



CATHAY DISPATCH

Veterans - Sounding Off Since 1931

ROBERT HEINISCH—NEW DEPARTMENT OF CA COMMANDER

By Clara Pon

Important Dates:

- Oct 2—Fleet Week luncheon 12:00
- Oct 8—Italian Heritage Day parade
- Oct 9—Columbus Day
- Oct 14—Monthly meeting at 11 a.m.
- Oct 31—Halloween
- Nov 5—Daylight Saving Time ends
- Nov 7—Election Day
- Nov 11—Veterans Day & Monthly meeting at 11 a.m.



An emergency Department Executive Committee (DEC) meeting was called on Saturday, September 9, 2017 that was held in Orange County at Orange Post 132. Newly elected Department of CA Commander Art Castro sadly announced to his officers of his resignation of the new position due to unexpected and recently diagnosed health reasons. Our prayers are with him and his family. Some officers wished him “fair winds and following seas,” while a few others called out, “you stand relieved, we have the watch.”

Shortly after the emotional announcement, nominations for the vacated position of department commander included former Department Adjutant Bill Siler iii (Post 132/D29), past state PCC President Robert “Bob” Heinisch (Post 507/D20), and past Area 5 Vice Commander Clay Baxter (Post 679/D29). Each nominee was given time at the podium to speak. From there, each of the members of the DEC was given time to caucus among themselves and within their areas on why and who he/she would vote for.

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According to the department bylaws pertaining to special DEC meetings, only officers of the Department of CA have a vote...30 district commanders, six area vice commanders, junior past department commander, department commander and sergeant-at-arms, and the national executive committeeman. No one else has a voice or vote. Post commanders were not allowed to speak or weigh in.



The voting was close between Bill and Bob. Bob Heinisch from Newhall Post 507 was elected to the high office of Department of California Commander. The oath of office was given by Junior Past Commander Art Castro. Congratulations to Commander Bob and first lady Nancy Heinisch.



Italian Heritage Parade

SAN FRANCISCO

Sunday, October 8, 2017—Cathay Post will be marching.

Denise H. Rohan, 1st Female National Commander



Denise Rohan was elected national commander of the 2 million-member American Legion on Aug. 24, 2017, in Reno, Nev., during the 99th national convention of America’s largest veterans organization.

Born in McGregor, Iowa, Denise (Hulbert) Rohan lived in Elkader, Iowa, until leaving for U.S. Army basic training at Fort McClellan, Ala., in 1974. She served on active duty as a stock control and accounting specialist and repair parts specialist course instructor at Fort Lee, Va., until her honorable ‘discharge in August 1976.

Rohan and her husband, Mike, currently live in Verona, Wis., where she has served The American Legion since 1984. Prior to her transfer to Post 385 in Verona, she served as the commander of Post 333 in Sun Prairie, Wis., where she established a Sons of the American Legion squadron and chartered a Boy Scout troop. She has also served as the department commander of Wisconsin.

Rohan and Mike are both 2006 graduates of the National American Legion College and 2015 graduates of the Wisconsin American Legion College-Basic Course, and have gone on to serve as department and national American Legion College facilitators.

Rohan was employed with the University of Wisconsin Madison as the assistant bursar of student loans until her retirement in 2012. She managed the University of Wisconsin Madison, University of Wisconsin Green Bay and University of Wisconsin Colleges \$120 million loan portfolio made up of approximately 200 different federal, institutional and state programs in compliance with all laws, regulations and policy. She was responsible for the efficiency and design of the computerized student loan accounts receivable system.

She is a graduate of Mount Senario College in Ladysmith, Wis., and The Collegiate Management Institute.

Rohan served the Family Readiness Group as a civilian volunteer with the Wisconsin Army National Guard 32nd Infantry Brigade Combat Team and 1-105th Cavalry Squadron. She also served with the 115th Fighter Wing, Wisconsin Air National Guard Airman and Family Readiness Program.

Her theme as national commander is “Family First” and her fundraising project is the Legion’s Temporary Financial Assistance program and the Legion’s service officer program. TFA awards cash grants to minor children of veterans who are eligible for American Legion membership. These grants help families in need meet the cost of shelter, food, utilities and health expenses, thereby keeping the child or children in a more stable environment.

Rohan has been married to Mike since 1976, and they have a son, Nicholas, daughter-in-law Angie, and two grandchildren, Sawyer and Isla. Mike is very active with The American Legion on both the state and national levels and is a past department adjutant. Nick

(Continued on page 5)



COMMANDER NELSON LUM

Both the DEC at Amador Post 108 and The American Legion national convention in Reno took place in the month of August. I and 1st Vice Commander Helen Wong attended both events along with our Editor-in-Chief Clara Pon. It felt as though the entire month was devoted to travelling and dealing with Legion business.

Of particular interest was when President Trump addressed the assembly of Legionnaires, Auxiliary and SALs at the national convention. The POTUS (President of the United States) made history by signing into law "The Veterans Appeals Improvement and Modernization Act." The signing of this legislation drastically shortens the time period it takes to resolve an appeal to the VA by veterans regarding his/her medical treatment.

The current time frame for an appeal to be adjudicated averages around five (5) years. The new law will shorten the average time frame down to 125 days. To accomplish this requirement, the law directs the VA to create three lanes of adjudications; each lane handles different aspects and types of appeal with the

goal of expediting the process. The American Legion has pushed for the passage of this bill and our veterans will now benefit from the hard work of The Legion.

Representative from the Selective Service Board addressed the Homeland Security Committee of The American Legion regarding the status of the "Draft." Apparently, many people have forgotten that a young man must still register for the draft when he turns 18 years of age. Our all volunteer military has not eliminated the requirement to register. The registration period spans from the time when the young man turns 18 and will cease once he reaches the age of 26. If the young man has not registered within that time frame, he will no longer be allowed to register, thus, he will no longer be eligible for government employment.

Another historical event took place at this year's convention. The American Legion elected its first woman national commander, National Commander Denise H. Rohan from the state of Wisconsin. She served with the Army in 1974 to 1976 and has been a Legionnaire for over 33

years. She participated in every level of leadership within The Legion during those years and we are very proud to have her as our commander as we prepare for the 100th year celebration. She will be visiting California in the early part of December and Cathay Post 384 is honored to be selected as one of the posts she will visit along with a tour of the SF War Memorial Veterans Building. I will keep you all posted when more information is available and her schedule has been confirmed.

It has taken much longer than anticipated, but the 2nd floor of our headquarters building is finally listed for lease by a licensed realtor. The agreement calls for the realtor to accomplish the task of leasing the space within 120 days. If you know of someone or organization who may be interested in leasing the space (2,760 sq. ft.), please contact Mr. Paul Radcliffe, Senior Investment Advisor, Alain Pinel Investment Group, 2001 Union St. Suite 200, San Francisco, CA 94123. (415) 814-6698 (Office), (415) 310-6387 (Cell), <http://www.apinvestmentgroup.com/>.

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Nelson Lum

nelson1431@aol.com
(415) 797-7384

Cathay Post member
since: 2005

Branch: Army

Final Rank: SPC

"As we prepare to celebrate the 100th year of the founding of The American Legion, in order to remain relevant, we must attract new and younger veterans into our midst."



Helen Wong

wong_helen@sbcglobal.net

(415) 797-7384

Cathay Post member since: 1990

Branch: Army

Final Rank: Lt. Col.

“Leadership involves coordinating and balancing the conflicting interests of all members. A leader is able to think clearly in times of crisis and act professionally in difficult situations.”

1st VICE COMMANDER HELEN WONG

Leadership matters! By now, all posts of the American Legion have had their annual elections. Some may have elected the same members to a different position within their posts or some may have been elected the same members to the same positions. Whatever the outcome, the membership chose to put their trust in their officers to represent the post in a certain position.

So, what makes a good leader and what does leadership involve? Each person has their own opinions of what a leader is and decides accordingly who to vote for. In my opinion, a leader is someone who establishes a clear vision and inspires others to follow along. That leader provides the information and knowledge for the members to make an informed decision about carrying out that vision in a cohesive way.

Leadership involves coordinating and balancing the conflicting interests of all members. A leader is able to think clearly in

times of crisis and act professionally in difficult situations. That being said, no one is better qualified as a leader than our re-elected Commander Nelson Lum, and by now, the newly elected Area 2 Vice Commander.

In the past, he has demonstrated his leadership qualities as the American Legion War Memorial Commission Chairman, Eighth District Commander, and other officer positions in the post. In his past civilian work in the San Francisco Police Department, he demonstrated his leadership qualities. Yet, despite all his accomplishments, he has remained very low key and would rather keep out of the spotlight. His focus has been on serving first the U.S. Armed Forces in the Army and then the public, and now the veteran community. I salute his commitment to keeping the needs of the greater group first over his own needs.

At the American Legion Department convention June 22-25, I met the

past Hollywood Post 43 Commander James W. Disnake whose motto is “Be True Too All You Meet.” Ever the gracious host, he greeted all who ventured to the Hollywood Post’s hospitality room at the Mission Inn Hotel & Spa. Again, leaders don’t brag about their accomplishments but everyone knows how busy that post is all year round with projects.

Most who meet him wouldn’t know him as the man in a certain nationwide insurance commercial and he is an interesting person to get to know. He and his wife are well traveled to different countries.

The Mission Inn was a beautiful setting and the members were friendly. It is people like these that inspire and motivate one to do more. It is members who question what is going on and tries to solve problems who attract others to them. In turn, a post would do better with an ever dynamic force of leaders. Leadership matters in a big way!



THE AMERICAN LEGION
Centennial celebration

2nd VICE COMMANDER AARON LOW

Since this is my first article, here is a very brief background. I have Bachelors of Science degree in computer science. I earned and maintain my Certified Information System Security Professional (CISSP) credential.

I was mobilized a couple times after 911 and served at Joint Task Force – Computer Network Operation, Joint Task Force – Global Network Operation; Joint Forces Component Command – Net; and US Cyber Command. As many know, there was a global cyberattack in May 2017. (See link at the end for the story). Cyber attacks continue.

I plan to provide some information that all of us should be aware living in the on-line world.

Please forgive me if you already know and practice good cyber security practices. First, please remember to keep your

password protected. Make your password “complex.” Complexity varies depending on what your password is used for. There are applications that will keep your password so you will only have to remember one password. What I suggest is to have various levels (think security in defense).

Second, if it is an option, critical accounts such as banks (any financial accounts), primary email, etc.), consider using multifactor authentication. These critical accounts should have the most complex passwords. As you may have heard, don’t use the same password for multiple accounts. You can keep the same “root” of the password, but modify it just slightly to make it a different password.

A couple of examples: !@#\$QWERO1dc (for an account in Washington D.C. or !@#\$QWERO1sf

(for an account in San Francisco). When you need to change or update your password, change the 01 to the current month. This way you won’t have to write the password down and the password isn’t the same for multiple accounts.

Lastly, have a less complex password for accounts that aren’t as critical such as frequent flyers accounts, grocery store accounts, rewards programs, etc. You can use the same mythology for these passwords, but it should be different from the critical accounts.

If you have any questions or would like more information, please feel free to contact me.

For more information on the Global Cyber Attack, please see the following link. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/WannaCry_ransomware_attack



Aaron Low

aaronmlow@gmail.com

(415) 418-8640

Cathay Post member since: 2015

Branch: USMC

Final Rank: Lt. Col.

“...please remember to keep your password protected. Make your password “complex.” Complexity varies depending on what your password is used for.”

Commander Rohan, Continued

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and Sawyer are members of Squadron 385, and Isla is a member of Unit 385.

Story from Legion.org.

<https://www.legion.org/commander/bio>





COMMANDER LUM, CONTINUED

(Continued from page 3)

I am looking for someone who would like to take on the duties of being the area 2 baseball commissioner. If you are interested, please contact me via email at nelson1431@aol.com.

Our annual Fleet week luncheon for the sailors and Marines was held on Monday, October 2 at 11:00 a.m. at our post. It was one of our most successful Fleet Week lunches to date.

The Italian Heritage Day Parade will be on Sunday, October 8, 2017 at 11:00 a.m. We will again be among the parade participants. I will need a color detail, three vehicles (convertible preferred) for this event. Please let me know if you would like to participate. The Area 2 meeting is scheduled on Saturday, October 21, 2017 at Salinas

Post 31 located at 14 West Laurel Drive, Salinas. In addition to the regular meeting, training for membership and adjutant will be provided in the afternoon session. All post 1st vice commanders and adjutants are invited and encouraged to attend as well as any interested members. Lunch will be provided by Post 31. Please let me know if you would like to attend.

As we prepare to celebrate the 100th year of the founding of The American Legion, in order to remain relevant, we must attract new and younger veterans into our midst. We must think outside of the box and explore different means to encourage younger vets to participate in this great organization of ours. Our next membership meeting will be held on Saturday, October 14, 2017 at 11:00 a.m. at our headquarters building located at 1524 Powell Street. Hope to see all of you there.



100 Cities / 100 Memorials
 A National Matching Grant Challenge
 To Preserve WWI Memorials



The United States World War One Centennial Commission and the Pritzker Military Museum & Library Announce the First 50 official "WWI Centennial Memorials" through 100 Cites/100 Memorials

With support from The American Legion and Veterans of Foreign Wars, 100 Cities/100 Memorials Will Recognize 100 World War I Memorials Across the United States

CHICAGO (September 27, 2017) – The memorials are in 28 different states and each will receive a \$2,000 matching grant funds towards the restoration and maintenance of these memorials through 100 Cities/100 Memorials.

CONGRATULATIONS—Nestor Tom of Cathay Post 384 and VFW Post 4618 was one of the lucky submitters for the matching grant funds to restore the Chinese Veterans War Memorial in St. Mary's Square in San Francisco. Only two others from California, American Legion Post 512 in Carmel for Carmel By The Sea World War I Memorial Arch, and the other in Berkeley, Berkeley World War I Commemorative Plaque. Congratulations again for taking the time to file the application to restore these memorials of the great war.



The Preamble to The American Legion Constitution sums up the theme of the National Endowment Fund, "... devotion to mutual helpfulness." This phrase is more than just mere words on paper; it's our pledge of support to Legionnaires and their family members. Since the early 1920s, The American Legion has been actively involved in meeting the needs of both the community and individual Legion Family members in the wake of disasters such as hurricanes, tornadoes, earthquakes and wildfires.

The National Emergency Fund, created in response to Hurricane Hugo in 1989, has provided more than \$8 million in direct financial assistance to American Legion Family members and posts. By providing this emergency funding, NEF has prevented damaged posts from closing and enabled American Legion Family members to recover from tragedy.

NEF helps those affected by well-known disasters such as Hurricane Katrina and Superstorm Sandy and lesser-publicized tragedies such as flooding in South Dakota or Illinois, or wildfires in the south-west.

The fund provides up to \$3,000 for qualified Legion Family members and up to \$10,000 for posts. The eligibility requirements are:

1. Applicant must have been displaced from his or her primary residence due to a declared natural disaster.
2. Applicant must provide copies of receipts of items required to meet immediate needs such as temporary housing, food, water, clothing, diapers, etc.
3. Membership must be active at time of disaster and the time of application.

National Emergency Fund
Donations help provide necessary grants to those recovering from disasters

Volunteers get ready to work on the post-Sandy renovation of American Legion Post 143 in Highland, N.J.

Illbruck Post 235 serves as a staging area for victims of flood damage in the community of Murdock, Pennsylvania.

ABOUT THE NEF

From large disasters such as Superstorm Sandy to lesser-known instances of flooding in a small Illinois town, The American Legion provides financial relief to Legionnaires, Auxiliary members, Sons and posts.

The National Emergency Fund, created in response to Hurricane Hugo in 1989, has provided more than \$8 million in direct financial assistance to American Legion Family members and posts. By providing this emergency funding, NEF has prevented damaged posts from closing and enabled American Legion Family members to recover from tragedy.

NEF provides immediate monetary assistance up to \$3,000 for Legion Family members and up to \$10,000 for posts.

SCORECARD

Here are some notable disasters and NEF donations:

Tornadoes, Mount, Okla., May 2013	Grants: 264	Parrots: \$242,650
Superstorm Sandy, N.Y. and N.J., October 2012	Grants: 429	Parrots: \$428,087
Hurricane Isaac, Southeastern United States, August 2012	Grants: 198	Parrots: \$170,170
Flooding, Missouri, N.D., summer 2011	Grants: 95	Parrots: \$385,930
Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, Gulf Coast, August-September 2005	Grants: 2,160	Parrots: \$1,795,520

*The larger grant amounts include in-reimbursements as well as members.

HOW NEF HELPS

From coast to coast, Legionnaires and posts have received NEF grants that assist their recoveries. Post 143 in New Jersey was devastated by Superstorm Sandy, taking on 5 feet of water. But thanks to NEF assistance and efforts by volunteers, the post reopened 143 days later.

Individuals often use funds to help pay for immediate needs: food, hotel, clothes and other necessities wiped out by disaster.

To donate, go to @ www.legion.org/NEF

Waves of Flags—9/11 Tribute By Clara Pon



Wave of Flags on Pepperdine University in Malibu, CA. Photos by Ken George.

If you have the 2016-17 Department of California wall calendar on a wall somewhere you would have seen last month's page with a field with rows and rows and rows of US flags. It is actually 2,887 American flags and 90 international flags, a total of 2,977 flags to be exact.

Have you ever wondered where exactly that photo is from and maybe why? For those unfamiliar with this inspiring display, the Wave of Flags on Pepperdine University's campus in Malibu is a special 9/11 tribute honoring the 2,887 American lives lost and many individuals from 90 countries around the world who died during the attacks on September 11, 2001.

They began this annual remembrance back in 2008 when a student group on campus wanted to remember those who died. This year marks the 10th anniversary of this tribute on Pepperdine's Alumni Park which began on September 9 and will last through September 19, 2017. Drive along Pacific Coast Highway in Malibu and you can't miss it.

And if you're there at the right time, you'll also see some amazing 9/11 tribute cars from Fueled By The Fallen (www.fueledbythefallen.org) founded by Kevyn Major Howard. You might recognize him as Rafter Man from the

(Continued on page 9)



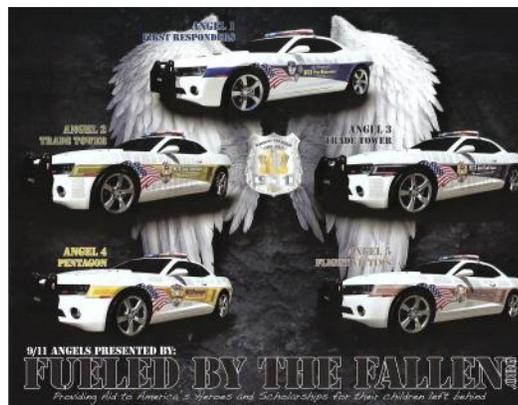
Waves of Flags, Continued

(Continued from page 8)

movie, Full Metal Jacket. There were five Angel memorial cars on display with the names of those that lost their lives during September 11... Angel 1 is dedicated to first responders, Angel 2 and 3 lists the names from the trade towers, Angel 4 has the names from those at the Pentagon, and Angel 5 representing the flight victims.

FueledByTheFallen.org is a 501c3 non-profit whose mission is to support "... our Military members, public safety personnel, and their family to aid in their emotion, physical, and financial recover needs by displaying and racing Memorial race cars." They provide aid

to America's heroes and scholarships for their children that were left behind. They participate in parades around the country and is headquartered in Las Vegas, Nevada.



Fueled By The Fallen memorial 9/11 tribute cars.

The American Legion Blasts NFL For Disrespect

By Legion.org

The leader of the nation's largest veterans organization characterized professional athletes and other Americans who fail to show respect for the national anthem as "misguided and ungrateful."

American Legion National Commander Denise H. Rohan lamented the politicization of what used to be a display of unity at NFL games and other sporting events throughout the country.

"The American Legion is one of the original architects of the U.S. Flag Code," said Rohan, a U.S Army veteran. "That code was produced by 69 patriotic, fraternal civic and military organizations in 1923. It included members of all political parties, big labor, industry, and minorities. The code calls on all present to stand at attention while the anthem is played. It wasn't political when it was written and it shouldn't be political today. Having a right to do something, does not make it the right thing to do. We salute Army Ranger Alejandro Villanueva, who stood alone respecting the flag as his teammates stayed in their locker room. NASCAR also deserves credit for their support of our anthem. There are many ways to protest, but the national anthem should be our moment to stand together as one UNITED States of America."

With a current membership of two million wartime veterans, The American Legion, www.legion.org, was founded in 1919 on the four pillars of a strong national security, veterans affairs, Americanism, and youth programs. Legionnaires work for the betterment of their communities through nearly 13,000 posts across the nation.

(September 25, 2017)



**SAN FRANCISCO POLICE-FIRE POST NO. 456
ANNUAL OFFICER AND FIREFIGHTER OF THE YEAR
AWARDS DINNER**



HONORING



OFFICER RILEY BANDY
SAN FRANCISCO POLICE DEPARTMENT
OFFICER OF THE YEAR FOR VALOR

OFFICER KEVIN DOWNS
SAN FRANCISCO POLICE DEPARTMENT
OFFICER OF THE YEAR FOR COMMUNITY SERVICE

LIEUTENANT BRICE PEOPLES
SAN FRANCISCO FIRE DEPARTMENT
FIREFIGHTER OF THE YEAR FOR VALOR

FIREFIGHTER PAUL BARRY
SAN FRANCISCO FIRE DEPARTMENT
FIREFIGHTER OF THE YEAR FOR COMMUNITY SERVICE

Thursday, November 9, 2017
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 Kevin Mannix, Taraval Station
or Greg Corrales, 2634-18th Avenue, SF 94116*

Legion looks forward to issuance of commemorative coins

The American Legion, September 25, 2017

On Sept. 25, the U.S. House of Representatives voted on House Resolution (H.R.) 2519, The American Legion 100th Anniversary Commemorative Coin Act, a bill that would require the Department of Treasury to mint and issue gold, silver and half-dollar clad coins in celebration of the centennial of the Legion, for one year, beginning in January 2019.

The bill has made steady progress since being introduced to Congress earlier this year. Over the past few months, Legionnaires have been gathering support and co-sponsors for the bill in both the House of Representatives and Senate (S. 1182). The Senate measure passed the chamber on Aug. 3.

The Legion has worked tirelessly to ensure H.R. 2519 passes and advances to the White House for the president's signature, according to James Oxford, chairman of The American Legion's Legislative Commission.

"This is great news that the House of Representatives passed H.R. 2519 today," he said. "Out of all of the coin bills authorized in the last decade, The American Legion broke the record for co-sponsors. The previous record was held by the U.S. Army with 348. We currently have 375 and that's phenomenal."

Unique among U.S. Mint products, all surcharges received from the sale of The American Legion centennial coin will help raise money for Legion programs that support veterans, servicemembers and their families, as well as commemorate important aspects of American history and culture. The funds gained from sales will support caring for those who served and are currently serving in the armed forces, and programs that maintain patriotic values, strong families and assistance for at-risk children.

"Since 1919, The American Legion has dedicated itself to serving our nation's veterans," said Congressman Phil Roe, R-Tenn., chairman of the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs. "I look forward to continuing to work alongside The American Legion in our shared goal of improving the lives of America's heroes."

Congress only authorizes the minting of two commemorative coins per year, an honor Oxford said that the nation's largest veterans organization is proud to share.

"The money that is generated from these commemorative coins will allow us to fund good, quality programs for youth, national security, deployed servicemembers and veterans," Oxford said.

Congressman Tim Walz, D-Minn., Congressman Kevin McCarthy, R-Calif., and Congresswoman Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., were critical in getting this veterans-centric legislation across the finish line, according to Oxford.

"For nearly a century, The American Legion has worked tirelessly day and night to improve the lives of our veterans and their families, and for that reason, words cannot express the gratitude I have for the men and women of The American Legion," said Walz, the ranking member of the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs. "As both a veteran and a legislator, I see firsthand the results they achieve for veterans on a daily basis."

<https://www.legion.org/legislative/239397/legion-looks-forward-issuance-commemorative-coins>

Veterans' measures signed by the president

During the month of August, President Trump signed into law three bills:

P.L. 115-46, the VA Choice and Quality Employment Act of 2017. This legislation will provide \$2.1 billion to the Veterans Choice Program, which allows veterans to seek health care outside of the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) if the needed care is not available through VA. It will also invest \$1.8 billion into hiring more health care

(Continued on page 12)

Legislative Report, Continued By Nelson Lum

(Continued from page 11)

providers (VA currently has about 49,000 vacancies) and authorizes leases for 28 new VA clinics, many of which are badly needed for local care in rural areas. Without congressional action, the Choice Program was expected to run out of money by mid-August, which VA leaders said would have led to layoffs and interrupted medical care for thousands of veterans.

P.L. 115-55, the Veterans Appeals Improvement and Modernization Act of 2017. This legislation was signed into law by the president on Aug. 23 at The American Legion's 99th national convention in Reno, Nev. The new law creates three lanes for appeals, including a Local Higher Level Review Lane where an adjudicator reviews the same evidence considered by the original claims processor; the New Evidence Lane where the veteran could submit new evidence for review and have a hearing; and the Board Lane where jurisdiction for the appeal would transfer immediately to the Board of Veterans Appeals.

P.L. 115-48, the Harry W. Colmery Veterans Education Assistance Act of 2017 – known as the “Forever GI Bill.” This legislation would make significant changes to the Post-9/11 GI Bill. These changes include eliminating a requirement that veterans use their benefits within 15 years of leaving active-duty service; expanding benefits for reservists, Purple Heart recipients and surviving dependents; retroactively restoring benefits to veterans affected by school closures; and providing additional funds to GI Bill users pursuing degrees in science, technology, engineering and math.

Many of the provisions of this law do not go into effect until next year, with others becoming effective in 2-4 years.

From the Legislative Committee, pending bills in California legislative chambers.

- “ Assembly Bill 1249, if passed, will grant veteran organizations exemption from property taxes, only exception being the portion of the property that consists of a bar.
- “ Assembly Bill 153, if passed, will make those politicians convicted of having made false claims about their military record (Stolen Valor) to forfeit their office.
- “ Assembly Bill 296, if passed, will require the Department of Veteran Affairs to create a task force to study the health of California women veterans and report its findings to the Governor and the Legislature.
- “ Senate Bill 694, if passed, will require all community colleges to provide a dedicated on campus veteran resource center.

A resolution advanced by Cathay Post 384 with the support of District 8 that requests The American Legion to support a bill currently introduced in both the House and Senate to award congressional gold medals to those Chinese American who served in the military in WWII was unanimously passed by the delegates of the Department of California convention.



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*APR = Annual Percentage Rate. Example rate of 1.74% APR with 36 monthly payments = \$28.53 per \$1,000 borrowed, assumes .25% discount for enrollment in automatic payments (fully indexed rate of 1.99%). APR is based on evaluation of credit history, your actual rate may differ. Internal refinance will be subject to a 1.00% add on to your qualifying interest rate. Out-of-state vehicles are acceptable on dealer transactions only. Rates, fees and terms are subject to change at any time, you may contact us for current information at 800.222.1391.

Reigning National Color Guard Reclaims Title By Clara Pon



Color Guard Commander Brian Fleming and team waiting to perform. Photo by Wayne Yee.

COLOR GUARD, CARRY COLORS.

That is the first command, loud and clear from team Commander Brian Fleming Jr. that you will hear walking into the weekly practice session that Newport Harbor Post 291 color guard team holds once a week beginning in February at Orange Post 132. They spend a couple of hours every week practicing and perfecting their routine after their choreography has been set, tweaked, and tweaked again until it feels right and flows smoothly.

This year's team, with the addition of a new member, David Barras has something to prove. They are a bit more stressed knowing what is expected of them, but just as excited to go for it all. They have titles to lose or titles to reclaim. It's not just one title, but three (3). Yes, I said, "Three." Newport Harbor Post 291 color guard team competes in two (2) categories: *Advancing/Retiring of Colors* and *Military – Open* class to vie for the ultimate overall title of *National Commander's Color Guard*. Last year, the team took the title for *Advancing/Retiring of Colors*, but fell a wee tiny short of *Military-Open* class and came in second. However, their aggregate score was higher than the eight time reigning national team from Houston, Texas which earned Newport Harbor

color guard team the new title of *National Commander's Color Guard*. The year prior, the team took the title for *Military-Open* class and competed for the first time, *Advancing/Retiring of Colors*. Their combined score was not enough to beat the reigning champs.

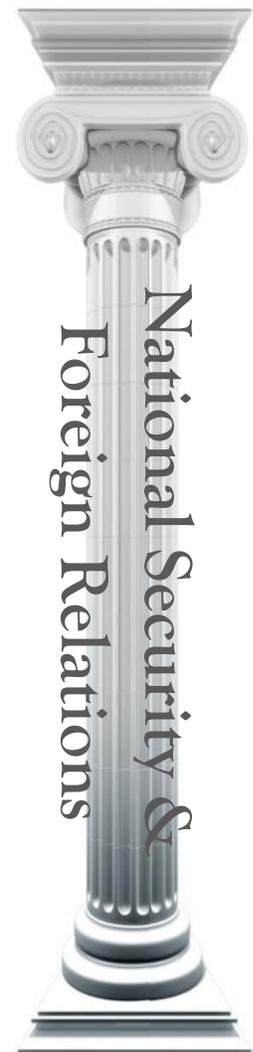
So, at the 99th American Legion national convention on August 18, 2017 in Reno, Nevada, Newport Harbor Post 291 Color Guard team won both categories - *Advancing/Retiring of Colors* and *Military-Open*, giving them the titles of National Champions 2017 *Advancing/Retiring of Colors* Class and National Champions 2017 *Military-Open* Class. This makes them the reigning *National Commander's Color Guard* team and the color guard for the first female National Commander of The American Legion, Denise H. Rohan!



Reigning National Commander's Color Guard, Front, L-R: Kevin Van Otterloo, Dennis De Rosia, Ken George, David Barras. Back, L-R: National Commander Charles E. Schmidt, Don Putzig, Commander & trophy holder Brian Fleming Jr., Carmen Williams, and Dept. of CA Commander Art Castro. Photo by Lucas Carter/The American Legion.

A large contingent of Legionnaires, Auxiliary, and Sons from all over California came to watch and support

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Color Guard, Continued

not only the Newport Harbor team, but also the 9-time national winning SAL Detachment of CA, District 12 color guard team led by David Smith. California was in the house and we were loud and proud of our teams that competed. Everyone could hear us cheering them on.

On a more serious note, national does need and want more teams to compete in the annual competition at the national convention. If they do not get more teams to compete, they may have to consider eliminating the competition all together. As it was, the national band competition this year was canceled due to a lack of participants. Let's not see these two competitions cease to exist in the years to come when it is such an integral part of life that demonstrates and teaches us all the value of team work, the time and effort it takes to make a commitment

and stick with it, to never settle for good, but strive for better, and the special bond and camaraderie that one feels being part of a group that brings joy and happiness or loving support during sad times. No one can ever truly express the feeling of holding up, to all to see, a shiny trophy that shows they are winners and all their hard work paid off.

Congratulations to the entire team, Commander Brian Fleming Jr., David Barras, Robert Bright, Dennis De Rosia, Ken George, Don Putzig, Kevin Van Otterloo, and Carmen Williams for their outstanding performances again. Their dedication and commitment to this time honored ritual of protecting our flag and safeguarding the organization's colors is always a blessing and heartwarming to watch. We hope to see and cheer you all on next year.



California Legion family members watched and cheered on our two teams that competed at the annual national color guard competition in Reno, NV. Lucy Van Otterloo & Glo De Rosia (center) holding the two winning trophies won by Newport Harbor Post 291 Color Guard team along with National Commander Charles Schmidt and Department Commander Art Castro. Photo by Wayne Yee.

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Funeral Honors By Virginia Yee

Our very own Commander Lum was quoted rather extensively in the San Francisco Chronicle on Sunday, September 17, 2017. The article was entitled "Vets ensure final send-off for brethren," written by Carl Nolte. <http://www.sfchronicle.com/nation/article/Vets-ensure-final-send-off-for-brethren-12202529.php>

Although the article basically focused on providing honor guards to perform military honors at funerals, Commander Lum was able to talk about the negative public opinion towards Vietnam Veterans when he returned from his service in Vietnam in 1968. Commander Lum said, "They looked at us as being villains, instead of the government policy that produced the war." While I was too young at the time to remember much about the Vietnam War, I do recall the counter-culture protests and marches with the anti-war slogan "Make Love, Not War."

Thankfully, the public opinion has evolved. According to Commander Lum, five decades later, people view Vietnam veterans in a more positive light. "Attitudes have changed completely," he said. "There's more respect for war veterans in general," he said.

The article goes on to describe American Legion Cathay Post 384's service for the veteran community: "Lum, a retired San Francisco police sergeant, is commander of Cathay Post 384 of The American Legion, the organization's first Chinese American unit. Like other Legion posts, his group looks out for veterans, marches in parades, sponsors youth activities. But they also provide honor guards, who attend funeral services for veterans, bestow-

ing a last tribute for men and women who have served their country."

The article highlighted the limited availability of active duty and reserve military to provide military honors at funerals. Honor Guard volunteer groups have stepped up, in addition to the honor guards from Cathay Post, there are small groups such as the Sacramento Valley National Cemetery Honor Guards and the United States Volunteers of America, based in the Peninsula.

At the end of the article, Commander Lum, who was drafted and served in the 101st Airborne Division in Vietnam (as we all know), attributes his military experience to giving him a purpose in life and a college education, thanks to the GI bill. "I would do it again," he said. "It is the best thing that ever happened to me."

It was reassuring to hear that our Vietnam Veterans are now treated with more respect and dignity. As Commander Lum suggests, despite the hostility and opposition that our veterans suffered after returning from Vietnam, some were able to learn and receive important life lessons and training in the military which helped them in their future endeavors.



Sacramento Valley Nat'l Cemetery Honor Guard members Greg Artau (left) Ken Tiger, Jerry Hicks, Lu Pietrowski, Tom Murry and Ralph Kenyon stand at attention.. Photo by Michael Short, Special to the Chronicle.





2016-17 CALIFORNIA AMERICAN LEGION PRESS ASSOCIATION AWARDS

(C.A.L.P.A.) AWARDS 2017 By Helen Wong

The California American Legion Press Association (C.A.L.P.A.) was the best kept secret to Legionnaires in the past. But no more since Dr. John Ellis was elected President two years ago and he made it his mission to grow the membership. Marketing the group and getting the brand in front of members worked! During the Department convention (June 22-25, 2017), over 70 new members joined. The new elected president of CALPA is Mildred Wright-Pearson who will continue to grow the organization by building a solid foundation.

At the awards luncheon, all the hard work of our own Clara Pon paid off as she was recognized by C.A.L.P.A. with awards. Clara was also given a special Leadership Award.

Other honors included:

- ◆ Cathay Post with Clara as Editor took the Willard A. Hope Award 1st Place for Post Newsletters: Under 250 Members. (Cathay Dispatch issues June, November, and December 2016.)
- ◆ Our Commander Nelson Lum took the John E. "Jack" Mummert Award 2nd Place for Editorials from Members with his "A Legend Who Was a Draft Resister." (Cathay Dispatch June 2016.)
- ◆ Clara took the John E. "Jack" Mummert Award 3rd Place for Editorials from Members with her "Legion of the Silver Rose" article. (Cathay Dispatch November 2016.)



Copies of these issues are available at the post in the yearly newsletter binder that sits on the coffee table. If you would like a copy of any of the issues or the articles that won, please email Clara Pon at: cathaypost384events@gmail.com and she will email a copy to you.



Cathay Post 384 is always interested in receiving your stories about the four pillars of The American Legion for publishing. If you have a story you want to write about, we'd love to hear from you. If you'd like to help out with the newsletter, we'd definitely welcome you to the team. Just let Commander Nelson Lum or I Wong know. We're always looking for people interested in writing articles, taking photos, graphic designers, etc.

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At the National American Legion Press Association Media awards luncheon, Cathay Post won five (5) awards out of the 15 awards that California received.

- ◆ R. C. Cann Award (Smaller posts, units, and squadrons) - 1st Place Cathay Post 384.
Cathay Dispatch issues June & November 2016, and April 2017.
- ◆ William E. Rominger Editorial Awards—2nd & 3rd Place Clara Pon
2nd Place, ALEI-Learning has no boundaries, Cathay Dispatch October 2016 issue;
3rd Place, What does Old Glory mean to you?, Cathay Dispatch December 2016 issue.
- ◆ William E. Rominger, Guest Editorial—1st Place Roger Dong
Honoring World War II Veterans.
- ◆ Visual Media Awards—Photographs—3rd Place Nelson Lum
Chinese New Year parade photos (Market & Geary Streets split & collage.)



Photo by Alexa de Ryss



Collage photos taken by Stanley Li,
arranged by Clara Pon

Other NALPA winners from California included Sue Pascoe from Pacific Palisades Post 283 for publications, social networking, and graphic designs; Autrey James from Noia Harding Post 161 for website; Chris Yates/Javier Collazo from Alvin Myo Dunn Post 365 for website; Jean Cooley-



Desmeules for District 19 Auxiliary publication, Ken George from Newport Harbor Post 291 for District 29 Facebook page; and “Durk” Durkin for SAL publication, Social networking, and graphic design.

Great job by all.

Photo by Jared Morgan, Santa Monica Bay Cities Post 123.



Post Chartered July 27, 1912

Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States

91st Div/Chinatown Post No. 4618, San Francisco

91st Div/Chinatown VFW Post No. 4618 cordially invites you to join us at our annual Holiday/Christmas dinner on Saturday, December 2, 2017. The dinner will be a Chinese banquet (family style) with seating at 10 per table. Tickets are **\$40.00 per person**. Reserved seating available for groups of ten.

Attire: Appropriate dinner attire

Location: Imperial Palace Restaurant
818 Washington Street in San Francisco Chinatown
(St. Mary's Garage- After 6PM - \$1/Hour, California x Kearny)

5:00 PM to 6:00 PM Social Hour, No host cocktails 6:00 PM Opening ceremony with dinner following. We are looking forward to have you join us

Raymond Wong, Post Commander
Michael O'Keefe Senior Vice Commander
David Wong, Junior Vice Commander
Nestor Tom, Quartermaster

Robert Butchart, Chaplain
Albert Tom, Trustee
James Earhart, Trustee
Charles Paskerian, Trustee

Dinner Reservations: Make checks payable to **VFW Post No. 4618** by the **Nov. 17th** deadline and return along with the completed dinner reservation form to Nestor Tom. For group seating, ten per table, please include post number or group/organization name and the names of the persons attending along with the total payment in one envelope. Public parking is also available at Portsmouth Street Garage.

Mail dinner reservations to:

Nestor Tom
351 22nd Avenue, #3, San Francisco, CA 94121-2109
E-mail: nestortom@gmail.com, Phone: 415-386-2916

.....detach.....

VFW Dinner Reservation Form Dec 2, 2017

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip Code: _____

Phone: _____ Number Attending _____ X \$40.00 = _____

US Veteran Who Helped China in WWII Finally Laid To Rest

By Roger Dong



On Jan 25, 1944, 24-year-old Army 1st Lieutenant Robert Eugene Oxford of Concord, Ga., served in the U.S. Army Air Corps during World War II along with seven other crew members were on a routine supply mission on their B-24 Liberator heavy bomber flying from Kunming in Southwest China to Chabua, India. They were transiting the notorious Hump of the Himalayas, a treacherous and unforgiving flight route that today remains a scary flight.

On that tragic date, the B-24 bomber did not complete its mission. Like many aircraft which challenged the Himalayas, Oxford's plane and aircrew went down in the jagged and hostile ravine. No mayday message was received, and when the aircraft did not arrive in Chabua a few hours after the scheduled time. The aircraft was presumed gone, and the flight crew lost and perhaps gone forever.

Regarding this flight and her crew, forever was 73 years. Forever for the few surviving and distant relatives of Lt. Oxford and other crew families. Immediate relatives of Oxford and most other crew members have since passed on. Oxford and the crew of the B-24 bomber was almost a forgotten memory.

During World War II, around 2000 American aircrew were lost flying the Hump. Some of those lost pilots were Chinese Americans from Washington state where there was a pilot school.

According to our Cathay Post 384

friend, Captain Moon Chin who flew the Hump from 1937-1945 in many types of military and civilian air transports, every flight was a nail biter. These early generations of airplanes were not pressurized and communications equipment was primitive. Every flight was like a scary elevator ride. Because of heavy head winds, about 25% of the time, flights had to return to their points of origin as too much fuel was wasted maintaining air speed and altitude jockeying the hazards of unpredictable wind and jagged ridges of the Hump.

The memory of Lt. Oxford and his air crew had faded until 2006. Amazingly, a hiker in the Himalayas discovered a wing fragment and panel sign with Oxfords name. That led to a military investigation of the immediate area where the discovered items were found. Human remains were removed from the area and DNA testing linked some of the remains to Oxford's living niece and nephew. Ironically, if these remains were found shortly after WWII, there would not have been DNA technology to confirm and link the remains with living families. The good news is, current DNA techniques enabled the located remains to be related to living members of the lost Lt. Oxford. Hooray for modern high tech!

News reports covered the special memorial services for Oxford and his crew which included full military honors at victim's home in Georgia. It was reported by the Director of the Zebulon Georgia funeral home that services were attended by 300-400 people, most of whom were ethnic

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Finally Laid to Rest, Continued

(Continued from page 20)

Chinese who traveled many miles from New York and Philadelphia.



Members of the military carry a casket holding the remains of World War II Lt. Robert Eugene Oxford on June 8, 2017.

Photo: Chad Rhym/chad.rhym@ajc.com

During World War II, the United States and China were partners and allies, resisting the Japanese Imperial Army that had almost conquered Asia, including SE Asia. President Franklin Roosevelt (FDR) secretly authorized the US military to support the Chinese resistance, which at that time was led by Generalissimo Chiang Kai-Shek. Our Army Air Corps General Hap Arnold established the 10th Air Force in India and US supplies were airlifted from India, over the Himalayan Hump, into China where the Chinese military was making a last stand. The planned effort to move supplies on land through Burma were blocked as the Japanese Imperial Army and Air Forces had seized and controlled of most of China and Hong Kong. Vietnam, Burma and most of the Philippines had also fallen.

That left the airlift of military supplies over the Hump as the only viable method to supply China until Burma was recaptured in 1945. By that time, the war was ending and the capture and reopening of the notorious Burma Road, the mission of Army General

Joseph Stillwell, was too little and too late.

Today, most Americans know little of those World War II years when America was a military partner with China, and those who do know, rarely give the matter a second thought.

In China, this partnership is revered and acknowledged with monuments and festivals honoring the Flying Tigers who demolished Japanese Zeros (tactical fighters) and bombers. The contributions of the many American Hump pilots who supplied China with fuel, food and weapons are also honored and acknowledged. China has spent millions honoring General Chennault (and his Flying Tigers) and the many American volunteers who were assigned to our military mission in India. Several museums have been created to remember those who sacrificed to save China.

Does anyone know of any recognition of our military, who sacrificed, including the many who made the ultimate sacrifice, to fight Japan with China during WWII? There have been a few events, but very few and only the families of World War II members participate.

Franklin D. Roosevelt secretly authorized our military participation because he believed it was important to resist and engage the Japanese military in Asia to prevent the loss of Asia to Japan, and perhaps more importantly, to tie up Japanese military in Asia so that they could not be redirected at our military forces fighting in the Pacific. The War in the Pacific was the war we had to win.



“Uncle” Andrew Leong, WWII USA/USAF Interview By Roger Dong



While making a presentation at our Sunset Library in early March, a young lady, who learned I was a veteran, asked if I knew a Mr. Andrew Leong who was a WWII veteran. I replied "Yes." In turn, she said that he was her Uncle. I also knew Andrew Leong as an "Uncle", as well, because there is a custom in the Chinese American community for older male friends who were close friends of the family to be called Uncle. I had not seen "Uncle" Andrew in a quarter century. At my suggestion, I was immediately invited to have dinner with "Uncle Andrew" that evening.

A few hours later, I joined "Uncle Andrew" at his home in North Beach/Chinatown and it was a joyous reunion. During dinner, a bomb shell surfaced. "Uncle Andrew" was not only a WWII veteran, he has been a member of Cathay Post since 1947. OMG, Veteran Andrew Leong became a life member and avoided annual dues for 70 years - an amazing and prudent investment. At that time, his "life membership" fee was \$150, a pretty penny at the time. Andrew Leong has never regretted that brilliant decision. He stated that he served in the Army Air Corps during THE war and then joined the Air Force Reserves in 1947, and retired as a Lieutenant Colonel in both the Army and Air Force. He would tell me the rest of his military story a few days later.

With an appointment, I returned a few days later, anxious to hear the story of a senior post member and his military memories. Private Andrew Leong enlisted in the Army Air Corps along with three colleagues in 1942, admittedly to avoid being a foot soldier. He only had a high school diploma so was not qualified to test for an officer's commission. But this was wartime, and in wartime, exceptions to the standing rules are made. We will learn that Private Leong's long military career was accented with unusual

situations that turned out to have a silver lining.

In 1943 after insisting on his desire to fly, Private Andrew Leong was sent to airplane mechanics school, where he learned that the Army had a pilot shortage, so he took standard IQ tests and passed (with flying colors). He completed training as a cadet and was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant upon graduation. His pilot flying and bombardier training was lengthy, and thus he did not fly military missions until 1945 – just as WWII was winding down. He flew the B-26 bomber which had a six man crew, and was also trained to be a navigator and bombardier.

The B-26 bombardier's location was positioned in a plexiglass bubble below the bomber's cockpit. In his most daring mission, as his bomber approached a heavily defended German industrial target, the attacking US Army Air force bombers were greeted with a heavy barrage of air defense flak. (Flak is munition designed to explode near aircraft with a barrage of small,

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Uncle Andrew, Continued

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sharp metal fragments intended to puncture targeted aircraft.) He does not recall how many missions he flew in total, but he had a flak experience that left 29 punctures in his B-26 with one flak fragment that whizzed through his glass enclosure missing his head by inches. It was one of those "Whew" moments - which he admits was the scariest event of his life.



Lt. Andrew Leong with his B-26 crew.

Lt Colonel Leong had another special war time experience. As a late comer to WWII, once the Germans' surrendered, he was not allowed to return home immediately. He needed to be credited with a full overseas tour before he would be able to return home. Leong did not receive his return home orders for over a year. We would assumed that this would be the ultimate frustration and bad fortune to a soldier who had just contributed to winning a deadly world war. Lt. Colonel Leong reported that he and his buddies had to endure post WWII France, the 12+ months in Paris and environs turned out to be the best of times. Who would have

guessed that all of France was enormously grateful for surviving the war and the defeat of the brutal Germans? Colonel Andrew Leong advised that every one of the French citizens he and his buddies met in France showered them with love and gratefulness. To this day, Lt. Colonel Leong said that the many months in France were moments to cherish. Those were the best of times for himself and many other GIs waiting for their return home orders.

Among Colonel Leong's memorabilia were several BDA (bomb damaged assessment) photographs of the bomb damages rendered by his B-26 and other members of his bombardier unit. Some of us may not be aware that even before the Vietnam War, our military took photos of targeted areas even during WWII. We hope that Lt Colonel Leong will visit us soon so that we can all meet a real WWII combat bomber. There are very few of these heroes around these days.



Bomb Assessment damage photographs caused by his B-26.



October 2017

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

November 2017

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

CATHAY POST NO. 384



Headquarters
1524 Powell Street
San Francisco, CA
94133
Tel: (415) 797-7384
Fax: (415) 797-7384

E-mail: cathaypost@gmail.com
www.cathaypost384.org

 Cathay Post #384



San Francisco War Memorial
Veterans Building Office #2
401 Van Ness Ave, Rm 213B
San Francisco, CA 94102

CATHAY DISPATCH STAFF

Clara Pon — Interim Publisher & Editor-in-Chief
cathaypost384events@gmail.com

Nelson Lum & Helen Wong—Cathay Dispatch Writers

Roger Dong — Contributing Reporter
rogerdong@hotmail.com

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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2014, 2015, 2016, 2017



2014, 2015, 2016, 2017



www.legion.org

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

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

Gulf War/War On Terrorism

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

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

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

Vietnam War
2/28/1961 – 5/7/1975

Korean War
6/25/1950 – 1/31/1955

World War II
12/7/1941 – 12/31/1946

World War I
4/6/1917 – 11/11/1918

**CATHAY Post 384
American Legion**

2017-2018 Officers

- Commander:** Nelson Lum
- 1st Vice Commander:** Helen Wong
- 2nd Vice Commander:** Aaron Low
- Adjutant:** Carl Payne
- Finance Officer:** George Tsang
- Historian:** Roger Dong

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