



Important Dates:

- Aug 1,2 –American Legion Days, Yountville
- Aug 8—Monthly Meeting at 11 a.m.
- Aug 21-23—DEC in Bakersfield
- Aug 28-Sep 3—National Convention in Baltimore, MD
- Sep 7—Labor Day

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CATHAY DISPATCH

Veterans - Sounding Off Since 1931

WHEN THOSE WHO DEFEND OUR FREEDOM ARE ATTACKED By Nelson Lum



On Thursday, July 16, 2015, a gunman identified as Muhammad Youssef Abdulazeez opened fire at a military recruiting station and a military base in Chattanooga, Tennessee, killing four U.S. Marines and one sailor, who died of injuries two days later, before apparently being shot and killed by responding police officers. Two others, including one police officer, were wounded in these series of events. The incidents are being investigated as a possible act of domestic terrorism.

The thoughts and prayers from Cathay Post No. 384 are with the families of these defenders of our freedom. We are disheartened that the flag of our nation was not immediately flown at half-staff in honor of these brave freedom fighters who were slaughtered by an apparent Islamic Terrorist. They were targeted for no reason other than the fact that they were the defenders of our way of life. All but one of the victims had served in combat zones. They were all heroes and should be remembered as such.

The violence in Tennessee represents the continual attack of our military centers, yet no additional security measures have been put into place to protect the ones who are willing to serve. Our military personnel are prohibited from carrying firearms while stationed in the states. As a group, they are the best-trained people in the handling of firearms, but they are not allowed to be equipped with any firearms unless they are in a combat zone. The military established these restrictions for safety reasons, but it must also take into account the changing environment. The inherent danger facing our military personnel can no longer be ignored. It is time that we recognize the enemy elements we face are no longer restricted to far-away lands. These terrorist cells have infiltrated our homeland and they will not hesitate to attack. The defenders of our freedom must not be subjected to constant victimization. They must be armed in order to protect themselves.

The American Legion advocates for a strong national defense. How can that be accomplished if we allow our country's defenders to be targeted without any means to defend themselves? The increasing frequency of attacks within our borders can no longer be tolerated. We must do our best to protect those who volunteer to defend our freedom.

(Continued on page 2)

Freedom, Continued

(Continued from page 1)

Our military personnel know that they may be called upon and placed in a dangerous environment at any moment. Their willingness to subject themselves in hostile situations should not be taken for granted. We need to provide the best equipment and weaponry when they are sent into combat. It is time that we must provide them with the tools that will aid them to

defend themselves against the rising waves of terrorism in our homeland.

Cathay Post No. 384 will remember the five fallen heroes and support legislations that allow our military personnel to be armed while on duty no matter where they are stationed. The bell at our post will ring five times at our August regular monthly meeting in memory of these comrades.

May these fallen heroes rest in peace

MARINE SERGEANT CARSON HOLMQUIST
25, native of Polk, Wisconsin

MARINE SERGEANT THOMAS SULLIVAN
40, native of Springfield, Massachusetts

MARINE LANCE CORPORAL SQUIRE "SKIP" WELLS
21, native of Marietta, Georgia

MARINE STAFF SERGEANT DAVID WYATT
35, native of Hixson, North Carolina

NAVY LOGISTICS SPECIALIST 2ND CLASS RANDALL SMITH
26, native of Paulding, Ohio



Annual July 4th Flag Raising at CCBA *By David Wong*



On a sunny Saturday, July 4, members of Cathay Post #384 participated in the annual flag raising ceremony at the Chinese Consolidated Benevolent Association (CCBA) in San Francisco. Joining Commander Nelson Lum, were past post Commander Dale King, Chaplain Richard Ow, comrade Arnold Lee, and myself, along with support member Joel Yu.

CCBA is also known by another name, Chinese Six Companies. It is a consortium of associations banded together for the common goals and interests of the Chinese community. The associations under this "umbrella" are: Sam Yup, Yeong Wo, Kong Chow, Ning Yung, Hop Wo, and Yang Wo. It should be pointed out that several comrades at the post currently hold leadership positions in these community organizations.

COMMANDER NELSON LUM

The warm weather we have been experiencing in San Francisco can only be described as fabulous. We are having summer like weather instead of our usual cool July. I hope all of you have been busy enjoying and taking advantage of what Mother Nature have blessed us with and sporting your natural tan everywhere you go. Summer is family time and I am sure that those of you who have kids or grandkids are spending some quality time together.

Five members of our post and I attended the Chinese Consolidated Benevolent Association flag raising ceremony on the 4th of July. This is an annual event and we were proud to be able to join with the members of the association to celebrate the birth of our nation. I like to thank our Past Commander David Wong, Historian Dale King, Chaplain Richard Ow, Comrade Arnold Lee, and Joel Yu for taking their precious time to represent our post at this event.

A hearty congratulations to our San Francisco Police Department friends Garrett Tom for his promotion to the rank of Deputy Chief; and, Ken-

wade Lee, for his promotion to the rank of Commander. Cathay Post wish you both a successful future and we look forward to your promotional celebration dinner.

On the first Thursday of every month, a bingo contingent from our post assists with the various aspects of their operation at Redwood City Post 105. A big thank you goes to our 2nd Vice Commander Helen Wong, Finance Officer Vic Lum, and support member Clara Pon for their dedication. The generous donation from Redwood City Post 105 Charitable Foundation to our post helps with our daily operational expenses. We are still a long ways away from being able to run this type of operation on our own and we really appreciate the hospitality extended to us by members of Redwood City Post 105 Foundation, especially District 26 Commander Romie Bassetto.

Looking ahead to August, it will be another extremely busy month. We must get ready for the move back into the War Memorial Veterans Building (WMVB). The current schedule calls for the move to begin the

week of August 16 through August 23. While Cathay Post did not put many items in storage when we moved out of the building, we did move quite a bit of furniture downstairs to our post. We must decide soon how much of those items we will be moving back into the WMVB and what items should be discarded. The newly renovated space is far more attractive and efficiently staged; however, the amount of actual square footage allocated to each post will most likely be less than in the past. If you can find some time to assist with the move, please let our Secretary John Li know so we can contact you to schedule your availability.

Now that the decision to move the Department of California Headquarters to the City of Sanger is finalized, the Department will begin its move to Sanger in the early part of August. I would like to take this opportunity to wish all the staff members of the Department the best. For those two people who will be relocating to Sanger, God speed and all the best. For the rest of the staff members who

(Continued on page 8)



Nelson Lum

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1 (415) 797-7384

Cathay Post Member
since: 2005

Branch: Army

Final Rank: SPC

"I would like to take this opportunity to wish all the staff members of the Department the best. For those two people who will be relocating to Sanger, God speed and all the best."



Roger Dong

rogerdong@hotmail.com

1 (650) 339-0010

Cathay Post Member
since: 2005

Branch: Air Force

Final Rank: Lt. Col.

“Our move back into our marvelous War Memorial Veterans Building is imminent. Those of us who have had sneak peeks at our remodeled space are very excited to be moving back.”

1st VICE COMMANDER ROGER DONG

July was another busy month. We now know that our Department of California is moving southeast to the city of Sanger, California. This was a big surprise to me, and we all hope that this move to a small town will work out for all our posts in the state. Most of the dedicated staff of the Department will not be moving to Sanger, and that may cause a backlog as newly hired employees will take time to acquire the know-how of the operation. We must all be patient when dealing with the new employees to allow them time to learn the ins and outs in order to serve our needs. We will miss our old friends and wish them all the best as they seek new employment elsewhere.

Our move back into our marvelous War Memorial Veterans Building is imminent. Those of us who have had sneak peeks at our remodeled space are very excited to be moving back. Our War Memorial Commission officers have been talking to the movers and there is a solid plan to get all our stored furniture and equipment back into the newly modernized digs. All the items will be placed in a holding areas at first,

they will then be sorted and moved into our newly refurbished and reconfigured offices and meeting rooms at a later date. There will be some big changes to look forward to, including new offices (with familiar old furniture), many more bathrooms (Hooray!), upgraded wiring and plumbing, new kitchen and break rooms, and many newer faces as we will be sharing our spaces with many more veterans organizations. Do not look for the big donut in the lobby, it was likely donated to a hungry and needy family.

The campaign to upgrade Major Kurt C. Lee's Silver Star to the Medal of Honor (MoH) continues. Upgrading any medal to the Medal of Honor is a long and convoluted undertaking. In this instance, the Command staff at Marine Corps HQ must review and concur to the upgrade, then the Marine Personnel/Manpower office will review and hopefully concurs. After that, the office of the Chief of Staff of the Navy will do the same, then it must receive the approval from the office of the Secretary of the Navy. Upon the completion of that process, the request

to upgrade will then go to the Department of Defense Director of Officer and Enlisted Personnel Management, next the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense, and near the end of the line, the staff and Secretary of Defense will decide if the request to upgrade will be granted.

At this time, Senator Dianne Feinstein's office continues to wait for a response from Marine Headquarters. I met with Congressman Michael Honda and his staff and told them the story of Major Kurt Lee and invited them to view the Smithsonian Channel's "Uncommon Courage - Break out at Chosin." After viewing the video and providing documentation, they agreed to support our effort. Likewise, Congressman Ted Lieu and his staff are with us. Honda strongly recommended we obtain as many Senators and Congress members to form a coalition behind our campaign. Therefore, we have identified several more Senators and more Congress members to support our cause. I contacted former Congressman Pete McCloskey, (Colonel, USMC

(Continued on page 8)

2ND VICE COMMANDER HELEN WONG

Are you a force multiplier? Are you part of the Post membership who steps up to the plate when things need to be done? Do you volunteer for a job or participate in an activity that is scheduled for the post or suggest an event for the Post?

For an example, 1st Vice Commander Roger Dong is a force multiplier. Not only is he involved at the post level but also in the District and American Legion War Memorial Commission (ALWMC) levels. He is the co-founder of the Veterans Success Center. Outside of the American Legion, he is involved with other projects such as the Chinese American Heroes, among many more. Over 2 years ago before I transferred to Cathay Post, I was volunteering with the AMVETS Career Center as the Team Leader. First Vice Roger Dong recognized the potential of "force multiplication" and invited my Career Center to be located within the Veterans Success Center

(VSC) as we both had the mutual goal of helping Veterans with finding jobs. It has turned out to be a good joint effort as what VSC can't provide, the Career Center can—such as interview clothing, Clipper bus cards, work clothing, even low cost cell phones. By joining forces, we can reach Veterans in a way that separately, it would be less effective as our resources would be very limited. Providing staffing for the VSC office is again much more far reaching as when someone is out sick, there is another person to cover services. Sharing resources becomes an important factor to maximize what you have.

Another example outside of Cathay Post happened several weeks ago when Dan Evenhouse, MSW of the San Bruno VA Outpatient Clinic presented a Community Organizations Wellness Fair & BBQ for veterans & staff. Because of my and Dan's involvement in the Veterans Coalition of San Mateo County, I knew

about the need for help with the BBQ. Since the clinic is located near American Legion San Bruno Post 409, I asked them to help with bringing tables, chairs, and a tent as the weather was going to be sunny and warm. Not only did they bring the items, but they helped with the food and with an informational table about the American Legion. The 100 veterans and staff who came out to eat and visit the booths saw the Legionnaires in action. This again is an example of a "successful mission accomplishment" while sharing resources. This is what you tell prospective members that the Legionnaires take part in.

By the way, thank you to the members who volunteer to help with staffing the American Legion Redwood City Post 105 charitable foundation bingo on the 1st Thursday evening of the month! It will be another "successful mission accomplishment" to help Cathay Post.



Helen Wong

wong_helen@sbcglobal.net

1 (415) 797-7384

Cathay Post Member since: 1990

Branch: Army

Final Rank: Lt. Col.

"By joining forces, we can reach Veterans in a way that separately, it would be less effective as our resources would be very limited."

Disclaimer

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AUGUST 8, 2015

Ballroom of Fine Arts Theater
3300 Lyon Street, San Francisco

PAGEANT SHOW

10:00pm - Doors Open 6:30pm
\$100 VIP Premium Seating
\$35 General Seating

RED CARPET RECEPTION

5:00pm - 6:30pm
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\$35 at the door

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The American Legion 97th National Convention

Baltimore Convention Center

One West Pratt Street | Baltimore, MD

August 28 – September 3, 2015



National Commander Helm's BLOOD DRIVE

97th NATIONAL CONVENTION OF
THE AMERICAN LEGION



Baltimore Convention Center
Halls D & E, Level 100

TWO DAYS ONLY

Friday, August 28, 2015

Monday, August 31, 2015

9:00AM – 2:30PM

Sunday, August 30

National Convention Parade

Pratt Street

4:00–6:30 p.m.

Tuesday, September 1

Commander's Banquet

BCC, Halls A & B, Level 100

6:30–9:30 p.m.

Wednesday, September 2

State's Dinner

BCC, Halls A & B, Level 100

6:30–9:30 p.m.

THE AMERICAN LEGION POST PARADE PARTY

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AT POWER PLANT LIVE (RIGHT AFTER THE PARADE)

ENTERTAINMENT BY **THE AMERICAN BOMBHELLS**



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MAKING OUR HEROES' WISHES COME TRUE

WWW.SOLDIERSWISH.ORG

American Legion Family Night with the Ravens



vs.



Baltimore Ravens vs. Washington Redskins
M&T Bank Stadium, Baltimore, MD
Saturday, August 29th, 2015 – 7:30 p.m.



AMERICAN LEGION FAMILY NIGHT

Monday, August 31st at 7:05 p.m. vs. Tampa Bay Rays

Terrace Box (Sections 1-17 & 55-65): \$19*

Left Field Lower Box (Sections 66-86): \$19*

Lower Reserve (Sections 67-87): \$12*

Upper Reserve (Sections 316-356, rows 13-25): \$10*

*There is an additional 10% service charge per ticket.

For any questions or accessible seating, please call 888.848.BIRD (2473) and ask for the Ticket Services team.



Monday, August 31
6th Annual "Jim Hackney's Night Out"
Cruise, Dine, and Dance
Spirit Cruises Inner Harbor
6:30–9:30 p.m.



Nelson Lum, Continued

(Continued from page 3)

are looking for employment, if there is anything that our post or I can do to assist, please let us know and we will do what we can. It has been a pleasure working alongside all of you. You will be missed. During the transitional period, if you need anything from the Department, please be patient as delays will be unavoidable.

The first meeting of the Department Executive Committee is scheduled for August 21, 2015, in Bakersfield. I will be representing our district

at that meeting. I will report back to you any information of interest at our following monthly meeting.

The National Convention in Baltimore begins the following week from August 28, 2015 to September 2, 2015. First Vice Commander Roger Dong and I will attend the convention as yours and the district's representatives. Among the many issues to be decided at the convention is a resolution to raise the national per capita by \$5.00. As most of you know, the current national and state per capita is \$28.50. To in-

crease it \$5.00 more would raise the amount to \$33.50. It was reported in error in the previous issue that the increase would take effect at the conclusion of the convention. According to national by-laws, the effective date, if passed, would be January 20, 2016. If you would like to know how the passing of this resolution impacts your membership dues and the post, please contact me. In addition, let me know how you would like me to vote.

Hope to see you all at our August monthly meeting.

Roger Dong, Continued

(Continued from page 4)

Ret.), who was among the 8,000 Marines safely evacuated from the Chosin reservoir due to the singular leadership of then 1st Lt Kurt C. Lee in that battle. Colonel McCloskey agrees that Major Lee deserves the MoH and he will support our efforts.

Our Post 384 Foundation application process is now complete and our Foundation is now recognized both by the Federal government (the IRS) and the Secretary of State of California as a

501(c)(3) non-profit organization. This has taken a good six months of hard work by Junior Past Commander Jay Pon, and we are all grateful for his dedication and effort.

I am in contact with an organization called Pacific Auction Company which conducts auctions of sports memorabilia, art, and other objects to raise funds for both the VSC and our post. We are evaluating their programs and hope to start raising funds within a few months. This organization does all the work

and shares a decent part of their profit with charities. I like the idea of working with fund raising organizations that take all the risks. This company seems to be quite experienced and has a proven record of success in the past. I will update you when more information is available.

Some of us will be heading to Baltimore, MD to attend the 97th annual American Legion Convention. I will try not to have too much fun.

Wishing all a great August.

Dept. of CA New Headquarters to Open August 10 By Clara Pon

The Sanger Herald reported earlier this month that the new American Legion Department of California headquarters will be open and operational on Monday, August 10, 2015. According to the article, the Department is set to begin its move on August 3 and will continue till August 7 to their new home in Sanger, CA. There will only be a couple of full-time permanent staff to occupy the 8,600 sq. ft. building when they open.

Members of the relocation team are busy with planning the move. You can bet that other Department executives will be busy interviewing and

hiring local residents to fill the vacant positions that resulted from the move. A few of the open positions are: Membership/program coordinator, and Bookkeeper - accounts receivable/payable clerk. If you know of anyone who is looking for entry level positions in or near Sanger, have them send their resume and cover letter to:

Department of California
American Legion
1601 7th Street
Sanger, California 93657
Tel: (559) 875-6204

It's important to note that the current staff will be busy packing, clearing out their belongings, and

tying up unfinished work in the days leading up to the move. So, be patient if your membership transmittals don't get processed right away or if you don't get your email or phone calls answered as quickly or at all. Over eighty years of history is getting packed away along with many employees who have been with the Department for 20-30 years. We wish them all the best.

For more information of the job descriptions, click on the following link.

www.thesangerherald.com/articles/2015/07/09/news/doc559e850c849ad940384322.txt

Keeping Up With Sanger...

Dept. Headquarters' New City Still Mired In Controversy Dept. Hires New Admin By Clara Pon

According to The Sanger Herald (www.thesangerherald.com):

- ✓ Sanger Mayor, Joshua Mitchell moves up resignation date to August 31.

www.thesangerherald.com/articles/2015/06/04/news/doc55705b3ebcod6048728374.txt

www.thesangerherald.com/articles/2015/07/23/news/doc55b0fodb34f65196587892.txt

- ✓ Dept. of California's new Administrative Assistant starts Monday, August 3 after 28 years at Sanger Chamber of Commerce.

www.thesangerherald.com/articles/2015/07/30/news/doc55ba2cbe22a2d682562405.txt

- ✓ The Dept. of California has already begun unpacking and setting up shop.

www.thesangerherald.com/articles/2015/07/30/news/doc55ba2d1foe715094218771.txt



USAF Colonel Wins Personal Battle By Roger Dong



Colonel Deanna Won getting eagles pinned on by dad, Colonel Ron Won.
Photo courtesy of ktsf.com.

A couple of months ago, we introduced one of our newest members to our post, retired Air Force Colonel Ronald C. Won who is a very unique and distinguished veteran who served in four of our services (Navy, Marines, Army and Air Force). He even shot down an enemy MiG fighter during the Korean War.

Did you know that his daughter is also a veteran who retired after 20+ years as an Air Force Colonel, too? Colonel Deanna Won is one of a very few Asian females who graduated from the US Air Force Academy, had a brilliant career as a scientist and leader in our Air Force, and was being considered for another promotion to brigadier general.

Unfortunately, tragedy struck. In 2013, at 45 years of age, and at a very high point in her military career, she was diag-

nosed with ovarian cancer and her oncologist advised that her illness was very critical and to resign from the Air Force to take care of her personal affairs. Colonel Won retired on October 10, 2013. She was told she had 1-2 months of life remaining. That is a nightmare many people have worried about, but luckily, most of us have never experienced.

The good news is that the story does not end in tragedy. Colonel Won, a smart and disciplined military officer did not accept her dire warning of imminent departure. She spat in the eyes of potential death and took decisive action to beat the deadly ovarian death threat.

A lifelong Christian, she relied on her faith in God and fought the fight of her life. Like anyone facing cancer, she immediately changed her diet and began a regime of raw organic vegetables with a concentration on fresh, cold press green vegetable juices, wheat grass juice, and barley juice. Not very yummy, but very, very healthy and the nectar of the gods. She prayed a lot and focused on healing thoughts. Today, she is a Radical Remission sur-

vivor and recovered out of hospice care.

We would be remiss if we didn't provide some information on her brilliant career in the Air Force. After graduating from the Air Force Academy, her degree in physics placed her immediately at a scientific research center of her service, the Air Force Research Laboratory where she worked at Sensors Directorate. Her scientific accomplishments resulted in her follow-on assignment as the Chief of Counter-proliferation Technology where she led the research work on automatic target recognition and early warning.

Her technical career accelerated with her next assignment at Vandenberg Air Force Base where she was the Deputy Chief of Vandenberg Launch Systems. She was one principal leader in space launches for the National Reconnaissance Office, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and the National Atmospheric and Space Administration. Following that challenging assignment, Won served at NATO Supreme Headquarters

(Continued on page 11)



Won, Continued

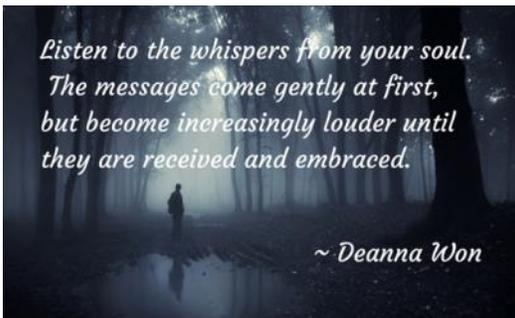
(Continued from page 10)

Allied Powers Europe where she was quickly elevated to Executive Officer to the Deputy Chief of Staff Operations. Next, she was assigned to Turkey as the Deputy Commander of the 425th Air Force Group supporting NATO's Air Component Command. This is a lot of Air Force jargon, but believe me, these are important Air Force components.

After very successful overseas tours, Colonel Won returned home to Washington D.C. where she was assigned to the Missile Defense Agency as Deputy Program Manager for Space-Based Missile Defense. Her follow-on assignment was to the Air Force premier technical research organization, the Air Force Office of Scientific Research (AFOSR) in Rosslyn, Virginia. At AFOSR, she was Deputy Director, Mathematics, Information and Life

Science Directorate and then promoted to Deputy Director for the International Office. Her last assignment was as Joint Project Manager for Biological Defense at the Edgewood Chemical Biological Center.

We are all very proud of Colonel Deanna Won, and our post member, Colonel Ronald Won who is doubly proud of his brilliant daughter. We are exceptionally pleased that she has so bravely and successfully met the threat of ovarian cancer.



<https://twitter.com/deannawon>

The Yountville Veterans Home 131st Anniversary

August 1st & 2nd, 2015

American Legion Days

A Department of California and District 5 Joint Event

Hosted by the Veterans Home Post 306—Legion Days Chairman is Jack Schipper

Located in the heart of scenic Napa Valley, the Yountville Veterans Home of California is a community of and for veterans.

Founded in 1884, it is the largest veterans home in the United States, offering residential accommodations with a wealth of recreational, social, and therapeutic activities for independent living.

Some 1,100 aged or disabled veterans (both men and women) of World War II, the Korean War, Vietnam War, Desert Storm, Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom, now live at the home.



Join us at our Veterans Home Celebration & Cookout during The American Legion Baseball Playoffs

Sat. Evening 7PM Tri-Tip BBQ Dinner only \$15, Music by The Southern Wings
For Tickets Dinner Call (707) 304-3932—More details at www.CaLegion.Events

American Legion Baseball Playoffs - August 1st & 2nd, 2015



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Make life easy.

Veterans Cemetery At MCAS El Toro—Dream or Reality

By Michelle De La Cruz, District 29, 2nd Vice Commander

American Legion 29th District Junior Past Commander Bill Cook was on a mission dear to his heart that began in early 1999. He wanted to make the dream for a number of veterans wanting to locate a veteran's cemetery and memorial on a portion of the closed Marine Corps Air Station El Toro (MCAS El Toro) a reality.

Once the decade long battle of political jockeying to make the land an international airport was defeated at the polls, Irvine city officials have continually juggled with interest groups regarding the best use of this parcel for their community and the for the future. Some parties are working counter to the establishment of a veteran's cemetery, while veterans in the community banded together and worked with Assemblywoman Sharon Quirk-Silva to introduce California Assembly Bill 1453 to identify a specific plot of 125 acres to develop into a cemetery. Bill Sandlin, Past 29th District Commander, gathered other American Legionnaires and veterans in the community to establish Post 838 in the City of Irvine, in support of the cemetery and the City of Irvine's many veteran-related events.

last U.S. soil thousands of American service-members touched. For many of OC's refugee Vietnamese community, it was the first place they reached in the USA and all the freedoms they imagined. For those who served on the base, or moved to Orange County because of the proximity of the base, it has been a magnet of economic growth. The long history holds the promise of freedom, sacrifice, and honor to the surrounding community. The veterans' cemetery would serve as a permanent remembrance for all veterans who fought and died defending the United States.

Bill Cook and a group of veterans established the Orange County Veterans Memorial Park Foundation (OCVMP, a 501(c)3 non-profit ID# 46-5628246) to provide a point of contact for politicians and the community for communication, and to be the voice for our veterans. Identifying land was only the first step. The OCVMP is monitoring the site evaluation process being conducted by CalVet and DGS (Department of General Services) which will help with the VA grant process when the time comes.

Orange County Veterans Memorial Park Foundation is proud to report the following achievements:

- ◆ In January 2014, then Assembly Member Sharon Quirk-Silva (D-CA65) and Chair of the Assembly Committee on Veterans Affairs, introduced Assembly Bill 1453 that would direct the California Department of Veterans Affairs (CalVet) to apply to the U. S. Department of Veterans Affairs

(Continued on page 14)



MCAS El Toro has been in Orange County (OC) since 1942 and was the

Dream Or Reality, Continued

(Continued from page 13)

State Cemetery Grant Program to receive funding for the construction of a Southern California Veterans Cemetery in Orange County.

- ◆ In July 2014, the City Council of Irvine unanimously designated and agreed to convey to the state 125 acres within the Orange County Great Park as the site for the Southern California State Veterans Cemetery.
- ◆ In September 2014, California Governor Jerry Brown signed Assembly Bill 1453 into law. The Orange County Veterans Memorial Park Foundation now awaits CalVet's grant submission to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, which is now anticipated to be by July 1, 2016.

Even though Governor Brown signed into law AB 1453, this has not stopped special interest groups in Irvine from trying to stop the development, including FivePoint Communities developer who hired Angi Ma Wong, the "feng shui Lady" in 2006 to advise on how to maximize the flow of energy and harmony, not only in the homes, but with street names, and the design of the central park. They are concerned that Asian homebuyers, their target market for the new development homes will oppose a cemetery in the new neighborhoods. (<http://www.ocregister.com/articles/park-603148-pavilion-wong.html> and <http://www.ocregister.com/articles/cemetery-664876-park-veterans.html>). The homebuyers are likely not even being told of the Juaneño Indian burial grounds all

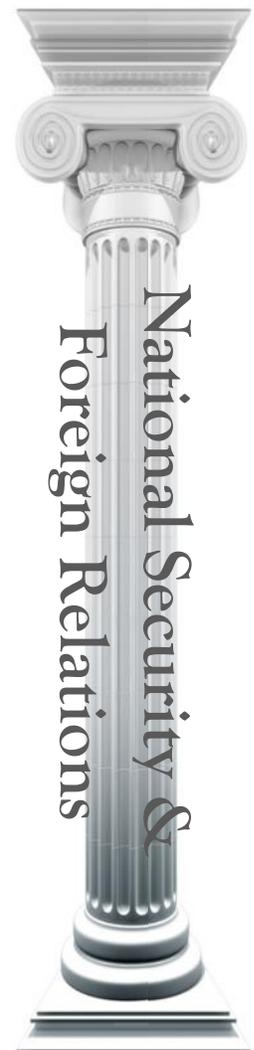
through the City of Irvine that development has strategically skirted, but not openly identified.

Articles in Chinese language papers appear to be undermining the development of the cemetery. They allegedly link an Irvine planning commissioner with council members who purportedly will actively work to overturn the City's vote to commit the identified State Veterans Cemetery site. (<http://www.orangejuiceblog.com/2014/10/is-irvine-planning-commissioner-anthony-kuo-really-telling-chinese-papers-that-the-veterans-cemetery-can-be-stopped/>). A meeting originally advertised as public that was held in Irvine to discuss these concerns was quickly changed to a private party, barring any veterans from attending. (<http://www.orangejuiceblog.com/2015/06/veterans-turned-away-from-attending-open-meeting-about-veterans-cemetery-based-on-race/>). The OCVMP monitors and tries to address the issues raised by the community, and when necessary, address the rumors and misinformation being disseminated to the public.

The City of Irvine has been a great supporter of our nation's veterans. A city park, located near City Hall, was named in honor of a long time Irvine resident and Medal of Honor recipient Marine Colonel Bill Barber. It is also home to the nation's first memorial dedicated exclusively to listing the names of all the fallen American service members who fought in Afghanistan and Iraq at the Northwood Gratitude and Honor Memorial. (<http://northwoodmemorial.com/>).

In honor of Colonel Barber and with

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Dream Or Reality, Continued

(Continued from page 14)

approval from the Barber family, Past Commander Bill Sandlin from the 29th District along with fellow Legionnaires thought it apropos to form a post, American Legion Col. Bill Barber Post 838, that would provide information to families in Irvine on applying for burial in a veteran's cemetery, obtaining American flags that have flown over state houses, contact information for honor guard teams, and other related information to help the veteran families when their loved ones pass away.

The post number, 838, was selected in consultation with Department of CA Sergeant-at-Arms, Wayne Yee for its auspicious numeric sound meaning "forever prosperous." Post 838 meets on the first Monday of the month at 7 p.m. at the Cypress Community Center at 255 Visions, Irvine, CA 92620. If you would like to be added to the post notification list, please email michelle.delacruz.29dist@gmail.com.

MCAS El Toro closed, but the promise it created will have a lasting impact on Orange County. As Abraham Lincoln

said, "It is altogether fitting and proper that we do this." It will fulfill the dream of a veteran's cemetery on the sacred ground. Will the political forces and special interests win out? Will that dream become reality? The OCVMP Foundation will continue to fight for our veterans and their dream of laying to rest those that served bravely and proudly on the old Marine Corps Air Station El Toro. The members of the OCVMP Foundation look forward to working with the City of Irvine in the future on the veterans' cemetery.

Veterans ID Card Act 2015 —HR Bill 91 Approved By David Wong

The congressional bill, H.R. 91, Veteran's Identification Card Act of 2015 was signed by President Barack Obama on July 20, 2015 and is now enacted into law. The newly-legislated ID card would eliminate the need to carry a copy of a DD-214 and would serve as proof of military service. It is important to note that this card will not serve as proof for any entitlement of any veteran benefits, such as health care. The ID card will include your photo, your name, an identification number that is not

your social security number, and denotes that you served in the Armed Forces with a DD-214 on file with Department of Defense.

H.R. 91 was recently amended and approved by the members of the U.S. Senate. The bill was sent back to the U.S. House of Representatives due to amendments made by the Senate. Since the amendment altered the original bill which was approved by members of the House of Representatives, the bill was then sent back to the

House who ultimately gave their unanimous approval on the final version.

Now that the President of the United States has signed the legislation, there is a 60 (sixty) day timeframe for implementation of the new veterans ID cards. It would direct the office of the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to issue an identification card to any veteran who requests it. The cost would be paid by the veteran requesting this card. The amount has yet to be determined.



C.A.L.P.A. On The Path To Success

By Dr. John Ellis, Ed.D., C.A.L.P.A. President, Post 739, Indio

Editor's Note:

Dr. John Ellis, Ed.D. was elected president of C.A.L.P.A. at the state convention in June. He comes to his position with a solid media background, having served as a Photo-Journalist and Radio-TV Information Specialist in the Marine Corps. Afterwards, he earned a doctorate in Curriculum and Instruction from Oklahoma State University while working in radio broadcast management, and went on to teach Mass Communication courses (such as Introduction to Advertising, Principles of Public Relations, Ethics in Journalism, Mass Communication Law, and Radio Program Production) at Oklahoma's Phillips University. Later, he also served as an Adjunct Professor at both California State San Bernardino and Chapman Universities, as a visiting Professor at Azusa Pacifica, and as guest lecturer at Ateneo de Zamboanga in the Philippines.



John Ellis and Jim Higuera

I'm excited at the road that lies ahead of C.A.L.P.A. in the coming year. We're looking at explosive new growth thanks in large part to a state-wide team of dedicated media professionals willing to volunteer their time and talent in helping your organization, Post, District and Area excel.

Membership in C.A.L.P.A. is open to Legionnaires, Auxiliary members, Sons, and Riders who have a background or interest in media, whether print, broadcast, cable, film, video, internet, or even advertising, marketing,

and public relations.

Our members are issued PRESS credentials and, as such, are held to the highest degree of journalistic integrity in representing The American Legion in their communities. In this capacity, you're recognized for your unique ability to help your organization increase membership retention, impact membership growth, enhance program development, elevate fundraising goals, promote community recognition, and create even greater awareness of available veteran's services.

To this end, I am pleased to have appointed Cathay Dispatch Editor-In-Chief Clara Pon to head the organization's Bylaws Rewrite Committee. Not only does Clara have a proven track record with her award winning writing and organizational skills, she also brings a keen insight in

to what it takes to propel C.A.L.P.A. forward.

This is only one of many projects that your C.A.L.P.A. team is initiating over the coming year. It's this core group of highly talented individuals, like Clara who are dedicated to making it happen. I can't do it alone!

Thanks to past C.A.L.P.A. presidents, Tony Stewart, Jim Higuera, John "Durk" Durkin, Marilyn Rideaux, Judge Advocate B. J. Coleman, and Secretary-Treasurer Donna Scott who are providing solid guidance with their years of experience in the organization. Ron Fauth, Area 5 Vice President is developing a C.A.L.P.A. YouTube channel and focusing of social media. In addition, five other area vice presidents, including Area 2's Nelson Lum and

(Continued on page 17)



C.A.L.P.A., Continued

(Continued from page 16)

six C.A.L.P.A. board members, among them Cathay Post 384's Helen Wong, are actively contributing to the forward momentum.

I welcome each and everyone's creative input as we work together to mold the California American Legion Press Association into the premier media resource, not only in California, but nationwide as well, as an example for other state organizations to emulate.

You're invited to be a part of the exciting new direction C.A.L.P.A. is taking by joining today! Log on to www.calpaonline.com. Dues are just \$25 annually, and also provide dual membership to the National American Legion Press Association (N.A.L.P.A.). <http://www.nalpa.org/>

Have questions? Feel free to contact me at: calpapresident@gmail.com or call or text 1 (760) 534-0124.

SF American Legion Posts Files Petition Against the City And County of San Francisco

By Jay Pon

The War Memorial Veterans Building (WMVB) is really taking shape as the seismic and building renovations are almost completed. The first tenants will start moving back into the building beginning in late August, so we need to formulate a plan to move our furniture back into the WMVB early September. Unlike most of our other posts in San Francisco, we did not place most of our furniture in storage with the City and thus, will not be subject to the move-in schedule of the City.

As most of you might be aware from our last general meeting, you were informed the San Francisco County Superior Court determined that the ALWMC does not have standing to repre-

sent the San Francisco posts of the American Legion to sue the City and County of San Francisco as a petitioner since it is not named within the Trust that governs the usage of the WMVB.

The petition asks the court to determine the definition of the term "patriotic organizations" in regards to the rights of the Legion to install such organizations into the WMVB. The court gave the petitioners 30 days to remand the petition and the attorneys representing us (DLA Piper) recommended for individual San Francisco American Legion posts to re-file as the petitioners.

The members of our post voted to authorize our

commander, Nelson Lum to sign on as a petitioner on behalf of our post. Members of Post 1, 315, 448, 456, 505, 510, and 599 all have voted to sign on as petitioners.

The other issue raised by the City attorney was regarding the statute of limitation. The City contends that the statute of limitation is over, and therefore the Legion lacks the right to sue. The court has not ruled on that particular argument and according to our attorneys, the City's argument does not meet the legal standards and predict the court will rule in our favor. The upcoming hearing will be very crucial to the rights of veterans in San Francisco. I will do my best to keep you informed.



The Veterans Success Center

We're here to help Veterans find jobs, skills assessment, resumes, mock interviews, other various services.

We have windows laptops, internet connectivity, Microsoft Office suite of applications, printing, scanning & copying.

Our managers have specialized experience in resume writing & assisting transitional veterans.

Our Two Locations

Mon/Wed Harbor House

- Salvation Army Campus
407 9th St., San Francisco
- 9th St. between Harrison & Bryant
 - A clean & sober campus
 - Megan's Law check will be conducted
 - No pets



Tue/Thur/Fri Employment Development Dept.

- 801 Turk St., San Francisco
- Between Franklin & Gough
 - In the Mission Dolores Room



Success Center Hours: 1-5pm

wmb.sf.vrc@gmail.com www.sf-vsc.org

VSC Able To Help Six Veterans Get Hired In June By Roger Dong

For those members who missed our last post meeting, it was reported that the VSC had a very successful June. Six (6) veterans got hired and that is a record we can all be proud of. The VSC also has two new managers. They are veterans Jimmi Breitz and Victor Rodionoff, both of whom visited our post at the last regular monthly meeting and we hope they both will join as our post members soon. Our VSC Manager Krystle Vanderaarde resigned in June because she found a great full time employment. Krystle took a position as an aircraft engine mechanic at Los Angeles Airport (LAX). Congratulations and our best wishes to Krystle.

Our great VSC patron and supporter Mr. Craig Newmark of Craigslist and CraigConnects, received my SOS as our VSC bank account was nearing ZERO. Craig and an anonymous veteran pledged \$10,000 to keep us running for several more months. We have also approached WalMart for financial support along with a request for donation of a few new laptops to replace the laptops that are no longer functional, or are barely functional. Last year, entrepreneur Walter Wong donated \$5,000 to the VSC and we thank him again for his great support. Our veterans also want to thank Cathay Post for its past donations and loan of funds to support our noble mission to get veterans and their spouses jobs.

When we move back to our War Memorial Veterans Building, the VSC will be located on the third floor. We must thank both the Salvation Army and the State of California for providing free space to the VSC during this long sojourn away from our building.



San Francisco Hiring Expo with The San Francisco Giants
Tuesday, August 25, 2015
11:30 AM- 3:00 PM

AT&T Park
24 Willie Mays Plaza, San Francisco, California 94107
Hiring Fair

Join us Tuesday, August 25, 2015 from 11:30 AM to 3:00 PM for a job fair for veterans, active duty military members, guard and reserve members, and military spouses.

This event will be a one-of-a-kind FREE hiring fair for both employers and job seekers.

This San Francisco Giants and Jewish Community Relations Council of San Francisco - sponsored hiring event is being conducted by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation, the Department of Labor Veterans' Employment and Training Service (DOL VETS), the California Committee of the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR), the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, Goodwill Industries International, The American Legion, NBC News, and other local partners.

Hiring Our Heroes Employment Workshop

This Hiring Our Heroes employment workshop is led by HR and workforce professionals and covers a variety of topics including resume building, networking, and interview tips, all taking into account your military background and lifestyle. The unique online suite of tools that Hiring Our Heroes and its partners have developed, such as the [Personal Branding Resume Engine](#), are also integrated into the workshop curriculum. Immediately following the workshop, volunteer career coaches will help you develop an elevator pitch, participate in a mock interview, and create a more effective resume. To register for the workshop, you must first register as a job seeker for this event. You may then sign up for the workshop during that process.

While our workshop focuses on obtaining employment in the private sector, you can learn more about federal employment by registering for a FREE Corporate America Supports You (CASY) webinar [here](#).

Tuesday, August 25, 2015 | 11:30 AM - 3:00 PM | Workshop: 9:30 AM

Korean War Memorial Groundbreaking: A Big Crowd -- and a \$1 Million Donation from Korea

By Gerry Parker, KWMF Executive Director and American Legion Cathay Post 384

Six years ago, when several aging veterans founded the Korean War Memorial Foundation (KWMF) in San Francisco, the thought of a formal Groundbreaking Ceremony was no more than a dream. And since the Foundation had no staff, little support, and very little initial funding, it was an implausible dream at that. But on Saturday, July 11, 2015, in the Presidio of San Francisco, that dream finally came to life as 550 Korean War veterans, their families, donors, and other supporters turned out under a brilliant blue sky for this high-profile and truly memorable event.



The gathered crowd with the Golden Gate Bridge in the back.

The ceremony began with the singing of the Star-Spangled Banner. This was followed by the Korean National Anthem, sung by a group of young Korean students from Kyungbuk



Students singing the Korean National Anthem.

College currently in the Bay Area on a summer exchange program.

A number of distinguished guests then addressed the audience, including 1st Marine Division Association Chaplain Denny Weisgerber, who gave the Invocation; KWMF President and Chairman Judge Quentin L. Kopp (Ret.); former Secretary of State George P. Shultz (in a surprise last-minute addition to the program); KWMF Treasurer Donald F. Reid, who read a message from Senator Dianne Feinstein; San Francisco Mayor Edwin M. Lee; Korean National Assembly Member Kim Jung-hoon; Presidio Trust Chair Nancy Hellman Bechtle; Presidio Trust Chief of Park Development & Operations Michael Boland; Korean War Veterans Association 1st Vice President Warren Wiedhahn; KWMF Secretary John R. Stevens; and Korean Consul General Han Dong-man. San Francisco Chief of Protocol Charlotte Mailliard Shultz, San Francisco Supervisor Scott Wiener, and KWMF Vice



Front Row, L to R: Michael Boland, Supervisor Scott Wiener, Consul General Han Dong-man, Mayor Edwin M. Lee, National Assembly Member Kim, Charlotte Shultz, Secretary George Shultz, Chair Nancy Hellman Bechtle, and (at lectern) KWMF Executive Director and Master of Ceremonies Gerard Parker.

(Continued on page 21)



Korean War Memorial, Continued

(Continued from page 20)

President and local restaurateur Man J. Kim were also among the dignitaries onstage.

Then the speakers and other distinguished guests moved from the stage to a cluster of gold shovels in a nearby mound of earth for the symbolic Groundbreaking Ceremony.



Judge Quentin Kopp receives check for nearly \$1 million from Consul General Han.



The Groundbreaking with gold shovels.

One of the day's highlights came when Consul General Han presented Judge Kopp with a check for just under \$1 million. This generous grant from the Korean Ministry of Patriots and Veterans Affairs brings the Foundation's total funds raised to date to \$3.3 million, within striking distance of the ultimate goal of \$3.5 million.

With adequate funding now in place, the Presidio Trust plans to begin major construction in early fall, and the Foundation hopes to have a gala Opening Ceremony of the completed Korean War Memorial on June 25, 2016.

All photos provided in this article are by Tom Graves/ TwiceHeroes.com



Artist's Rendering of Future Korean War Memorial by Art Zendarski

For additional information on the Korean War Memorial Foundation (KWMF) or how you can donate, please visit the KWMF website at: www.kwmf.org.

We can also be reached at: (415) 750-3862, Gerald Parker, Executive Director.



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District 26 Installation Ceremony-Among Friends By Clara Pon



In keeping with our goal of interacting with other Legionnaires in the Bay Area, on Wednesday, July 22 in the evening, we were welcomed into Lloyd J. Tobey Post 585 in San Carlos by our Legionnaire friends to watch the installation ceremony of District 26 officers and Auxiliary Unit. District 8 and Cathay Post 384 Commander Nelson Lum, Finance Officer Vic Lum, and I were among the guests in attendance. We were treated to a delicious dinner, camaraderie, and good cheers. District 26's ritual team led by past Area 2 Vice Commander Jerry Redford did a great job conducting the installation. Congratulations! Wishing District 26 Commander Romie Bassetto, 1st Vice Commander Richard Erhardt (Jr. Past Commander), 2nd Vice Commander Jim Peters, and all the officers a successful year.

A New Sheriff In Town By Roger Dong



American Legion Cathay Post 384 is a 501 (c)(19) non-profit organization, non-partisan, and does not endorse any political candidates. We do encourage all citizens to exercise their right to vote by registering and participating in our democratic process. We have occasionally been visited by elected representatives or those who are seeking elective positions. These visits allow them to tell us about their views on various issues and afford our members the

opportunity to ask questions of them in order to gain a better understanding.

At our last monthly meeting Ms. Vicki Hennessy, candidate for the position of San Francisco Sheriff, came to our post and stated her reasons for seeking that office. We learned that she is a native San Franciscan, grew up and went to school in the city. She is married to a retired San Francisco Police Officer and they live in the Parkside District. She is a highly experienced administrator of the San Francisco Sheriff's Department. She joined the Department in 1975 and has served in the Department until her retirement 36 years later. Along the way, she

attained the rank of Captain in 1983 and was the youngest Captain in the Department. In 1997, she became the Chief Deputy Sheriff. In 2006, she was assigned as the Deputy Director of the San Francisco Department of Emergency Services and Homeland Security. She was later appointed as the City's Director of Emergency Management. She retired in 2011, but was appointed by Major Ed Lee to serve as interim Sheriff while Sheriff Ross Mirkarimi was suspended. Vicki Hennessy wants to improve the relationship and communications between the Sheriff and Police Department. We thank her for taking time from her busy schedule to pay us this enlightening visit.



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August 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 AL Family Days, Yountville
2 AL Family Days, Yountville	3	4 ALWMC Meeting, 5:30 p.m.	5	6	7	8 Post Meeting
9	10	11	12	13 Dist. 8 Meeting 5:30 p.m.	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21 AL DoC DEC Bakersfield	22 AL DoC DEC Bakersfield
23 AL DoC DEC Bakersfield	24	25	26	27 September CD issue deadline	28 AL 97 th Nat'l Convention, MD	29 AL 97 th Nat'l Convention, MD
30 AL 97 th Nat'l Convention, MD	31 AL 97 th Nat'l Convention, MD					

September 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 AL 97 th Nat'l Convention, MD	2 AL 97 th Nat'l Convention, MD	3 AL 97 th Nat'l Convention, MD	4	5
6	7 Labor Day	8	9	10	11	12 Post Meeting
13	14	15	16	17	18	19 Area 2 Meet- ing
20	21	22	23	24 October CD issue deadline	25	26
27 Gold Star Mother's Day	28	29	30			



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2014



2014, 2015

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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. The Editor-in-Chief may call to verify authenticity. 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).



www.legion.org

Join Cathay Post No. 384 in San Francisco, one of the oldest and most active posts in California. We welcome all qualified retired, active, and non-military 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 today

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
2015-2016

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1st Vice Commander: Roger Dong

2nd Vice Commander: Helen Wong

Adjutant: Connie Tseng

Secretary: John Li

Finance Officer: Vic Lum

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