



CATHAY DISPATCH

Veterans - Sounding Off Since 1931

Important Dates:

- Dec 7—Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day
- Dec 11—Nat'l Cmdr Visit & Luncheon 10 a.m.
- Dec 13—Monthly Meeting & Lunch 11 a.m.; Rape of Nanjing flag ceremony
- Dec 16-24—Hanukkah
- Dec 25—Christmas Day
- Dec 26—Boxing Day
- Dec 31—New Years Eve
- Jan 1—New Years Day

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Welcome to San Francisco Commander Helm By Clara Pon



Welcome to the City by the Bay! Cathay Post No. 384 would like to be the first to welcome you to our city and our post. All our members are looking forward to meeting you on Thursday, December 11 and giving you a historical tour of one the oldest and most active posts in San Francisco. Visitors might say they walked into a Chinese museum, but we rather think of it as a pictorial display of our Post's rich history. After the meet and greet, we have a dim sum lunch planned for you and your wife at Far East Café, one of the oldest Chinese restaurants still open for business in Chinatown where you will meet many Legionnaires from the other local posts.

You will be in great hands on your arrival to San Francisco with a police escort to your hotel arranged by Police-Fire Post 456 Adjutant and retired SFPD Captain Greg Corrales. The following day after the luncheon, he will take you on a tour of the City and most certainly entertain you with great stories of his time on the force. Be sure to ask him about his "Dirty Harry" revolver and the line up at Central Station!

We can only imagine how often you will be passing through airports, staying in random hotels, missing home cooked meals, and not getting enough family time as you would like. There's not much we can do to alleviate any of that, but what we can try to do is to make sure you have the best possible time while you are visiting us. We hope your visit to California will be spectacular and filled with memorable moments to share back home.

Thursday, December 11, 2014

10:00 a.m.—Cathay Post 384 meet and greet at 1524 Powell St.

11:30 a.m.—Commander's Luncheon at Far East Café at 631 Grant Ave

For more information on Commander Helm's California schedule, please visit: <http://www.calegion.org/html/commanders-visit.html>

Cathay Post—Remembering 2014 By Clara Pon

It doesn't seem like another year has already gone by. It truly feels like it's only half over. There have been so many important and historical events, big and small, near and far, and everything in between that happened in just the past 11 months. Some things were unbelievably sad while others were absolutely noteworthy and incredibly amazing.

It would be thoughtless to not go back to the events from December 2013 before we start with the events of 2014. Right after the December 2013 general meeting concluded, and before setting eyes on the lavish Christmas feast, over a dozen members lined up to carry toys over to Fire Department Station 2, a couple of blocks away to support the annual SF Firefighters Toy Program which hands out toys to local children. With such a successful toy drive in our first attempt, we are making it an annual tradition. During the lunch, Post board member, co-founder and Executive Director of Veterans Success Center (VSC) Roger Dong presented a certificate of honor to Cathay Post for the constant support from the members in donating money, time, and assistance. The Post couldn't have ended 2013 on a much better note than that!

As with the beginning of any new year, you reflect back on what happened and make resolutions for the upcoming year. But before we do that, I want to offer a final farewell

to a few of our members who passed away this year. *Hoover Gin / Kurt Chew-Een Lee / Steven Jin Lee*

*There are some we meet in passing
And forget as soon as they go
There are some we remember with
pleasure
And feel honoured and privileged to
know
You were that kind of person
Who leaves beautiful memories be-
hind
And there will be many days
Which will bring fond memories to
mind*

~Unknown Author

So, how did 2014 begin? Well, for starters, we changed the name of our monthly newsletter from *Cathay Chronicle* to *Cathay Dispatch*, completely gave it a facelift, and added a tagline... *Veterans Sounding Off Since 1931.*



Post members and family at Ft. Miley Hospital.

We also held our annual trip to visit the patients at Ft. Miley Hospital in January. The group, led by Roger Dong all rendezvoused at 1st Vice Commander Jay Pon's house to

(Continued on page 8)



COMMANDER JAY PON

Commander's Mission Statement: Cathay Post No. 384 is here to support fellow veterans, youth programs, and the local community. We are part of a national veteran's non-profit group established by Congress after World War I. Chartered in 1931, we serve San Francisco and the areas around it. My focus will be: (1) preserving the rights of veterans and patriotic organizations in the War Memorial Veterans Building; (2) increase Post external events for members; (3) preserving our Post history, culture, and traditions; (4) support youth and educational programs; and (5) increase the use of our clubhouse to the community.

Commander's Intent: To build esprit de corps within Post 384 by having events that support our mission statement where members can have pride and enjoyment in participating. Some events will be rigorous and other events will challenge the mind. If you want to take charge, let me know and the Post can find a task or passion for you. If you want to be mentored or help out, please let us know which of the 5 missions you would like to support.

The holiday season is here. Instead of the traditional start of Christmas after Thanksgiving, retailers have already started advertising their holiday sales events and airing Christmas television programs. With Christmas just around the corner, please bring some unwrapped gifts and drop them off at the Post before or during December's general monthly meeting. The donated games and toys will be delivered to the local fire house in support of their annual Toy Program after the December meeting. Balls, dolls, and board games will put a smile on

many local children's faces.

A special thanks to Comrade Tony Zhang for inviting Mayor Ed Lee to drop by the Post on Election Day, November 4th to visit volunteers working on several City propositions. Tony also has offered Mayor Lee the use of the lower level of our building for Mayor Lee's 2015 reelection campaign. Although Cathay Post does not take any position on political candidates or non-veteran issues, it is great to see a member of Cathay Post being politically active. Comrade Tony Zhang is a shining ex-

ample of Americanism.



Post Color Guard marching.

I want to say thanks to the approximate 20 members of Cathay Post that marched in the Veterans Day Parade as they supported their other veteran organizations. Our own Cathay Post detail was smaller than usual, but they still represented the Post with pride. Sergeant-at-Arms

(Continued on page 6)



Jay Pon

jpon@jps.net

1 (415) 409-8858

Cathay Post Member since: 2001

Branch: Navy, Army

Final Rank: Major

"May God bless the United States of America, the veterans, and those in the military who are serving abroad and domestically."



Nelson Lum

nelson1431@aol.com
1(415) 797-7384

Cathay Post Member
since: 2005

Branch: Army

Final Rank: SPC

“Cathay Post established a paradigm in 2014 that will be very difficult to duplicate or exceed.”

1st VICE COMMANDER NELSON LUM

December is here and some of you will be busy shopping for your loved ones. I would like to take this opportunity to wish all of you and your families a Merry Christmas and a happy 2015.

I would like to reflect on some of our Post’s accomplishments and activities for 2014. During Cathay Post’s annual gala dinner, we recognized the Post’s JROTC and ROTC scholarship recipients. In addition, we honored police officers, firefighters, and a community hero. We supported worthwhile endeavors of our local non-profits and continued to attend many local non-profit dinners and celebrations.

We began our year with a visit to Fort Miley VA Medical Center. It is always a gratifying experience to visit the veterans who are hospitalized. We brought them gifts and enjoyed the opportunity to chat with the veterans and hear some of their sto-

ries.

This year we participated in the San Francisco Chinese New Year Parade with the late Major Kurt Lee (USMC Ret.), an honorary member of our Post who was appointed as the Honorary Parade Marshal. We hosted a luncheon in his honor the next day where our members and other veterans and friends were fortunate to meet him and had an opportunity to hear from this legendary Korean War hero before he passed away three weeks later.

A large contingent of our members attended the memorial service for the late Major Lee in Elk Grove. It was a dignified memorial service for a legendary hero who was the first person of color to be commissioned as an officer in the active Marine Corps.

We hosted our first successful Texas Hold’ Em poker tournament that raised funds for

the many charitable programs our Post supports. We had a packed house at our Post, and those who participated all enjoyed themselves tremendously. Because of its success, we will host this event again in 2015.

Once again, representatives from our Post attended the American Legion state and national conventions. Cathay Post established a paradigm in 2014 that will be very difficult to duplicate or exceed.

The 2nd annual wheelchair basketball game was held at City College of San Francisco. The game featured members of the San Francisco Police Department against the Golden State Road Warriors. A member of our Post joined in the contest to lend some needed assistance to the cops. Once again, the event’s proceeds benefitted the Post’s scholarship

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3rd VICE COMMANDER LAURA RENNER

I missed the November members meeting and Veterans' Day festivities because I had traveled to Burma/Myanmar for a few weeks. I chose Myanmar because it's been opening up the last few years and I wanted to see if before it became filled with western companies.

Myanmar is located in Southeast Asia and shares a border with Thailand, Laos, China, Bangladesh and India. Its most famous cities include Yangon/Rangoon and Mandalay. Myanmar was colonized by the British and won its independence in 1948. A military junta took over the country in 1962 and has begun releasing its control over the last few years.

One thing I noticed about the Burmese is that they all seemed very happy, regardless of how little or much they had. It made me realize that I take a lot for granted here in the United States. Since I've returned I've tried to reduce the clutter or 'noise' in my life. That has included cleaning out junk (and drama) in my home, my business and more importantly, my brain. It's all about living simpler.

Another lesson I learned is about taking care of myself in this life. I know the phrase, "you only live once," is considered cliché, but to me, that phrase always meant you have to have the most fun or adventures. You have to take advantage of

the opportunities presented in your life by removing fear that precludes you from trying new things. There was no point to living a life hindered by fear. After traveling to Burma, it has taken on a new meaning. That meaning is that to make the most of this one life we get, we need to take care of ourselves. As a result, I have committed to living a healthier lifestyle.

As we celebrate this holiday season, I hope you take a few moments to appreciate what is most important to you in this life and commit to keeping those priorities at the forefront of your life.

Happy holidays!



Laura Renner

laura@hiring-coach.com
1 (415) 340-2108

Cathay Post Member
since: 2013

Branch: Air Force

Final Rank: Captain

"...I hope you take a few moments to appreciate what is most important to you in this life and commit to keeping those priorities at the forefront of your life."



Yangon
from the
Irawaddy
River.



Jay Pon, Continued

(Continued from page 3)

David Adams led the Post carrying the US Flag along with Comrade Vincent Yu and Chaplin Richard Ow. Support member Jed Miner kept everyone in step with the snare drum and Comrade Chee Yee drove his shiny convertible accompanied by a couple of flag waving support members.

Looking ahead, 3rd Vice Commander Laura Renner and Past Commander David Wong are currently taking names of those who are interested to

participate in our New York (and maybe Boston) trip in June 2015. Several members have already signed up to go. Please let them know if you are interested in order to facilitate the process of planning. I hear the NY Yankees are playing the LA Angels that week. We could go catch a game in the Bronx and eat a Shake Shack burger!!!

Looking outside of our Post, Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) is having their annual dinner on December 6th at New Asia Restaurant. Also our Col-

or Guard detail will present the flag at the Rape of Nanking tribute on Saturday, December 13th. Please let Sergeant-at-Arms David Adams or myself know if you are available and would like to participate.

Lastly, as the year of 2014 is coming to an end, may your holiday season be filled with joy. May God bless the United States of America, the veterans, and those in the military who are serving abroad and domestically. May joy and harmony prevail at Cathay Post No. 384. Amen.

Membership Renewal Time! By Connie Tseng

It is membership renewal time again and not just for veterans! Support members also need to renew their support membership.

Please be ready to renew your 2015 annual membership when you attend December's membership meeting. If you can't come, you can mail your \$40 membership dues to the Post at 1524 Powell Street, S.F., 94133.

Cathay Post depends on its members to make it strong.

Legionnaires, we also take online membership renewals at www.legion.org/renew. Our goal is to reach 100% membership renewal by the end of December. Please remember that renewing will continue to reserve your honored place amongst other respected mem-

bers of this Post.

At last month's meeting, members approved a \$10 increase to the 2016 annual membership dues from \$40 to \$50. The fees paid will enable the continuation of activities by Cathay Post to serve you and the community in a multitude of ways, including the monthly luncheons.

Nelson Lum, Continued

(Continued from page 4)

program. The game also helped generate recognition of Cathay Post No. 384 outside of the Chinatown community and educate the public about the American Legion and how we enhance the educational goals of our youth.

Comrade Jay Pon was elected as our Commander along with many first time office holders. Let's do our best to support the elected officers as they direct the activities of our Post. Efforts to retain our current members and bring in new members are ongoing tasks that all of us must try to do. It is paramount that we are successful with these tasks in order to maintain the vitality of our Post.

With our 2nd Vice Commander Galin Luk as the Editor-in-Chief, along with the special assistance provided by our support member Ms. Clara Pon, our

Dispatch won second and first place in its category at both the state and national American Legion press association competitions, respectively. The newsletter enhances the Post's reputation throughout the state and is now recognized at the national level.

During Fleet Week, our Post stepped up again and hosted a luncheon for about 200 sailors and Marines of the USS America, the first of a new class of amphibious assault carriers. The ship sailed into San Francisco for her commissioning.

Representatives of Cathay Post attended the reception, witnessed the commissioning, and interacted with the crew and officers.

Cathay Post No. 384 has continued to support the Veterans Success Center. The Center, which is being managed skillfully by the new Executive Di-

rector Helen Wong and co-founded by our Judge Advocate and Historian Roger Dong, has helped many veterans locate gainful employment.

After having served as the Chairperson of the American Legion War Memorial Commission for the last three years, I recently stepped down. Comrade Paul Cox from Post 315 was elected as the new Chairperson to succeed me.

We are scheduled to move back into the War Memorial Veterans Building in August 2015 and many of the issues dealing with space allocation post renovation have not been resolved. I was asked by Paul to be his Vice Chair and I accepted. We will continue our quest to retain our rights under the Trust Agreement.

Hope to see you all at our next monthly meeting.



Cathay Post—Remembering 2014, Continued

(Continued from page 2)

prepare a hundred goodie bags before heading over to Ft. Miley that morning. After the visit, they were all invited back to his house for a BBQ lunch and beer.

Speaking of barbeques, students from VETS@SFSU (Veterans Education Transition Support) kicked off February in style at Orange Memorial Park in South San Francisco with a “Welcome Back BBQ” that welcomed new and returning students to San Francisco State University.

Pete McCloskey and Major Kurt Lee (USMC Ret.), the Honorary Grand Marshal of the 2014 San Francisco Lunar New Year Parade. The next day, we hosted a special luncheon for Major Lee at Hong Kong Flower Lounge to honor and recognize his heroism during the Korean War.

Sadly, a couple of weeks later on March 3, Major Kurt Lee passed away. A local memorial service was held for him in Elk Grove in April and a full military honors funeral service at Arlington National Cemetery was held in September.



L-R: Honorary Parade Marshal Major Lee, Nelson Lum, Pete McCloskey in WWII era Jeep.
Photo by Eddie Dare.

Although Chinese New Year fell on January 31 this year, the Post held its special Chinese New Year lunch during the February general meeting. The following Saturday was the Lunar New Year parade. Participating in the parade was particularly special for Cathay Post and its members. Not only was it the first time Cathay Post members marched in it, they had the honor of escorting former Congressman



Marines from Marines Barrack Washington for Major Lee at Arlington National Cemetery. *Photo by Gunnery Sgt. Amanda Simmons.*

We were also honored to have POW survivor Eddie Fung speak to us about his experiences during WWII at our March meeting. And after 82 years, the Veterans Memorial Monument finally broke ground and a ceremony was held to commemorate the momentous event.

April was an exciting month. The Post held its first Texas Hold ‘Em poker tournament fundraiser. Two

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Cathay Post—Remembering 2014, Continued

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of the prizes were awarded to current and former police officers, and the third was awarded to our own Ed Wong! It was so much fun, we're making it an annual event.



The final table at our poker fundraiser.
Photo by Michelle Huynh.

May is recognized as Asian Pacific American Heritage Month. The Post sponsored and supported various events such as Asian Heritage Street Celebration, Coast Guard Island Festival, and Alameda Asian and Pacific Islander Cultural Festival where Comrade Helen Wong and VETS@SFSU friend, Kang Young Kye were honored.



Lt. Col. Helen Wong (Ret.) receiving her award.

May was so busy, Post members either attended the annual Memorial Day service at St. Mary's Square or attended the graduation ceremony for Comrades Ben Yang, Travis Groft, and Kadie Williams

who are also part of VETS@SFSU. A week later, the Post participated in the Memorial Day Services at the San Francisco National Cemetery located in the Presidio.



Post members and friends at the Presidio.

The Post also held its 83rd anniversary and 11th annual community hero, firefighter, and police officer appreciation banquet. The evening included the swearing-in of its newly elected officers and appointed board members, awards presented to Police Officers James Cunningham and Scott Korte, Firefighter Chad Law and Lieutenant Tyson Lee, and community hero to Rose Chung. We also recognized the Post's 3 ROTC and JROTC scholarship winners, John Sonza (ROTC), Carmen Luk, and Arthur Wong (JROTC).



Center L-R: Arthur Wong and Carmen Luk.

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Cathay Post—Remembering 2014, Continued

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June is a special month for the American Legion and American Legion Auxiliary programs. Cathay Post again sponsored a few local high school boys to participate in the American Legion Boys State program, and for the first time, a girl to Girls State by way of a near-by Auxiliary Post.

This year’s American Legion Department of California Convention was held in Santa Clara and was historic. First, Cathay Post’s color guard team entered its first color guard competition and awarded first place in its category. Second, Cathay Post’s newsletter, Cathay Dispatch won awards at the California American Legion Press Association competition. It was the first time the newsletter and the Post’s Facebook page were entered into a competition and placed in all the categories they were submitted into. And finally, many watched the oath ceremony of the Department of California’s first female commander, Janet Wilson.



Commander Janet Wilson oath ceremony.
Photo by Henry Sanchez Jr. Elk Grove Post 233

A couple of Korean War veterans from Cathay Post attended a special dinner on June 25, 2014 sponsored by Man J. Kim, Vice President of Korean War Memorial Foundation where they were presented with an *Ambassador for Peace Medal* for their service in the “Forgotten War.”



The Post’s 2nd annual wheelchair basketball tournament between the Golden State Road Warriors and San Francisco Police Officers was held in late July at City College of San Francisco. Comrade Travis Groft was part of the police officers team and was thrilled with the challenge. During the second half of the game, a few of the SF Police Activities League cadets were recruited onto the team to give Greg Suhr and a few of the officers a

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Color Guard Team at state convention.



Cathay Post—Remembering 2014, Continued

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breather. The players and the audience all had a great time. Even the kids got on the court to try to shoot a few baskets from the wheelchairs.

The Post also held its first SF Giants outing in the middle of August. The Giants beat the Phillies 5-2 on that warm and sunny afternoon.

First Vice Commander Nelson Lum, Historian Roger Dong, and I attended the annual American Legion National Convention in Charlotte, North Carolina. I represented the Cathay Dispatch at the National American Legion Press Association awards luncheon where we won first place in our newsletter category. Our Facebook page won third place.



National convention hall with friends from Chinatown Post 628 and Lt. Kimlau Post 1291.
Photo by Gabe Mui Lt. Kimlau Post 1291.

There was no rest for the weary. American Legion 8th District Council's Veteran Success Center moved a few times this year, and in September, it finally found a great space where they can continue to help veterans with employment op-

portunities. They are now sharing space with Employment Development Department (EDD) on Turk Street. Post members Roger Dong, Helen Wong, and Nelson Lum helped move equipment over to its new home at 801 Turk Street.



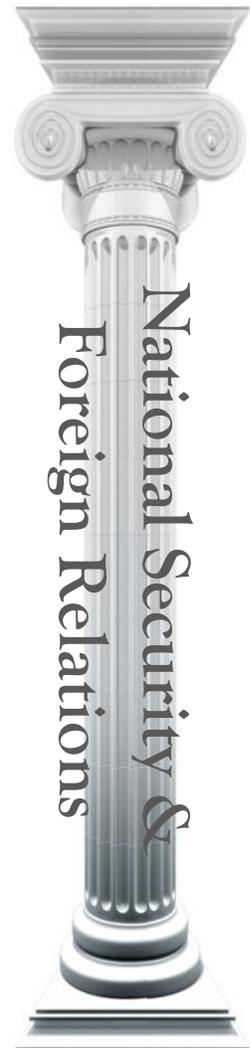
Lunch for crew members aboard USS America.

October was also packed full of events. Cathay Post has hosted for the last several years a luncheon for crew members of a naval vessel coming into port during Fleet Week. Due to sequestration cuts last year, there was no Fleet Week, so no hosted lunch. This year, however, was special. The city of San Francisco hosted the commissioning of USS America LHA-6 on Saturday, October 11, 2014. Cathay Post held a luncheon for the crew of USS America a few days earlier on Tuesday, October 7 to welcome them to our fine City as well as thank them for their service. On Friday, October 10, the Blue Angels performed a fly-over during the dedication ceremony for the completion of the Veterans Memorial Monument at the War memorial Complex across from City Hall

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Cathay Dispatch 1st place plaque.



San Francisco Veterans Lions Club

Presents

A Tribute to Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

"I Have A Dream"



Join the San Francisco Veterans Lions Club Benefit Dance, for delicious appetizers, no-host bar, a raffle with great prizes, fabulous entertainment, and most importantly fun!

When: Saturday January 31, 2015

Location: American Legion Cathay Post 384
1524 Powell Street, S.F. 94133

Time: 6-10 p.m.

\$10 for veterans
\$20 for non-veterans



Cathay Post 384

Contact Lion Helen Wong for
additional information and RSVP
(650) 576-7875

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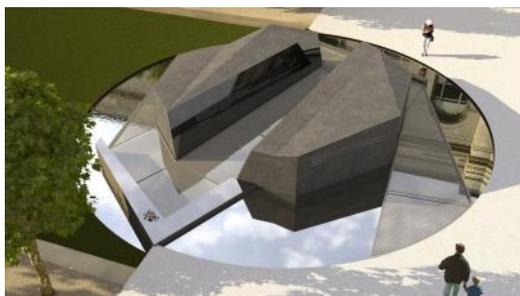
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Cathay Post—Remembering 2014, Continued

(Continued from page 11)

where 1st Vice Commander Nelson Lum and Service Officer Rogelio Manaois had the privilege of placing the chest of soil which contains soils from all the battle fields our military has fought into the monument.



Veterans Memorial Monument—Passage of Remembrance. Courtesy of SFWMPAC.org.



*USS America Commissioning ceremony.
Photo by Nelson Lum.*

On Sunday, October 12, the Post's color guard unit marched in the annual Italian Heritage Day parade. They followed that parade with the annual Veteran's Day parade on Sunday, November 9, 2014. Although the Post's group was smaller than last year, many members marched along with their other veteran organizations.

November and December is busy with planning the special Cathay Post holiday lunches, attending

Veterans of Foreign Wars 91st Division/Chinatown Post #4618's annual holiday dinner, organizing National Commander Michael Helm's luncheon and visit to our Post, supporting the San Francisco Firefighter's Toy Program, and performing the flag ceremony for the Rape of Nanking tribute on Saturday, December 13.

In addition to Cathay Post attending other non-profit events and dinners, the Post also made monetary donations to the following organizations:

- \$250 to American Elderly Humanitarian Society;
- \$1,215 to American Legion Boys State (3 Boys);
- \$400 to American Legion Auxiliary Girls State (1 Girl);
- \$1,000 to Asian Heritage Street Fair;
- \$500 to Chinese Hospital Building Fund;
- \$350 to Chinese Newcomer Services Center;
- \$1,000 scholarship check awarded to each of the 2 JROTC cadets;
- \$1,000 scholarship check awarded to a ROTC cadet;
- \$500 check awarded to each of the 2 San Francisco firefighters;
- \$500 check awarded to each of

(Continued on page 15)



Cathay Post—Remembering 2014, Continued

(Continued from page 14)

the 2 San Francisco police officers;

- \$500 to VETS@SFSU students retreat;
- \$1,000 to USS America LHA-6 Commissioning Ceremony;
- \$300 to Wreaths Across America

The Post also provided loans to:

- \$5,000 to American Legion War Memorial Commission;
- \$5,000 to 8th District Council, Veterans Success Center;

- \$2,000 to 8th District Council to fund the insurance.

It has certainly been a busy year and it's not even over yet. Planning and review of next year's budget and activities has already begun. There is no doubt that there will be more fund raisers planned for 2015 to keep members active and involved, as well as ensure the Post has the financial means to make continual improvements to the building and support local community programs. We look forward to another eventful and productive year. Wishing all of you a healthy and prosperous 2015.

Thank You — Cathay Dispatch Readers and Friends

The year is almost over and it has been full of unpredictability, surprises, and changes. Our Post, the members, and the newsletter staff continue to grow and adapt, as well as experience the challenges and changes of a post that continually strives to improve and become a better organization. The trials and tribulations that we all endure can only add to our experiences and hopefully, make us be more un-

derstanding and tolerant of one another.

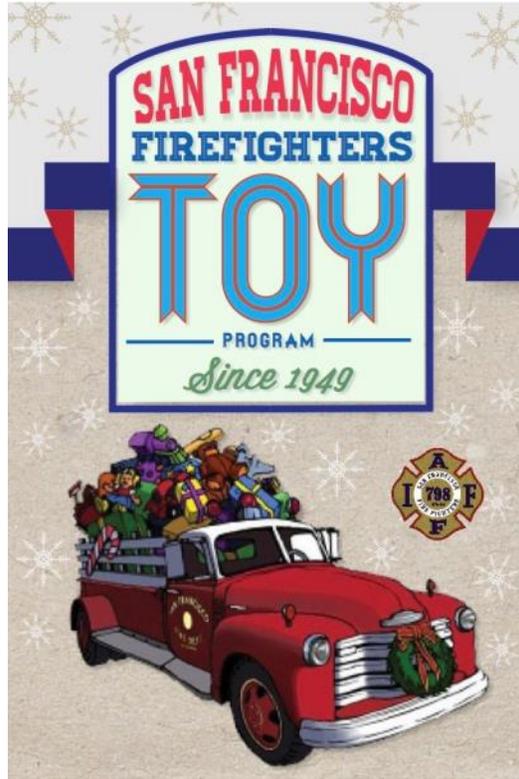
The 2014 Dispatch staff want to thank all of you for your support by cheering us on as we entered the state and national American Legion Press Association competitions, volunteering your time assisting or attending Post events so there are stories for us to write about, or purchasing advertising space in our newsletter. So, thank you

very much. We also want to thank the Golden State Road Warriors, SF Police Department, SF Police Officers Association, SF Asian Police Officers' Association, SF Police Credit Union, Coca Cola, Chinese American Heroes, Jed Miner & Associates Insurance Services, Inc., Provident Credit Union, and our many friends and donors.

We look forward to 2015 and making it an even better year!



Cathay Post 2nd Annual Firefighter Toy Drive By Connie Tseng



wildfire to helping hundreds of children in the area.

While firefighters may be the first to arrive at a scene, Cathay Post has created its own way to help those suffering misfortune with Cathay Post's 2nd Annual Toy Drive! Rather than asking for donations to be sent directly to the fire station and impede on any emergency calls they may get, Cathay Post has partnered with S.F. Firefighter's Toy Drive to take toy donations. Not only will the kids get fun toys, Cathay Post continues to be a contributor to the local community.

The S.F. Firefighter's Toy Program and Cathay Post are non-profit organizations. The various sources, such as caring organizations like Cathay Post, have helped with funding and has allowed the program to distribute over 200,000 toys to 40,000 children. The S.F. Firefighters and Cathay Post need your help in making this Christmas just a bit brighter.

Please bring in new unwrapped toys to next month's meeting on Saturday, December 13. We will deliver the toys at the conclusion of the meeting over to Firehouse 2.

Toy Guidelines: Toys must be unwrapped; we serve ages between infant through 12. Our biggest need are for girls, ages 8 through 12. Some ideas are sports equipment, balls, art and crafts, and games.

San Francisco, CA – What do burning houses and small children under the age of 12 have in common? They are served by the San Francisco Firefighters, one with hoses full of water, and The San Francisco Firefighters Toy Program, run by the S.F. Fire Fighters Union, Local 798, the city's largest and the nation's oldest program of its kind. The program brings that special time of year to children that have lost everything in a devastating fire.

Firefighters are routinely the first on the scene and they have first-hand knowledge of what damage and pain a fire can wreak. To help cope with a life changing event, such as a fire, the S.F. Firefighters started helping just 15 neighbors in 1949, and has since spread like a



Police-Fire Post 456 Police Officer of the Year By Nelson Lum

On November 13, 2014, two of San Francisco's finest were honored by American Legion Police-Fire Post #456 at its Officers of the Year awards dinner at the United Irish Cultural Center. The officers were recognized for their valor. Nine Cathay Post veterans and support members, led by Commander Jay Pon, were among the one-hundred and forty guests who attended the annual event.

Lieutenant Gaetano Caltagirone of Taraval Station, and Officer James Cunningham of Airport Bureau were each awarded the Officer of the Year for Valor. Lieutenant Caltagirone and Officer Cunningham responded to the tragic crash of Asiana Airline Flight 214, on July 6, 2013, at San Francisco International Airport. As the first emergency unit at the scene, they took immediate steps to render assistance to those passengers who were inside the smoke filled cabin. They each made several trips into the cabin to free those passengers who were



L-R: Deputy Chief Denise Schmitt, Police Chief Greg Suhr, Lt. Gaetano Caltagirone, Officer Jim Cunningham, Post 456 1st Vice Commander Gary Gee, and Commander Mike Edmond.

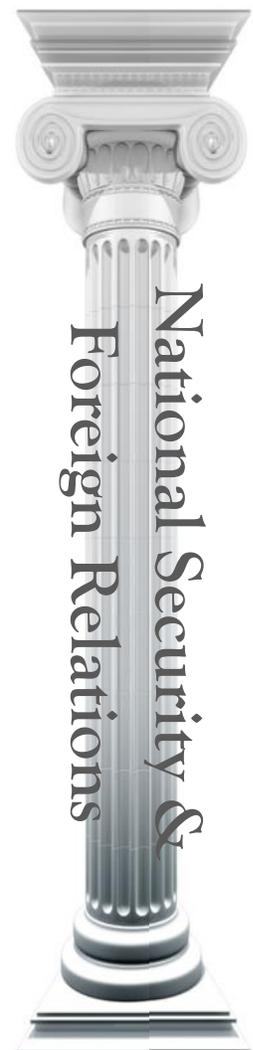
Photo courtesy of Mike Edmond.

trapped in their seats. The cabin of the plane had begun to burn, neither officer had on any fire resistant personal protective equipment (PPE). Without regard to their own personal safety, they continued their efforts to save lives. When some of the firefighters arrived at the scene, they were amazed to see these two officers inside the burning cabin without PPE working feverishly to free the passengers.

It should be noted that Officer James Cunningham was selected and honored as the Officer of the Year by Cathay Post No. 384, Officer of the Year by the American Legion Department of California at its state convention, and Officer of the Year by the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP). The evening also marked the retirement of Captain Greg Corrales, Adjutant of Post 456, from the San Francisco Police Department after more than 46 years of service.

Links to Officer Cunningham's heroics:
<https://corporate.target.com/discover/article/meet-the-2014-IACP-Target-Police-Officer-of-the-Year>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GZ4eQyk2NLk>



CHINESE AMERICAN HEROES 2014—Year in Review

Profiles of nine Chinese American Heroes were featured in the *Cathay Dispatch* in 2014. Here are brief summaries of those notable Americans. Their full biographies can be found by visiting www.chineseamericanheroes.org.



Wise—Photo courtesy
of oc.illinois.edu.

Lee—Photo by Roger
Dong.

Chancellor Phyllis M. Wise, Ph.D. (1945-). Dr. Phyllis Wise is a former research scientist, professor, and assistant administrator at several universities. In 2011, she was appointed to her current position as chancellor of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, one of the country's largest public universities. She is one of only a few Asian-American women university chancellors in the nation. Dr. Wise is the author of several articles on leadership and diversity.

Major Kurt Chew-Een Lee, U.S. Marine Corps (1926-2014). Kurt Lee enlisted with the Marines in 1944, and two years later, became the first non-white commissioned as an officer in the USMC's then-171-year history. In the Korean War, Major Lee demonstrated exemplary leadership and personal bravery during several treacherous combat missions; and earned two Purple Hearts, a Silver Star, and the Navy Cross. He served with the Marines until the end of the Vietnam War.



Major Arthur Chin, Canton Provincial Air Force, U.S. Army Air Corps (1913-1997). Arthur Chin was a decorated combat pilot for the Chinese military, who, despite being seriously injured twice in air battles, was credited with destroying nine Japanese fighter planes. Major Chin also served in the Army Air Corps as a transport pilot; and earned the Distinguished Flying Cross. After military service, he became a career Postal Service employee.

Captain Francis B. Wai, U.S. Army (1917-1944). Francis Wai In 1941 was one of the few Army officers of Asian descent selected for combat leadership. During the fierce battles when U.S. troops invaded Leyte in the Philippines, Captain Wai was killed while leading his unit to destroy a Japanese stronghold. He was posthumously awarded the Distinguished Service Cross, which, 56 years later, was upgraded to the Medal of Honor.

(Continued on page 19)



Chinese American Heroes, Continued

(Continued from page 18)

Postmaster Lim Poon Lee (1911-2002). Lim Poon Lee was an Army counterintelligence specialist during World War II. After being discharged and returned to San Francisco, he became commander of Cathay Post No. 384 and was a staunch supporter of local politics. In 1966, he was appointed postmaster of San Francisco. At the time, he was the highest-ranking federal employee of Chinese descent.

Hazel Ying Lee, U.S. Army Air Corps (1912-1944). Hazel Ying Lee was the first Chinese-American woman in the Women Airforce Service Pilots, a branch of the Army Air Corps, during World War II. Although she passed combat training, women were not allowed as combat pilots. Hazel Ying Lee flew numerous transport missions and died when her plane crashed into another aircraft that was misdirected to land on the same runway. Women service pilots were not granted veteran status until 1977.



Assistant Secretary of the Army Heidi Shyu (1953-). Heidi Shyu is a former research engineer, executive with several corporations that deal with defense projects, and was vice-chair of the Air Force Scientific Advisory Board. In 2012, she was appointed to her current position as Assistant Secretary of the Army for Acquisition, Logistics, and Technology; in that capacity, she is the Army's senior official for research and development.



Lieutenant (retired) David W. Lim, Port Authority of New York and New Jersey Police Department (1956-). David Lim was hired as a Port Authority police officer in 1980. On September 11, 2001, then-Officer Lim and his K-9 Sirius were on duty at the World Trade Center when the jetliners crashed into the Twin Towers. He was in a fourth-floor stairwell of the North Tower leading occupants to safety when the building collapsed. Lieutenant Lim survived with minor injuries, but Sirius perished. The gun belt and boots Lieutenant Lim wore that day, along with Sirius' police badge, collar, and leash, are on display at the 9/11 Memorial Museum. Lieutenant Lim retired this year after more than 34 years as a police officer.

(Continued on page 20)

Shyu—Photo courtesy of the US Army.

Lim—Photo courtesy of David Lim.

Ho'opi'i—Photo by Richard Avedon.



Chinese American Heroes, Continued

(Continued from page 19)



Photo by Richard Avedon.

Sergeant Isaac W. P. Ho'opi'i, Pentagon Force Protection Agency (1963-). Isaac Ho'opi'i was hired as a Pentagon police officer in 1997. On 9/11, when a jetliner crashed into the Pentagon, then-Officer Ho'opi'i was among the initial first-responders to enter into the burning, smoke- and debris-filled building to lead occupants to a safe area. Although there were numerous fatalities, Sergeant Ho'opi'i directed countless persons to safety; and personally saved eight victims by carrying or assisting them from the burning structure. When not on duty as a police K-9 handler, Sergeant Ho'opi'i coaches at a local high school and is an accomplished singer and musician.



Gary Gee, president of Chinese American Heroes, authored this article and the following message:

On behalf of Chinese American Heroes, I hope that Cathay Dispatch readers and their families have a festive holiday season. To the men and women of our military forces overseas, thank you for your courage and dedication as you protect our great nation; and God's speed in returning you safely to your loved ones.

CHINESE AMERICAN HEROES
chineseamericanheroes.org

Annual Fort Miley Visit—Mark Your Calendars By Roger Dong

Cathay Post is tentatively scheduled to visit veterans who are residing at Fort Miley VA Medical Center on Saturday, January 17, 2015. The actual time of the visit has yet to be determined. Please note this on your calendar if you plan to join Commander Pon and many of our comrades on this special day.

We will be bringing gift packs with an assortment of useful treats from our Post for our veterans. The hospital limits the number of visitors

we can have, so please let us know as soon as possible if you plan on coming.

A BBQ lunch and promises of unlimited beer consumption will be hosted by Commander Jay Pon at his residence after the visit.

We look forward to seeing you there.

Roger S. Dong, future Fort Miley residence in practice.



Chinese Historical Society of America Paying Tribute to Veterans By Roger Dong

On Saturday, November 8, 2014 Chinese Historical Society of America (CHSA) celebrated Veterans Day and recognized all Chinese American veterans at their boutique museum on 965 Clay Street in San Francisco for the first time. Honoring Chinese American veterans is a very noteworthy event as historians, including Chinese American historians, have not truly recognized the contributions of Chinese American veterans who have incredibly served in every American conflict since the Civil War (1861-1865).

In World War II, approximately 20,000 Chinese Americans served in our military which was an astounding 25% of approximately 80,000 of the total Chinese American population in our country. No other ethnic group served in this conflict with such a high proportion of their total population. Considering most of America has portrayed

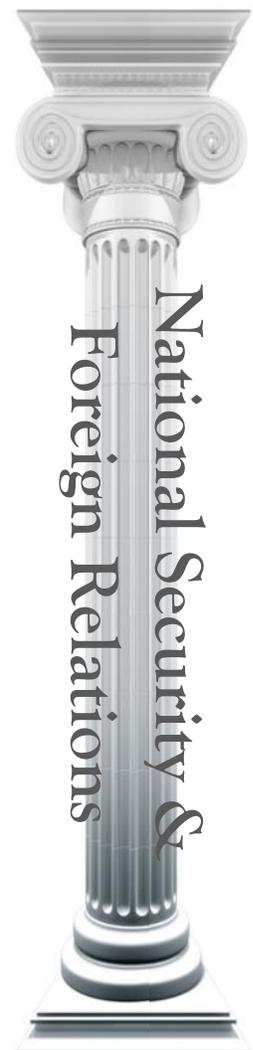
Chinese Americans as perpetual foreigners at that time, their loyalty to America had always been deemed questionable. Despite these obstacles, Chinese Americans who served in such high numbers proportionally in our military during that time frame should be noteworthy. Serving in the military in time of war is an undeniable badge of loyalty to your country which is more powerful than loudly reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

Even though Chinese Americans were enthusiastic about taking up arms to serve our country, during WWII, rampant discrimination kept some very loyal Chinese Americans from being able to enlist in the military. The selective service process rejected many applications from Chinese Americans. For example, Mr. Frank Fong, was rejected several times when he tried to enlist in the Army. Fong actually wrote a letter to Gen-

eral Hap Arnold, Commander of Army Air Corps at the Pentagon, and his letter amazingly found its way onto the General's desk. General Arnold was so moved by Fong's determination to serve his country that he directed the Army to accept Fong. The General also authorized Fong's request to attend flight school to become a pilot. Fong graduated from combat pilot school and was assigned to Europe where he was deployed and quickly shot down by two German fighter aircrafts. In one of those encounters, his P-47 Thunderbolt fighter sustained damage, and he suffered serious bodily injuries when he crash landed his aircraft.

The injuries ended his combat flying career. However, he continually insisted on flying and was assigned as the Commander of the non-combat 5th European Air Rescue

(Continued on page 22)



CHSA Paying Tribute to Veterans, Continued

(Continued from page 21)

Squadron. His unit rescued more than a thousand American and Allied air crew members during the War. Fong was awarded two Distinguished Flying Crosses (the highest flying combat award), eight Air Medals, and a Purple Heart among his many military awards. He continued serving in non-combat flying assignments during the Korean and Vietnam Wars.

During WWII, Captain Francis B. Wai, US Army, earned the Medal of Honor for "Gallantry and intrepidity at risk of life above and beyond the call of duty" as he gave up his life bravely rescuing and defending his Army comrades.

Also in WWII, Rear Admiral Gordon P. Chung-Hoon, a US Navy destroyer Commander, was awarded the Navy Cross and Silver Star for conspicuous gallantry and extraordinary heroism as the commanding of-

ficer of USS Sigsbee (DD - 502) from May 1944 to October 1945. In 2003, the US Navy recognized the courageous Chung-Hoon with the naming of an Aegis Class guided missile destroyer, USS Chung-Hoon (DDG - 93) in his honor.

The approximately 20,000 Chinese Americans who served bravely in defense of America during WWII were major factors in the repeal of the heinous Chinese Exclusionary Act (CEA) which originated in 1882 for ten years, and subsequently renewed every 10 years thereafter. If the CEA had not been repealed in 1943, the population of Chinese Americans in America would not have grown from the 1945 population of 80,000 to the 4.5 million today. Without a measurable voting population in a democracy, you are not recognized by politicians and rendered perpetually victims from neglect. Today, there are approximately 83,000 Asian Americans in

our military serving in combat, medical, and logistical positions with more than 50,000 of them being of Chinese descent. They are critical and an integral part of our military worldwide.

One of the exhibits at the CHSA celebration was the showing of the film "Uncommon Courage - Breakout at Chosin." It is the 2010 Smithsonian Institute video production that depicted the story of Korean War hero Major Kurt Chew-Een Lee, an honorary Cathay Post member and an American military hero. CHSA delayed the viewing of the film until 2:30 pm to allow me and other Cathay Post members who attended the monthly Post meeting to participate in the viewing. Also in attendance was Major Lee's nephew, San Francisco City Supervisor Eric L. Mar. Mar and I introduced the film before the audience at CHSA. The audience consisted of several dozens visitors to the CHSA Museum

(Continued on page 23)



CHSA Paying Tribute to Veterans, Continued

(Continued from page 22)

and they were treated to unpublished information of Major Lee that was not a part of the Smithsonian film.

Supervisor Mar, who represented the Lee family told the story of Major Kurt Lee, the eldest son of how his uncle was always a leader and how he followed his grandfather's footsteps of cherishing honor.



Supervisor Eric Mar, nephew of Major Kurt Lee.

I recounted Major Kurt Lee's military exploits and the heroics behind his Navy Cross. I informed the audience Lee was not just a brave and strong military leader. He was an extraordinary military strategist.

He trained and demanded his men to be physically and mentally ready for combat. When engaged in battle, he used excellent military tactics and exhibited extraordinary bravery by drawing fire to himself in order to expose the enemy's machine gun positions. His B Company platoon never lost a battle in the Korean War.



Roger Dong, Founder -Chinese American Heroes

The effort to upgrade Major Kurt Lee's Silver Star to the Medal of Honor continues. The office of Congresswoman Jackie Speier is coordinating and gathering cogent and relevant information to justify the Medal of Honor to be submitted to Congress for referral to the Marine Corps and hopefully, the White House.

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United States Air Force By Jay Pon

(Author's note: This is part 4 of my historical look back at the creation of our Armed Forces.)

In part 4 of this 5 part series of *how our military is structured*, we fly off with the Air Force. The youngest of the 5 branches of service was established in September 8, 1947. There are approximately 510,000 airmenⁱ making the Air Force the second largest US military branch after the Army. Of the roughly 510,000 airmenⁱⁱ, 65% are on active duty, 14% are in the Air Force Reserve, and 21% are in the Air National Guard. A majority are enlisted folks –80%, and of those 19% are female, statistically the highest of all five branches. The Air National Guard is sim-

ilar to the Army National Guard, where the state governors have control of these assets until federalized by the President of the United States.

Some states have more airpower than many nations aboard. In fact, the Missouri Air Guard flies the B-2 Bomber, making Missouri a nuclear power! Georgia and Kansas recently had to turn in their B-1 Bombers causing them to lose their nuclear status. The entire Air Force has about 1,500 fighter aircraft, 800 cargo aircraft, 3,300 other types of aircraft, 115 nuclear bombers, 450 ICBM, and 63 satellitesⁱⁱⁱ, and more importantly at least 65 golf courses^{iv}. In 2011, the Air Force reached a milestone with training more drone pilots

than traditional pilots^v. The Air Force, besides in being in charge of Air Superiority, is also concerned about Space and Cyber Superiority, where the sky is no longer the limit. The Air Force's future battlefield is both physical and virtual in a third and fourth dimensional environment.

ⁱ "United States Air Force - Wikipedia, the Free Encyclopedia." N.p., n.d. Web. 27 Nov. 2014.

ⁱⁱ "2014 United States of America Military Strength." N.p., n.d. Web. 27 Nov. 2014.

ⁱⁱⁱ United States Air Force - Wikipedia, the Free Encyclopedia." N.p., n.d. Web. 27 Nov. 2014.

^{iv} (per militarygoldcourseguide.com) unconfirmed.

^v Martin, Rachel. "Drone Pilots: The Future of Aerial Warfare." *NPR.org*. N.p., n.d. Web. 27 Nov. 2014.

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7 Pearl Harbor Day	8	9	10 <i>75% Nat'l Membership Target Date</i>	11 Helm Visit & Luncheon	12	13 <i>Post Meeting, Rape of Nanking Flag ceremony</i>
14	15	16 Hanukkah Begins	17	18	19	20
21 Winter Solstice	22	23	24 Hanukkah Ends	25 X-mas Day	26	27
28	29	30	31 New Years Eve			

JANUARY 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 New Years	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10 Post Meeting
11	12	13	14	15	16	17 Ft. Miley Visit
18	19 Martin Luther King	20	21 <i>80% Nat'l Membership Target Date</i>	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31 Veterans Lions Event

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