



Important Dates:

- Nov 3—Daylight Saving time ends
- Nov 5—Elections
- Nov 9—11 a.m. Post monthly meeting
- Nov 10—Veterans' Day parade
- Nov 10—Remembrance Service @ Grace Cathedral 3 p.m.
- Nov 11—Veterans Day
- Nov 28—Thanksgiving
- Dec 7—Pearl Harbor

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CATHAY DISPATCH

Veterans - Sounding Off Since 1931

EVOLVE OR DIE—WHAT STAGE IS YOUR POST IN?

By Clara Pon

The title of this article may seem harsh, but it is a reality for every post in this century old organization. Any organization, non-profit or for profit, staffed with paid employees, comprised of all volunteers, or a combination of paid and volunteers, still go through various developmental phases. Through the years, we've seen retailers go out of business, get acquired, or file for bankruptcy. Several retailers that are no longer around when I was growing up include stores like GEMCO, Woolworth's, Mervyn's, Service Merchandise, and Blockbuster to name just a few. Their organizational decline can be attributed to a number of factors such as bad management, poor financial planning, under estimating the need for internal and external strategic development, assessing the market and its environment, or admitting that change is necessary to stay competitive and evolve. The American Legion on the post level as well as a whole at the national level also go through these organizational phases.

There are five stages to an organization's lifecycle – infancy, growth, prime, aging and dying. There are some that will say The American Legion is at the aging or dying stage, while others may think it is at some other stage. The prime stage would be at its highest performance, such as online retailer Amazon. Amazon is consistently looking at their external environments, improving their

processes, adding new competitive services, and most importantly, living and practicing their 14 leadership principles. They don't believe in resting on their laurels and just maintaining. They definitely don't believe in doing things the way they've always been done. How often do you hear that?

There have been some changes over the past several months dealing with membership eligibility for The American Legion and American Legion Auxiliary. Some are happy it is finally happening, while others think it is the worst possible direction for the organizations. Regardless of where your opinion falls, the organization is taking steps to redevelop and change with the environment. It is evaluating, assessing, and redesigning a strategic plan for the next 100 years. If they don't, they will surely cease to exist just like those long-forgotten retailers.

The first is the LEGION Act – Let Everyone Get Involved in Opportunities for National Service Act signed into law by President Trump on July 30, 2019. This act changes the eligibility dates of thousands of veterans that served his or her country. There are no longer seven eligible service dates to join The American Legion. There are only just two – World War I from April 6, 1917 to November 11, 1918 and from the beginning of World War II, December 7, 1941 to a future date determined by the federal government. This

(Continued on page 12)



NEC Approved Resolutions—2 Noted Changes

The American Legion National Executive Committee (NEC) passed 19 resolutions during fall meetings in October. Two resolutions to make note of include changes to the Preamble and National Oratorical contest.

Resolution 1—LEGION Act

With the signing of the LEGION Act – Let Everyone Get Involved in Opportunities for National Service Act – into law July 30 by President Trump, the U.S. government now acknowledges that the military has been involved in at least 12 additional military conflicts not previously recognized. As a result of this, The American Legion National Executive Committee adopted to amend the organization’s Preamble to recognize the millions of U.S. military veterans from all of these wars and conflicts that have occurred since World War I and II.

Resolution 1 was adopted by the NEC October 16 in Indianapolis amends “the Great Wars” in the Preamble to “all wars.”

The Preamble to the Constitution of The American Legion now reads:

For God and Country, we associate ourselves together for the following purposes:

- To uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States of America;
- To maintain law and order;
- To foster and perpetuate a one hundred percent Americanism;
- To preserve the memories and incidents of our associations in all wars;
- To inculcate a sense of individual obligation to the community, state and nation;
- To combat the autocracy of both the classes and the masses;
- To make right the master of might;
- To promote peace and goodwill on earth;
- To safeguard and transmit to posterity the principles of justice, freedom and democracy;
- To consecrate and sanctify our comradeship by our devotion to mutual helpfulness.

Resolution 2—National Oratorical Scholarship award increase

As American Legion posts begin to conduct the Oratorical contest, they can now promote that scholarships awarded at the National Oratorical Contest have increased after remaining the same for the past 22 years.

Scholarships awarded starting with the 2020 American Legion National Oratorical Contest in Indianapolis are as follows:

- Up to 53 department winners competing in first round quarterfinals will receive \$2,000 each.
- Up to 15 finalists advancing from first round to second round semifinals will receive an additional \$2,000 each.

Top three finalists receive \$20,000 for first place; \$17,000 for second place; and \$15,000 for third place.

Effective in 2021, the scholarship award for the first place National Oratorical contest winner will increase to \$25,000; second place will increase to \$22,500; and third place will increase to \$20,000. Visit www.legion.org/oratorical

COMMANDER HELEN WONG

Training matters, part 3! Continuing on with the subject of the 12 traits that makes a world class post, this month we'll look at #7: Know your post history. With numerous activities in the month of November, most notable is Veterans Day.

November 1st was a dinner for Major General William Chen (see page 9) and Chinese American Citizens Alliance (CACA) Past National President Ed Gor with Cathay Post 384 members Frank Tong, Richard Ow, Aaron Low, CJ Reeves, Chris Cooper, Roger Dong, Nelson Lum, George Tsang, and myself in attendance. It was nice getting to know the two visitors who were in town for other events.

On November 2nd and 3rd, our post took part in a very special 2-day "Called to Rise" symposium to honor Chinese

American Veterans in World War II hosted by the Chinese Historical Society of America. Our Historian Roger Dong was a featured speaker on the War Brides Act—one of the panelists on the Legacies of Service section.

One of the other speakers on the Homefront panel was Connie Young Yu whose topic was "My Father's Diary and Letters Home." Her father was Lt. Col. John C. Young, a past commander of Cathay Post 384! Her family had many items saved from his WWII service including photos after service. Many of the photos showed him wearing his American Legion hat. He was instrumental in organizing Cathay Post 384 and VFW Post 4618 to plan and fund raise for a WWI/WWII Chinese American Veterans Memorial plaque, dedicated in 1951 and installed in St. Mary's Square temporarily

made of wood due to lack of copper during the war. It was later remade and rededicated in 1956. Connie told the audience that her father was called back to service during the Korean War and the members of Cathay Post accused him of "abandoning them."



LTC John C. Young, past Cathay Post 384 commander.

While our post has very few artifacts from the past, only some photos with unidentified members and old *Chinese Press* newspapers, it was enlightening to hear the information from a family member with documentation. On Sunday, our post presented the
(Continued on page 8)



Helen Wong

wong_helen@
sbcglobal.net

(415) 797-7384

Cathay Post Member
since: 1990

Branch: Army

Final Rank: Lt. Col.

"Honoring you on Veterans Day. Thank you for your service to our country. May you feel appreciated by all, especially by fellow veterans, family, and friends."



Left—Group photo of Cathay Post members with Major General William Chen.
Right—Awards presented to Major General Chen and CACA past National President Ed Gor.



George Tsang

gtsang1130@gmail.com

(415) 797-7384

Cathay Post Member since: 2014

Branch: Army

Final Rank: SFC

“...but I can definitely say you will leave with a sense of gratification if you choose to participate in any post event or activity.”

1st VICE COMMANDER GEORGE TSANG

Have you renewed your 2020 membership yet? For those of you that have not, please consider doing so as soon as possible. It is a way to continue to serve your community and country. Last year, Cathay Post reached over 100% in our membership quota and we are well in our way for 2020. Support members are encouraged to also renew their membership...we need you!

Although we have over 120 members, not all of us are active by coming to meetings and to the various events which require volunteers. I understand the timing may not be right for some of you, but I can definitely say you will leave with a sense of gratification if you choose to participate in any post event or activity.

I will not be at the next meeting. Your traditional Thanksgiving lunch is in the capable hands of Vic Lum. See you all at our December meeting!

2019-2020 NATIONAL RENEWAL SCHEDULE

<u>Cutoff Date</u>	<u>Renewal Mail Date</u>
OCT 9, 2019	NOV 15, 2019
DEC 11, 2019	JAN 3, 2020
FEB 12, 2020	FEB 26, 2020
APR 8, 2019	APR 24, 2020

Transmittals not received by the cutoff date may not prevent a subsequent renewal notice from being delivered at or around the renewal date.

Please note that renewals transmitted and received by the cutoff (which is also a national target date) will be updated prior to printing renewal notices, assuming they can be successfully scanned. Please transmit as early and as often as possible in advance of the target dates to help avoid delays in processing.

2019-2020 NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP TARGET DATES

VETERANS DAY	NOVEMBER 14, 2019	65%
PEARL HARBOR DAY	DECEMBER 11, 2019	75%
MID-WINTER	JANUARY 15, 2020	80%
PRESIDENTS DAY	FEBRUARY 12, 2020	85%
LEGION BIRTHDAY	MARCH 11, 2020	90%
CHILDREN & YOUTH	APRIL 8, 2020	95%
ARMED FORCES DAY	MAY 13, 2020	100%
DELEGATE STRENGTH	30 days prior to national convention	

Target dates fall on the second Wednesday of the month unless there is a holiday on that day or at the beginning of that week. Since Veterans' Day falls on a Monday, the November target date will be on a Thursday. To maximize the December renewal notice, the January target date will be on the third Wednesday of the month.

2nd VICE COMMANDER Charles Paskerian

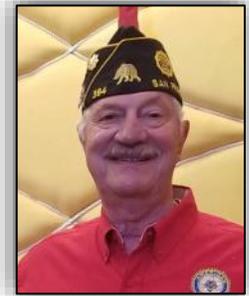
The parade will start on the Embarcadero at North Point Street, traveling north-west on the Embarcadero to Jefferson Street, then west on Jefferson Street past the review stand on Jefferson Street near Leavenworth Street.

Parade units will disband at the last block of Jefferson Street at approximately 1 p.m.

I am proud to announce that a Cathay Post 384 Legionnaire (me) will again be on the Reviewing Stand in my Air Force Dress Blues, receiving and returning veterans reviewing stand salutes. See you all there!

On Sunday, October 6th, I represented Cathay Post 384 at a concert held at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music hosted by the Consulate General of the Republic of Korea in San Francisco for Korean War Veterans and their guest.

There will be a Veterans Day Commemoration at the Korean War Memorial for 1100 hours to 1200 hours on Monday, November 11, 2019. The Presidio Korean War Memorial is on Lincoln Blvd. at Sheridan Ave. in the Presidio. It is my understanding that there will also be at service at the Presidio for our fallen veterans.



Charles Paskerian

chuck@paskerian.com

(415) 749-1750

Cathay Post member since: 2011

Branch: USAF

Final Rank: Major



Left—Cathay Post members marching in SF Mayor’s Salute to Veterans parade.

Photo: Jana Asenbrennerova /Special to The Chronicle.

Right—Korean War Memorial. *Photo by Charity Vargas, Presidio Trust*

THE AMERICAN LEGION
and this publication
*join in saluting our military veterans of all eras and branches
 this November 11 - and every day. Thank you for serving
 America with honor, courage and commitment.*

VETERANS DAY 2019 www.legion.org

BUDDY CHECK—NOW & THROUGHOUT THE HOLIDAYS

As American Legion members, our most sacred responsibility is to look out for each other and our fellow veterans. As a way to reach out to members and former members who may need help, the National Executive Committee passed Resolution 18 during Spring meetings in May 2019. The resolution calls for Buddy Checks to be conducted Legion-wide on the weeks of The American Legion's birthday, March 15, and Veterans Day. The idea is to reconnect with veterans who may need assistance but don't know where to go or who to ask. For expired members, they may have just been waiting for a personal call or visit to renew. These contacts may be made by a personal visit, phone or email, or a combination.

The important part is to reach out to veterans in your community to let them know you care and can provide whatever assistance they may need. It's what we do for our battle buddies. Perhaps they have been waiting for a personal call or visit to renew or rejoin. No matter their situations, we can do as our founders did by making personal contact with veterans in our communities.

How do I organize a Buddy Check?

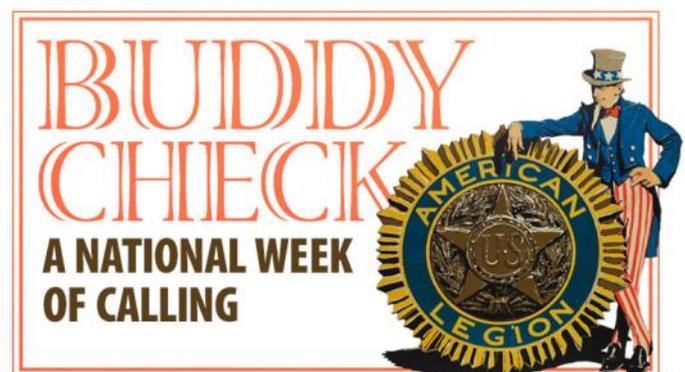
1. **Gather up a team** if possible, to call or personally visit members and former members of The American Legion. If each member in a team of 10 contacts just 10 Legionnaires or former Legionnaires, 100 veterans can be reached in one sitting.
2. If you don't have a list of members and former members at your fingertips, **visit myLegion.org and download the names of current members and those who have let their memberships expire.**
3. Save the file of members and those whose memberships have expired onto a spreadsheet or copy and paste into a Word file to distribute among your team members. **Print several copies of the lists.**
4. **Divide up the call list among your team members.** Some may have personal connections with the member or the former member and should make that particular buddy check.
5. **Start making connections** – either from a quiet place inside the post or from your home – to see how the members and former members are doing, ask if they need anything and invite them to any event or activity planned to help celebrate the Legion's birthday or Veterans Day.
6. Make sure you **thank the member or former member** in the beginning and at the end of your call.
7. If the member or former member wishes to renew, be sure to **have your post's payment procedure at your fingertips**, the address to send a check or offer to stop by in person to pick it up (another opportunity to connect).
8. **Leave contact information** in case the member or former member can't take the call or needs anything in the future.

For more information on Buddy Check:

<https://www.legion.org/membership/buddycheck>

For a great video on how to conduct a Buddy Check, watch this:

<https://youtu.be/Wwz7vC4dWsQ>





CATHAY
POST 384

TUESDAY
17 TH
DECEMBER
6:30 PM



NATIONAL COMMANDER BILL OXFORD

Attire:
Professional

Tickets: \$50 or \$500 (Table of 10)

Contact/RSVP no later than December 9, 2019

- Commander Helen Wong (650) 576-7875, helenleewong@yahoo.com
- 2nd Vice Cmdr Chuck Paskerian (415) 749-1750, chuck@paskerian.com
- Post Adjutant Ernie Stanton (415) 640-8745, stan_wths@hotmail.com

Come join us in welcoming National Commander Bill Oxford in a traditional multi-course Chinese banquet.

Far East Café, 631 Grant Ave, San Francisco

COMMANDER WONG, CONTINUED

(Continued from page 3)

colors, Chaplain Richard Ow provided the invocation, and our Sgt-At-Arms, CJ Reeves 'played' taps for the WWI/WWII Memorial rededication ceremony. WWII member Frank Tong and his daughter Susana were on hand for the ceremony along with WWII Army Ranger Randall Ching and his daughters. I want to thank Cathay Post members CJ Reeves, Ed Wong, Chee Yee, Chris Cooper, Roger Dong, Frank

Wong, Ray Wong, Nestor Tom, Richard Ow, and auxiliary member Dara Wong for showing up in force and representing our post. These experiences of our post will be memorable for a long time. This is our history!

HONORING YOU ON VETERANS DAY! Thank you for your service to our country. May you feel appreciated by all, especially by fellow veterans, family, and friends.



Top left: Monty Hom, Randall Ching, & daughter laying a wreath. Top right: Richard Ow (Korean War), Frank Tong (WWII), Randall Ching (WWII). Middle left: Frank Wong & Frank Tong in background with CJ & group. Middle right: VFW 4618 Commander Ray Wong and Cathay Post 384 Commander Helen Wong recreating dedication of the WWI/WWII Chinese American Veterans Memorial by the two veteran groups. Bottom: Memorial group photo. *Photo from CHSA, Tamiko Wong FB.*



A Bit More on Major General Bill Chen

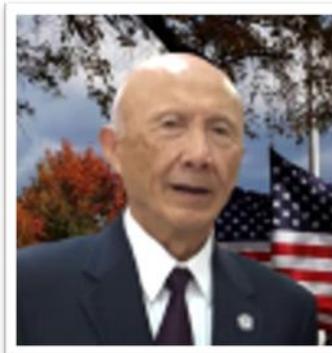


William S. Chen, better known as Bill Chen, is a third-generation Chinese-American. Bill served as a career U.S. Army officer for over 32 years and retired as a Major General -- the first Chinese-American to wear 2-star rank in the U.S. Army. He then worked as a defense industry executive for almost 18 years in various domestic and international business assignments.

As a Major General he commanded the U.S. Army Missile Command during Operation Desert Shield/Desert Storm, the Army's largest deployment and subsequent combat use of Army missiles in history. Later he served as the Army's first Program Executive Officer for Missile Defense -- directing all

the Army's theater and national missile defense programs. As a Brigadier General he was the Deputy Director of Weapons Systems and Assistant Deputy for Systems Management at the Department of Army -- responsible for program/budget development and systems management oversight for the R&D and procurement of the Army's weapons systems. He served as the program manager of two major air defense programs and has commanded a battalion. He had combat tours in Vietnam and Laos and other overseas assignments in Korea and Thailand.

His defense industry experience included successive assignments in United Defense, Inc. as vice president and program director, vice president for army programs, and vice president for engineering & product development; and in BAE Systems, Inc. as vice president & general manager. Included were six years of international business experience in Turkey as the U.S. vice president and general manager for

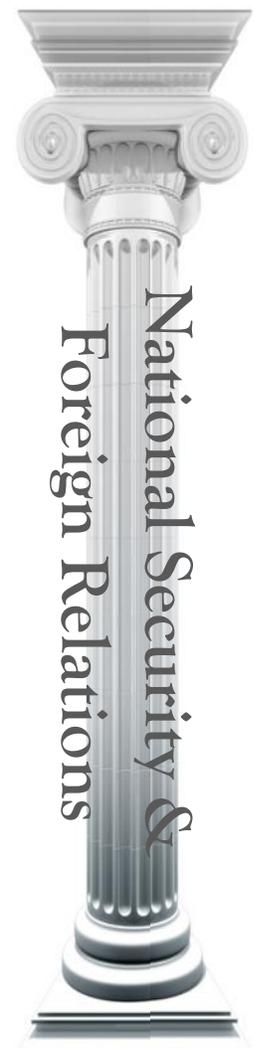


a joint venture U.S.–Turkish company that developed and manufactured combat vehicles for international customers.

Bill graduated from the University of Michigan with a B.S.E. in engineering mathematics and an M.S.E. in aeronautical & astronautical engineering. He has an MBA from Auburn University. He is a graduate of the Defense Systems Management College, Air Command & Staff College, and the Industrial College of the Armed Forces. In addition to numerous Army awards, which include two awards of the Distinguished Service Medal, he is a distinguished aerospace engineering alumnus of the University of Michigan, and member of Tau Beta Pi, National Engineering Honor Society.

Note: Major General Chen also visited Lt. BR Kimlau Post 1291 in New York to discuss the Chinese American WWII Veteran Congressional Gold Medal.

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



On sale NOW until December 31 at www.legion.org/coin

Don't forget to buy your American Legion U.S. Minted coins. The sale of these coins will help fund American Legion programs that support servicemembers, their families, and their communities.

Sale ends December 31, 2019. The U.S. Mint will no longer sell them after Dec. 31, 2019, so order yours today. Any remaining coins will be melted down and no longer produced. Get yours before they're gone.



THE GREAT WAR | WORLD WAR I The American Experience

Veterans Gallery, Free adm.
Mon-Fri, 1-6pm
Through-December 26
& visit 1914-1918 WW1 History, 2nd Floor
Veterans Building, 401 Van Ness Ave., San Francisco

THE GREAT WAR | WORLD WAR I The American Experience

Americans in *The War To End All Wars*
World War One shapes our lives even 100 years after its end. The Veterans Gallery's exhibit illuminates the uniqueness of this — the first industrialized war. It holds lessons for us today. Artifacts, photographs, videos and explanatory text reveals the historic events and explains the legacy on how all wars are fought today.

Presented by Eighth District of the American Legion and the Veterans Commemoration Committee



San Francisco War Memorial
Veterans Building

**THE AMERICAN LEGION,
FIRST 100 YEARS**

American Legion history on display

September 16, 2019 - December 20, 2019

1 PM - 6 PM Monday-Friday,

Weekends TBA

Veterans Gallery, Room 102

Please contact Merc Martinelli at (415) 861-4920 or
email: alwmcsf@gmail.com for questions on gallery hours.
401 Van Ness Ave., San Francisco

Evolve or Die, Continued

(Continued from page 1)

expands the opportunity to not just increase Legion membership, but also that of the American Legion Auxiliary and Sons of The American Legion. This can result in growing your local American Legion family, or if you don't have a unit or squadron yet, now is the time.

The second change that probably created the most heartache and opposition was the changing of the eligibility of the American Legion Auxiliary's bylaws from "wife" to "spouse." To clarify or dispel misinformation or rumors, the change did not happen just because The American Legion wanted to, but for the purpose of complying with IRS tax-exemption rules. (See <https://www.irs.gov/charities-non-profits/other-non-profits/veterans-organizations> for more info.) Remember, American Legion Auxiliary (ALA) was not chartered by Congress like The American Legion. It is also not a program of The Ameri-

can Legion. The American Legion Auxiliary operates under its own federal tax identification by approval given from The American Legion. It must abide by federal rules and regulations to maintain its non-profit tax-exempt status, just like every post, unit, squadron and rider chapter in The American Legion.

Think about the different stages of an organization's lifecycle again – infancy, growth, prime, aging, and dying. The American Legion is going through all the stages. There are new post/unit/squadrons charters requested all the time (infancy) as well as submissions of cancellations of dying or dead (dying) posts/units/squadrons. Throughout The American Legion, there are posts/units that are experiencing growth, prime, and aging. It's the job of the members to ensure it continues to assess, evaluate, and change to stay relevant in order to aide in the mission of the four pillars of service of The American Legion—

Americanism / Children & Youth / Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation / National Security.

What stage is your post in and what can you do to keep it in the prime stage?

Here is an option: A new activity to be held at your post to include your family if it doesn't already... these events rolled out and have been promoted this past summer, American Legion Family Play Day. To learn more, see page 13 and check out these links:

<https://www.legion.org/membership/246261/family-fun-and-camaraderie-fulfill-legion-post%E2%80%99s-vision>

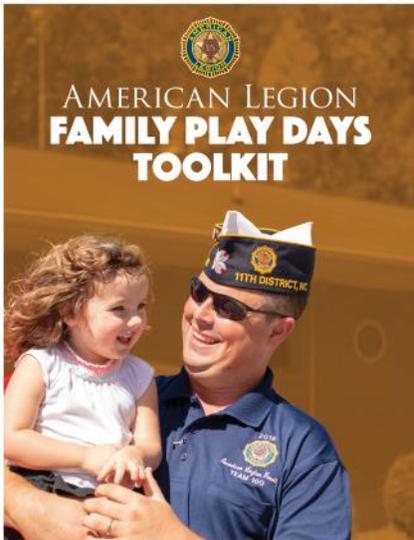
<https://www.legion.org/youth/videos/PL7CFCD39459469D09/xDzjjivOGsg>

<https://www.legion.org/sites/legion.org/files/legion/publications/73MAG1019%20Legion%20Family%20Play%20Day%20>

SPECIAL NOTE— We are in the process of redesigning our website that will be easier to navigate, provide current news events, updates, and much more. It will have a completely different look, a much needed change we all hope you will like. Stay tuned...



Legion Family Play Day




MESSAGE POINTS

- Our 2 million members make The American Legion the nation's largest and most influential veterans service organization.
- The American Legion Family is made up of wartime veterans (American Legion members), their spouses, mothers, sisters, grandmothers, and direct and adopted female descendants (American Legion Auxiliary) and their sons, grandsons, adopted sons and stepsons (Sons of The American Legion). The combined membership of the American Legion Family is approximately 3 million.
- Legion Family Play Day is part of a national effort to welcome Legion Family members, eligible members and community members into the post for a fun day or evening of wholesome family activities.
- Children & Youth was one of The American Legion's four founding pillars and has been at the core of our mission since 1919.
- The American Legion serves its communities in numerous ways with an emphasis on children and youth. For more than 90 years, Legion posts have supported America's pastime by sponsoring American Legion Baseball. Each year, Legionnaires mentor thousands of young men with American Legion Boys State and Boys Nation. An annual oratorical contest not only provides scholarships to the winners, but it teaches young people about the Constitution.



YOUR GUIDE TO AMERICAN LEGION FAMILY PLAY DAYS

WHAT: Legion Family Play Day is a way to bring younger veterans and their families into posts for a day – or evening – of family entertainment. The concept is supported by Resolution 20 approved by the National Executive Committee at Spring Meetings in 2019.

WHY: Younger veterans express interest in family-friendly activities. So while they bond with other veterans and spouses, their kids can interact with other children.

WHERE: American Legion posts can host these events regardless of whether they have a physical post home or not. Based on their communities, time of year and resources, posts can host Family Play Days that feature indoor activities, outdoor games or a combination. Post without buildings can work with a local library, community center or other nonprofit to find a location.

WHEN: Anytime! Summer is ideal when the weather is warmer and schools are out of session. Post leaders who have conducted pilot tests of this program say they will host these events year-around.

HOW: Work with your squadron, unit and Riders chapters to create awareness and encourage volunteers. Reach out to local groups like the Boy Scouts, Boys and Girls Clubs, local first responders, YMCAs and others to invite participation. Promote in your local media and through your post's social media to raise awareness in the community.

RESOURCES: Download a flyer that is customizable www.legion.org/publications



"They see it now as what The American Legion ought to be – a place that is there for the family, is there for the community, but is also a place for veterans, to be together, spend time together and build that camaraderie."

– Deric Grimes, immediate past commander of Post 116 in Fuquay-Varina, N.C., which held its first Legion Family Play Day in July 2019

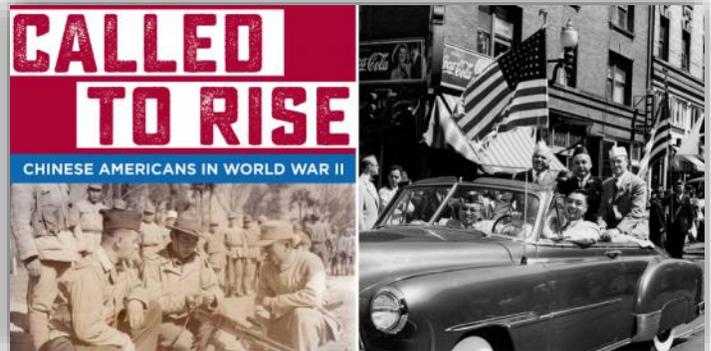


1945 War Brides Act By Roger Dong

On Saturday, November 2, 2019, I provided a presentation on the War Brides Act (WBA) during the "Called to Rise" joint event of Chinese Historical Society of America, the Chinese American Citizens Alliance and The American Legion Cathay Post 384. "Call to Rise," was intended to celebrate the Congressional Gold Medal awarded to Chinese American World War II Veterans. It was the service of our veterans that resulted in the WBA.

The WBA is legislation that few people have heard of because it is not known to be a topic in our American history classes. However, for Chinese Americans, the WBA was a game changer that revived our existence in America. Recall that a number of laws/legislation were passed during the 19th and 20th centuries that were intended to rid America of all Chinese immigrants.

It began in 1875 with the Page Act which banned the immigration of all Chinese women because they were declared immoral. For years, **all** Chinese women were accused of being prostitutes, and therefore were denied entry into the United States. Then a few years later in 1882,



the infamous Chinese Exclusion Act (CEA) was passed to deny citizenship to any Chinese. Note that even at that time, it was laborers who were threatened by Chinese laborers. Even in the 19th century, businesses generally liked Chinese laborers because they always worked hard and willing to work for less pay.

We are now celebrating the 15,000 Chinese Americans who served in our military in World War II. We honor and respect this group of Americans who risked their lives to defend America. They deserve much thanks considering how badly they were treated and targeted with discrimination. It should be noted that some of our Chinese Americans joined the military to stop the Japanese Imperial Army (JIA) from conquering China and Asia. Because the military did not segregate the drafted/enlisted Chinese, many served in Europe fighting Nazis

and others served in the Pacific against the JIA.

Shortly after the end of WWII, War Brides Act passed in December 28, 1945. The War Brides Act was extremely important as the ethnic elimination of Chinese by legislation ceased as the CEA was repealed in 1943, Magnuson Act which no longer denied Chinese of citizenship. This action was only a partial solution for the survival of Chinese America. The annual quota for Chinese immigrants, regardless of nationality, was only 105 visas per year - highly inadequate to allow the Chinese in America to reverse decades of racial extinction.

With the WBA, our WWII veterans were authorized to bring home brides and fiancées. The passage of the WBA facilitated the regeneration of the Chinese in America as families could now exist and flourish. In 1940, there

(Continued on page 15)



1945 War Brides, continued

(Continued from page 14)

were approximately 77,000 Chinese in America. In the 2015 census, over 5,000,000 citizens of Chinese descent were tabulated. Note that the 1965 Immigration and Naturalization Act was also important to boosting Chinese immigration from all over the world. Because of the global Chinese diaspora, the new immigration quotas

of 20,000 per year allowed thousands of Chinese from many countries to legally enter America. That quota has allowed Chinese American population to grow about 1.5% in the 2015 Census.

That was all initiated with the 1945 War Brides Act. Including myself, I was a World War II veteran baby and trumpet the great value of the War Brides Act. HOORAY!


**Hosted by The American Legion District 8
- Veterans' Lecture Series**


The Clash of Civilizations - America and China



Sometimes we are "Great Friends"



And sometimes we are not ...

In October 2018, our president, vice president and secretary of state all declared China as the biggest foreign threat to the United States.

"China is a threat to our way of life in the U.S." Undersecretary of Defense for Policy

US Economic Advisor Robert Lighthouser called China an "Existential Threat"

Can America and China avoid a catastrophic war?

Saturday, November 23, 2019 – 2 to 4 p.m.

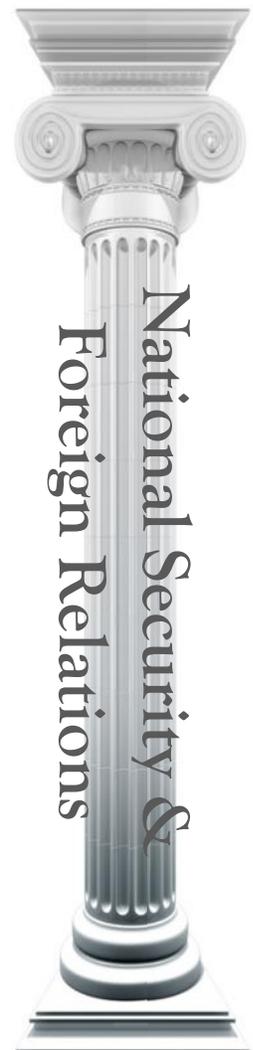
War Memorial Veterans Building, Room 210

401 Van Ness, at McAllister, San Francisco California 94102

\$20 donation to the Veterans' Success Center, employment office for veterans



Speaker Lt. Colonel Roger S. Dong, USAF, retired, is a China Specialist whose military experience (32 years US Air Force & Department of Defense) combined with formal education (Chinese & Japanese studies) will discuss our current Trade Imbalance and recent hostile changes in American policy towards China. Col Dong's views do not reflect policy of US government or that of The American Legion.



Did You Know—Chinese Involved Before WWI Began?

Courtesy of Wikipedia—
more at: [https://
en.wikipedia.org/wiki/
Chinese_Labour_Corps](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chinese_Labour_Corps)

A deal between the Chinese government and the allies resulted in the enlistment of thousands of Chinese who formed the Chinese Labour Corps (CLC) mainly poor Chinese men from the north who were told they would be in non-combatant roles. The Canadian government had restricted the arrival of all Asians and the CLC were secretly landed at Victoria, British Columbia. They were drilled in the old quarantine station at William Head on Vancouver Island. Roughly 81,000 Chinese men were then taken on trains to a steamship port where they boarded ships to England. On arrival, they crossed the English Channel to France.

A total of about 140,000 Chinese workers served on the Western Front during and after the war. Among them, 100,000 served in the British Chinese Labour Corps. About 40,000 served with the French forces, and hundreds of Chinese students served as translators.

By the end of 1917, 54,000 Chinese labourers were with the British

Imperial forces in France and Belgium. In March, the admiralty declared itself no longer able to supply the ships for transport and the British government were obliged to bring recruitment to an end. The men already serving in France completed their contracts. By the time of the armistice, the CLC numbered nearly 96,000, while 30,000 were working for the French.

In May 1919, 80,000 Chinese Labour Corps were still at work. The workers, mainly aged between 20 and 35, served as labour in the rear echelons or helped build munitions depots. They were asked to carry out essential work to support the frontline troops, such as unloading ships, building dug-outs, repairing roads and railways, digging trenches, and filling sandbags. Some worked in armaments factories, others in naval shipyards, for a pittance of one to three francs a day. At the time, they were seen just as cheap labour, not even allowed out of camp to fraternise locally, dismissed as mere coolies. When the war ended, some were used for mine clearance, or to recover the bodies of soldiers and fill in miles of trenches. Men fell ill from poor diets and the

intense damp and cold, and on occasion, they mutinied against their French and British employers or ransacked local restaurants in search of food. The harshness of the conditions in which some of these men worked is recorded by Arthur Bullock in his wartime memoir, along with the contemporary justification for it. Bullock also recalls the differences between the 'coolies' and the German prisoners of war, in terms of their attitudes to work and to each other.

After the armistice, the Chinese, each identified only by an impersonal reference number, were shipped home. Only about 5,000 to 7,000 stayed in France, forming the nucleus of the later Chinese community in Paris. Most who survived returned to China in 1918. The contribution of these Chinese men went forgotten for decades until military ceremonies resumed in 2002 at the Chinese cemetery of Noyelles-sur-Mer.

For current news on CLC. “*Memorial to Chinese labourers who helped allies in World War I...*”

[https://www.scmp.com/
news/world/europe/
article/3022697/memorial-
chinese-labourers-who](https://www.scmp.com/news/world/europe/article/3022697/memorial-chinese-labourers-who)



7th Annual Cathay Post Participation in the San Francisco Firefighter's Toy Program



The San Francisco Firefighter's Toy Program is the City's largest and the nation's oldest program of its kind. Since 1949, it has evolved from a few firefighters repairing broken toys and bikes for 15 families to, in 2015, 300 firefighters and friends volunteering their time to distribute over 200,000 toys to more than 40,000 disadvantaged children. Besides helping individual families in need, the Toy Program serves many community organizations, including shelters for abused women and children, inner-city schools, children's cancer wards, and pediatric AIDS units. They also respond on a year round basis to displaced children who become victims of fires, floods and other such disasters.

The San Francisco Firefighters Toy Program believes that no child should be without a toy during the holiday season. In time of loss due to fire, our firefighters are the ones who see first-hand, the devastation when a child is left without a favorite toy. The program is run strictly on donations to ensure that proceeds go to the children at Christmas time.

Toys must be unwrapped, the SF Firefighters serve ages infant through 12. Their biggest need is girls, ages 8 through 12. Some ideas are sports equipment, ball, art and crafts, games. Multiple donations is encouraged.

If you would prefer to make a cash donation, please make checks out to San Francisco Firefighters Toy Program. Monetary and toy donations are tax deductible. The SF Firefighters Toy Program is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization (EIN 94-2598851).

Cathay Post will be delivering donated new and unwrapped toys from the toy drive to the SF Fire Department at the conclusion of the December monthly meeting. Please bring a new toy or two to the December meeting.



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November 2019

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1	2
3 Daylight Sav- ing time ends	4	5 ALWMC Meeting, 6 pm, Dist 8 @ 7 pm	6	7	8	9 Post Meeting 11 am
10 Veteran's Day parade & Remembrance Grace Cathedral	11 Veterans Day	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28 Thanksgiving	29	30

December 2019

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1	2	3 ALWMC Meeting, 6 pm, Dist 8 @ 7 pm	4	5	6	7 Pearl Harbor Day & Roger Dong Lecture
8	9	10	11 75% membership target date	12	13	14 Post Meeting 11 am
15	16	17 Nat'l Cmdr Oxford dinner 6:30.	18	19	20	21
22	23	24 Christmas Eve	25 Christmas Day	26	27	28
29	30	31 New Year's Eve				

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New redesigned website coming soon!

Cathay Post #384



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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.

Cathay Dispatch writers are proud members of the National American Legion Media Association (NALMA, 501(c)(3) and California Legion Press Association (CALPA, 501(c)(3)).



2014
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2014
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2019



www.legion.org

Come join American Legion Cathay Post 384 in San Francisco, one of the oldest and most active posts in San Francisco. We welcome all qualified retired or active military personnel.

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

NEW— July 30, 2019 LEGION Act, Let Everyone Get Involved in Opportunities for National Service expands eligibility to those who served honorably from December 7, 1941 to now.

World War I

4/6/1917 – 11/11/1918

Beginning of World War II

12/7/1941 – to future date



CATHAY POST 384
American Legion

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1st Vice Commander: George Tsang

2nd Vice Commander:
Charles Paskerian

Adjutant: Ernie Stanton

Finance Officer: Randy Toy

Historian: Roger Dong

Jr. Past Commander: Nelson Lum

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