



CATHAY DISPATCH

Veterans - Sounding Off Since 1931

A Day of Remembrance

By Nelson Lum

Important Dates:

- Aug 2—ALWMC Meeting @ 6 p.m., WMVB
- Aug 12 to 14—DEC Meeting in Jackson, CA
- Aug 18—Eighth District Council Meeting @ 6 p.m., WMVB
- Aug 20—Post Monthly Meeting @ 11 a.m., Post headquarters
- Aug 26 to Sept 1—98th Annual National Convention in Cincinnati, OH
- Sept 5—Labor Day
- Sept 6—ALWMC Meeting @ 6 p.m., WMVB
- Sept 8—Eighth District Council Meeting @ 6 p.m., WMVB

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On July 22, 2016 at 10:00 in the morning, a large group of police officers from San Francisco, Oakland, Daly City, and California Highway Patrol were joined by members of the fire department, veterans, and numerous retired officers for a day of remembrance of those first responders who gave the ultimate sacrifice from the Bay Area, along with those who were recently killed by terrorist actions across our country.

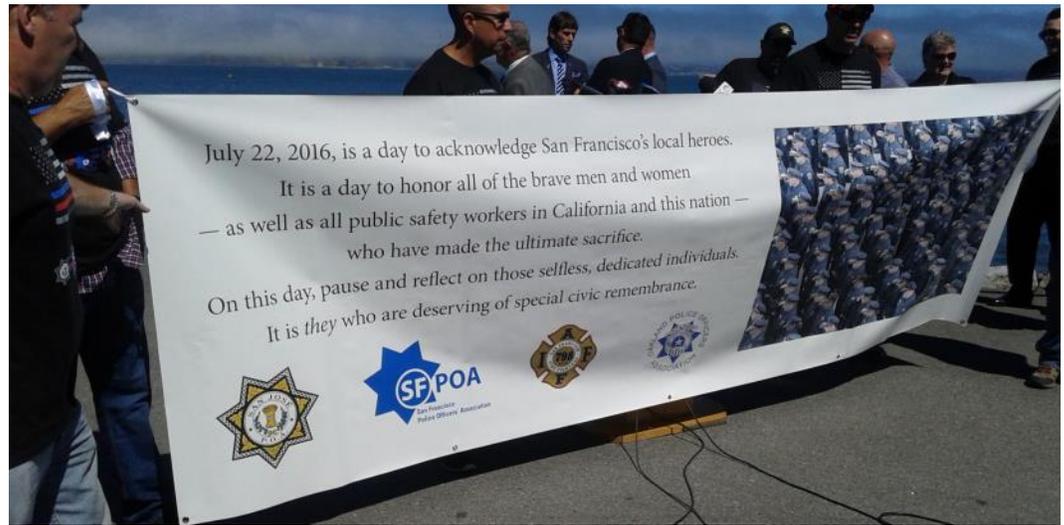
The gathering was held at the Golden Gate Yacht Club in the Marina District and was covered by all the Bay Area media representatives. Cathay Post #384 was represented by Adjutant Francis Hall, Finance Officer George Tsang, Director W.T. Jeanpierre, Comrades Anthony Lyau, Randle Toy, Collyn Fong, and myself. Additionally, there were members from American Legion Post 448 and Military Order of the Purple Heart. To watch this event, go to the link. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=btohwjg8emo&feature=youtu.be>

The recent tragic assassination of police officers across our country should not be tolerated by any standard. These assassinations are made even more tragic when ignorant politicians, intentionally or inadvertently, fan the flame of mistrust between the police and the community it serves. We have all watched football or baseball games where we swore we saw a clean catch, only to recognize we were wrong when viewing the same play from different angles. When some of the footage of officer involved shootings surfaced, what we saw was from one particular angle. It may or may not be an accurate depiction.

Due process must be accorded to both sides before pronouncing guilt or innocence. I have problems with people, especially elected officials, or so called “community leaders,” who proclaim the officers’ actions as unlawful or

(Continued on page 2)

DAY OF REMEMBRANCE, CONTINUED



(Continued from page 1)

troubling before the findings of the investigation into that incident are completed and made known. In cases where these politicians have made accusatory statements against the officers prematurely, they must have forgotten when they took their Oath of Office. They swore to uphold the Constitution which holds that everyone is innocent until proven otherwise in the court of law. When these politicians made their prejudicial statements against the officers without waiting for the results of the investigation, they failed to uphold their oath.

If the completed investigations determine wrongful or criminal acts on the part of the officers involved, then those officers must be held responsible and accountable for their actions. However, it is completely unreasonable

to paint all officers with the same brush for the fault of a few. The phrase “racial profiling” has been bantered about of late and it is generally used to allege wrongful conduct by police officers. If you agree with the premise that profiling is wrong, then you must also agree that a blanket indictment of all police officers for the actions of a few is in itself profiling. Neither of the above is acceptable.

This rush to judgment has encouraged foolish demonstrations, some of which were violent, by protesters of, “Hands up, don’t shoot,” the false narrative that stemmed from the Ferguson Case. The Department of Justice investigation under the administration of Former Attorney General Eric Holder concluded that *no such gesture* was ever made by Mr. Michael Brown. The Attorney General’s finding justified the actions of Officer Wilson who was attacked. It was unfortunate that Mr. Michael Brown was killed due to his unexplained aggression toward the officer.

Has anyone ever thought about Officer Wilson’s well-being after the truth was told? Like most of us, Officer Wilson left for work that day and was fulfilling his assigned duties when he crossed paths with Mr. Brown. Even though Officer Wilson conducted his encounter with Mr. Brown in a lawful manner, and was forced

(Continued on page 5)



COMMANDER NELSON LUM

Both June and July seemed to have flashed by, Summer and its accompanying heat is bearing down onto the Bay Area. Those of you with youngsters at home are undoubtedly vacationing with them while they are out of school. For those with children who are grown and have flown the nest, Summer is the time for you to plan your vacation when all the kids are back in school. Resorts are much more attractive when they are not as crowded.

Here at home, a new group of elected and appointed officers of Cathay Post 384 is beginning the process of assuming its responsibilities. Some of the officers took over their part of the assigned tasks easily while others will take a bit longer to complete the transition fully. As these officers are about to embark upon their new responsibilities, an unexpected development took place that will affect the operation of our post for years to come.

The tenants of the basement and first floor of our post headquarters made a request for them to be released from the remainder of their lease obligation. In the past, members of our post have expressed an interest to move our post operation to the first floor, thus, alleviate the climbing of those steep stairs in order to attend post functions on the 2nd floor. However, due to the existing lease with the tenants, the earliest time frame for this to happen will be seven years or longer. Upon receiving the news of the offer by the tenants, I presented and urged our membership to approve the recommendation to CAWVA to release the tenants from the remainder of their lease obligation.

CAWVA has since done so and Cathay Post has taken over the remainder of the lease obligation. Our goal is to move our operation to the first floor as soon as practicable. Some remodeling will have to be done before we can occupy the first floor. I have consulted with contractors and architects to begin the process of obtaining permits for the remodeling. I would like to thank our members for their quick approval of funds needed to complete such tasks. On the one hand, for many of our members,

this is an opportunity of a life time. Once the remodeling is done, they will be able to enjoy much easier access to our post facilities. There are many tasks that will require our attention from now until the move is completed and I will be asking the officers and members of our post to lend their support and cooperation in order to complete the remodeling expeditiously.

During the latter part of June, 1st Vice Commander Helen Wong and I attended the 98th Department of California Annual Convention in Fresno where Alternate National Executive Committeeman (NEC) Gary Leach was elected as the Commander of the Department of California for 2016 to 2017. Junior Past Commander of the Department of California Janet Wilson was elected NEC and Past Area 5 Vice Commander Ed Grimsley was elected Alternate NEC. On behalf of Cathay Post #384, I would like to convey our congratulations to all the newly elected officers. Commander Leach, we look forward to your leadership and to support you in your endeavors for the betterment of California Legionnaires.

In addition to the above listed officers being installed, I was sworn in as the Commander of District 8 for a second term. It should be noted this will be my last term since two consecutive terms as a district commander is the maximum term limit in accordance with the Bylaws of the Department of California. On a side note, next year for 2017 to 2018, it will be District 8's turn to fill the rotation for the position of Area 2 vice commander. Discussions for possible candidates will be held throughout the coming year.

On July 2, members of Cathay Post participated in the first annual flag retirement ceremony held at Cypress Lawn Memorial Park where 63 flags were honorably retired. Comrades Charles Paskerian and Aaron Low performed the duties of both the color and honor details for the ceremony. A special note of thanks goes to District 8 1st Vice Commander Edward

(Continued on page 7)



Nelson Lum

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(415) 797-7384

Cathay Post Member
since: 2005

Branch: Army

Final Rank: SPC

*“...move our post
operation to the
first floor.”*



Helen Wong

wong_helen@sbcglob
al.net

(415) 797-7384

Cathay Post Member
since: 1990

Branch: Army

Final Rank: Lt. Col.

*“Time sure seems
to go slower when
you are not
busy.”*

1st VICE COMMANDER HELEN WONG

“TIME FLIES WHEN YOU ARE HAVING FUN!” How many times have you heard that saying and either think it doesn’t apply to you or you’re not having any fun? Time sure seems to go slower when you are not busy. So, what can you do to be busier therefore have more fun? If you need some ideas, look at your leaders in the community, in the Legion, in the Post and see what they do to inspire you.

When the call goes out to volunteer to visit patients at the hospital, to help with being part of the Color Guard for different events, to help with Bingo, to bring toys in for the annual firefighters toy drive, to participate in a memorial service for a member, no matter what your personal feelings may be as some activities are hard on the emotions, part of living is to push past that point so that you will be more at ease and less stressed out. The more you do something, the easier it becomes.

Recently this became more apparent when I was invited by Janeen Thomas from the Benicia Auxiliary to attend an installation for a Legion Auxiliary in Rio Lindo, a city with which I was not familiar. It would have been easier to say I was not interested in attending since I did not know any of the people there. I could have stayed home and not have to talk to people I did not know. But as it turns out, it was a joint installation for District 6 both of the Legion

and of the Auxiliary something our District 8 does not do. Re-elected District 6 Commander Will Williams has quite a sense of humor and he was very entertaining before the formal installation.

State Commander Gary Leach is from District 6 and he was present to install the officers. State Auxiliary President Wendy O’Brien happens to be from District 6 also so did the honors for their officers. Not only did I talk to others whom I would not ordinarily meet from the Sacramento area, but the dinner was delicious and the company was stimulating.

At the end of the evening, I found three members from the Gung Ho Post 696 who knew our past 1st Vice Commander Roger Dong! Jeff Wong Dai, Freeman Lee, and Greg Miyata were concerned about him and so it was good to give them a positive update. They were interesting to talk to and when a post like theirs is low on members, it helps them to talk to others who have been in that position in the past to get ideas about how to get more members into the Post. Networking with others does not cost anything except for the time spent talking. Just about anyone can do it and it can be fun finding out what your counterparts are doing. Sometimes we have more in common than we think. Truly time flies when you are having fun!

2016 Cathay Dispatch Ad Rates

The annual advertisement rates are for 12 monthly issues.

Space size and rates:

¼ page (B&W/Color) - \$50

½ page (B&W/Color) - \$100

Full page (B&W/Color) - \$200

Contact the Cathay Post commander or Cathay Dispatch staff member to place your ad in the award winning *Cathay Dispatch*.

For inquiries, please email: cathaypost384info@gmail.com.

DAY OF REMEMBRANCE, CONTINUED

(Continued from page 2)

to defend himself when attacked by Mr. Brown (a much larger man who was trying to take away Officer Wilson's gun) the struggle for Officer Wilson's weapon resulted in the death of Mr. Brown. Mr. Brown's accomplice then lied to the media and made up the story of Mr. Brown being shot while on his knees with his hands up in a surrendering position.

Riots erupted nightly and untold damage was inflicted, primarily upon the merchants of the community. Officer Wilson was immediately convicted by the masses without waiting for the conclusion of the investigation. Officer Wilson and his family's safety was threatened, and although cleared of any wrongful act later, he still had to resign from the job that he loved and will likely be victimized for the rest of his life. Is that what justice is?

Police officers are given an enormous amount of trust and power and they must exercise both in a responsible and impartial manner. However, when a serious incident involving the use of force happens, no one should act irresponsibly by rushing to judgement until all the facts of the incident have been fully investigated. We owe that to the officers who are risking their lives daily to protect us.

In Dallas, police officers were doing their best to protect the protesters who moments before were chanting "What do we want? Dead cops, when do we want it? Now." When the shots rang out from the weapons of the sniper in their direction, the crowd ran in panic. A mother who brought her daughter to the protest saw her daughter fall and got on top of her to protect her from harm as a bullet from the sniper struck the mother's leg.

A police officer rushed over and got between



the women on the ground and the sniper in an attempt to protect them when the officer was shot. A second officer then took up the same position to continue the protective action and was also shot by the sniper. The teary eyed mother appeared the next day at a news conference to tell the story of the heroic actions of these officers. I know she will never participate in another protest against the police again.

Most of us take for granted the freedom that we all enjoy. This freedom, earned through the selfless sacrifice of generations of Americans, can easily be taken away if we don't have the protection of the police officers. The thin blue line is the only barrier that stands between our civilized society and that of anarchy. Please take a moment to think about this important matter: What if there are no police officers who are willing to risk their lives to protect you?

Should officers whose actions are determined to be wrongful be held accountable for their actions? Yes.

Should there be blanket indictment of all law enforcement? No.

Our men and women in blue need your support and they need it now more than ever before.



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FIRST ANNUAL FLAG RETIREMENT CEREMONY

By Chuck Paskerian



On a sunny Saturday, July 2, 2016, a large group of people, mostly veterans, gathered at Cypress Lawn Memorial Park located at Colma. The gathering was for the very first annual flag retirement ceremony carried out by members of the district and was hosted by Cypress Lawn Memorial Park along with many other organizations and local merchants. This was a truly moving experience, with the presentation of Colors by members of Cathay Post No. 384, Comrade Aaron Low and myself pulled double duties as both color and honor details. The service was conducted with full military honors for the decommissioning of these American Flags which have been deemed to be no longer serviceable. Some of these flags have served our Nation by flying over our Military Cemeteries and our State & Civic Buildings, honoring all American Citizens and our Country of choice. These flags were brought here with reverence and respect, from mostly the Northern Bay Area, to be properly disposed of through cremation.

These flags were inspected and then placed in a coffin, and the service was similar to any service honoring our fellow Americans, who have lived and died as Veterans and or a member of First Responders, of the United States of America.

Our Commander, Nelson Lum, American Legion Cathay Post 384, Department of California, and Commander of the 8th District Council, was the MC of this event. He conducted the service with the grace and respect that permeated the chapel. Ed Sandmeier, 1st Vice Commander of 8th District Council, and a member of Post 505 gave a short speech on "Honoring our Flag." Comrade Mario Benfield of Post 448 participated by offering the closing prayer. As a part of the ceremony, officers of the 8th District adhered to all essential etiquettes for the "Inspection of Flags" as they conducted the service.

After the recessional, "To the Colors," we were hosted to a fine luncheon reception by Cypress Lawn. There were about 50 Attendees. I hope you will all be able to attend with your families next year.



COMMANDER LUM, Continued

(Continued from page 3)

Sandmeier for his arrangement of the service. This will now become an annual event for the district as a service to our community.

On July 4 at the request of the Chinese Consolidated Benevolent Association, members of Cathay Post joined in the celebration of the association's flag raising ceremony. At the conclusion of the ceremony, a discussion was held to coordinate future events to avoid last minute notification and confusion. I like to thank Past Commander Dale King, Chaplain Richard Ow, and former member Ralph Wong for their assistance with the event.

The following weekend, I traveled down to Southern California where I attended the installation ceremonies of District 22 in San Diego and District 29 in Newport Beach. A special thanks goes to our 1st Vice Commander Helen Wong for chairing the regular monthly meeting in my absence.

On August 1, the long awaited dedication of the new Korean War Memorial Monument at the Presidio finally took place. The monument is the result of a joint effort by those veterans who served in Korea during the conflict and their counterpart in South Korea. It will serve as a reminder of the tremendous sacrifice made by veterans of both countries as they fought to stop the invasion by the Army of North Korea and later the People's Liberation Army of China. It is such sad note that while there is a cease fire agreement in place, this conflict is still officially on going with no end in sight.

We at Cathay Post have been accustomed to having first rated newsletters (judged and won at the state and national levels) for the past three years. While most of us know the main reason for the accomplishments is due to the efforts of our Editor-in-Chief, Ms. Clara Pon, what is not well known is the time, effort, and advance planning it takes to coordinate the stories and its writers, getting event flyers from other veteran organizations, collecting and



reading each article, assigning articles to editors for editing, and laying out the issue before doing a final edit and review before a draft is sent to the officers for approval.

Overall, it takes days and weeks to put it all together from start to finish. As it has been mentioned previously, Ms. Pon has moved to Southern California where the sun really shines and has taken on other projects. She can no longer continue as our Editor-in-Chief. As of this issue, I have appointed Comrade Ivan Seredni as the acting editor. I will be appointing new proofreaders which I will name later to assist with editing. We are fortunate that Ms. Pon will continue to serve as an advisor for our publication.

Hope to see you all at our next meeting. Please take note the date of the meeting has been changed to Saturday, August 20, 2016 at 11:00 a.m. at our headquarters at 1524 Powell Street.



Past CA Dept. Cmdr. Janet Wilson celebrates with new CA Dept. Cmdr. Gary Leach and District 8 Cmdr. Nelson Lum and other Legionnaires at the new Korean War Memorial dedication ceremony at the San Francisco National Cemetery in the Presidio.
Photo by David Andrews/The American Legion.



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*First Asian
American elected
to the U.S.
Senate.*



SENATOR HIRAM FONG IN MEMORIAL, Part One



Name in English: **Hiram
Leong Fong**

Name in Pinyin: Kuàng
Y uliáng

Gender: Male

Birth Year: 1906 - 2004

Birth Place: Kalihi District
of Honolulu, Hawaii

Philanthropy: Yes

Profession: Politician, Busi-
ness Leader

Education: University of
Hawaii at Manoa, Bachelor of
Arts, 1930; Harvard Law
School, Doctor of Jurispru-
dence, 1935

Awards: Member, Phi Beta
Kappa, 1930 (inducted as
founding member when Ha-
waii branch was founded in
1952); Hiram Fong was the
recipient of eleven honorary
degrees: Doctor of Laws de-
grees from University of Ha-
waii (1935), Tufts University
(1960), Lafayette College
(1960), Lynchburg College
(1970), Lincoln University
(1971), University of Guam
(1974), St. John's University
(1975), California Western
School of Law (1976), Tung
Wu (Soochow) University and
the China Academy, both of

Taiwan (1978), and Doctor of
Humane Letters degree from
Long Island University (1968).
Hiram Fong's overwhelmingly
long list of awards can be
found at: [http://
www.senatorfong.com/
bio_awards.html](http://www.senatorfong.com/bio_awards.html)

Contribution: Hiram Fong
was born as Yau Leong Fong
into a large and impoverished
Chinese family in Honolulu,
Hawaii. Early in life, he
learned a hard lesson about
honesty and integrity after he
stole a pineapple from a pass-
ing farm truck, then had to flee
in terror after his father
learned about the youthful
escapade. This early and un-
doubtedly painful lesson in
avoiding the wrath of his fa-
ther, by then a trusted security
guard/fire watchmen on a
sugar plantation renowned for
his personal honesty, helped
keep the young Hiram Fong
away from the juvenile delin-
quents and petty criminals
that lived in his poor neigh-
borhood. His honesty and in-
tegrity, even after the early
death of his father, would later
stand him in good stead as a
politician when he would be
trusted to act as a liaison and
peacemaker between hostile
and mutually antagonistic
political foes.

Through his intelligence and
hard work Fong passed the
entrance examination for
McKinley High School, one of
only 3% of the territory's
school population to achieve
that distinction. To add to the
elite status of the school, the
college prep courses offered at
McKinley were so extremely
vigorous and challenging that
the school also had a high
dropout rate. Fong prevailed
in his studies, making his
mark as a debater and even
writing articles for local news-
papers. After graduation in
1924, he became a civilian
worker at Pearl Harbor for the

US Navy to help support his
family. By 1927, with his sib-
lings old enough to earn a liv-
ing for themselves and help
support his widowed mother,
Fong was finally able to go to
the University of Hawaii in
Honolulu and take pre-law
courses. Again, he earned a
name for himself as a debater,
being recognized as exception-
al by the newspapers even as a
freshman. He also became
editor of the university news-
paper.

Even with his siblings helping
and no college tuition (only
registration and a few user
fees were required at that time
for regular sessions), Fong still
needed to work various jobs to
pay for food, clothes, and other
essentials that he and his
family needed. He also need-
ed to pay for summer tuition
for the additional classes he
took in order to graduate ear-
ly. His motivation was to get
out of school as soon as possi-
ble to support his family.

In college, Fong took the vol-
untary advanced third and
fourth year courses for the US
Army Reserve Officer Training
Corps (ROTC.) He was al-
lowed to skip one year of the
basic military course, then
cram all the advanced courses
into one year with permission,
after the dean of university
pressured the colonel in
charge to allow it. The dean
knew Fong from his debate
activities. The ROTC offered a
small stipend for the advanced
courses that Fong badly need-
ed even though he disliked
military drills and had avoided
the activities of the Junior
ROTC in high school and the
first two years of university
ROTC. This was despite the
fact that these were required
courses at the time. He said,
"It was a question of survival.
I needed that 30 cents a day.
That 30 cents was enough for

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SENATOR HIRAM FONG, Continued

(Continued from page 9)

my lunch." Fortunately, the additional military courses allowed him to graduate in three years of college instead of the usual four.

It was in 1929, as part of the ROTC, that he first visited the United States mainland for the National Rifle Matches at Camp Perry, Ohio. According to his account, his first direct experience of overt racism was when he and other Asian Americans from Hawaii decided to visit Canada and the Chinese Americans were turned away from the border. The Canadian border official was willing to let the Japanese Americans through because Canada had a treaty with Japan, but not the Chinese Americans. Canada didn't have a similar treaty with China. This was in spite of the fact that all the Asian Americans were American citizens by birth.

Fong then worked in Honolulu City Hall from 1931 to 1932 in the Department of Public Works, a reward for his campaign work on behalf of the Republican mayor, whom he'd supported as a campaign worker when George Wright first ran for the Honolulu Board of Supervisors in 1926. Wright taught the most valuable lessons that Fong ever learned as a politician. By obsessively studying voter rolls and knocking on doors, Wright knew all his constituents and what they were thinking. On election nights, he would amaze everyone by accurately predicting the exact number of votes he would get. Hiram Fong would emulate this attention to detail during his political career. He would not only know his constituents but also make them familiar with Hiram Fong as well.

After having saved enough money to pay for the first year of tuition, he went to Harvard Law School, the only non-white student in classes. Every summer he returned to Hawaii to earn enough money to continue his law studies. As a protégé of the mayor, and before civil service rules came that limited political patronage, the job was held open for him each summer. He also received money from his family, from a Harvard scholarship, and by borrowing from friends, including Chinn Ho, a classmate from McKinley High, who later became one of the most richest and prominent businessmen in Hawaii. To save money to pay for tuition and expenses, he skimped on meals and wore inadequate clothing during the Massachusetts winters. As a result, he was stricken with frostbite and repeatedly got eye allergies or infections. Nevertheless, he still managed to give money to help one of his sisters get through the University of Hawaii.

After three years of barely making it financially, Fong graduated from Harvard in 1935 and returned to Hawaii. He passed the bar exam on his first attempt and then worked for the public prosecutor's office in Honolulu, another reward of political patronage. The mayor and the Board of Supervisors created the position of Third Deputy Attorney just for him. The work wasn't demanding, but it paid little more than what he'd earned in the Public Works Department. He only survived and saved enough money to pay off his Harvard debts and get married by doing private legal jobs on the side. This was allowed as long as there was no specific conflict of interest with his government work.

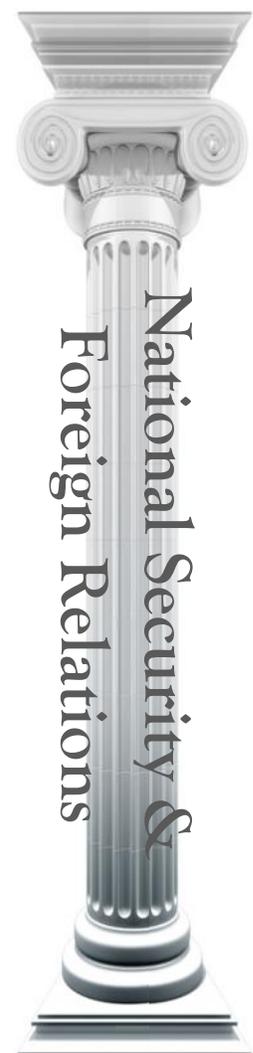
It was during his honeymoon

in 1938 that he learned of the unexpected death of his patron, Mayor Wright. To his biographer, Fong said that the routine work of handling child support cases and other minor cases for Honolulu, and in his private side practice, bored and depressed him, and he decided to go into private practice as a result. Undoubtedly, this was part of the truth. Given the timing of Mayor Wright's death, Fong must have realized that he no longer had anyone in a position to advance his career in city government.

He faced dim prospects as an independent private practitioner of law. Despite being a Harvard Law School graduate, none of the established law firms in Hawaii (or the United States) would hire a minority for any job higher than law clerk at best. Most wouldn't hire a minority for any position at all because of the racial discrimination prevalent in that era. To have enough business to survive as a lawyer, he would have to establish a name for himself across Hawaii, but he didn't have the money to get that kind of publicity. He hit on the idea of running for political office, a fairly cheap and established way of getting your name known.

Nobody in power, least of all the Republican Party establishment, expected Hiram Fong to win the district election. They simply listed his name as a Republican candidate and forgot about him. Fong emulated Mayor Wright and knocked on doors. In previous years, to support his family after the early death of his father, he'd worked as a grocery boy making deliveries in Kalihi, the very district he now ran in. This not only made him familiar with many

(Continued on page 11)



SENATOR HIRAM FONG, Continued

(Continued from page 10)

of the residents, but had also established a local reputation as hard working and honest. He was also bolstered as the local boy done good, rising from poverty to the prestige of lawyer. Even in a working-class district that was increasingly leaning towards the Democrats, it meant a lot to the residents that he was one of theirs.

The fact that Fong hadn't gotten any help from the Republicans in his successful election meant that he was a free agent in the Hawaiian Territorial House of Representatives, able to make alliances as he saw fit that crossed party lines. Fong's first act was to refuse to endorse the re-election of the conservative legislative speaker, a lawyer whose law firm was firmly embedded as the main legal representatives of the hated plantation companies. He then further infuriated the party leadership by allying with moderate Republicans and both Democrats in the House to try to elect a moderate Republican ally as speaker.

The Republican establishment quickly tried to discard Fong. They challenged his election under a provision of the territorial constitution that said that nobody could run for territorial office while already holding a territorial government job. Fong had only resigned his district attorney job after he found out he'd won. To make this appear fair, the Republicans also challenged one of the newly elected Democrats. The case against the Democrat was soon dropped, but the case against Fong continued.

Fong pointed out in a speech made to the House, that quite a number of legislators, in-

cluding many named Republicans, were in the same position of breaking the law that everyone had ignored until then. Even the Republican that brought the charge against Fong held the territorial position of deputy sheriff on the island of Hawaii for years with no complaints. The highly publicized fight not only brought more unwanted public attention to Fong's independence from the leadership, it also made the leadership look like they were persecuting a fellow Republican simply because of anti-Asian discrimination. Fong's reputation as a political maverick spread across the whole territory and made him well-known even outside his district. The whole dispute made the establishment Republicans look like fools. The vote to drop the charge was a lopsided 27 to 2.

Hawaiian politics in those years was a Republican monopoly because the Hawaiian plantation barons, with their sugar and pineapple companies, and their landholdings, controlled the Hawaiian economy and their workers. This control led to serious abuses of power. Elections were not free and fair in the rural areas of Hawaii where most of the voters lived. Any plantation worker that didn't vote Republican could find themselves beaten, an eviction notice for them and their family from company housing, and no prospect of being hired as a laborer anywhere else in Hawaii. The same would apply to anyone daring to try to organize a labor union or demand higher wages. When one ethnic group organized a strike, another ethnic group could always be found to bring in as strikebreakers. Mutual distrust and lack of communication, encouraged by the plantation owners, kept ethnic groups divided and working

cheaply.

Hiram Fong was one of the few Hawaiian Republicans that fought to change this untenable situation. The Japanese, who formed the majority of the population by the 1930s, along with other Asian immigrant groups, such as the Chinese and Filipinos, were becoming more organized and unified as they worked together. But as Asian immigrants, they weren't allowed to naturalize and become citizens under discriminatory American citizenship laws. The Supreme Court case of Wong Kim Ark in 1887, confirming that the 14th Amendment's birthright citizenship promise also applied to Asians, started breaking down these racial restrictions. Children born in United States territory would have the vote once they came of age. As Fong very well knew, this looming demographic time bomb carried bitter family memories against the plantation bosses supported by their Republican allies. The conservative Republicans were oblivious to the building backlash of keeping Hawaii as a political, social, and economic dinosaur.

Fong was considered too junior and far too liberal by the conservative majorities to be successful in his first year. All but one of his bills were shot down. He challenged and showed his independence from the Republican leadership by introducing bills to help workers and opposed those bills that he felt hurt them. This won him praise and support from Democrats, liberal and moderate Republicans, and the nascent left-wing labor unions in Hawaii. He easily won reelection with a very high percentage of the vote in 1940.

(Continued on page 12)



SENATOR HIRAM FONG, Continued

(Continued from page 11)

Fong used a special session of the Territorial Legislature in 1941 to successfully push an education bill to establish a uniform salary schedule based upon educational qualifications and teaching experience rather than on what grade was being taught. The old system had condemned elementary school teachers to hardships in pay and pushed many teachers towards teaching in high school, no matter what they wanted to teach. The teachers never forgot this, and they and

their union supported Fong's political career from then on.

World War II brought huge changes to Hawaii starting with the attack on Pearl Harbor in December 1941. Hiram Fong, a first lieutenant in the US Army Reserves since 1933, joined the Judge Advocate General's office of the United States Army Air Forces in Honolulu, serving with the 7th Fighter Command of the 7th Air Force. As he was packing his law office before leaving for active duty, he met Katsuro Miho standing outside on the

sidewalk. Miho was a Japanese American lawyer with poor eyesight that precluded military service looking for a better job than law clerk in a white law firm. Fong's spontaneous decision to hire Miho was the start of the first multi-racial law firm in Hawaii which, by 1952, had taken on the name of Fong, Miho, Choy and Robinson.

[Part II of Senator Hiram Fong will be published in the September 2016 issue.]

Veterans Success Center (VSC)

From Roger S. Dong, Founder, VSC

On August 11, 2016, the VSC will be 5 years old. Led by volunteer **Helen Wong**, Executive Director, the VSC continues our valiant mission to help to facilitate job opportunities for our veterans and their spouses. Since our inception, we have facilitated job opportunities for more than 150 veterans. With a budget of only \$2,500 a month, we are a very cost effective veterans service project, initiated by the **American Legion War Memorial Commission**, now overseen by the **American Legion Eighth District Council**.

Our current management staff are all veterans including Jimmy Briez, Vic Rodionoff, and Ivan Seredni. Ironically, the VSC is not well utilized by veterans or their spouses. The VSC has long lists of employers with job opportunities for veterans, but not too many veterans use our free consulting services. Every local police department, fire department, local city government, BART, PG&E, most hotels, most restaurants, most banks, many financial and insurance companies, the Veterans Administration, the state of California, the US Forestry Service, and Uncle Sam have open positions that need veteran applicants. If you need a job, we can help.

VSC staff will polish up your resume and introduce you to an employer whose personnel requirements fit your experience and interest. AmVets, one of our partners can also provide interview attire and transportation vouchers to your interview, if needed.

The **Veterans Success Center**, room 224, 401 Van Ness Avenue (**War Memorial Veterans Building**), San Francisco is open from 1300 - 1700 hours, Monday - Friday, except for National holidays.

We Thank Mr. Craig Newmark, Founder, Craigconnects for his significant funding support of the VSC. A member of our Cathay Post and Mr. James Bartha, Army Corps of Engineers provided laptop computers and related hardware for the VSC. If you are a veteran but don't need a job, tell a veteran, or spouse of a veteran, who needs a job about the VSC!



August 2016

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1	2 ALWMC meet- ing at 6 PM at WMVB	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11 Trustees meet- ing at 2 PM at Opera Bldg 4 th	12 DEC meeting at Jackson, CA	13 DEC meeting at Jackson, CA
14 DEC meeting at Jackson, CA	15	16	17	18 Eighth District Council meeting at 6 PM WMVB	19	20 Post Meeting 11 AM
21	22	23	24	25	26 98 th Annual Nat'l Conv. Cincinnati, OH	27 98 th Annual Nat'l Conv. Cincinnati, OH
28 98 th Annual Nat'l Conv. Cincinnati, OH	29 98 th Annual Nat'l Conv. Cincinnati, OH	30 98 th Annual Nat'l Conv. Cincinnati, OH	31 98 th Annual Nat'l Conv. Cincinnati, OH			

September 2016

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1 98 th Annual Nat'l Conv. Cincinnati, OH	2	3
4	5 Labor Day	6 ALWMC meet- ing at 6 PM at WMVB	7	8 Trustees meeting at 2 PM at Opera Bldg 4 th Eighth Dist. Council mtg. at 6 PM WMVB	9	10 Post Meeting 11 AM
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	29	29	30	

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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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2016-2017**

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