commander, Nelson Lum spent many, many hours dealing with the contractors, building inspectors, moving the office and furniture downstairs, and decorating the new space. He did an outstanding job for a primarily one-man show for several months. Please show your gratitude to Commander Lum when you see him. He spent a great deal of time and effort to make the renovation possible for the benefit of all the current members of Cathay Post as well as for future Cathay Post Legionnaires.

A special thank you and appreciation to the newest members from the SFFD for coming to present the colors. Their fellow firefighters were not able to make the rededication ceremony because they were attending a service for one of their fallen. We were honored with their presence. Thank you.



Left: Center stage on the first floor.
Right: New double door entrance to the first floor meeting hall.
Photo courtesy of Ken George.



MAY—Mark Your Calendars

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

~ Asian Heritage & AL Auxiliary Poppy Month ~

- May 6 Cathay Post 384 Building rededication ceremony at 11 a.m.
- May 10 National 100% Membership Target Date (Dept. convention delegate strength count)
- May 13 [Cathay Post No. 384 meeting and election of new 2017-18 post officer at 10 a.m.](#)
- May 13 SFUSD JROTC Spring Drill Competition at Abraham Lincoln High School at 11 a.m.
- May 14 **Mother's Day**
- May 20 **Armed Forces Day**—Korean War soil dedication ceremony at San Francisco Veterans Memorial. Between 301-401 Van Ness Ave at 11 a.m. (See flyer on page 7.)
- May 28 USS San Francisco Memorial, Ft. Miley at 12 p.m.
- May 28 St. Mary's Square WWI & WWII Memorial at 3 p.m.
- May 29 **Memorial Day**—San Francisco National Cemetery, Presidio Parade and Ceremony at 10:30 a.m. (See flyer on page 7.)
- Jun 3 **Cathay Post 384's 86th Anniversary Installation & First Responders Awards Banquet at Far East Cafe beginning at 5:30 p.m. (See flyer on page 10.)**



COMMANDER NELSON LUM

2017 is one of those years that San Francisco is actually conforming to the “normal” weather pattern with April showers and just look around you, folks, flowers are blooming everywhere. I am delighted to be able to report to you that the ongoing renovation project of the first floor of our headquarters building is finally complete.

As I have mentioned in my last column, I went on vacation during the first half of April. In my absence, 1st Vice Commander Helen Wong took the reins of our post without missing a beat. She demonstrated her superior management skills and did not only handle the ongoing businesses with ease, she actually negotiated with a professional raffle company to raise some needed funds for our post. Additionally, she organized and set up the complicated arrangements that allow the project to move forward. Please convey your appreciation to her for having devoted so much time and effort.

When we decided to renovate our building that was built back in 1907, we knew there would be surprises pertaining to

the condition of the building. Once the renovation project got started, many defects accumulated from years past surfaced, the recent unusual down pour found all the leaks in the building, and had to be dealt with which caused the overall budget to increase dramatically. The income from this raffle will help offset some of those cost increases.

Since my return, I have been busy tending to the final inspections by representatives of the City’s Buildings Inspection Bureau. For those of you who have experienced such procedures, you know they are very time consuming and somewhat stressful.

Now that we are ready to occupy the first floor, our 2nd floor space is available to be leased. Please spread the word that we have a space of approximately 3,000 sq. feet available for any qualified interested parties. You may direct those who are interested to contact any of the post commanders.

During the May meeting, we will also hold 2017-18 post officer’s election. At the last meeting, the members agreed to hold the meeting an hour

earlier at 10 a.m. in order for those that want to attend the annual spring JROTC competition at Lincoln High School. As in years past, we will be presenting 14 students with school awards and inviting two JROTC scholarship winners to our annual officers installation and first responders awards banquet.

The Eighth District Council of The American Legion co-hosted a job fair with the Employment Development Department (EDD) at the SF War Memorial Veterans Building on April 26, 2017 and it was a major success. Hundreds of veterans showed up to seek jobs and there were more than 50 employing companies present to hire those veterans who qualify for the positions. Discussion has begun for a similar session in the near future.

On Saturday, June 3, 2017 at 5:30 p.m., our 86th anniversary banquet will be held. In addition to celebrating our 86 years of existence, we will once again promote recognition of the first responders (police officers and firefighters) who bravely protect us daily. In accordance

(Continued on page 6)



Nelson Lum

nelson1431@aol.com
(415) 797-7384

Cathay Post member since: 2005

Branch: Army

Final Rank: SPC

“...1st Vice Commander Helen Wong took the reins of our post without missing a beat. She demonstrated her superior management skills and did not only handle the ongoing businesses with ease, she actually negotiated with a professional raffle company to raise some needed funds for our post.”



Helen Wong

wong_helen@sbcglobal.net

(415) 797-7384

Cathay Post member since: 1990

Branch: Army

Final Rank: Lt. Col.

“Memorial Day originally started as “Decoration Day” after the American Civil War in 1868!!”

1st VICE COMMANDER HELEN WONG

Memorial Day Matters! As the last Monday in May approaches, we start thinking of ceremonies throughout the country remembering those who died while in military service and for many others, the start of summer vacation. Memorial Day originally started as “Decoration Day” after the American Civil War in 1868.

On May 5, 1868, General John A. Logan in his capacity as commander-in-chief of the Grand Army of the Republic, an organization of Union veterans, issued General Order No. 11 calling for “Decoration Day” to be observed annually and nationwide on May 30 that year. More than 600,000 soldiers from both sides died in the Civil War so the observance of decorating graves with flowers for those who died became most significant.

The Red Remembrance Poppy was conceived in 1918 by Moina Michael who was inspired by the poem “In Flanders Fields” written in 1915 by Lieutenant Colonel John McCrae, a physician with the Canadian Expeditionary Force after seeing fields of poppies growing among soldiers’ graves in Flanders.

IN FLANDERS FIELDS

In Flanders fields the
poppies blow
Between the crosses,
row on row
That mark our place;
and in the sky
The larks, still bravely
singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the
guns below

We are the Dead.
Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn,
saw sunset glow,
Loved, and were loved,
and now we lie
In Flanders fields.

Take up our quarrel
with the foe:
To you from failing
hands we throw
The torch; be yours
to hold it high
If ye break faith with
us who die
We shall not sleep,
though poppies grow
In Flanders fields.

—Lt. Col. John McCrae

Two days before the Armistice was declared at 11 a.m. on 11 November 1918, Ms. Michael vowed to always wear a red poppy in remembrance. When given \$10 for her hard work at the YMCA Overseas War Secretaries conference in New York, she bought and sold 25 silk poppies to others, thus starting

the first poppy sales. She had replied with her own poem:

*“We cherish too the
Poppy red*

*That grows on fields
where valor led.*

*It seems to signal
to the skies*

*That blood of heroes
never dies.”*

She then campaigned to get the poppy adopted as a national remembrance symbol.

Two years later in 1920, the American Legion’s National conference proclaimed the poppy as such. In 1922, the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) became the first veterans organization to nationally sell poppies and by 1924, their “Buddy” Poppy program was selling the poppies made by disabled veterans.

“Decoration Day” became Memorial Day after World War II, and it was not declared the official name by federal law until 1967. On June 28, 1968, Congress passed the Uniform Monday Holiday Act, which moved four holidays including Memorial Day, from their traditional dates to a specified

(Continued on page 6)

COMMANDER LUM, CONTINUED

(Continued from page 4)

with the four pillars of The American Legion, we will also feature both ROTC and JROTC scholarship winners. We are also looking for a community hero, someone who has helped our community with his/her efforts and achieve-

ments. If you know of someone who deserves this award, please submit his/her name to anyone of the commanders.

Hope to see all of you at our monthly meeting on May 13 at 1524 Powell street.

VICE COMMANDER WONG, CONTINUED

(Continued from page 5)

Monday in order to create a convenient three-day weekend. The VFW and Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War (SUVCW) advocate returning to the original date. In 2000, Congress passed the National Moment of Remembrance Act, asking people to stop and remember at 3:00 p.m.

So, this year as Monday, May 29 approaches, please consider attending one of many ceremonies which will be held in the Bay Area: San Francisco Presidio National Cemetery, San Bruno Golden Gate National Cemetery, Redwood City Union Cemetery, San Jose Oak Hill Memorial Park among other programs at local cemeteries at 11 a.m. (See flyer on page 8.)

NATIONAL POPPY DAY—MAY 26, 2017

From ALA Department of CA



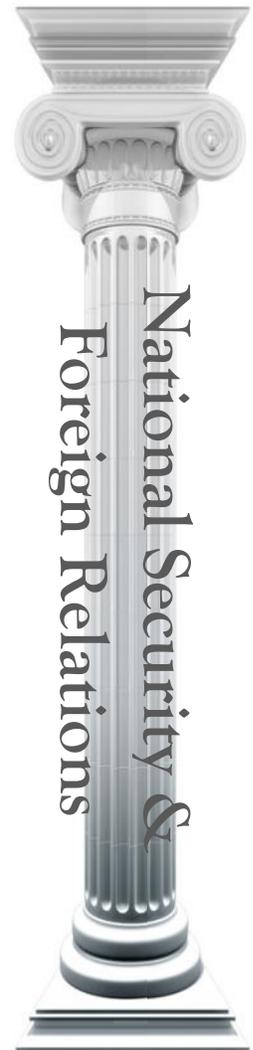
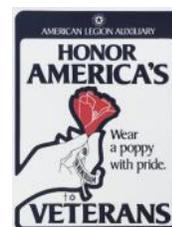
The red crepe paper poppy, replica of the Flanders Poppy was officially adopted in 1921 as the Memorial Flower of The American Legion and the American Legion Auxiliary. Through the years, it has become the symbol of the dead—their memorial flower.

The red crepe paper poppy is hand-made exclusively by hospitalized veterans of the World Wars, Korean War, Vietnam War, Grenada/Lebanon and Panama conflicts, and the Persian Gulf War. It is made of paper to give the veteran a maximum amount of work and income. In many cases, the income derived from this source constitutes the only income of that hospitalized veteran.

Each year volunteer workers, members of The American Legion Auxiliary, offer these poppies to the public, to be worn by them on Memorial Day, so they may pay tribute to the nation's honored war dead.

All contributions made by the public are used by The American Legion Auxiliary exclusively for the welfare of the needy veterans and their families throughout the state of California.

HONOR THE DEAD—AID THE LIVING
WEAR A PAPER POPPY EVERY MEMORIAL DAY



Honor & Remember

San Francisco Veterans Memorial
**KOREAN WAR
SOIL DEDICATION
CEREMONY**

Armed Forces Day
Saturday, May 20, 2017 - 11:00 a.m.
Between 301- 401 Van Ness Avenue



MEMORIAL DAY CEREMONY

Monday, May 29, 2017
Parade 10:30 a.m./Program 11:00 a.m.
San Francisco Presidio National Cemetery

UNITED VETERANS COUNCIL Of Santa Clara County
And
OAK HILL MEMORIAL PARK

Annual Memorial Day Tribute

Honoring Those Who Did Not Return
And The Noble Warrior Who Did

Medal Of Honor Recipient



Major General James E. Livingston, USMC (Ret)

11:00 AM, Monday, May 29, 2017
Oak Hill Memorial Park
300 Curtner Avenue, San Jose, California





Veterans Section

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THE AMERICAN LEGION

HOW WE HELP



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CONNECTIONS



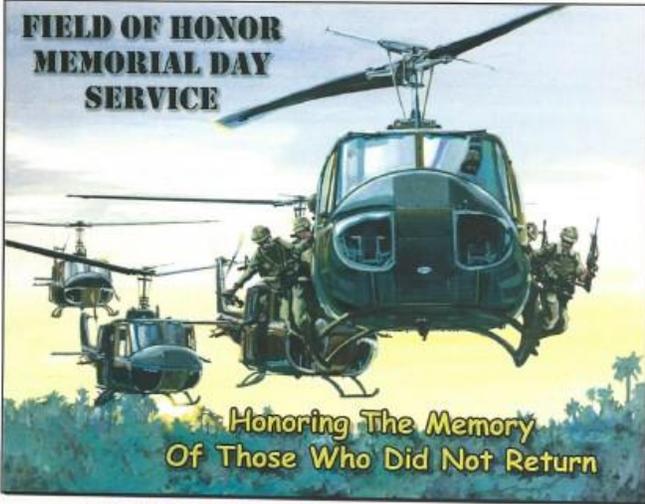
THE AMERICAN LEGION
Post-9/11
Veterans



VIETNAM VETERANS
OF AMERICA
AND ASSOCIATES

Together Always

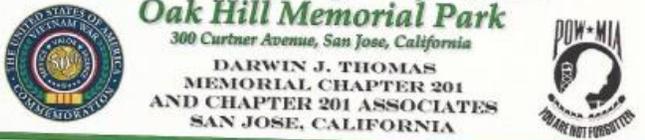
FIELD OF HONOR MEMORIAL DAY SERVICE



Honoring The Memory
Of Those Who Did Not Return

1:30 PM, Monday, May 29, 2017
Oak Hill Memorial Park
300 Curtner Avenue, San Jose, California

DARWIN J. THOMAS
MEMORIAL CHAPTER 201
AND CHAPTER 201 ASSOCIATES
SAN JOSE, CALIFORNIA





2017-18 Cathay Post Officer Duties By Clara Pon

There are 13 positions that are available for candidate nominations. All members current on 2017 dues are eligible for making nominations as well as accepting a nomination based on the following criteria as outlined in the current Cathay Post by-laws.

The following officer positions must be a member of Cathay Post 384 for at least nine (9) months prior to installation: Sergeant-at-Arms, Quartermaster, and Judge Advocate.

The following officer positions must be a member of Cathay Post 384 for at least 21 (twenty-one) consecutive months and have held an officer's position for at least 12 (twelve) months prior to installation: First Vice Commander and Second Vice Commander.

The Commander must be a member of Cathay Post 384 for at least 33 (thirty-three) consecutive months and have held an officer's position for at least 12 (twelve) months prior to installation.

2017-18 Cathay Post Officer Nominations

Nominees for 2017-18 Cathay Post officers:

- Commander—Nelson Lum
- 1st Vice Commander—Helen Wong
- 2nd Vice Commander—Aaron Low
- Adjutant—Open
- Finance Officer—George Tsang
- Judge Advocate—Stan Ellexson
- Sergeant-at-Arms—Ernie Stanton
- Chaplain—Richard Ow
- Service Officer—David Wong
- Historian—Roger Dong
- Quartermaster—Ed Wong
- War Memorial Commission Delegate—Open

There will be another round of open nominations at the April meeting. The election will be by ballot will be held at the next general meeting on Saturday, May 13, 2017. Please be sure to bring your current Legion membership card.

Newly elected officers will be sworn in at the annual installation and first responders banquet on Saturday, June 3, 2017 at Far East Café. Make your reservations early. The flyer with ticket information is on page 10.

Disclaimer

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Cathay Post 384

86th Annual Installation & First Responders Awards Banquet

Saturday, June 3, 2017

No host social hour at 5:30 ★ Dinner at 6:30

FAR EAST CAFE

631 Grant Ave., San Francisco

\$70 per person ★ \$650 per table of 10

RSVP by Friday, May 19th

For tickets, contact

Charles Paskerian (415) 749-1750

Nelson Lum (415) 205-0120

Helen Wong (650) 576-7875

George Tsang (415) 608-6312



American Legion Cathay Post 384, 1524 Powell St., San Francisco, CA 94133

99th ANNUAL DEPARTMENT CONVENTION COMMUNICATIONS

Preparing for convention:

The transition to electronic forms process is saving our members thousands of dollars in paper, postage, and time. We know there will be glitches along the way and we ask for and appreciate your patience. The forms will have a slightly new appearance. These forms are being sent to all district and post commanders via email this year. Please look for them in the inbox of the email address that you provided department. These forms can also be completed and submitted electronically.

Voting delegate strength at the convention will be determined on the membership numbers on May 10, 2017, so get your membership transmittals in now.

Some of the electronic forms are already available. Check on the department website.



THE AMERICAN LEGION
Centennial celebration



99th American Legion Department of California Convention

Riverside, CA

June 21—25, 2017

There is still time to plan your trip to this year's Department convention. More detailed information coming soon.

Check with your district officers for hotel accommodations and rates or ask your post commander.

2017-18 Commander's membership shirts are now available.

American Legion 100th Anniversary Coin



Charles E. Schmidt
National Commander
American Legion

The American Legion has a golden opportunity. Well, silver and gold actually. With your help, we can encourage Congress to mark The American Legion's 2019 Centennial with limited edition, exquisitely crafted commemorative coins. Not only will these coins raise public awareness about the greatest veterans organization in the country, proceeds from their sale will raise funds for our outstanding programs.

A bipartisan group in Congress is now gathering support for The American Legion 100th Anniversary Commemorative Coin Act. Please ask your representative and senators to join Sen. Todd Young, R-Ind., Sen Joe Donnelly, D-Ind., Rep Phil Roe, R-Tenn., and Rep. Tim Walz, D-Minn., as original co-sponsors of this important legislation. Better than asking, call their offices directly. Simply enter your ZIP code [here](#) and the contact information for those who represent you can be obtained.

When you speak with their congressional staff, please ask them to become an original co-sponsor of The American Legion 100th Anniversary Commemorative Coin Act.

Unique among U.S. mint products, these coins will symbolize an organization that was founded by World War I veterans on the four pillars of a strong national defense, veterans affairs and rehabilitation, wholesome and patriotic youth programs, and Americanism.

Congress only authorizes the minting of two coins per year. Abraham Lincoln, the U.S. Army and the National Park Service Centennial were some of their recent subjects. As the legislation points out, there are a number of reasons why The American Legion is worthy of such an honor.

It is The American Legion that convened conferences in 1923 and 1924 which crafted the first United States Flag Code.

It is The American Legion that drafted and made the case for the Servicemen's Readjustment Act of 1944, better known as the G.I. Bill.

It is The American Legion that established the National Emergency Fund which provides cash relief to veterans impacted by natural disasters.

It is The American Legion that fought to see the Veterans Administration elevated to its current cabinet-level status.

It is The American Legion that created a scholarship fund for the children of military members who died or were severely disabled on active-duty since 9/11.

It is The American Legion that strongly supported the comprehensive education

(Continued on page 13)



Commemorative Coin, Continued

(Continued from page 12)

benefits in the Post-9/11 Veterans Educational Assistance Act.

Visit any military base or unit and you will see how popular collectible coins have become. Whether it's a challenge coin or a merit medallion, these mementoes serve as permanent reminders of a connection made between its owner and the benefactor who presented it. But The American Legion 100th Anniversary Commemorative Coin will be different. Because of its rarity and value, it will certainly merit a top-shelf display by even the most prolific of collectors.

One of our legendary founders was Theodore Roosevelt Jr. A son of the former president, Roosevelt was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor for his bravery at Normandy. His vision for The American Legion played a pivotal role in the contributions that the organization would make to this country throughout its first century. That gift to America endures.

"The American Legion – what it has done, what it is doing and what it will continue to do – is exactly what my grandfather and his fellow co-founders intended to achieve," said Ted Roosevelt IV, chairman of The American Legion 100th Anniversary Honorary Committee.

It is an achievement worth commemorating on a unique and special coin.

Carry the legacy forward.



MEMORIAL DAY
THE AMERICAN LEGION - VETERANS STILL SERVING AMERICA





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\$1.95 MILLION DOLLAR HOME OR \$1 MILLION IN CASH

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Already a member? You'll get \$25 for every referral that joins!

Call **800.222.1391** or visit
www.sfpcu.org to learn more today.



Offer ends July 31, 2017.

All **POA** members and their families are eligible for membership!

*Offer valid through 07/31/17. New Member Bonus: SFPCU will pay the \$25 opening deposit in the savings account required to establish membership. Members who join online will pay the \$25 opening deposit and SFPCU will reimburse this amount within 15 business days. This amount shall be reversed and returned to SFPCU if the account is closed within 12 months after date opened. Business accounts are not eligible. Current Annual Percentage Yield (APY) on a regular share account is .10% as of 5/1/17. Minimum account balance to open account and obtain APY is \$25. Checking Promotion Bonus: To qualify for the \$50 bonus, the new member must open a new Global ATM Checking account with a \$25 minimum opening deposit during the promotion period, and within 60 calendar days of account opening, a \$500 monthly direct deposit must be initiated. The bonus will be deposited into the new checking account within 60 business days after meeting the \$500 direct deposit requirement. Referral Bonus: Referred member's savings account must be opened within the promotion period. Within 15 business days of the new account opening, \$25 will be credited into referring member's savings account. Bonuses may be tax-reportable. All new accounts are subject to the SFPCU account opening procedures and standard account terms and conditions. Fees could reduce earnings on the account. Rates, terms and conditions are subject to change.

Promo Code: REF/CHK

Is the VA Health Care Broken and Needs To Be Privatized?

By Roger Dong



L-R: ALWMC Chair Paul Cox introduces STP Executive Director Michael Blecker and Congresswoman Nancy Pelosi.

"NO, NO, NO" says dozens of veterans who have been served effectively and efficiently by the current VA medical facilities at Fort Myer and many VA medical facilities in other US locations.

On Thursday, April 13, 2017 House Democratic Leader Congresswoman Nancy Pelosi led a major forum to stop national legislators' proposals to modify Veterans healthcare offering choices which will generally threaten the health of the current Veteran Health Administration (VHA). While offering the option to outsource medical services to veterans sounds like a good option for veterans, Pelosi warned that outsourcing will result in funds diverted from obligated resources to the VA away to private doctors. While a few veterans in remote areas should continue to get needed services because of the travel distance to VA medical facilities, reducing overall obligated VA funds will negatively impact the overall VA healthcare system.

Proposed legislation to broaden veterans' "choice," may result in dangerous amounts of VA funding being redirected to support private healthcare providers. Pelosi warned that despite some who advocate outsourcing of services to the private sector,

improved healthcare to veterans is not guaranteed and encouraging outsourced medical care will reduce the funding to the VA and eventually eliminate the high quality of healthcare now provided by the VA. If a veteran gets private services that are currently provided by his or her local VA, payment for those services will come out of the LOCAL VA medical center's budget—a process that will quickly erode its abilities to provide both basic and specialized services to those veterans who do want their care from the VHA.

Dozens of veterans provided personal testimony at this meeting that they received very satisfactory and timely healthcare at Fort Miley and other VA medical facilities, and that they receive integrated medical services including fast access to their medical records and even same day follow-up service when a problem is identified. One member of our post testified that he received critical VA medical treatment for a life-threatening medical problem. He credited timely integrated electronic medical files and caring VA doctors who gave him multiple essential services in one day in one location.

What do all of us need to do to protect our current VA services? Call and/or write to your congressional representatives and senators to insist that they support the current VA Medical system and oppose programs being considered to extend the Choice program that will jeopardize the funding for quality services currently provided to our veterans.

Pelosi reminded that a very high

(Continued on page 17)



VA Healthcare System, Continued

(Continued from page 16)

percentage (70%) of today's physicians and nurses get their basic medical training in the VA system, and if that is lost, our entire medical profes-

sion will be degraded.

For more information visit: <https://ffvhc.org>

On Monday, April 24, 2017, interviewed on CNN, Ms. Kelly Anne

Conway who currently serves in the White House, voiced her strong support for vast expansion of Veterans Choice program in upcoming legislation.



Second Annual



The
AMERICAN LEGION POSTS
of San Francisco and San Mateo Counties, along with
CUB SCOUT PACK 347 OF DALY CITY
Proudly Present a



FLAG RETIREMENT CEREMONY

CYPRESS LAWN MEMORIAL PARK
in the beautiful and historic
NOBLE CHAPEL
1362 El Camino Real, Colma

SATURDAY, JUNE 17, 2017 AT 11:00 A.M.

Brief Ceremony

-
- Respectful Cremation of Flags
-
- Refreshments



Attendees are encouraged to
bring their own worn and
tattered flags to be retired



99TH NATIONAL CONVENTION—AUG. 18-24

CALIFORNIA STATE COMMANDERS VETERANS COUNCIL

IMPORTANT BILLS

AB 242 AUTHOR: Arambula [D]

TITLE: Coroners Reports: Veterans: Suicide

DIGEST: Requires a final report of an autopsy to indicate if the deceased person was a member of specified branches of the military, either at the time or prior to death. Provides for such data to be made available to the State Department of Public Health and requires a report.

Position: Support

AB 296 AUTHOR: Cervantes [D]

TITLE: Task Force on California Women Veterans Health

DIGEST: Establishes the Task Force on California Women Veterans Health Care and directs the Task Force to study the health care needs of women veterans in the state. Requires the task force, when conducting its study and preparing an annual report, to consult with the United States Department of Veterans Affairs, the State Department of Public Health, the Department of Managed Health Care, and representatives of county veterans service offices.

Position: Support

AB 528 AUTHOR: Gray [D]

TITLE: Personal Income Tax: Exclusion: Military Retirement Pay

DIGEST: Excludes from gross income specified percentages of retirement pay received by a taxpayer from the federal government for military service.

Position: Support

AB 665 AUTHOR: Levine [D]

TITLE: Military Personnel: Veterans: Resentencing

DIGEST: Authorizes any person who was sentenced for a felony conviction prior to January 1, 2015, and who is, or was, a member of the United States military and who may be suffering from any of the above-described conditions as a result of his or her military service to petition for a recall of sentence under specified conditions. Requires the court, upon receiving a petition, to determine whether the person satisfies the specified criteria.

Position: Support

AB 737 AUTHOR: Baker [R]

TITLE: California Vietnam Veterans Memorial

DIGEST: Will revise and update the California Vietnam Veterans Memorial Honors Committee. Will change current law and create an "in Memory Plaque" to be placed on the California Vietnam Veterans Memorial to honor those whose lives

(Continued on page 19)



Legislative Bills, Continued

(Continued from page 18)

were shortened as a result of service during the Vietnam War as well as other changes.

Position: Support

AB 1249 AUTHOR: Gray [D]

TITLE: Property Taxation: Exemptions: Veterans

DIGEST: Provides that the veterans' organization exemption shall not be denied to a property on the basis that the property is used for fraternal, lodge, or social club purposes to any portion of a property that consists of a bar where alcoholic beverages are served.

Position: Support

SB 485 AUTHOR: Nielsen [R]

TITLE: Veterans Homes

DIGEST: Revises and recasts provisions of existing law which provide for the operation of veterans' homes and which establish the duties of the Department of Veterans Affairs. Provides for the senior executive appointed to oversee the operations of such homes and specifies which homes are administered by the Department. Requires the adoption of uniform statewide policies and procedures. Makes changes concerning criteria for veterans' home admission, payment of fees by resident spouses, funding, and specified fund.

Position: Support

SB 725 AUTHOR: Jackson [D]

TITLE: Veterans: Pretrial Diversion: Driving Privileges

DIGEST: Specifies that a misdemeanor offense for which a defendant may be placed in a pretrial diversion program includes a misdemeanor violation of driving under the influence.

Position: Support

SB 776 AUTHOR: Newman [D]

TITLE: Corrections: Veterans Benefits

DIGEST: Requires the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation to provide at each state prison a correctional officer who is trained and accredited by the Department of Veterans Affairs to assist incarcerated veterans in applying for and receiving any federal veterans benefits for which they may be eligible.

Position: Support

(Continued on page 20)



Legislative Bills, Continued

(Continued from page 19)

To access the Legislature's website which has the language, status, votes, and analyses of all legislation from 1999 to the present, go to: <https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billSearchClient.xhtml>

If you have any questions, please contact:

Art Curtis, Chair, Legislative Committee @ awcurtis@comcast.net

Pete Conaty, Legislative Advocate @ pconaty@sbcglobal.net

AB 1249 (Gray) Protecting Veteran Halls—FACT SHEET

AB 1249 recently passed the Assembly Revenue and Taxation Committee and is now headed to the Assembly Veterans Committee, where it should not have any problem.

The big hurdle will be the Assembly Appropriations Committee which judges bills on their cost to the State. This is the 3rd time the bill has been tried. The previous two times the bill died in the Revenue and Taxation Committee. Now that we have passed that hurdle, we need to get it through the Appropriations Committee.

Please call the members of the Assembly Appropriations Committee and tell them to vote for the bill (contact info attached). Tell them how important veterans posts are (helping veterans, civic functions, veterans programs, etc). If the veterans post in your area is facing cost pressures because of taxation, please communicate that to them also (and to us). If you are a constituent of one of these legislators, be sure to mention that.

To find out if you are a constituent, find your 9 digit zip code at: https://tools.usps.com/go/ZipLookupAction_input

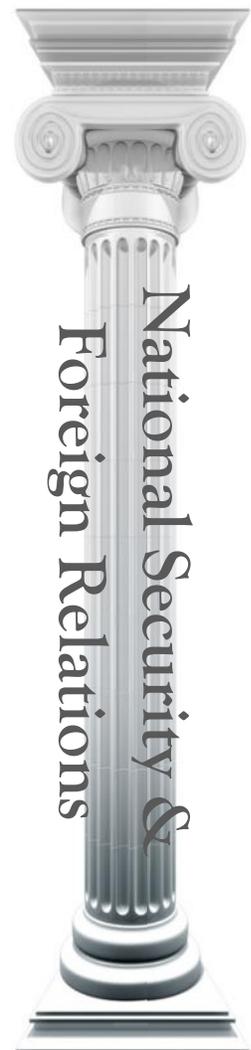
To find out who your legislator is, input that 9 digit zip code in to: <http://votesmart.org/>

Scroll down until you see who your State Assembly member is.

Tell them: **"California's veterans want this bill to become law. We need this bill to allow veterans posts and halls to survive into the future, given the high cost of property taxes and declining membership"**.

This bill is supported by:

| | |
|---|--------------------------------------|
| American Legion- Dept. of CA | American GI Forum of CA |
| AMVETS- Dept. of CA | CA State Commanders Veterans Council |
| CA Association of County Veterans Service Officers | |
| Jewish War Veterans of the USA-Dept. of CA | |
| Military Officers Association of America-CA Council of Chapters | |
| Military Order of the Purple Heart-Dept. of CA | |
| Reserve Officers Association-Dept. of the Golden West | |
| Vietnam Veterans of America- CA State Council | |



May 2017

| SUN | MON | TUE | WED | THU | FRI | SAT |
|---|---|-----------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------|-----|------------------------------------|
| | 1 | 2 ALWMC Meeting, 6:00 pm | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 100% Membership Target | 11 Dist. 8 Meeting 6:00 pm | 12 | 13 Post Meeting 10 am & JROTC comp |
| 14 Mother's Day | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 Armed Forces Day |
| 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 |
| 28 USS SF Memorial 12 pm & St. Mary's Square 3 pm | 29 Memorial Day & SF Nat'l Cemetery 10:30 | 30 | 31 | | | |

June 2017

| SUN | MON | TUE | WED | THU | FRI | SAT |
|---|---------------------|-----------------------------|--|--|--|---|
| | | | | 1 | 2 | 3 86 th Annual Installation Banquet @ Far East |
| 4 | 5 | 6 ALWMC Meeting, 6:00 pm | 7 | 8 Dist. 8 Meeting 6:00 pm | 9 | 10 Post Meeting 11 am |
| 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 Flag Day | 15 | 16 | 17 CA Boys State |
| 18 Father's Day CA Boys | 19 CA Boys State | 20 CA Boys State | 21 CA Boys State & 99 th Dept. Convention | 22 CA Boys State & 99 th Dept. Convention | 23 CA Boys State & 99 th Dept. Convention | 24 CA Boys State & 99 th Dept. Convention |
| 25 99 th Dept. Convention | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | |

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

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



2014, 2015, 2016



2014, 2015, 2016



www.legion.org

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

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

Gulf War/War On Terrorism

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

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

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

Vietnam War
2/28/1961 – 5/7/1975

Korean War
6/25/1950 – 1/31/1955

World War II
12/7/1941 – 12/31/1946

World War I
4/6/1917 – 11/11/1918

**Cathay Post No. 384
American Legion
Executive Committee
2016-2017**

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

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