



CATHAY DISPATCH

Veterans - Sounding Off Since 1931

NEW OFFICER INSTALLATION...WHO DOES THE INSTALLATION, NOT 40/8

By Clara Pon

Every summer, new officers are installed at all levels of the organization from post to department. If you've never attended the oath ceremony of the new department commander on the last day of the department convention, a few ceremonial things happen. First, the new Department of California commander is sworn in before the entire convention floor with the donning of the new white cap ritual. After the new commander takes his/her oath, he/she convenes a meeting and in turns swears in his/her new officers. These officers include all department level (white cap) elected and appointed officers as well as all 30 newly elected district commanders, who are also official officers of The American Legion Department of California, hence the white top on the blue cap. Spouse, friend, or other district officer gets the privilege and honor of participating in the ritual of donning the district cap on the new district officer. It really is a special moment.

So many of you may think, "What about at the district or post level installation? Who or how does it get performed?" As a post/district commander or adjutant, you should be familiar with The American Legion *Officer's Guide and Manual of Ceremonies*. If you're not, then it is highly recommended that you download a copy [here](#) or go to: <https://www.legion.org/publications/160963/post-officer-guide-and-manual-ceremonies>.

The *Officer's Guide* is an invaluable tool to help you, your officers, and your members. It is the principle handbook to help your officers fulfill their responsibilities. The book is comprised of two parts. The first part is a guide to post offices, operations and procedures; and the second part is the manual of ceremonies where you can find ritual information about initiating new members, installing new officers, POW/MIA ceremony, folding the flag, and much more.

According to the 2017 *Officer's Guide*, Section 2 *Installation of Post Officers*, "All officers shall, after their election and at the earliest opportunity, be installed in the following manner. The installing officer should be a department officer or the officer of another post acting as a representative of the department commander is recommended. The installing officer shall take control of the meeting following the opening ceremony and is permitted to install alone or with such assistants as may be selected."

There are some posts and districts that have 40&8 (or 40/8) perform their officer installation. The 40&8 was an organization for Legionnaires who had

(Continued on page 2)

Important Dates:

Jun 3—86th Installation
& Awards Banquet
@ Far East 5:30

Jun 10—Monthly meet-
ing at 11 a.m.

Jun 14—Flag Day

Jun 18—Father's Day

Jun 17-24—CA Boys
State, Sacramento

Jun 21-25—Dept. of CA
99th convention

Jul 4—Independence
Day

Jul 8—Monthly meeting
at 11 a.m.

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Installation, Continued

(Continued from page 1)

distinguished themselves through service. Some may not know, but the 40&8 is no longer affiliated with The American Legion since 1959, although the organization still exists. In 2008, the 40&8 dropped the membership requirement of belonging to The American Legion. Furthermore, a Legionnaire who had a talk with National Judge Advocate Onderdonk said, "... having 40/8 install them would be like having the VFW install or just any other organization do it."

Based on the *Officer's Guide*, a department officer or a district commander

(a representative of the department commander) is recommended to perform post installations. So plan early and reach out to your current or past district commander and ask him/her to install your new post officers. Don't be surprised if the current department or district commander can't make it. They may likely be busy installing another post or district. It has been the common practice to ask previous department or district officers to perform the installation instead. The PCC may also be a resource to perform post or district installations. They would be honored to do it. Good luck to all and congratulations to all the new 2017-18 officers.



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

Disclaimer

Opinions or articles expressed herein are those of the author or columnist, and are not necessarily those of the National, Department, District, or of the American Legion. Publication of advertisements does not imply endorsement by the American Legion of the products, service, or offers advertised or profiled.

99th ANNUAL DEPARTMENT CONVENTION FORMS

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 have already being sent to all district and post commanders via email. Please look for them in the inbox of the email address that you provided department. These required annual forms can also be completed and submitted electronically or printed and emailed to: forms@calegion.org.

Electronic forms are already available. Check on the department website if you did not get them in your email. There are annual reports and annual forms.

For district officers, there are two district forms that need to be filled out... district certification of officers and district advisors to department committees.



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. Details on the convention can be found in the recent issue of the *CA Legionnaire*.



THE AMERICAN LEGION
Centennial celebration

COMMANDER NELSON LUM

June is here and 2017 is almost half gone. The busy activities of our post continue even though the renovation project is almost complete. Some of you may wonder why I said "almost" complete since the rededication ceremony took place on May 6. While the first floor of our post is now operational and is the hub of our activities, there are still many smaller details that need to be attended to in order for the project to be declared complete. I would like to take this opportunity to express my deep appreciation for those members that have volunteered many precious hours of their own time to assist with this momentous endeavor. Now, it is on to the next challenge.

As mentioned above, the rededication of our headquarters building which was reported in our last month's Dispatch commemorated a paradigm of American Legion Cathay Post 384. It is a post that was formed in 1931 while experiencing extreme prejudices. A post that submitted its charter written not in English, but in Chinese to the Legion's national headquarters. One can only surmise that no one at the national head-

quarters was ever able to review the booklet.

One of the early locations of our post headquarters was at Hang Ah alley next to the Chinese Playground. By 1948, the membership had outgrown the facility and with the donation of some very generous members, a multi-story building located at North Beach (1524 Powell Street) was purchased. It was a bold move at that time since very few Chinese organizations were located outside of Chinatown. The building was built in 1907 right after the great earthquake of 1906. It was the home of the Italian American Club.

Like many organizations that have endured the test of time, our post went through some good and bad times. A major revitalization of the post took place in the early 2000s with the arrival of new leadership. Post activities increased along with our involvement and interactions with the community. Being a building of the 1907 era, there is a steep staircase that our members must negotiate in order to participate in post activities. Father time has taken its toll from most of our aging members

and it has become increasingly evident that staying on the second floor is no longer a viable option without some major changes. Installation of an elevator is price prohibitive at this time, so the only option was for us to move to the lower floor where our members will no longer have to navigate the daunting staircase. Therefore, the decision was made to relocate our operations to the lower floor which necessitated the renovation project that we undertook.

On May 13, members of our post attended the Junior Reserve Officers Training Corp (JROTC) Spring Drill Competition at Lincoln High School. We represented the American Legion by presenting 14 medals to selected cadets for excellence in academics. We also announced the winners of our two scholarships.

Cathay Post members also participated in two memorial services on May 28. The first was the USS San Francisco memorial service held at Lands End in the morning and the other was a memorial service to honor those Chinese Americans who gave the

(Continued on page 6)



Nelson Lum

nelson1431@aol.com
(415) 797-7384

Cathay Post member
since: 2005

Branch: Army

Final Rank: SPC

"It was a bold move at that time since very few Chinese organizations were located outside of Chinatown. The building was built in 1907 right after the great earthquake of 1906."



Helen Wong

wong_helen@sbcglobal.net

(415) 797-7384

Cathay Post member since: 1990

Branch: Army

Final Rank: Lt. Col.

“While many communities and organizations celebrate Flag Day in different ways, it is a time to remember and honor military men and women who defend our flag and our country.”

1st VICE COMMANDER HELEN WONG

Patriotism Matters! June has several events leading up to the 4th of July that everyone should be aware of. Starting with June 6, 1944 D-Day is an event many of our greatest generation will not forget. More than 160,000 Allied troops invaded Normandy from England during World War II to fight Nazi Germans. More than 5,000 ships and 13,000 aircraft supported the D-Day invasion, and by day’s end, the Allies gained a foot-hold in continental Europe but at a cost of 9,000 Allied soldiers killed or wounded. In the end, it allowed for the defeat of Hitler’s troops. If you know a WWII Veteran, please be sure to thank him or her for their service.

On June 12, 1948, the Women’s Armed Services Integration Act was signed into law which created regular and reserve status for women in the Army.

The next most notable event is Flag Day on June 14. Why is this day important and why should Legionnaires take notice? Flag Day is a celebration of the adoption of the American Flag by the Continental Congress in the First Flag Resolu-

tion of June 14, 1777. It wasn’t officially recognized until President Harry Truman signed it into law in 1949. While many communities and organizations celebrate Flag Day in different ways, it is a time to remember and honor military men and women who defend our flag and our country.

One of the four pillars The American Legion was founded on is Americanism and under that pillar is flag protection. There is a bookazine available through The American Legion online store called Indivisible The Story of Our Flag which tells the story of the U.S. flag from the American Revolution to the global war on terrorism. Many posts in The American Legion also take part in flag retirement ceremonies. In our area, the posts in San Francisco and San Mateo Counties will be holding a flag retirement ceremony on Saturday, June 17 at 11:00 a.m. at Cypress Lawn Memorial Park. All members are encouraged to attend. See the flyer on page 2.

Also on June 14 was the establishment of the United States Army in 1775. It was the first military branch to be

established by the Second Continental Congress after the American Revolution broke out to fight the British troops. This was to unite the colonial volunteer troops who had no unified chain of command. George Washington received his appointment as commander-in-chief of the Continental Army, and formally took command at Boston on July 3, 1775. The Army is the largest branch of service to this day. Happy 242nd Birthday Army!

On June 16, 2005, Army Sgt. Leigh Ann Hester became the first woman in U.S. military history to earn the Silver Star for direct combat action.

On June 22, 1995, the Women’s Memorial Groundbreaking took place in Washington, D.C.

On June 25, 1950, the Korean War began. It was a war between South Korea and North Korea in which a United Nations force led by the United States fought for the South. The People’s Republic of China with support from the Soviet Union fought for the North. The fighting ended on July 27, 1953 when an armistice was signed.

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COMMANDER LUM, CONTINUED

(Continued from page 4)

ultimate sacrifice in WWI and WWII at St. Mary Square in the afternoon.

On Memorial Day, May 29 at 11:00 a.m., we attended the memorial service held at San Francisco National Cemetery, Presidio.

Our 86th anniversary banquet was held on Saturday, June 3. In addition to celebrating our anniversary, we once again honored first responders. Two police officers and two firefighters were recognized. Our members and friends were able to meet the young men and women that were chosen as our JROTC scholarship recipients. Mr. Craig Newmark, founder of Craig's List was chosen as

our Community Hero this year. He was selected due to his years of continuous support for veterans and veteran related issues. Unfortunately, due to his busy schedule, he was unable to attend the banquet to receive this recognition.

On June 17, there will be a flag retirement ceremony conducted at Cypress Lawn Memorial Park (1362 El Camino Real, Colma) at 11:00 a.m. This event is a joint effort between District 26 and District 8. If you know of any flags that need to be retired, please bring them to the ceremony or make arrangements with anyone of the executive officers to have them picked up for proper and environmentally mindful method of disposal. See flyer on page 2.

VICE COMMANDER WONG, CONTINUED

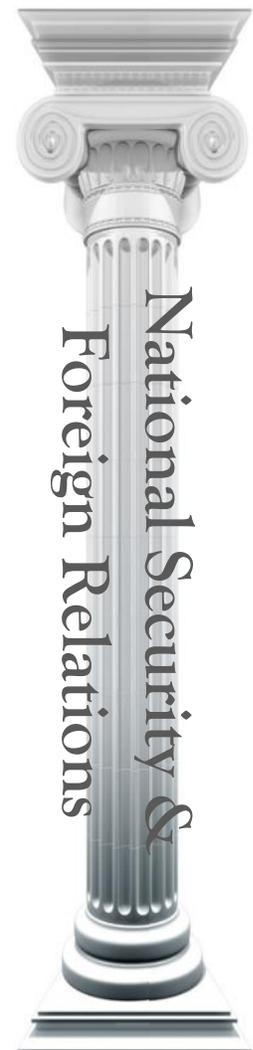
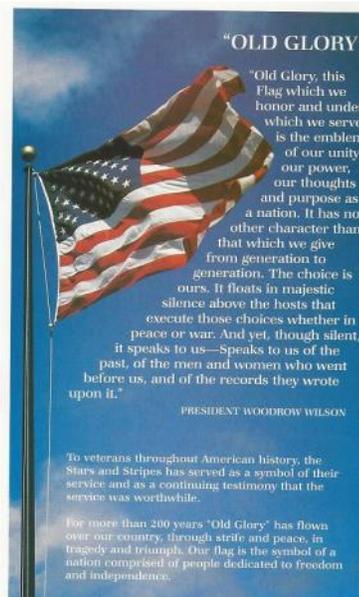
(Continued from page 5)

For more information, the Korean War Memorial Foundation (www.kwmf.org) provides history on their website. LTC. John Stevens, a member of Cathay Post 384 is an officer on the KWMF Board and has worked tirelessly to fund raise for the memorial.

As of September 30, 2015, the Veterans Administration estimated there are 1.8 million veterans in California, the highest number in the country. If we look in our immediate area, it is estimated that there are about 35,000 or more in San Francisco County, and about 22,000 in San Mateo County.

Yet, the number of Legionnaires do not even amount to 1%. We need to do a better job of reaching out to those who have served or are still serving. Surely each one of us knows a veteran who does not belong to a service organization. It is up to us to know why it is

important to belong to a group and convince others to join the ranks of those committed to serving the community and fellow veterans. After all, patriotism matters!



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FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CALL:

Nina Alpert @ 415-221-4810, x24602

99TH NATIONAL CONVENTION—AUG.18-24



Chinese American WWII Veterans Congressional Gold Medal Act—H. R. 2358 & S. 1050 Needs Support

By Roger Dong

The Chinese American WWII Veterans Congressional Gold Medal Bill is a national campaign organized by the Chinese American Citizens Alliance (CACA) known as the Chinese American WWII Veterans Recognition Project. <https://caww2.org/>

CACA has initiated an effort to bring recognition for Chinese Americans who joined the military to defend America against Nazi Germany and the Japanese Imperial Army. Chinese Americans had to make an extraordinary effort to join the military during a time when many Americans stereotyped Chinese as sojourners, who were more patriotic to China than America. The military initially refused the efforts of young Chinese men who volunteered to serve.

The story of Frank Fong epitomizes the negative attitudes in 1942. Fong volunteered to serve after high school in Chicago, but his effort to join and serve was rejected by the Army recruiters in Chicago. Fong solicited the assistance of local politicians who tried to help, but could not overcome the rejection by the local Army authorities. Fong was determined to serve his country and wrote a strong letter to Army 4 star General Hap Arnold at the Pentagon. General Arnold's staff did not obstruct his correspondence and the General read Fong's letter asking for the privilege to serve. General Arnold was surprised and fully supported Fong's efforts. He ordered the Army recruiters to accept Fong's application and to allow him to serve. The General further granted Fong's request to fly. Fong was subsequently trained as a fighter pilot and even shot down a Nazi fighter

aircraft. After the war, Fong transferred into the Air Force and later retired with the rank of Lieutenant Colonel.

In 1882, due mainly to the willingness of the Chinese to work hard and work for less pay, legislators in the western states where Chinese laborers competed "unfairly," convinced Congress to pass the Chinese Exclusion Act. This Act, which was in effect for over 60 years, severely limited Chinese immigration and was intended to gradually eliminate all the Chinese in America. One of the schemes was to severely restrict the immigration of Chinese females. In fact, every Chinese woman was assumed to be a prostitute and had to prove otherwise to be considered for entry. Thus by the 1940s, the Chinese population had shrunk from about 140,000 in 1910 to about 80,000. Despite the unfriendly and cruel treatment, about 20,000 Chinese volunteered to serve in the military and to defend America. That was 25% of the Chinese population, a very high proportion despite being treated as sub-humans for over a half century.

The general population still does not recognize such a high proportion of the Chinese population volunteered to risk their lives to defend America. The stories of Chinese who served in all segments of the military, including risky combat missions, are missing in history. Our collegial partner organization, Chinese American Heroes has captured many stories of brave Chinese American military volunteers. These stories can be found in the website at www.chineseamericanheroes.org.

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Chinese American WWII Gold Medal, Continued

(Continued from page 8)

There was Medal of Honor awardee, Army Captain Francis Wai and a distinguished Navy Cross recipient, Gordon P. Chung-hoon. The father of one of our members maintained B-25 bombers used by then Lt. Colonel Jimmy Doolittle in his retaliation bombing of Tokyo in 1943. There was Captain Moon Chin who flew the high risk "Hump" for eight (8) years bringing American military supplies to the Chinese Nationalist Army and flew Lt. Colonel Jimmy Doolittle out of China after the Tokyo raid. Our own Past Post Commander Colonel John Young served in the China Burma India campaign. In addition, former post member Lt. Colonel Andrew Young dropped bombs from B-29s on Nazi Germany. There was Bay Area Judge Delbert E. Wong, the first Chinese American graduate from Stanford University who flew and survived 60 bombing missions over Germany. We have two members in our post now who served in World War II.

Few people know about these patriotic and brave Americans of Chinese descent, few care to know. And thus, CACA has initiated a national campaign to recognize the Chinese Americans who volunteered and disregarded the discriminate treatment they endured. They served bravely like the millions of other Americans who were not discriminated against. We are all asked to support this noble effort by writing our Congressional representatives and Senators.

I've included a brief excerpt of the email I received from the President of CACA.

Dear Roger,

I trust you are doing well. I have some exciting news. Last week, both Houses of Congress introduced their respective bills to recognize and honor Chinese American World War II Veterans with the Congressional Gold Medal. The House bill, H.R. 2358, is co-sponsored by Rep. Ed Royce (CA) and Rep. Ted Lieu (CA) and the Senate bill, S.1050, is co-sponsored by Sen. Tammy Duckworth (IL) and Sen. Thad Cochran (MS). This effort was proudly led by National Chinese American Citizens Alliance (CACA) under a project we initiated and directed.

Now that the bills have been introduced, the hard work of asking our own members of Congress to sponsor the bill is upon each of us who has had a parent, grandparent, uncle or aunt who served during this period. This will be a rare moment for us to really give them the due recognition for their commitment to duty and honor. I ask that you send a letter of support from your organizations that you are members of, such as the American Legion Cathy Post, to include with our other letters of support when we visit Congress.

Attached is a sample letter for you to use and modify. The timing is immediate as we are losing our heroes daily. If this generation doesn't do it for them, no one else will.

Regards,

Ed Gor. National President Chinese American Citizens Alliance
www.cacanational.org



Support H.R. 2358 & S. 1050
Write to your Congressional Representative today.

AUTHOR'S NOTE:

The various posts of The American Legion from coast to coast have begun to call for the passage of H.R. 2358 and S. 1050. American Legion Cathay Post 384 and American Legion Eighth District Council of California have passed resolutions that recommend for The American Legion to lend its support. Lt. B.R. Kimlau Post 1291 of The American Legion Department of New York has drafted a similar resolution. We hope to bring this resolution to the floor of the 99th American Legion National Convention in Reno, Nevada in August for an affirmative vote of support.

House of Representatives:
www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/house-bill/2358

Senate:
www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/senate-bill/1050



I

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION **H. R. 2358**

To award a Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to the Chinese American Veterans of World War II, in recognition of their dedicated service during World War II.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 4, 2017

Mr. ROYCE of California (for himself, Mr. TED LIEU of California, Mr. ABRAHAM, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Mr. CHABOT, Ms. JUDY CHU of California, Mrs. RADEWAGN, Mr. FLEISCHMANN, Ms. GABRIEL, Mr. AL GREEN of Texas, Mr. GRJALVA, Mr. ISSA, Mr. KINZINGER, Ms. LEE, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Ms. MENG, Mr. RASKIN, Mr. ROHRBACHER, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Mrs. WAGNER, Mrs. MIMI WALTERS of California, and Mr. WILSON of South Carolina) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Financial Services, and in addition to the Committee on House Administration, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To award a Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to the Chinese American Veterans of World War II, in recognition of their dedicated service during World War II.

- 1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
- 2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*
- 3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**
- 4 This Act may be cited as the “Chinese American
- 5 World War II Veterans Congressional Gold Medal Act”.



II

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION **S. 1050**

To award a Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to the Chinese-American Veterans of World War II, in recognition of their dedicated service during World War II.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 4, 2017

Ms. DUCKWORTH (for herself and Mr. COCHRAN) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

A BILL

To award a Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to the Chinese-American Veterans of World War II, in recognition of their dedicated service during World War II.

- 1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
- 2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*
- 3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**
- 4 This Act may be cited as the “Chinese-American
- 5 World War II Veteran Congressional Gold Medal Act”.
- 6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**
- 7 Congress finds that—
- 8 (1) Chinese Americans served the United States
- 9 in every conflict since the Civil War, and distin-



Cathay Post 384

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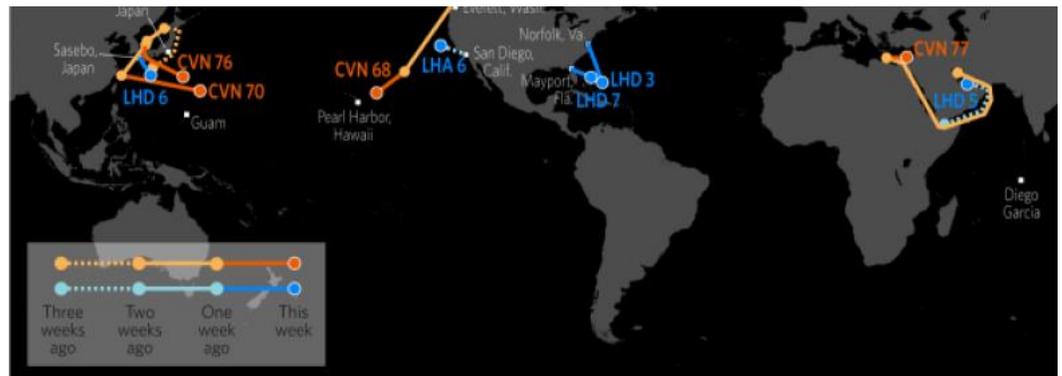
US Navy, Busy Globally Protecting our Freedom

By Roger Dong

During Fleet week, the US Navy has several major warships that visit San Francisco Bay. In the past five years, our post has hosted the visit of several Amphibious Assault ships, small aircraft carriers, including USS America, USS Makin Island, and the USS Bonhomme Richard. Our large aircraft carriers, because they are nuclear powered ships do not visit San Francisco Bay anymore, even though the USS Carl Vinson aircraft carrier was commissioned at Hunters Point in San Francisco in 1962. For our Navy veterans and other interested members, here is an unclassified Stratcom report on the locations of many of our US Navy warships as of May 25, 2017.

The Naval Update Map shows the approximate current locations of U.S. Carrier Strike Groups and Amphibious Ready Groups, based on available open-source information. No classified or operationally sensitive information is included in this weekly update. CSGs and ARGs are the keys to U.S. dominance over the world's oceans. A CSG is centered on an aircraft carrier, which projects U.S. naval and air power and supports a Carrier Air Wing, or CVW. The CSG includes significant offensive strike capability. An ARG is centered on three amphibious warfare ships, with a Marine Expeditionary Unit

(Continued on page 13)



● Carrier Strike Groups

CVN 68: The USS Nimitz CSG is underway in the Pacific Ocean for a Middle East deployment.

CVN 70: The USS Carl Vinson CSG is underway on a Western Pacific deployment.

CVN 76: The USS Ronald Reagan CSG is underway in the Pacific Ocean for its summer patrol.

CVN 77: The USS George H.W. Bush CSG is underway on a deployment in the U.S. 6th Fleet AOR following its Middle East deployment.

● Amphibious Ready Groups

LHA 6: The USS America is underway in the Pacific Ocean conducting routine operations.

LHD 3: The USS Kearsarge is underway in the Atlantic Ocean conducting shipboard certifications.

LHD 5: The USS Bataan ARG is underway in a deployment in the U.S. 5th Fleet AOR supporting maritime security operations and conducting theater security cooperation efforts.

LHD 6: The USS Bonhomme Richard ARG is underway in a deployment in the U.S. 7th Fleet AOR conducting drills.

LHD 7: The USS Iwo Jima is underway in the Atlantic Ocean conducting shipboard certifications.

US Navy, Continued

Status  At sea  In home port

Carrier Strike Groups (home port)

- CVN 68 Nimitz (Everett, Wash.)
- CVN 69 Dwight D. Eisenhower (Norfolk, Va.)
- CVN 70 Carl Vinson (San Diego, Calif.)
- CVN 71 Theodore Roosevelt (San Diego, Calif.)
- CVN 72 Abraham Lincoln (Norfolk, Va.)
- CVN 73 George Washington (Norfolk, Va.)
- CVN 74 John C. Stennis (Kitsap-Bremerton, Wash.)
- CVN 75 Harry S. Truman (Norfolk, Va.)
- CVN 76 Ronald Reagan (Yokosuka, Japan)
- CVN 77 George H.W. Bush (Norfolk, Va.)

Amphibious Ready Groups (home port)

- LHA 6 America (San Diego, Calif.)
- LHD 1 Wasp (Norfolk, Va.)
- LHD 2 Essex (San Diego, Calif.)
- LHD 3 Kearsarge (Norfolk, Va.)
- LHD 4 Boxer (San Diego, Calif.)
- LHD 5 Bataan (Norfolk, Va.)
- LHD 6 Bonhomme Richard (Sasebo, Japan)
- LHD 7 Iwo Jima (Mayport, Fla.)
- LHD 8 Makin Island (San Diego, Calif.)

The Naval Update Map shows approximate current locations.

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(Continued from page 12)

embarked. An MEU is built around a heavily reinforced and mobile battalion of Marines.

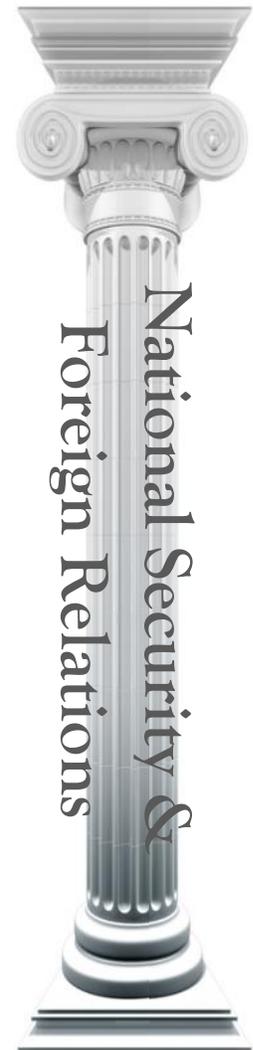
Carrier Strike Groups

- The USS Nimitz CSG is underway in the Pacific Ocean for a Middle East deployment.
- The USS Carl Vinson CSG is underway on a Western Pacific deployment.
- The USS Ronald Reagan CSG is underway in the Pacific Ocean for its summer patrol.
- The USS George H.W. Bush CSG is underway on a deployment in the U.S. 6th Fleet AOR following its Middle East deployment.

Amphibious Ready Groups/Marine Expeditionary Units

- The USS America is underway in the Pacific Ocean conducting routine operations.
- The USS Kearsarge is underway in the Atlantic Ocean conducting shipboard certifications.
- The USS Bataan ARG is underway in a deployment in the U.S. 5th Fleet AOR supporting maritime security operations and conducting theater security cooperation efforts.
- The USS Bonhomme Richard ARG is underway in a deployment in the U.S. 7th Fleet AOR conducting drills.
- The USS Iwo Jima is underway in the Atlantic Ocean conducting shipboard certifications.

<https://www.stratfor.com/article/us-naval-update-map-june-15-2017>



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*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

Tribute to a Fallen Hero By Matt Hutchinson

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

This Memorial Day weekend put into perspective for me how much our military service men and women sacrifice for all of us. While I was serving I remember saying, "... *If people only knew where we were and what we were doing.*" Truthfully, I have been disconnected from that young man's military mindset for many years, and I felt recently that I had forgotten where I came from.

It is with great sadness that I write this letter. I am taking this opportunity to introduce to you the most influential leader in my life: Command Sergeant Major (CSM) Martin R. Barreras who passed away on May 13, 2014 at the San Antonio Military Medical Center in Texas at the age of 49.

CSM Barreras was wounded in the Herat Province of Afghanistan by enemy forces while leading his men from the front. He was the Command Sergeant Major of his battalion, the most senior enlisted soldier in his unit. His brother David Barreras said at his funeral service, "... *He may have been wounded on foreign ground, but he died at home*". Rather than go into detail about how this occurred, I will tell you about the man he was. It's hard to put into words how important Martin Barreras was to me and many others, but I will proudly make this attempt.

Martin Barreras was my Platoon Sergeant when I served in B Co., 2nd Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment. I called him Sergeant Barreras, but he was known by his peers and superiors as "Gunny". Upon my arrival into 3rd Platoon in 1996, he placed me in his Weapons squad and I eventually became one of his machine gunners. He was the most honorable man I knew; not because he was a highly decorated Ranger, or because of his rank, but because of the man he was and how he led his troops. He was the epitome of a dedicated warrior: strong, smart, a quiet professional, and a man who set the standard for all to follow throughout his entire career.

The Regimental Commander was attached to our platoon on numerous training exercises and always spoke of Gunny and our platoon in high regard; arguably the best in the Regiment. Combat veterans from the past would observe our training missions and I was humbled to hear these men tell us how good we were. This was high praise indeed and meant a lot to us all. We achieved such a level of success as a platoon because of Martin Barreras.

When I think of CSM Barreras, powerful words come to mind: leadership, honor, loyalty, humility, courage, dedication, legend, hero, warrior, professional.

What made him a successful soldier also made him a successful family man. His brother Andy said at the funeral service that there were two things that meant the most to Marty; first was his family, and second was his commitment to this Nation. Gunny grew up in a large Hispanic family with strong bonds. It was

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CSM Barreras, Continued

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obvious that it was neither the U.S. Marine Corps nor the U.S. Army that made him the man that he was; it was his parents who gave him a strong foundation to grow on. He was a beloved father, husband, brother, son, uncle, and grandfather.



Martin graduated from Sunnyside High School in Tucson, Arizona. He enlisted in the military after being deeply moved by the 1983 terrorist bombing of the U.S. Marine Corps barracks in Lebanon. He served 5 years in the U.S. Marine Corps and then enlisted in the U.S. Army to become a Ranger. He served the next 22 years in the 75th Ranger Regiment, one of the Army's elite special operations units. This was longer than any man in its history. He held nearly every enlisted leadership position within the Regiment, and completed multiple combat deployments. These deployments include multiple tours of duty in Iraq and Afghanistan, as well as Operation Just Cause (Panama, 1989), Operation Restore Hope & Democracy (Haiti, 1994).

CSM Barreras conducted countless missions that will never be made public. However, he played an important role in the rescue mission of Private First Class (PFC) Jessica Lynch in 2003. He personally handed PFC Lynch to another soldier to transfer to the helicopter that evacuated her. Colonel Christopher Vanek, Commander of the 75th Ranger Regiment, told a lesser known story from that mission at the funeral service. *"...When we first tactically questioned the Iraqi doctors in the hospital, they informed us that Lynch's teammates that had been killed were buried across the road in shallow graves in a children's soccer field. Without hesitation CSM Barreras volunteered for this extremely difficult task of recovering the remains of the nine U.S. service members and two civilians."* All of this was accomplished while under enemy fire.

Although it was heartbreaking to attend CSM Barreras' funeral, I was proud to be surrounded by the people I served with and that we paid our respects together. Martin Barreras was one of the first positive role models that I had in my life growing up as a young man. He has left the impression of a lifetime. It's been 15 years since I was honorably discharged from the military and jumped right into the Fire Service. Many of my friends decided to continue with their military careers, and they and their families have sacrificed so much for our great nation. The death of my friend CSM Barreras and his funeral over Memorial Day reminded me of what the holiday is all about and how costly our freedom truly is.

Please take a moment to reflect on all of our fallen service men and women. I want you to know and remember their selfless sacrifice for all of us. When you raise your flag at work or at home, please think of their families. I will think especially of my Ranger hero, CSM Martin R. Barreras. He is survived by his

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CSM Barreras, Continued

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wife, 3 children, 3 grandchildren, his parents, and 2 brothers.

To all of the men and women who are military veterans in the SFFD, I'm proud that we work together. You make the SFFD a better organization by being a part of it. Thank you to Local 798 for giving me this opportunity to share Martin Barreras' story. Thank you to Father Greene and all of the members of the SFFD all the way up the ranks that have supported me through this process.

I leave you with the Ranger Creed...the creed that Martin Barreras dedicated his life to embody. **RLTW!**

Ranger Creed

By CSM Neal R. Gentry 1st Ranger Battalion

Recognizing that I volunteered as a Ranger, fully knowing the hazards of my chosen profession, I will always endeavor to uphold the prestige, honor, and high esprit de corps of my ranger regiment.

Acknowledging the fact that a Ranger is a more elite soldier, who arrives at the cutting edge of battle by land, sea, or air, I accept the fact that as a Ranger, my country expects me to move further, faster, and fight harder than any other soldier.

Never shall I fail my comrades. I will always keep myself mentally alert, physically strong, and morally straight, and I will shoulder more than my share of the task, whatever it may be, one hundred percent and then some.

Gallantly will I show the world that I am a specially selected and well trained soldier. My courtesy to superior officers, neatness of dress, and care of equipment shall set the example for others to follow.

Energetically will I meet the enemies of my country. I shall defeat them on the field of battle for I am better trained and will fight with all my might. Surrender is not a Ranger word. I will never leave a fallen comrade to fall into the hands of the enemy and under no circumstances will I ever embarrass my country.

Readily will I display the intestinal fortitude required to fight on to the Ranger objective and complete the mission, though I be the lone survivor.

RANGERS LEAD THE WAY!



Online Military Exchange Shopping Submitted by George Smith, ALRVSO

Veterans can register now for chance at early access to online military exchange shopping

By: [Karen Jowers](#), June 5, 2017

All honorably discharged veterans interested in shopping online at the military exchanges can begin their verification process immediately, exchange officials said, and some may be able to shop prior to the program's full launch.

Some veterans who register at [VetVerify.org](#) will be invited to be beta testers, with the ability to shop online earlier than the planned Nov. 11 launch date. Officials said the sooner veterans register on the site, the better their chances of being chosen as a beta tester.

The exchange websites offer tax-free shopping, as well as discounted pricing. Actual online pricing can be seen only by those who are authorized to shop at the websites: [shopmyexchange.com](#); [shopcgx.com](#); [mymcx.com](#); and [mynavyexchange.com](#).

[VetVerify.org](#) uses information from the Defense Department's Defense Manpower Data Center to verify a veteran's status; veterans will receive notification of their acceptance as online shoppers or, if their records are incomplete, will receive guidance on the steps they can take to update those records.

Doing this process ahead of time will allow veterans to start shopping Nov. 11, or earlier if they are among the "beta testers" chosen to try out the system in advance of the launch.

This new benefit, which would increase the online shopping base by an estimated 13 million veterans, applies only to shopping online at the military exchanges, not at the physical buildings on military installations. Until now, online military exchange shopping was available only to active-duty, reserve and Guard members, retirees, 100 percent disabled veterans and their dependent family members, and certain others.

The exchanges currently provide more than \$300 million a year from their profits to support military quality of life programs. The veterans online shopping benefit is expected to increase that monetary support. In a Jan. 18 DoD memo, officials noted that AAFES will invest about \$1.8 million a year to cover costs associated with the expansion of the online platform. If 0.3 percent of the newly eligible veteran group, or about 45,000 veterans, shop online, that cost is expected to be recouped.

Senior reporter Karen Jowers writes about military families, quality of life and consumer issues for Military Times. She can be reached at kjowers@militarytimes.com.

To view the entire story, go to: [Military.com](#) article at http://www.militarytimes.com/articles/veterans-can-register-now-for-chance-at-early-access-to-online-military-exchange-shopping?utm_source=Sailthru&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=EBB%2006.06.2017&utm_term=Editorial%20-%20Early%20Bird%20Brief



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	

July 2017

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1
2	3	4 Independence Day	5	6 Dist. 8 Meeting 6:00 pm	7	8 Post Meeting 11 am
9	10	11 ALWMC Meeting, 6:00 pm	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27 Yountville Legion Days	28 Yountville Legion Days	29 Yountville Legion Days
30 Yountville Legion Days	31					

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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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