



Important Dates:

- Oct 3—Rosh Hashanah
- Oct 8—Post Monthly Meeting @ 11 am
WMVB Fleet Week Lunch @ 2:30 pm
- Oct 9—Italian Heritage Day Parade @ 11am
- Oct 10—Columbus Day
- Oct 10-13—Legion Fall Meetings & NEC Meetings in Indy.
- Oct 31—Halloween
- Nov 6—Daylight Saving Time Ends
- Nov 8—Election Day

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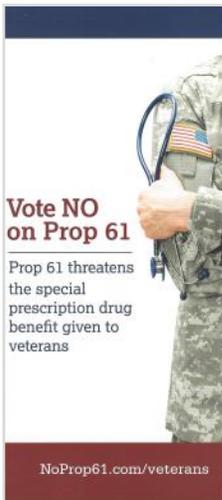
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CATHAY DISPATCH

Veterans - Sounding Off Since 1931

Warning-Don't Be Misled!

By Clara Pon



In recent months, there has been an increasing push for communicating awareness for NO on Prop 61 at various Legion meetings and events up and down the state. The above trifold has been one of many communication tools passed out at these various meetings.

Just last week, your Department of CA Commander Gary Leach distributed an email and posted his letter on the Department's Facebook page alerting all Legionnaires about a group called *VoteVets*. His informative letter is by no means taking a political stance of any party, but a notice to be wary and read carefully about Prop 61, Drug Price Standards Initiative. *VoteVets* is **not** a veteran service organization, but a political organization that supports Prop 61.

The American Legion isn't the only veteran group that has taken an active and affirmative position on Prop 61. If you've been watching television lately, you've probably seen the advertisement with Commander Dale Smith, VFW Department of California speaking out on Prop 61 that will be on the California ballot next month on November 8.

<p>Prop 61 could increase health costs for veterans</p> <p>More than twenty California veterans organizations oppose Prop 61 because it would take away a special benefit provided to those who have served our country and could increase prescription drug costs for veterans. They urge you to Vote NO on November 8.</p>	<p>"Prop 61 ignores the sacrifices veterans have made for our country. This deeply-flawed proposition could increase prescription drug costs for veterans and their families. We hope all Californians will vote No on Prop 61 to protect veterans."</p> <p>Dale Smith, Commander Veterans of Foreign Wars Department of California</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> You may list me as opposed to Prop 61.</p> <p>This measure could result in higher prescription drug copays and reduced access to medicines for the over two million veterans, active duty military, their dependents and military retirees residing in California, plus 21 million veterans nationwide that served our country in uniform.</p>
<p>Prop 61 jeopardizes a special benefit for veterans</p> <p>The discounted prices the VA pays for prescriptions support and assist our nation's veterans and their families. They would not be sustainable if applied to additional programs in California or other states.</p>	<p>"On behalf of the more than 80,000 veterans we serve, we are urging California voters to vote No on Proposition 61 because it could increase the prices veterans pay for prescription drugs."</p> <p>Gary Leach, Commander American Legion Department of California</p>	<p>NAME _____</p> <p>VETERAN'S SERVICE ORGANIZATION _____</p> <p>POST/CHAPTER _____</p> <p>CITY _____ ZIP CODE _____</p> <p>EMAIL ADDRESS _____</p> <p>PHONE NUMBER _____</p>
<p>"VA has been able to get substantial discounts from manufacturers... However, if manufacturers had to make these prices available to a larger market, they might be considerably less willing to continue to offer these prices."</p> <p>US GENERAL ACCOUNTING OFFICE Testimony Before Congress</p>	<p>"Veterans have protected our nation and the freedoms we all enjoy. We hope California voters will help protect our veterans by voting No on Proposition 61."</p> <p>Enrique Rudine, Commander AMVETS Department of California</p>	<p>NO/Prop61 Protect Veterans. Vote NO. NoProp61.com/veterans</p>

In fact, nearly two dozen veteran groups are in support of NO on Prop 61. You can find Commander Leach's letter about *VoteVets* on page 2 or you can go to the link below to forms opposing Prop 61 and a video regarding this very important issue that affects your prescription drug costs on the Department's website: <http://calegion.org/>.

Visit www.noprop61.com/veterans to read more about the supporters of NO on Prop 61.

Commander Gary Leach's letter to Legionnaires about VoteVets



The American Legion

Department of California

1601 7th Street
Sanger, CA. 93657
(559) 875-8387 – Fax (559) 272-5157

September 23, 2016

Dear American Legion, Dept. of California Members:

You may see billboards or other communications from the Yes on 61 campaign indicating support from a veterans' organization. I wanted to clarify with all of you that all of the major California's veterans service organizations are universally and unequivocally in strong opposition to Proposition 61 because it would be terrible for veterans.

The group in question, VoteVets, is not a veteran service organization, but a political organization that is primarily focused on electing candidates to office. They have been the subject of several news articles questioning their money and motives (see below for more information).

Many of our organizations have been around for decades, and some for as long as a century. The bulk of our time is spent in the trenches providing countless hours of community service and helping veterans who need it. While we are not inherently political, we sometimes have to take stands against policies that would hurt veterans. Prop 61 is such a policy.

The proponents of Prop 61 are trying to obscure this issue by putting out this political organization and saying it represents our voice. I urge all of our members, and our fellow organizations, to double down our efforts against Prop 61 so voters are not fooled.

The VA has estimated that Prop 61 could increase their prescription drug costs by \$3.8 billion year, which would mean increased costs or reduced services for veterans and their families. We need to protect veterans and defeat Prop 61.

TIME Magazine said VoteVets conduct "political attacks" "under the cover of defending those who have served the nation in wartime."
"But McConnell has cried foul. Much of the board of VoteVets is made up of Democratic donors and strategists, people like former Bill Clinton personal aide Douglas Band and former Clinton White House adviser Elaine Kamarck, who have only tangential ties to military service. And the public records that are available show that the group has a history of taking money from interests groups far afield of veterans issues to pay for political attacks against Republican candidates under the cover of defending those who have served the nation in wartime.

Gary Leach, Commander

John 'Doc' Bart, Adjutant

Continued on page 3

Commander Gary Leach letter, continued

Continued from page 2

Page 2

TIME Magazine <<http://time.com/3271310/vote-vets-mitch-mcconnell-concerned-veterans/>>, September 5, 2014

[ProPublica.org](http://www.propublica.org) includes [VoteVets.org](http://www.votevets.org) on its list of "Dark Money" groups. In 2012, [ProPublica.org](http://www.propublica.org) conducted an investigation into 106 nonprofit organizations that were politically active and "Funnel Dark Money into Campaigns." [VoteVets.org](http://www.votevets.org) was ranked 8th of 106 for the percent of its budget "spent on politics." [VoteVets.org](http://www.votevets.org) spent 49% of its budget on politics according to [ProPublica.org](http://www.propublica.org). ([propublica.org <http://projects.propublica.org/dark-money/organizations/all.html>](http://projects.propublica.org/dark-money/organizations/all.html))

Funders

[VoteVets.org](http://www.votevets.org) does not itself disclose any of its donors as a 501c4. However the Center for Responsive Politics has reported on donors to [VoteVets.org](http://www.votevets.org) and indicates they have received millions from unions and environmental organizations. [opensecrets.org <http://www.opensecrets.org/news/2016/05/fueled-by-unions-and-secret-donors-liberal-vets-group-spends-millions-boosting-democrats/>](http://www.opensecrets.org/news/2016/05/fueled-by-unions-and-secret-donors-liberal-vets-group-spends-millions-boosting-democrats/), May 31, 2016

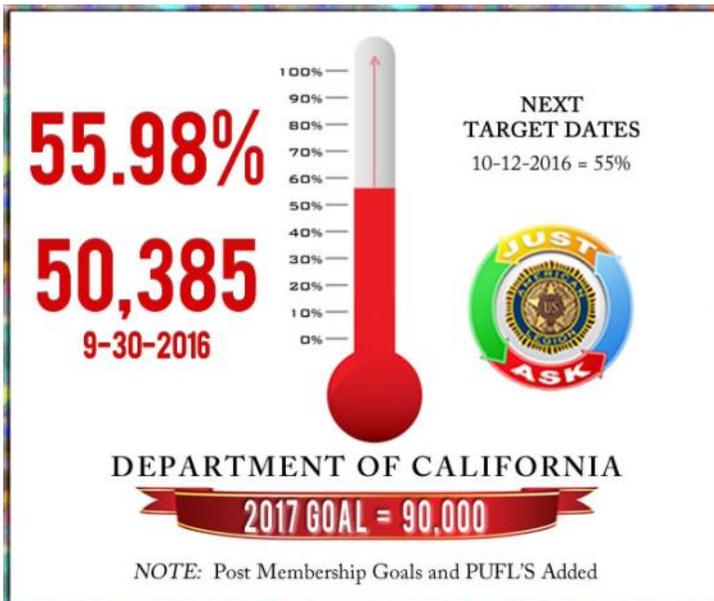
You can check out their web site here: <http://www.votevets.org>

Sincerely,



Gary Leach, Department Commander

2017 Department of CA Membership Goals



Don't forget these membership target dates.

Early Bird/NEF Kickoff	SEP 14 - 50%
Fall Meetings	OCT 12 - 55%
Veterans Day	NOV 16 - 65%
Pearl Harbor Day	DEC 14 - 75%
Mid-Winter (2017)	JAN 19 - 80%
Presidents Day	FEB 8 - 85%
LEGION Birthday	MAR 8 - 90%
Children & Youth	APR 12 - 95%
Armed Forces Day	MAY 10 - 100%

FLEETWEEK IS HERE

October 3-10 in San Francisco



Veterans art exhibits ☆ parade of ships ☆ ship tours ☆ high school band challenge ☆ silent drill platoon ☆ air show ☆ and much, much more.

Check out the website for event schedule, purchasing tickets, and more. <http://fleetweeksf.org/>

Fleet Week is a great annual event that happens in the City. In the past several years, it is one event that members of Cathay Post 384 look forward to every year. Two years ago, USS America (LHA-6) was commissioned in San Francisco. We were fortunate to be able to invite many of those sailors and Marines along with several of the ship's officers to our annual Fleet Week luncheon so we could welcome them to San Francisco properly.

This year, we will again be able to host a Fleet Week luncheon for about 120 sailors and Marines who are here to participate in the Fleet Week celebration. We will need many of our members and friends to help with this event on Saturday, October 8, 2016. We will provide the sailors and Marines with some delicious food and most importantly, a chance to express to them our appreciation for their service to our country. We will also use that opportunity to educate them

about The American Legion.

It's somewhat worrisome that most active sailors and Marines do not know anything about The American Legion or what the Legion has done to benefit them. The luncheon gives us an opportunity to inform these sailors and Marines about who we are and what we do. We need to plant the seed in these active members about the need for them to join our ranks if the Legion is to survive.

So, please contact me, Nelson Lum or George Tsang if you would like to volunteer. Together, we can personally thank our active military personnel and let them know they are not alone when they leave the service. We are here to help them. We are here to listen to them and provide guidance on their VA benefits such as using their GI Bill, filing claims, and many other services. This is what the American Legion does.

More information on various events are listed below.

Air Show Performers—<http://fleetweeksf.org/air-show/>

Navy Ships & Ship Tours—<http://fleetweeksf.org/navy-ships/>

K-9 Heroes—<http://fleetweeksf.org/k9-heroes/>

High School Band Challenge—<http://fleetweeksf.org/band/>

(The United States Marine Corps Band kicks off this event with a stirring performance of patriotic songs and a musical celebration. The thrill of the music continues as select Bay Area high school bands then take the stage, competing for prize money to support their school music programs.)



COMMANDER NELSON LUM

October is just around the corner, the year of 2016 is almost over. The first phase of the renovation project of the first floor of our headquarters building has finally begun. Crews are demolishing walls in preparation of installing new restrooms and a break-room. I spent more than four hours this past week at the Department of Building Inspections Bureau to obtain the necessary permits for our renovation project.

It is just amazing the amount of bureaucratic red tape one must endure in order to get these permits. Upon completion of the renovations that include new flooring, stage, and a new coat of interior paint, the first floor will be the new home of our post in which we can all be proud of. I must also report to you that the cost of this project will most likely exceed our initial estimates due to additional work and fixtures required by the City in order to gain code compliance. It is my hope this project will be completed by the end of November.

Another urgent project for our post is to lease the basement and second floor out as soon as

possible once we've completed our move down to the first floor. We need you, our members and friends, to seek out potential tenants for our available floor spaces. Our building contains the largest square footage of usable space than any other building located in North Beach. Each floor is approximately 3,000 square feet and we are eager to find good interested tenants.

On Friday, September 23, our post hosted an American Legion Extension Institute (ALEI) training where 19 Legionnaires attended a classroom session at the War Memorial Veterans Building. Besides members of our post, there were representatives from District 26 who participated. District 29 Commander Ken George from Orange County provided the instruction with assistance from Ms. Clara Pon who was the facilitator. Based upon the responses of those who attended, the class was every well received and just about all the attendees learned some important and intriguing information of The American Legion.

October 8 and 9 will be busy days for us. Saturday, October 8 is our

monthly meeting in the morning and then our annual Fleet Week luncheon for approximately 120 sailors and Marines in the afternoon. Then on Sunday, October 9, the Italian Heritage Day parade will take place and members of our post will participate in the parade as we have done so for many years. If all goes as planned, in addition to the color detail, we will have a beautiful classic Rolls Royce along with two convertibles in our contingent. Joining us for the parade will be contestants from the Miss Asian Global & Miss Asian America Pageant. They will definitely enhance our appeal and presence with the crowd.

Along with participating in the Italian Heritage Day Parade, members of our post will play a prominent role in the Veterans Day Parade which will take place on Sunday, November 13, 2016 from 11-3 p.m. This will be the second year that Fisherman's Wharf will serve as the parade route after a successful inaugural last year.

On a sad note, a long time advocate for the

(Continued on page 7)



Nelson Lum

nelson1431@aol.com
(415) 797-7384

Cathay Post Member
since: 2005

Branch: Army

Final Rank: SPC

“Upon completion of the renovations that include new flooring, stage, and a new coat of interior paint, the first floor will be the new home of our post in which we can all be proud of.”



Helen Wong

wong_helen@sbcglob
al.net

(415) 797-7384

Cathay Post Member
since: 1990

Branch: Army

Final Rank: Lt. Col.

“One can always learn something new by visiting other American Legion posts and this was a good example ... by patriotic individuals such as Janeen who wanted to do something in honor of this country on Constitution Day.”

1st VICE COMMANDER HELEN WONG

I was invited to attend a Constitution Day Soapbox on September 17, 2016 by Janeen Thomas, the originator of the idea and a member of American Legion Auxiliary's Benicia Unit 101 which I also joined this year upon her invitation. The event was to give anyone who wanted to talk about what was on their minds a forum “on the soapbox.” I have to admit that the idea was different and her friends came through with a nice sturdy looking “soapbox” to stand on and a public address system so we could be heard. While the audience in Benicia was small, it was a nice way to hear the thoughts and experience of Post 101 Commander Ed, a Korean War Veteran, a past Boys State attendee, Andre, the father of this year's Girl State attendee (me-many decades past), and a past Boys State attendee who was then selected into the Air Force Academy.

He spent some active duty Air Force years before leaving to work as a pilot for a commercial airfreight company. His daughter Taylor, was this year's Girl State attendee from Benicia and it was refreshing to hear how positive her experience was and what she gained

in leadership skills from being around other young ladies selected from all over California. Our own Cathay Post selectee, Kestrel Pon would probably have similar thoughts about how beneficial it was to attend Girls State.

At an event, two Pillars of The American Legion were demonstrated. Americanism was one of the items by addressing the Constitution of the United States, Boys Nation Program, discussing our young people, and supporting the Boys and Girls State Programs. The second pillar was Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation. There was much discussion about volunteering for this event in the community and doing outreach to veterans and their family members. One

can always learn something new by visiting other American Legion posts and this was a good example of what can be achieved with an idea and follow through by patriotic individuals such as Janeen who wanted to do something in honor of this country on Constitution Day. (Incidentally, our past Department Adjutant Bill Siler iii's birthday is on Constitution Day, so happy belated birthday Bill!)

Some of our Legion members may remember Janeen as working on the 3rd floor in the American Legion Auxiliary Department of CA's office at the War Memorial Veterans Building. While she no longer works for the Auxiliary, we will remember her as

(Continued on page 7)



L-R: Post 101 Commander Ed, Jackie (Janeen's daughter), Janeen, (me) Helen, Taylor, and Andre. Photo courtesy of Helen Wong.

COMMANDER LUM, Continued

(Continued from page 5)

betterment of the Chinatown community, Ms. Rose Pak passed away on September 18, 2016. Members of Cathay Post 384 express our sincere

condolence to her family.

Our next monthly meeting will take place on Saturday, October 8, at 11:00 a.m. Due to the scheduled Fleet Week luncheon, our meeting will also be held at the

War Memorial Veterans Building instead of at our building on Powell Street. I look forward to seeing all of you at the meeting and please plan to stay after to assist with the luncheon.

Vice COMMANDER Wong, Continued

(Continued from page 6)

a delight to talk to as she was always so positive. When I was researching Post 384's Auxiliary to include in the history of Cathay Post for the 85th anniversary yearbook, she knew about the past Auxiliary Department's history books which dates from when the Auxiliary was first formed. They were stored in the Veterans Building, so helped me find the pertinent years' books. Much of the time, she would do things for veterans on her own break time as she loved her job so much that she worked more hours than she was paid for.

Thank you Janeen for being such a dedicated professional who we will dearly miss!

The American Legion Auxiliary presents

Constitution Day Soapbox

Saturday, September 17, 2016
 Veteran's Memorial Building
 1150 First Street
 Benicia, California
 Doors Open for signing at 9am
 Program at 10am - 2pm
 For directions: beniciavetshall.org

This event is free and open to the public. Students of the Constitution are encouraged to participate.

Soapbox – One of the activities, to have youth to stand up on their soap box and have their say. It's a sturdy box to stand on and exercise their freedom of speech.

Boys and Girls State citizens past and present are being invited to attend and share their experience, as we can reach them. Can the alumni association help us find past citizens for our area?

While there, pick up program information about the Legion Family Scholarships, Civics programs for high school juniors and essay contests. Voter Registration cards will be available.

Example: How do you defend the Constitution?

We would love to see you at our ALA Benicia Unit 101's Constitution Day Soapbox

For more information please contact chairman:
amleg101aux@gmail.com



If I was a Soapbox

If I was a soapbox,
 I'd let you stand on me,
 I'd support your aspirations
 in the land of the free.
 Whether laundry detergent
 or aromatic foam,
 a traveling soapbox is really handy
 when you're far away from home!

Social media on the contrary,
 it's handy and it's fast,
 you can reach a million people
 before a shadow's even cast.
 But standing on your smartphone
 won't raise you very high,
 a soapbox, is the answer
 for every aspiring girl and guy!
 ©Peter Bray 9/17/2016
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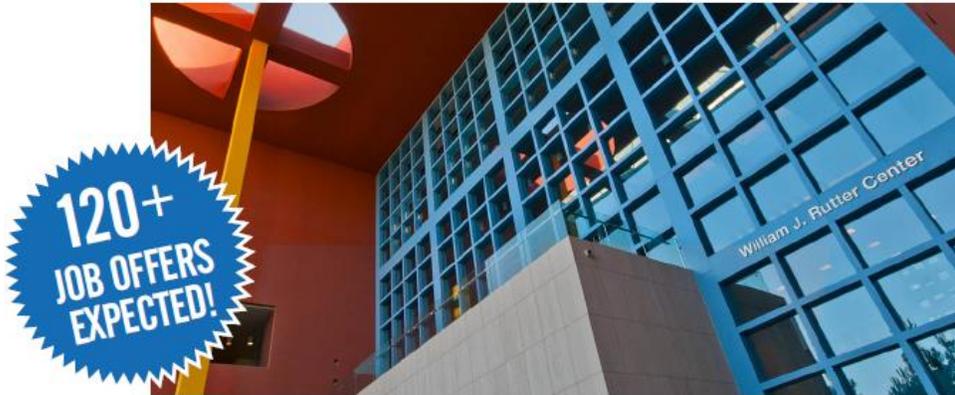
The above flyer was for *Constitution Day Soapbox* hosted by Legion Auxiliary Unit 100 and coordinated by Auxiliary member Janeen Thomas.

Disclaimer

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JOBS FOR VETERANS!

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MISSION BAY CONFERENCE CENTER

Thursday, October 6, 2016

11:00 am – 3:00 pm

1675 Owens Street

San Francisco, CA 94158

A FREE HIRING EVENT

FOR VETERANS, TRANSITIONING MILITARY PERSONNEL,
NATIONAL GUARD MEMBERS, RESERVE MEMBERS AND SPOUSES

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ALEI, Learning Has No Boundaries & No Age Limitations

By Clara Pon



Legionnaires from Districts 8 and 26 studiously listening and taking notes on the ALEI course that was conducted for the first time in SF instructed by Ken George, District 29 Commander at the SF War Memorial Veterans Building on Friday, September 23, 2016. Photo courtesy of Ken George.



What do you know about The American Legion? How much about The Legion was conveyed to you when you joined? How much do you know about it now? Well, it would seem that no matter how long you've been a member or how involved you are, there is always something to be learned about The American Legion.

The first American Legion Extension Institute (ALEI) classroom session held in San Francisco was a great success according to many that attended. Commander Ken George from District 29 in Orange County ventured north to teach his first class to Districts 8 and 26 Legionnaires. His slogan for his term in office is "getting back to

basics." One of his goals is training and educating Legionnaires about The Legion to better equip them with knowledge and information when going out to events and recruit new members. The more you know about the good things your post and The Legion does to help the community, the veterans, and the children in your area, the easier it is to get veterans you meet to join The American Legion.

Ken's objective wasn't just simply to conduct training. With this being his first class with 19 interested students, he wanted to start it out right and gather useful information at the same time. He surveyed how long they've been members, what their highest

held Legion position, what they did or didn't know, and if the training was beneficial. He established a benchmark for each student by having them take the exam first to see what they knew and then again after the training.

The results were surprising. The class was comprised of Legionnaires that ranged from being less than a year new to members with over 25 years. Even more astonishing was the range of offices held by various members at the post and district levels. One would think that the higher the position a Legionnaire held, the better their pre exam scores were. Well, it turns out that some of the newest members

(Continued on page 10)

ALEI, Continued

(Continued from page 9)

who haven't held any office answered more questions correctly on the pre exam than those that held various offices at the post or district levels. That just goes to show that training or refresher courses even for the fairly seasoned Legionnaires is also beneficial.

The training took about three hours with active participation from everyone and many good questions asked. ALEI is also available online at: www.legion.org/alei.

Here are just a few of the comments submitted at the end of class.

"Now I know what American Legion is. History. What they are doing. I have been a member for 25 years and know the purpose of American Legion values. I transferred from a default post [Post 1000] to #384 7 months ago and I have learned what we stand for." [Post member.]

This same individual mentioned

during class why he chose Cathay Post 384. He went to watch *God Bless the USA VI*, a variety show at the SF War Memorial Veterans Building in January co-hosted between Cathay Post and Linking Rings Performing Arts that was put on for the veterans living in Yountville. He and a few others say they stayed in Post 1000 because no one ever reached out to them.

"Love it. Every member needs to go to this class!" [District level officer.]

"Excellent pace. Took time to answer questions and allowed members to ask questions. Thanks!" [Post officer.]

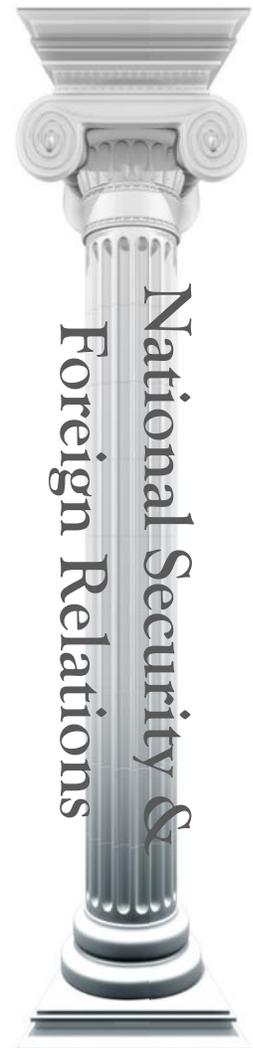
"Thanks for the course. A lot of important info for a newbie like me." [Post member.]

"Great presentation!!! Should be done more often. Thank you." [Post officer.]

His next training session is tentatively scheduled to be on November 5 at Area 5's caucus down in San Diego. If interested, please email Ken at: kgdistrict29cmdr@gmail.com.



Ken George going over the history of The American Legion. Photo courtesy of Ken George.



October is the start of our membership drive. It's the perfect time to get up to \$ 75 just by opening an account. Check us out today at www.sfpcu.org or come into one of our branches.

SFPCU MEMBERSHIP: A GIFT FOR ALL GENERATIONS.

**GET
UP TO \$75***
When you become an SFPCU member!

Now is the perfect time to join. Get \$25 for your opening deposit, and an additional \$50 if you open a Global ATM checking account.



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

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



Offer ends December 31, 2016.
All POA members and their families
are eligible for membership!

*Offer valid through 12/31/16. New Member Bonus: SFPCU will pay the \$25 opening deposit in the savings account required to establish membership. Members who join online will pay the \$25 opening deposit and SFPCU will reimburse this amount within 15 business days. This amount shall be reversed and returned to SFPCU if the account is closed within 12 months after date opened. Business accounts are not eligible. Current Annual Percentage Yield (APY) on a regular share account is .10% as of 9/1/16. Minimum account balance to open account and obtain APY is \$25. Checking Promotion Bonus: To qualify for the \$50 bonus, the new member must open a new Global ATM Checking account with a \$25 minimum opening deposit during the promotion period, and within 60 calendar days of account opening, a \$500 monthly direct deposit must be initiated. The bonus will be deposited into the new checking account within 60 business days after meeting the \$500 direct deposit requirement. Referral Bonus: Referred member's checking account must be opened within the promotion period. Within 15 business days of the new account opening, \$25 will be credited into referring member's savings account. Bonuses may be tax-reportable. All new accounts are subject to the SFPCU account opening procedures and standard account terms and conditions. Fees could reduce earnings on the account. Rates, terms and conditions are subject to change.

Promo Code: REF/CHK

2016-17 National Commander Charles E. Schmidt by Legion.org



Charles E. Schmidt was elected national commander of the 2.2 million-member American Legion on Sept. 1, 2016, in Cincinnati during the 98th national convention of America's largest veterans organization.

Schmidt enlisted in the U.S. Air Force in 1965 and served on active duty until his retirement in 1993. During that time he advanced from an administrative clerk to a distinguished graduate of the Air Force Officer Training School, earning a commission and assignments to Executive Support Officer positions at major headquarters. His Air Force assignments took him to Oregon, California, Montana, Nebraska, Colorado, England,

Germany, Philippines and Vietnam.

As an active-duty service member, Schmidt joined Story-Hardin Post 164 in Craig, Mo., in 1984. After his military retirement as a major, he was employed by the Air Force Total Quality Management Program at Lowry Technical Training Center in Denver.

He transferred his American Legion membership to Harney County Post 63 in Burns, Ore., when he moved to Oregon for a 15-year career at the Greater Oregon Federal Credit Union. He retired from the credit union as the executive vice president.

An American Legion Paid Up For Life member, Schmidt served as the Department of Oregon commander from 2004-2005, and he's served at every level of the Legion, including National Executive Committeeman from 2005-2016.

While serving in the Air Force, Schmidt earned a Bronze Star, a Defense Meritorious Service Medal, a Meritorious Service Medal with two oak leaf clusters, a Joint Service

Commendation Medal, an Air Force Commendation Medal with one oak leaf cluster, an Air Force Outstanding Unit Award with Valor device and two oak leaf clusters, the Air Force Good Conduct Medal with three oak leaf clusters, a National Defense Service Medal with a bronze star, a Vietnam Service Medal, an Air Force Overseas Short Tour Ribbon, an Air Force Overseas Long Tour Ribbon with two oak leaf clusters, an Air Force Longevity Service Award Ribbon with one silver oak leaf cluster, an NCO Professional Military Education Graduate Ribbon with oak leaf cluster, a Small Arms Expert Marksmanship with bronze star, an Air Force Training Ribbon with oak leaf cluster, a Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Palm, and a Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal with four bronze stars.

Schmidt resides in Hines, Ore., with his wife, Linda. They have two daughters, Andria and Cori, and two sons-in-law, Peter and Anthony. They also have six grandchildren: Madeline, Alex, Adam, Raymond, Nicholas and Thomas.



Commander Schmidt to continue awareness walks. "...An opportunity to raise awareness about veterans issues, highlight the Legion's impact on communities nationwide and for Legion family members to tell their story of why they joined the organization."

National Commander's Pin Incentive Program by Legion.org



The two links below will take you to the application forms to submit for your pin (3 new members) or certificate (1 new member.)

[National Commander's Incentive Pin New Member Form \(PDF\)](#) [Three (3) new members recruited]

[National Commander's Incentive Certificate Form \(PDF\)](#) [One (1) new member recruited]

American Legion National Commander Charles E. Schmidt will award his national commander pin to any Legion member who obtains three new members into the Legion. A new member is any eligible person joining for the 2017 membership year who was not a member of The American Legion during the 2016 membership year.

Each member listed must be eligible for membership in The American Legion. Forward names of SAL members or Auxiliary members to your detachment or unit for use in their respective incentive programs.

To maintain the integrity of the national commander's pin incentive program, only one pin will be awarded per individual.

Upon receipt, national membership staff will confirm the names and mail the pin directly to the person who earned it. Commander Schmidt's incentive program will end June 30, 2017, or when supplies are exhausted.



National Commander's Honor Ribbon by Legion.org

American Legion National Commander Charles E. Schmidt will award his National Commander Honor Ribbon to any American Legion Family that achieves 100 percent membership by May 30, 2017. For this award, the Legion Family is defined as a post and any combination of an Auxiliary unit, Sons squadron or Legion Riders chapter. Each branch must achieve 100 percent membership to qualify for the award.

The National Commander Honor Ribbon membership incentive program will end May 30, 2017.

[National Commander's Honor Ribbon Form \(PDF\)](#)

Check out National Commander Charles E. Schmidt's link on <http://www.legion.org/commander> to read the latest news about what he's doing for The Legion. Be sure to check the Department's website for information on *Commander Schmidt's tour in California* which is scheduled for mid-December.





Honoring World War II Veterans By Roger Dong

From August 12-13, 2016, several surviving senior WWII veterans and their families and friends gathered at the History Park in San Jose, CA to remember and honor the thousands of Americans and allies who fought the second war to end all wars, to jointly defeat Nazi Germany and Imperial Japan. The memorial was sponsored by the San Jose Chinese Historical & Cultural Project (www.CHCP.org) and the Spirit of '45 (www.spiritof45.org).



World War II attired soldiers as part of the tribute at History Park to WWII veterans. *Photo by Roger Dong.*

Hundreds of visitors attended History Park on this day enjoyed vintage automobiles, friends in WWII attire, good food, and talks about the history of World War II and the China-Burma-India Campaign (CBI). It was also an opportunity to remember the time when American and Chinese military worked in partnership to fight a common enemy.

The history of the CBI campaign, which is the story of the first US-China military partnership is not well known to most Americans, and probably totally unknown to the millennial generation. Historically true, the Japanese Imperial Army (JIA) had begun its attempt to conquer China and Asia in 1931, invading and capturing Mongolia. No one in Asia was strong enough to stop the JIA and it swarmed into China, notoriously ravishing Nanking in 1937. Then they captured and controlled all the ports on the coast of China.

After the attack on Pearl Harbor, Franklin Delano

Roosevelt needed to tie up the 4 million JIA soldiers in Asia and out of the Pacific. He decided to partner with China and issued a secret Executive Order directing our military to help stop the JIA in China. Thus, was born the American Volunteer Group which morphed in the famous Flying Tigers who played a big role in stopping the JIA which by 1942 had taken Burma, Vietnam, Hong Kong, and part of the Philippines. The Flying Tigers with only three squadrons of 30 fighters, soundly thrashed the JIA fighters with a 3:1 winning kill ratio. On Jan. 24, 1942, the Tigers shot down 273 Japanese fighters and only lost 14 of our own planes.



C-47 plane. (Wikipedia)

US supplies were transported to India where ground transportation using the Burma Road would be delivered through Burma (Myanmar) to southern China. However, when Army General Joseph Stillwell arrived in early 1942, the JIA had already captured and

(Continued on page 15)

Honoring WWII Veterans, Continued

(Continued from page 14)

controlled the entire Burma Road. Thus all supplies had to be air transported, 530 miles over the Himalayas (the "HUMP"). That is where our famous Chinese American Hero and Post friend, Captain Moon Chin earned fame, the Distinguished Flying Cross and two Air Medals for flying supplies across the dangerous Hump from before the US was attacked in 1937 until the end of the war in 1945.



Flying Tigers, 1st American Volunteer Group.
(Wikipedia)

Logistics flying the Hump. Was that a dangerous mission? Two thousand air crew were lost flying at night to avoid JIA fighters or beaten by the tortuous weather/winds ever present in the Himalayas. Even today the Himalayas are so steep and treacherous that if a plane crashes, the aircraft and crew are lost. Helicopters do not have the range to fly over a hundred miles, hovering to rescue, and have sufficient fuel to return home safely. If any crew member survives a crash, rescue supplies can be airdropped, but locating a downed aircraft is very difficult and time consuming as electronic equipment does not work well in the rugged terrain of the Himalayas.

One very interesting, and critical highlight of the campaign to stop the JIA in



Madame Chiang addressing Congress Feb 1943:
(Life Magazine).

China was the funding of the very expensive and challenging. We were committed to stopping the Nazi Germany and only limited funds were had been allocated to fight the JIA in Asia/China. How additional funding was found or reallocated?

During World War II, the most famous, most powerful woman was Madame Chiang Kai-shek, the wife of the leader of Nationalist China, who was raised in Macon, Georgia and a graduate of Wellesley College. The Madame eloquently addressed, cajoled and persuaded Congress to stop the JIA and save the world from aggression. On May 18, 1943 Chiang was the first Chinese person, and only the 2nd woman, to have addressed our Congress. Speaking with a slight Southern draw, her touching plea convinced Congress to support China. Her appeal resulted in \$2 billion allocated to help China fight the JIA. Chiang also raised several millions by appealing directly to American citizens, especially ethnic Chinese Americans, to donate generously.

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Honoring WWII Veterans, Continued

(Continued from page 15)

We learned at the event that a former Cathay Post 384 Commander, John Young (1950-51) was an officer who volunteered and served in the CBI. His daughter is a notable Chinese American historian and member of the Chinese Historical Society of America. Next summer it is planned for an exhibit of 50+ banners that may be displayed in our San Francisco War Memorial

Veterans' Building Trophy Room which will have banners that include photos of Past Post Commander John Young while he served in the World War II, CBI campaign. One of the reasons for using this exhibit is to encourage a partnership between America and China, an alternative to a conflict which will dramatically change history. That partnership happened before, during World War II and today, a

potential positive and constructive US-China partnership can be a win-win opportunity for all.



left: U.S. Army Captain John C. Young meeting with Chinese Army Commander.

below: Chinese Army van of the Mobile Weapons Maintenance Team.

US Army Captain John Young on display by Pedro Chan.

Toys, Toys, Toys. Don't Forget the Toys!!



The San Francisco Firefighters Toy Program, run by the SF Fire Fighters Union, Local 798, is the city's largest and the nation's oldest program of its kind. "The Toy Program serves many community organizations, including shelters for abused women and children, inner-city schools, neighborhood groups, children's cancer wards, and pediatric AIDS units. We also respond on a year-round basis to displaced children who become victims of fires, floods and other such disasters."

It's not too early to think about the holidays. Really, it's just around the corner. Halloween is at the end of this month and after All Hallows' Eve, you know all the holiday decorations are going to be up and jingle bells will be heard in the malls. So, it's never too early to start shopping for toys for our 4th annual toy donation drive that helps boys and girls in the community who are in need of some cheering up and to bring smiles to their sad faces. The bins will be brought to the post next month if not in the next couple of weeks. Once again after our post meeting in December, we will walk the toys over to Fire House 2 on Powell Street.



USCG Cutter Stratton Returns To Alameda By Roger Dong

The 11th District Pacific Southwest US Coast Guard is one (1) of two (2) active duty military branches in the Bay Area. The Coast Guard had great news to report in Alameda, California on September 29, 2016. The Coast Guard Cutter (CGC) Stratton, a National Security Class (NSC) cutter arrived to home base this week after a 114 day deployment spanning most of the globe. The deployment took her from Alameda across the Pacific Ocean to Asia and traversing the Pacific Ocean north to the Arctic Ocean. Her long tour covered more than 29,500 miles.

There were two main missions; first the CGC Stratton joined the US Navy's 3rd Fleet in the RIMPAC multinational maritime exercise which included 26 nations, 45 ships and more than 2,000 aircrafts. CGC Stratton served as the command ship for the Combined Task Force (CTF) 175, a component of the multinational maritime exercise. CTF 175 was comprised of nine ships and 13 aircrafts from four nations, the U.S., China, France, and Indonesia.

In preparation for its deployment, the CGC

Stratton conducted and directed training exercises that included complex ship formations, joint flight operations, live fire exercises; personnel and logistics transfers, and maritime interdiction operations from San Diego. Additionally, she successfully participated in integrated training and is designated as National Security Class Cutter-21 prior to her deployment for RIMPAC 2016. This mission represented the first extended Navy aviation deployment aboard a Coast Guard cutter.



USCG Stratton (WMSL 752).
Photo by PO 1st Class Ace Rheume.

While stationed in the Arctic region, CGC Stratton participated in Operation Arctic Shield along with other Coast Guard ships to practice the various Coast Guard responsibilities in the Arctic Ocean including potential search and rescue missions.

Vice Admiral Fred M. Midgette, Commander of the Pacific Area Operations and Operation

Arctic Shield 2016 noted that "The nature of maritime activity in the Arctic is evolving". Operation Arctic Shield 2016 gave the Coast Guard an opportunity to test its capabilities to ensure the right resources are used to conduct future maritime operations in the region. As the lead federal agency for maritime safety, security, and stewardship in the Arctic, the Coast Guard is committed to a proactive prevention and response presence in the region.

CGC Stratton also conducted community relations and outreach activities. The Coast Guard has a long history of working with Alaska Native partners and the Stratton crewmembers practiced search and rescue missions in collaboration with tribal and local governmental officials in order to improve interoperability and communications. These activities with Arctic tribal communities were coordinated by the 17th Coast Guard District Tribal Liaison, the Alaska Eskimo Whaling Commission, and the city managers of Wainwright and Teller, Alaska.

CGC Stratton is the
(Continued on page 18)



STRATTON RETURNS HOME, Continued

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Coast Guard's third 418-foot Legend-Class NSC, her home port is at Alameda Coast Guard Station. The CGC Stratton replaced the 378-foot Hamilton-class cutters that were commissioned between 1967 and 1972. CGC Stratton was delivered to the Coast Guard in September 2011 and commissioned into Coast Guard Service March 2012. CGC Stratton and the other NSCs routinely conduct operations from South America to the Bering Sea in support

of global security operations.

It has been reported that the newest Coast Guard Cutter Munro, the fourth NSC Cutter will join the 11th Coast Guard District's Pacific Operations in Alameda later this year. Each of the newest NSC has the range, speed, and ability to operate in extreme weather conditions which enable them to conduct counter-narcotics, homeland security, alien-migrant interdiction, living marine resource enforcement, search and rescue, and other Coast Guard missions far from shore.

70th Anniversary of "World Peace II" Submitted by Nestor Aliga

The American Legion Manuel L. Quezon Post 603 in Vallejo, CA in collaboration with other veteran groups to include The American Legion Vallejo Post 104, The American Legion Mare Island Navy Yard Post 550, Disabled American Veterans, Chapter 21, Filipino-American Retired United States Armed Forces Association (FARUSAFA), Fleet Reserve Association, Branch 8 (FRA), United States Submarine Veterans, Mare Island Base (USSVI/MI), Veterans of Foreign Wars Carl H. Kreh Post 1123 (VFW), and Rebuilding Together Solano County will be commemorating the 70th anniversary of "World Peace II" on Dec. 17, 2016, 1PM, at 420 Admiral Callaghan Lane, Vallejo CA 94591.

World War II veterans living in Solano County who wish to be honored with various Certificates of Appreciation must submit via email their name, phone and address by Veterans Day, Nov 11, 2016, to Nestor.Aliga@comcast.net.

It is estimated that there may still be 1,600 WWII Veterans living in Solano County (based on data from <http://www.va.gov/vetdata/VeteranPopulation.asp> that 5% of all living veterans are WWII era). We are hoping that at least 300 WWII Veterans living in Solano County will submit their names so we can honor them with personalized Certificates.

Just like our events in 2011-12 for WWII, 2013-14 for Korean War, and

2014 on-going for Vietnam War, we have already requested Certificates of Appreciation from the President, US Secretary of Defense, Congress, California Legislature, Solano County Board of Supervisors, and City of Vallejo Mayor.

Since this is for Solano County residents, we are requesting other cities and veterans organizations in Solano County to lend their support, too. We are calling this event "World Peace II" to emphasize the positive aspect of history and to also garner support from the Consulate Generals of Japan, Germany, and the Philippines in San Francisco.

Please contact Nestor Aliga at: (707) 853-0062 or by email at: Nestor.Aliga@comcast.net.



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AWARDS DINNER**



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FIREFIGHTER CHET CAMERON
SAN FRANCISCO FIRE DEPARTMENT

FIREFIGHTER THOR SHATTUCK
SAN FRANCISCO FIRE DEPARTMENT

Tuesday, November 15, 2016
United Irish Cultural Center, 2700-45th Avenue (off Sloat Boulevard)

No-Host Cocktails 6 PM / Dinner 7 PM
\$60 Per Person

Entrée Choices:
Cross Rib of Beef or Chicken Pomodoro
(Vegetarian Option Available)

*Make checks payable to Greg Corrales and include entrée choice(s).
Send checks to Sergeant Patricia Brown (CIS-Records) or
US Mail to Greg Corrales, 2634-18th Avenue, SF 94116*

CHINESE AMERICAN VETERAN HERO

OTTO LEE



Name in English: Otto Lee

Name in Chinese: 李洲晓 [李洲曉]

Name in Pinyin: : Lǐ Zhōuxiǎo

Year of Birth: 1967 **Place of Birth** Hong Kong

Current Location: Sunnyvale, CA

Politician, Attorney, Navy Officer

Profession(s): Sunnyvale Councilmember, Patent Attorney, Navy Officer

Education: B.S., Chemical and Nuclear Engineering, 1989, University of California at Berkeley; J.D., 1994, University of California, Hastings College of the Law; LL.M., Public International Law, 2001, Rijksuniversiteit Leiden, The Netherlands

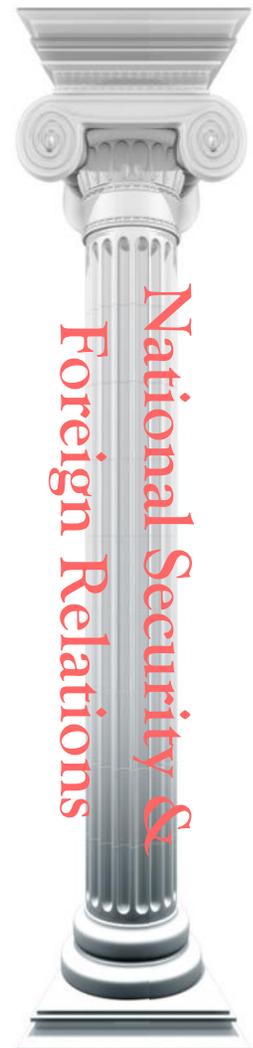
Awards: 2005, “Best Under 40” Recipient, National Asian Pacific American Bar Association

Contributions: Elected to the Sunnyvale City Council in 2003, Otto Lee served as vice mayor in 2005 and mayor in 2006, and was one of the city’s first Asian American council members. Before being elected to the city council, Lee was a member and chair of the Sunnyvale Planning Commission, helping plan smart growth and downtown revitalization. During his time as mayor, Lee worked to further the city’s green agenda, establishing the Mayoral Green Ribbon Committee to promote environmental awareness among other programs. He became commonly known as the “Green Mayor” of Sunnyvale. He also helped turn the city’s \$14 million budget deficit into a small surplus through a policy of fiscal responsibility and forming close and civil working relationships between city staff and council.

In January 2009, Lee began serving a one-year deployment in Iraq and Afghanistan as a logistics officer, leaving behind his family, law practice, and seat on the City Council to serve his country. Lee, in the U.S. Navy since 1989, holds the rank of commander in the Naval Reserve and is the executive officer of an Aircraft Carrier Reserve Unit based in San Diego. During the first Gulf War, Lee served on-board the guided-missile cruiser USS Harry E. Yarnell, where he was in charge of four service divisions and over 50 sailors. Under Lee’s leadership, his ship’s Service Division received the Atlantic Fleet’s Best Ship’s Sales and Service Award in 1991.

In 2009, he served at the Multinational Forces Headquarter in Iraq as Chief of Draw-down Material Disposition Policy and was awarded the Bronze Star. His other notable awards include: BEST UNDER 40 by National Asian Pacific American Bar Association in 2005, Community Award by Asian Law Alliance in 2010, Character Award by the Boy Scouts of America and NAACP Silicon Valley Legislator of the Year in 2011.

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CAH—Otto Lee, Continued

(Continued from page 20)

Lee’s sense of public duty and service has been evident since a young age. When his family moved to the U.S. in 1982, he unsuccessfully tried to join the Navy at 15 years old. Since he was too young, the Navy referred him to the Sea Cadets, in which he served for several years before joining the Navy.

Founder and managing partner of the Intellectual Property Law Group LLP, Lee specializes in international intellectual property, trade secrets, and fighting anti-competitive business practices.

A true public servant, Lee is dedicated to serving his country, his city, and the community. He resides in Sunnyvale with his wife Sally and their three children.

[Special Note: Otto Lee is also a member of The American Legion Cathay Post 384.]

External Links:

http://www.ottolee.org/ottos_story.html

http://iplg.com/attorney_profiles/otto_lee.html

<http://www.leexiao.com/ProfessionalProfile.html>

<http://webblog.abc7news.com/2008/12/otto-lee-from-h.html>

Article courtesy from our friend & partner:

CHINESE AMERICAN HEROES

chineseamericanheroes.org

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THE AMERICAN LEGION **FAMILY**



October 2016

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1
2	3	4 ALWMC Meeting, 6:00 pm	5	6 Bingo help @ Post 105 RWC	7	8 Post Meeting 11 am @ VB & Fleet Week lunch
9 Italian Heritage Day parade	10 Columbus Day	11	12	13 Dist. 8 Meeting 6:00 pm	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23 /	24 /	25	26	27	28	29
30	Halloween 31					

November 2016

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1 ALWMC Meeting, 6:00 pm	2	3 Bingo help @ Post 105 RWC	4	5
6 Daylight Saving Time Ends	7	8 Election Day	9	10 Dist. 8 Meeting 6:00 pm	11 Veterans Day	12 Post Meeting 11 am
13 Veterans Day parade	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24 Thanksgiving	25	26
27	28	29	30			

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

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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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