



CATHAY DISPATCH

Veterans - Sounding Off Since 1931

WELCOME TO CALIFORNIA NATIONAL COMMANDER DALE BARNETT

By Clara Pon

DUTY * HONOR * COUNTRY



American Legion National Commander Dale Barnett is headed our way following his trip in Asia. We are looking forward to seeing him on his tour of our great state from December 10 through December 16, 2015. Let's keep our fingers crossed that we don't have a sudden heavy down pour and electrical black out again like last year when Past National Commander Mike Helm was here in San Francisco, even though the rain is much needed. We wish him and his entourage a safe, enjoyable, and productive time here.

Commander Barnett's Scheduled Tour

For more information, please contact the Department at (559) 875-8387 or the individual post for event details.*

Thursday, December 10th

- "Official Welcome & Reception" Hosted by Magellan Post 604.
- Dinner at Mt. Diablo Post 246, 5 p.m. at The Veterans Memorial Building - 400 Hartz Ave., Danville. Contact Commander Dale Arnett at (925) 838-0749 or at: eardell@aol.com.

Friday, December 11th

- "Sacramento Capital Meeting" with Vito Imbasciani MD, new Secretary of Veterans Affairs.
Join Us For A Veterans Walk - Sacramento State Capital, 10:30 a.m.
- Dinner at Amador Post 108 at 11401 American Legion Dr., Sutter Creek .

Saturday, December 12th

- Sanger Building Dedication 11:30 a.m. RSVP by Dec. 7 to (559) 875-8387 or cingdoc@gmail.com.

Sunday, December 13th

- Brunch at Hollywood Post 43, 2035 N. Highland Ave., Hollywood.
Join Us For A Veterans Walk - Hollywood Post 43, 10:30 a.m.
- Dinner hosted by Chinatown Post 628, 5 p.m. at NBC Seafood Restaurant, 404 South Atlantic Blvd., Monterey Park. \$30/person.

Monday, December 14th

- Lunch at Post 310, 11:00 a.m. at 465—47th St., San Diego. \$10/person. RSVP to (619) 306-3210 or (619) 266-3398.
- Dinner at Post 146, 5 p.m. at 1617 Mission Ave., Oceanside. \$25/person.

Tuesday, December 15th

- Brunch at Newport Harbor Post 291, 9 a.m. at 215 15th St., Newport Beach. \$20/person. RSVP required. Call (949) 673-5070.
- Dinner at Palisades Post 283, 5:30 p.m. at 15247 La Cruz Drive, Pacific Palisades. \$17.50/person. Call to RSVP at (310) 454-0527.

* Schedule subject to change.

Important Dates:

- Dec 7—Pearl Harbor Day
- Dec 10-15—National Commander Dale Barnett touring California
- Dec 12—Monthly meeting at 11 a.m. at Powell St.
- Dec 23—Article submissions due for Jan. Cathay Dispatch
- Dec 25—Christmas Day
- Jan 1—New Year's Day

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AMERICAN LEGION

Mt. Diablo Post 246

California District 9



Invites you to enjoy an evening with

American Legion National Commander

Dale Barnett

Thursday, December 10th 2015 5:00 PM

Veterans Memorial Building
400 Hartz Avenue, Danville, CA

Sponsors include:



Sentinels of Freedom
Foundation



San Ramon Valley
Kiwanis Foundation

Mr. & Mrs.
Phil Connolly



For dinner reservations and details, please contact
Commander Eric Ardell at (925) 838-0749
eardell@aol.com



*The American Legion Department of California
National Commander Dale Barnett's Official Visit &
Building Dedication*

Saturday, December 12th at 11:30 A.M.

*The American Legion
Department of California Headquarters
1601 7th Street
Sanger, CA 93657
Kindly R.S.V.P. by December 7, 2015 to
(559) 875-8387 or to cingdoc@gmail.com*



ALL LEGION MEMBERS WELCOME!

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2015
LUNCHEON HOSTED BY
NEWPORT HARBOR POST 291



HONORING
DALE BARNETT
NATIONAL
COMMANDER

PROGRAM
10 AM SOCIAL HOUR
11 AM CALL TO ORDER
LUNCHEON FOLLOWS

\$20 DONATION
RESERVATIONS REQUIRED 949.673.5070

Update—Arming Troops On U.S. Bases By Nelson Lum

In the August 2015 edition of our Cathay Dispatch, I wrote an article about protecting those who defend our freedom. The article highlighted the inadequacy of protection for our military personnel who are assigned to state side duties. For the most part, just about all military personnel that are not assigned to hostile zones are not permitted to be armed. While these policies and procedures were designed to enhance the safety of our personnel, they are outdated and in today's climate where hostile acts against our military personnel happen frequently, these policies have prevented our military personnel the means

to protect themselves when they were attacked by armed terrorists.

Brett P. Reistad, National Legislative Committee Chairman of the American Legion wrote in the American Legion Dispatch that Secretary Ashton Carter, Department of Defense, has authorized his service chiefs to permit more troops to carry weapons at U.S. bases, with a focus on recruiting stations, reserve centers, and other "soft" military targets. The authorization came after the horrendous attack of a recruitment station and a reserve center in Tennessee. In the Secretary's memorandum, he indicated the arming of military personnel shall be

limited and controlled, effort must be made to balance competing needs of self-defense and safety. The memorandum further stipulates evaluation of the necessity to arm military personnel shall be made with the consideration of the possible consequences of accidental or indiscriminate use of those arms with the overriding factor being the mission and threat.

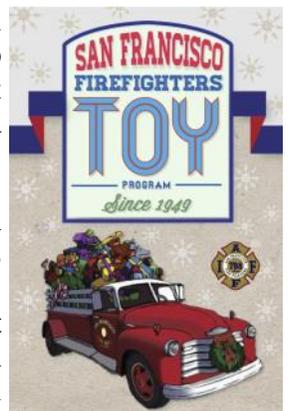
As Legionnaires, we welcome all corrective actions that will enhance the safety of our military personnel. Unfortunately, it took the ultimate sacrifice of three Marines and one sailor to bring about this change in policy.



For the 4th year, Cathay Post #384 has started its San Francisco Firefighters toy drive. We need all of you to bring in toys to this worthwhile cause at the next meeting. All donated toys must be **new** and **unwrapped**.

The SF Firefighters will hand out toys to kids from infant through 12 years of age. Their biggest need is for toys that are suitable for girls ages 8 through 12. Some suggested ideas are sports equipment, balls, art and crafts, and games. The program is run strictly on donations to ensure that proceeds go to the children at Christmas time.

If you would prefer to make a cash donation, please make checks payable to San Francisco Firefighters Toy Program. Let's not leave a child without a toy this holiday season. Cathay Post #384 will march the toys and donations down to SFFD Station 2 following our December general meeting.



COMMANDER NELSON LUM

Our second monthly meeting held at the War Memorial Veterans Building went off without a hitch. Aside from our regular members, there were six guests who are potential new members to our post (actually, one of the six has already joined subsequent to the meeting and just about all the rest have indicated they will). If they all follow through and become members, this would be one of the biggest group of veterans to join our post in a span of a month. I am very gratified and thankful for this development. As has been said many times before, our post is in need of new blood. I want to extend a warm welcome to our new guests on behalf of our members and may you all be a part of our extended family soon. A delicious thanksgiving luncheon was ready for all who attended, and a special thank you must go to none other than our super support member, Ms. Clara Pon, who worked tirelessly throughout the week in order to prepare and serve this luncheon. I must take this opportunity to remind our members that we need you all to step up to assist with our various projects. While we are very

fortunate that we have a superbly dedicated person who has single handedly sustained many of our post's functions, the rest of us must do our part to contribute to the success of our post.

The long awaited change of revue from Market Street to Fisherman's Wharf for the Veterans Day Parade finally took place on November 8, 2015. The threatening rain that was forecasted came early in the morning, thankfully by the time the parade began, the rain has halted and it was nice and dry for the participants as well as the large gathering of onlookers along the route. There were more than 60 units including many marching bands that kept the crowd entertained. A strong message was sent that Veterans Day is a time for the folks to remember those who have made the ultimate sacrifice along with those who served and are serving to protect our freedom. Congratulations to all the organizers of the parade and we look forward to the continuation of this event at the wharf in the foreseeable future.

On November 17, 2015, members of Cathay Post attended Post 456's

award dinner where two firefighters and 2 police officers were honored. The event was held at the United Irish Cultural Center located in the Sunset District. There was a pack house of 17 tables. We are proud to have supported our fellow legionnaires. Our contingent consisted of 1st Vice Commander Roger Dong, Historian Dale King and his lovely wife Eva, Chaplain Richard Ow, Activities Director George Tsang, Comrade Richard Carney, Support Member Clara Pon and me. Congratulations to all the awardees and a job well done to Commander Gary Gee and Adjutant Greg Corrales of Post 456.

Our December monthly meeting will be back at our headquarters building at 1524 Powell Street. This will be our last meeting for the year of 2015. In addition to the usual meeting, we will also be supporting the annual toy drive by the San Francisco Fire Department. The goal of this drive is to make toys available to the underprivileged youngster in our community. We want every kid to have a toy for Christmas and with your help, we can make this goal a reality.

(Continued on page 9)



Nelson Lum

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

Cathay Post Member
since: 2005

Branch: Army

Final Rank: SPC

"If they all follow through and become members, this would be one of the biggest group of veterans to join our post in a span of a month. I am very gratified and thankful for this development."



Roger Dong

rogerdong@hotmail.com

1 (650) 339-0010

Cathay Post Member
since: 2005

Branch: Air Force

Final Rank: Lt. Col.

“The concert is an effort to reach out to all veterans with the healing power of music. Music, as we now know, is a powerful therapy for many issues that affect veterans, including Post Traumatic Stress (PTS).”

1st VICE COMMANDER ROGER DONG

By the time you receive this Dispatch, Thanksgiving will have passed, and you will only have about two (2) weeks to finish your Christmas shopping. Christmas shopping is not as fun, especially if you have to buy a lot of presents.

If you want an idea to save you time, maybe even some money, and also make almost everybody happy, don't waste your time and gas driving around and praying to the parking God for a place to park. You can do your shopping conveniently and comfortably from home. In most cases, shopping on the Internet is actually a cheaper way to shop, but you take a risk of the gifts not arriving on time if you are doing last minute shopping. My suggestion is to give cash for Christmas. You and the receiver will save a lot of time and effort by not having to go exchange the gift you received that doesn't fit or don't want. All you have to do is to slip some greenbacks into an empty box of Jell-O or other container and hand them out (with proper gift tags of course) to all your Christmas gift recipients. Watch the disappointed faces, and then their glee when the first person

figures out what's really inside.

Note: After you have done this once, you will lose the surprise next year. I will tell you what you can do to surprise everyone again next year.

Lest we forget November, there were some pretty notable events this past month for our veterans and our community.

First, due to the dedication of Commander Nelson Lum, members of the parade committee (Comrades Wally Levin and Al Casciato), after three years of planning and negotiating, the long anticipated move of the Veterans' Day parade from barren Market Street route to the robust Fisherman's Wharf location finally happened. Everyone involved thought it was great. It makes you wonder why it has taken three years to get everyone to agree to move the parade to where there is an audience. We are all very pleased that Commander Lum and the members of the committee were responsible for changing it. From this point forward, the Veterans' Day parade will be a much more successful event as many more marching units will want to participate in the

neighborhood where there is a large crowd of locals and tourists. The local merchants are pleased to see the increase of business as the result of the new parade route.

Another great event happened on Veterans' Day at the War Memorial Veterans Building (WMVB). It was the "Concert to Honor Veterans" promoted by *Heroes' Voices* which is organized and headed by Mr. Richard Harrell.

The entertainment for the evening include the mellow tones of OSA Vocal Rush, the lively tones of the Heroes' Voices Bluegrass Band and the moving Latin pulse of the fabulous Pete Escovedo Latin Ensemble.

If you missed the concert, here is a link to the YouTube video so that you can enjoy a slice of the wonderful evening that you missed:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4hl9tC1EyVE>

All veterans enjoyed the musical evening at no cost to them at the beautifully remodeled Herbst Theatre, thanks to the

(Continued on page 10)

2ND VICE COMMANDER HELEN WONG

As we go from one holiday month to another, December will seem busier with a different focus than November with Veterans' Day, Marine Corps 240th birthday activities, and Thanksgiving.

Added to the mix in November was the Bikes -4-Vets giveaway which was coordinated by the San Francisco Veterans Lions Club that partnered with SoMa and Bayview Rotary Clubs, SF Police Department, and Lions Veterans Charities, Inc. Joining this effort for the first year is the Military Order of the Purple Heart—Chapter 15 who sponsored the bike helmets.

Several members of Cathay Post No. 384 are also members of the Veterans Lions Club and helped with the planning, cleaning, preparation, and maintenance prior to distributing over 100 bikes to deserving veterans in the community. Again, because of force multipliers, veterans at the VA hospitals at Palo Alto's Menlo Park Division and at Martinez VA received bikes this year. It is fortunate that I have contacts at both hospitals and it worked out that there were enough bikes to give away.

We were able to complete the project with help of Dr. Muir from Martinez VA and a Rotary Club member who picked up and delivered the bikes to the hospitals.

Without the donation of over 100 bicycles from the SF Police Department from its property warehouse after they were processed from the lost or stolen bicycles inventory, the project would not be possible.

Without partnering with the Rotarians who made the arrangements for picking out the bikes at the warehouse and the bike mechanics for fixing and transporting bikes, the completion of the project would not be possible.

Without the Lions Veterans Charities, Inc. who monitored the funding, paid the bills, and provided matching funds for the bike repair parts, locks, and lights, and without the Military Order of the Purple Heart Chapter providing the bike helmets, the project would be less successful and less safe.

Without help from the SF Veterans Lions Club members who helped with the safety training,

paperwork and handing out the bikes, it would not have been successful.

As you can see, it takes many individuals and organizations coming together in order to get a project of this magnitude to succeed.

As we go into December with all the bustle of the holiday season, remember that to keep from being stressed out, use your resources to help out in whatever way it takes just as in any military mission. You want to plan, coordinate and execute the tasks at hand. Do it in small chunks and set realistic goals.

Do not be afraid to ask for assistance for yourself even if the tasks are small, from going to the post office, to shopping, to walking the dog, or to watering plants, etc. If you find yourself feeling the holiday blues, do something, take action, and look for someone else to help with changing those feelings.

Remember, give it enough time and things will change.

Happy Holidays!

Merry Christmas!

Happy New Year!



Helen Wong

wong_helen@sbcglobal.net

1 (415) 797-7384

Cathay Post Member since: 1990

Branch: Army

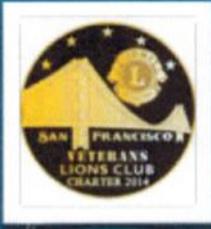
Final Rank: Lt. Col.

“If you find yourself feeling the holiday blues, do something, take action, and look for someone else to help with changing those feelings.”



OPERATION: TWELFTH NIGHT

The San Francisco Veterans Lions Club
Annual Holiday Party & Art Show



Come Enjoy Fabulous Food,
Music & Merriment



Twelfth Night
Act I Scene I
"If music be the food of love,
play on"



What a Year This Was!!!

*You are cordially invited to join the Officers &
Members of the San Francisco Veterans Lions
Club for their Annual 12th Night Community
Awards Ceremony, Celebration & Art Show Gala*

*\$10.00 Donation at the Door -
Free for all Veterans & Lions*



Held in the San Francisco Veterans Building, Rm. 210
Saturday, December 12, 2015, From 6 to 9 PM

401 Van Ness Avenue, San Francisco, California

For more information contact: SFCommishCaldera@aol.com



Nelson Lum, Continued

(Continued from page 5)

Please bring a toy or two or three to our post when you come to the meeting and place them into the toy barrel. Remember, all toys should be new and must not be gift wrapped. If you are not able to attend but would like to donate some toys, please contact anyone of the commanders or Junior Past Commander Jay Pon and arrangement will be made to collect the toys from you.

The petition filed by the San Francisco posts of the American Legion in Probate Court is in its final stage. Both the city and our attorneys have submitted their final briefs to the court on November 12, 2015, the possibility of last minute challenges from either side may still take place. Otherwise, it is now a waiting game until the

court rules on the issue that affects what organizations will be eligible to occupy space in the War Memorial Veterans Building.

Tickets for the variety musical show God Bless the USA co-sponsored by Cathay Post #384 and Linking Rings are available and will be in demand. The show will be held on Friday, January 29, 2016 at 1:00 p.m. at Herbst Theatre in the War Memorial Veterans Building. One of the main goals of the show is to provide free entertainment to those senior veterans currently housed in Yountville. Arrangement is being made to bus a contingent of senior veterans from Yountville to attend the show. Please support this worthwhile effort by purchasing tickets for you and your family members and encourage

your friends to do the same. You may contact anyone of the Board of Directors or email Cathaypost@gmail.com for ticket information.

Looking ahead, our post is embarking on two major projects, the planning of the 85th anniversary banquet and the publishing of a year book to commemorate our 85th year as a part of the American Legion. There will be many tasks both big and small that will need you, our members, to take part in. The more assistance we get from you, the better and easier it will be to complete these tasks. Let's roll up our sleeves and put forth our best effort in order to make the celebration of our 85th year something that we can all be proud of and showcase what Cathay Post No. 384 can continue to accomplish.

December Reminders

- Bring a toy or toys to Saturday, December 12 meeting to help the SFFD toy program and put a smile on a child's face this holiday season. Toys will be walked over to the firehouse after the meeting.
- 21st annual SF SantaCon 2015 will be held on the same day is our general meeting, Saturday, December 12. It starts at noon in Union Square and usually ends up in North Beach around the conclusion of our holiday lunch.
- Membership—Renew before January 1, 2016 to avoid being a delinquent member. 2016 annual membership is \$50 which includes a monthly newsletter, monthly lunch, occasional subsidized dining events, and best of all friendship and camaraderie.

Roger Dong, Continued

(Continued from page 6)

generosity of the Rotary Club of San Francisco, the 2nd oldest Rotary Club in the world, which covered all the expenses. I especially want to thank current Rotary President Stephanie Schmautz and Rotary President Elect David Dye for their support.

The concert is an effort to reach out to all veterans with the healing power of music. Music, as we now know, is a powerful therapy for many issues that affect veterans, including Post

Traumatic Stress (PTS). I learned from talking to several veterans with PTS that the music experience provided by *Heroes' Voices* has had a very positive impact with their recovery, and the great thing about music therapy is that there is no negative side effects unlike the effects often associated with man-made drugs. PTS is one of the high prices our country pays to the subset of the 1% who served and survived combat. Our country owes a great debt to

those who served in combat and are burdened with PTS. These lucky survivors of war can be severely maimed with PTS for life. Even those "cured" are never completely recovered from the scars of combat. The WMVB should be used to facilitate organizations such as *Heroes' Voices*. Cathay Post should consider supporting *Heroes' Voices* which has provided healing power with music to over 1000 veterans this past year.



Heroes' Voices – <http://heroesvoices.org/>

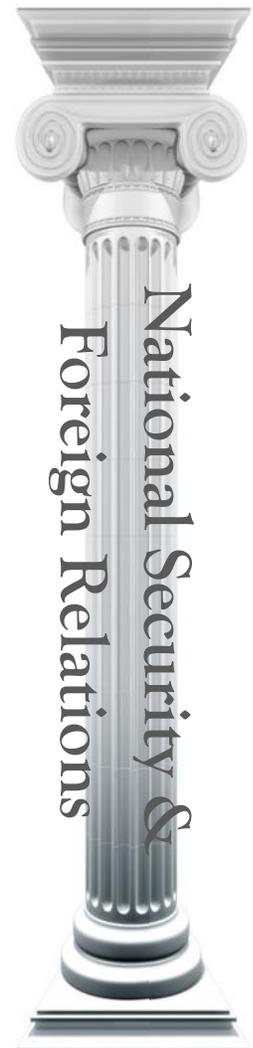
"*Heroes' Voices* leverages the power of music and poetry to make a direct, positive impact on veterans who seek better lives and more satisfying reintegration into their communities. It is difficult for many veterans to re-acclimate to civilian life, especially the estimated 500,000 veterans who are returning home from Iraq and Afghanistan with post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and traumatic brain injuries (TBI). *Heroes' Voices* empowers the men and women who have served our country with a sense of connection and pride through participation in musical ensembles and performances."

The poem below was performed at the "Concert to Honor Veterans" by Richard Gibson and written by Bradley Danielson.

Pray, Trust God and Music

How hard can it be to know what our choice is
My struggle with dreams makes it harder to voice this
My damages brain couldn't hold water I know this

(Continued on page 11)



Pray, Trust God and Music, Continued

(Continued from page 10)

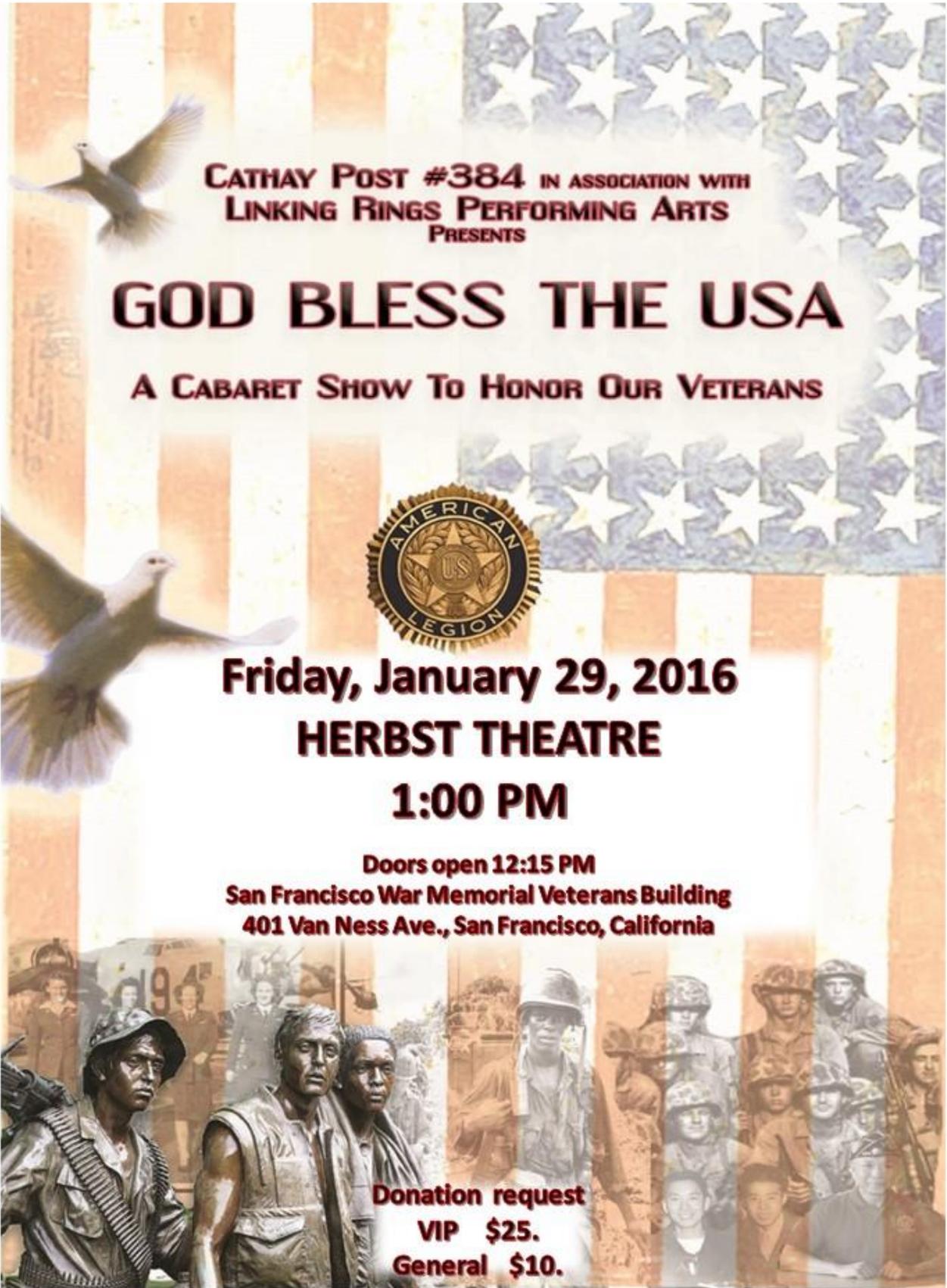
If there's a way out I haven't bothered to notice
They offer to throw scripts
Trying to find where the end of my bottomless hole is
So many cons it's hard to know what a pro is
Drowned in a whole fifth I
Found happiness to be closest
Drowsy and dozing my soul gives
Lights out but the darkness it glows thick
I'm so sick of trying to find where a rope is
Nope I'm still hopeless and ill focused
I kill doses cause zeros spoken till heroes voices
Rose through smoke to grow yoke with a brotherhood
Motherless and misunderstood
PTSD sufferer I'd rather suffocate under dirt
Until I connected with others hurt

Wow

What a powerful passionate prescription
With a perfect predictive description
To say my mission of using lyrical diction
To aid in the cure of addiction
Paved with the purest conviction
This is a miracle given
Every syllable written
Can heal in addition
It's real
Can you fill in this sentence
It's healing the sentence
And deals in repentance
That's change
It's changing my brain
Maybe not to sane but to a level plain
Where I can bear the devil in game
Music is a rebel to pain
If I can change my brain I can change my life
If I remain the same I maintain the strife
Daniel Amen
I can handle to send word to a friend
As I scribble my pen
You can soothe it
If you want to do it how I do it then
Pray trust God and music



~Heroes' Voices Workshop June 2015~
Reprinted with permission.



CATHAY POST #384 IN ASSOCIATION WITH
LINKING RINGS PERFORMING ARTS
PRESENTS

GOD BLESS THE USA

A CABARET SHOW TO HONOR OUR VETERANS



Friday, January 29, 2016

HERBST THEATRE

1:00 PM

Doors open 12:15 PM

**San Francisco War Memorial Veterans Building
401 Van Ness Ave., San Francisco, California**



Donation request
VIP \$25.
General \$10.

A collage of black and white photographs of military veterans from various eras, including World War II and Vietnam War soldiers, some in uniform and some in civilian attire.

Veteran Driver License and ID Available

HAVE YOU EVER SERVED IN THE U.S. MILITARY? YOU MAY QUALIFY TO PROUDLY DISPLAY **VETERAN** ON YOUR CALIFORNIA DRIVER LICENSE OR IDENTIFICATION CARD.

IT'S AS EASY AS 1, 2, 3!

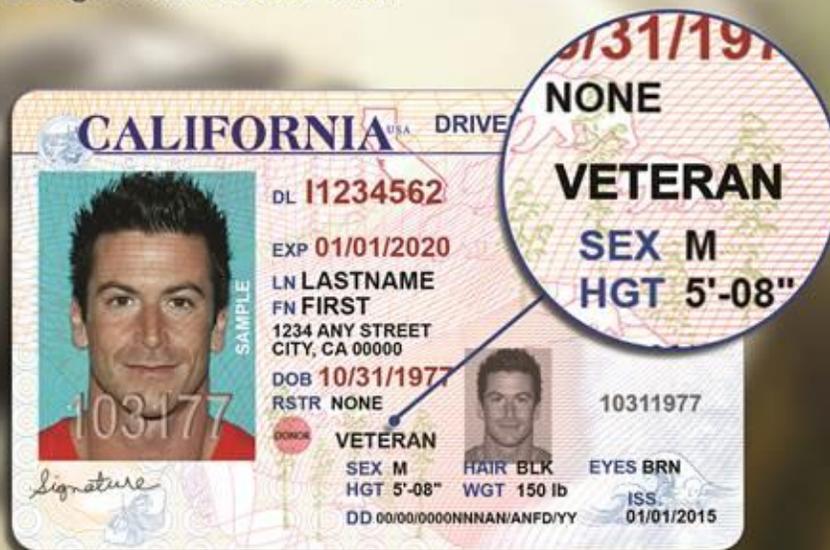
1 Find your military discharge certificate (DD214). If you need assistance obtaining your military records, then contact your County Veteran Service Officer (CVSO).

2 Take your DD214 and government identification to your CVSO to obtain your Veteran Status Verification Form.

3 Go online or call DMV for an appointment. Then bring your Veteran Status Verification Form to DMV. Complete your application, pay any fees including the \$5 fee to add the Veteran Designation. *Note: tests may be required.*

For faster CVSO service, schedule an appointment by finding your local CVSO at www.calvet.ca.gov or calling 1-844-737-8838.

To schedule an appointment at a DMV, visit www.dmv.ca.gov or call 1-800-777-0133.



Congratulations Alameda Coast Guard By Roger Dong



Coast Guard Cutter Bertholf crew member hugging kids after returning from deployment. Photo by Petty Officer 3rd Class Adam Stanton.

cruise ships. Most of us will never need this type of medical help, but it's great to know that the 11th Coast Guard District resources are here for many types of emergencies including post-earthquake services.



Coast Guard Cutter Bertholf. Photo by Petty Officer 3rd Class Adam Stanton.

Our local 11th Coast Guard District located on Coast Guard Island in Alameda is the only active duty military organization in the San Francisco Bay Area. The 11th District has a broad area of responsibilities ranging from the southwestern U.S. and coastal waters, as well as off-shore waters from California to South America. Locally, it provides rescue services in the bay and rivers in our Bay Area and even provides medical emergency evacuation for passengers on

This year, the Coast Guard cutters of the 11th District had a record year for seizing illegal drugs valued at several hundred million dollars on the high seas. Working with other vessels integral to the Joint Interagency Task Force South, the cutters seized vast amounts of illegal drugs before they can be distributed and sold in our neighborhoods is of great value to society. Our **Thanks** to the 11th Coast Guard District for providing this type of invaluable service for all of us in the Bay Area and in our nation.

Prior to Thanksgiving, Cutters Waesche and Bertholf returned home to Coast Guard Island. Family members of crews were overjoyed to see their dads and moms return home safely and their missions accomplished.

After the holidays, the Coast Guard crews will return to challenging missions rescuing stranded sailors, interdicting contraband, conducting medical evacuations, and even freeing whales tangled by fishing nets. Cathay Post wishes our local Coast Guard members a happy holiday and smooth sailing next year.



Crew members from Coast Guard Cutter Waesche embracing loved ones from their 106-day deployment. Photos by Petty Officer 2nd Class Prentice Danner.



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New Veterans' Day Parade Route By Nelson Lum



Cathay Post members march along Fisherman's Wharf.

Sunday, November 8, 2015 marked a historic day in San Francisco. The annual Veterans' Day parade began a brand new chapter by moving its route from Market Street to Fisherman's Wharf. The parade has been held along Market Street since its inception about 70 years ago. The change of route has been contemplated for quite a while due to the lack of onlookers along Market Street. The participants of the parade often complained about having to march down an empty street.

It took three years of earnest efforts to finally move the parade to Fisherman's Wharf. The logistics of moving the parade required a lot of coordination. The organizers (Mr. Wally Levin, Mr. Al Casciato, and myself) had to obtain approval from the City, the merchants, the police, the Metropolitan Transit Agency, the Port Authority, the hotels, and the restaurants along the way. In order to accomplish the above, the organizers attended numerous meetings and addressed the concerns of all the parties involved, a process that took up a tremendous amount of time. I would like to thank my co-organizers for their hard work and dedication to fulfill this endeavor.

Rain was forecasted for the day of the

parade. When I arrived at the staging area about 8:00 a.m., light rain was drizzling steadily. Fortunately, as the morning wore on, the rain stopped and the welcoming sun began to warm the surrounding area. More and more people were beginning to gather as the various units lined up waiting for the parade to start.

More than 60 units participated in the first ever Veterans' Day parade along the Wharf. There were marching bands, military units, units representing the San Francisco posts of the American Legion including members of Cathay Post No. 384, many other veterans' organizations, and JROTC units from all seven schools came to perform for the crowd. There was even a Vietnam era "Huey" helicopter being towed along the route.

The initial feedback from the participants were all positive and Fisherman's Wharf will be the new home to the Veterans' Day parade for the foreseeable future. The veterans of the Bay Area deserve to be honored and the new venue provides the right atmosphere for the occasion.

A special thanks goes to our 2nd Vice Commander Helen Wong for organizing the Cathay Post contingent. She also secured a reservation for the group at McCormick & Kuletos' which offered all veterans a free entrée that day. She was supported by our Junior Past Commander Jay Pon and his lovely daughter Kestrel, Adjutant Connie Tseng, Chaplain Richard Ow, Comrades Ralph Wong, Chee Yee, Vincent Yu, and support members Clara Pon and Joel Yu. Along the way, our group included a handful of veterans from VETS@SFSU. Glad to have them join us. We look forward to more events.



Post 456's Annual Awards Banquet Honors Four of SF's Finest And Bravest

By Gary Gee, Commander, Police-Fire Post 456



On Tuesday, November 17, Police-Fire Post 456 hosted its annual Officer and Firefighter of the Year banquet at the United Irish Cultural Center. Nearly 180 persons attended the event to honor and support the following two San Francisco police officers and two San Francisco firefighters for their valor and community service:

Michael Tursi, a third-generation SFPD officer, received the Officer of the Year for Valor award. While working an undercover stakeout for a male suspect who had robbed numerous pharmacies in San Francisco and the upper Peninsula, Officer Tursi spotted the suspect inside a pharmacy on Van Ness Avenue. As Tursi approached the suspect, who had a loaded handgun on his person, the suspect ran.

Officer Tursi gave chase for several blocks and into an alley, where the suspect tossed his firearm and was taken into custody. Tursi put himself in peril by pursuing an armed suspect and not discharging his firearm and possibly starting a fire where bystanders and motorists could have been caught in the crossfire.

Eddie Lewis received the Officer of the Year for Community Service award. Officer Lewis' calling to help underprivileged children began at age 12, when she took responsibility for



raising six of her siblings and cousins. Her passion for working with youths has continued throughout her life, including her 30-plus years as a City and County of San Francisco employee and 22 years as an SFPD officer.

Officer Lewis has spent countless hours and days, many on her own time, volunteering for the YMCA, SFUSD, Boys and Girls Clubs, and Police Activities League programs. She also served her country as an Army Reservist for eight years. Officer Lewis' emotional speech in accepting her award was a reflection of her character and devotion to working with children who are without mentors or role models at home.

Adam Wood received the Firefighter of the Year for Valor award. In May, he was named the American Legion's Firefighter of the Year for Valor at the Department of California convention in Ontario. For 17 of his 20 years with SFFD, Firefighter Wood has been a member of one of SFFD's two rescue squads that respond to emergencies citywide.

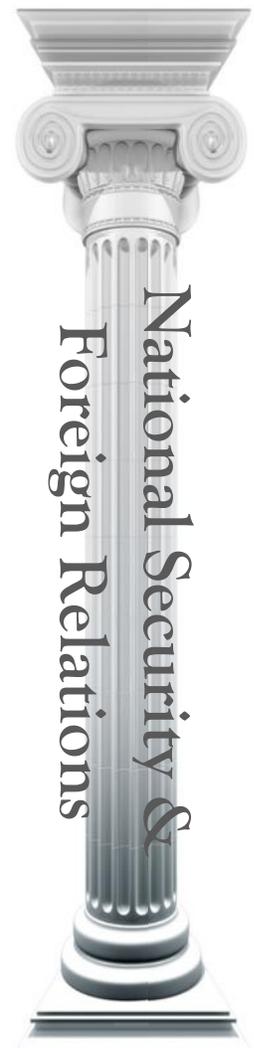
On March 11, Firefighter Wood and three fellow squad members responded to a two-story building fire in the Mission District, where a family of two

(Continued on page 17)

Left: SF Police Officer Michael Tursi and wife Katherine.

Right: SF Firefighter Adam Wood.

Photos by Rene LaPrevotte.



Post 456 Banquet, Continued

(Continued from page 16)

adults and three children was trapped in the upper floor. Two of the children and their mother were rescued by other fire units and survived. Firefighter Wood's squad found the teenage daughter unconscious and brought her to safety. Wood located the unconscious father near the rear of the burning structure.

Their exit route engulfed in flames, intense heat, and thick smoke, Firefighter Wood carried the father to the far rear of the building just as an engine crew hit the flames with a hose line. That slowed the fire's deadly progression enough to allow Wood, with the aid of other firefighters, to carry the father to safety. Sadly, the father and his teenage daughter would succumb from their injuries.

In his acceptance speech, Firefighter Wood gave credit to his fellow squad members and the other firefighters who fought the deadly blaze; and dedicated his award to the family that lost two loved ones, including the man he saved.

Gregory Collaco received the Firefighter of the Year for Community Service award. Firefighter Collaco has demonstrated a passion for volunteering and helping others throughout his 15-year career. He volunteers and fundraises

for numerous community and non-profit organizations; and recruits co-workers, friends, and family members to participate in activities and events that support worthwhile causes.

Next year will be Firefighter Collaco's tenth year organizing teams for the American Lung Association's Fight for Air Climb program. At the First Responder Support Network's West Coast Post-Trauma Retreat Center, Firefighter is a peer support counselor to other public-safety personnel who, like him, deal with post-traumatic-stress issues.

Fire Chief Joanne Hayes-White joined in presenting the awards to firefighters Wood and Collaco. Retired police Chief Anthony Ribera, a longtime Post 456 member, presented the awards to officers Tursi and Lewis.

Thanks to Cathay Post 384 for again supporting the Officer and Firefighter of the Year banquet. Cathay Post 384, San Francisco Police Officers' Association, and San Francisco Firefighters' Local 798 each purchased a table for this year's event and posted the banquet announcement in their respective newsletters for the past two months.

Wishing everyone a Happy Holidays from Police-Fire Post 456. May you and your loved ones have a prosperous and safe 2016. God bless America.

Left: SF Police Officer Edie Lewis.

Right: SF Firefighter Gregory Collaco.

Photos by Rene LaPrevotte.



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SF Veterans Building Archives, Part I: Spanish-American War Groups

By Daniel Fahey, Alexander Hamilton Post 448, Navy Veteran

This article is the first in a series based on archival material stored at the War Memorial Veterans Building in San Francisco.

The Spanish-American War

San Francisco is well known as an embarkation point for U.S. servicemen and women who served in World War II, but the city's first large-scale mobilization for war in the Pacific took place more than forty years earlier, at the start of the Spanish-American War. Escalating tensions between the U.S. and Spain over the fate of Cuba—where rebels were fighting for independence from Spanish colonial rule—led to the outbreak of war in April 1898. The U.S. Department of War mainly used state militias and volunteers for its ground combat units, and quickly mustered the 1st California Volunteer Infantry Regiment, whose leaders included Major Charles L. Tilden. Tilden was a graduate of three Bay Area schools (Lowell High School, UC Berkeley, and Hastings College of Law), and later helped to create the East Bay Regional Park District, which includes the park that now bears his name.

In May 1898, the 1st California and the 2nd Oregon infantry regi-

ments met at the Presidio of San Francisco and shipped out for the Philippines, which like Cuba was a Spanish colony. Filipino rebels fighting for independence from Spain helped U.S. troops, and in August 1898, the Spanish forces were defeated. After a formal peace treaty in December 1898, the U.S. government decided to keep the Philippines as a colony, despite Filipino desires for independence. In February 1899, Filipino rebels attacked U.S. troops, starting the Philippine-American War (1899-1902), which was characterized by a brutal counterinsurgency campaign that is often compared to the U.S. war in Viet Nam.

United Spanish War Veterans and its Auxiliary

In early 1899, veterans of the Spanish-American War returned to the United States and started several groups. In 1904, three of the largest groups combined to form the United Spanish War Veterans (USWV), plus an Auxiliary. San Francisco had at least three USWV units, known as Camps: Nelson A. Miles Camp #10, Reinhold

Richter Camp #2, and Funston-Royce Camp #61.

The archives at the Veterans Building contain records from the Addie L. Ballou Auxiliary #1 to the Nelson A. Miles Camp #10. The earliest records date from 1904, when the Auxiliary formed and met at the home of its first President, Elizabeth Curzon, at 2510 Folsom Street. After the 1906 earthquake and fire, the Auxiliary met at the Fillmore Veterans Hall at 431 Duboce Ave. In March 1907, the Auxiliary held an event at the Veterans Hall to raise money for its relief fund, which had been depleted helping veterans and their families in the city. In 1908, the Auxiliary switched its meeting location to the Armory Hall at 1574 McAllister St.

The decision by Congress to designate San Francisco as the host city for the 1915 Panama-Pacific International Exposition spurred a construction boom that included the Civic Auditorium at 99 Grove St. When the Exposition ended, the Civic Auditorium became

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War Memorial Veterans Building Archives, Continued

(Continued from page 19)

the meeting place for the city's veterans' groups, including the USWV and its Auxiliaries. In 1926, the USWV acquired its own building, just up the street at 236 Van Ness Ave., where the Camps and their Auxiliaries met.

The officers of the Nelson A. Miles Auxiliary wrote their meeting notes and tracked their finances in large, solid record books, which were made in San Francisco. In beautiful cursive script, they noted new members, members in distress, updates from state meetings, and other business. An entry from January 23, 1933 proudly documents "The first meeting of Nelson A. Miles Aux. #1 USWV in their [new] quarters in

Veterans Bldg. – War Memorial of San Francisco." An entry from December 8, 1941—a day we can imagine as a stressful one for San Francisco's residents—notes: "51 members and 3 visitors braved our 1st black out to attend the regular meeting of Nelson A. Miles Aux. #1 – United Spanish War Veterans." After this meeting, which took place in room 213 of the Veterans Building, the ladies had hot dogs and coffee with some of "the comrades" from the Nelson A. Miles Camp.

As the members of the USWV and the Auxiliary grew older, their children and grandchildren became interested in forming their own organizations. The Sons of the USWV officially formed in 1927, and the

Daughters of '98 formed in 1947. The records in the Veterans Building include books from the Daughters of '98, who in the 1960s occupied room 322, and met on the first and third Thursdays of every month. Their books also mention the "Military Order of the Rats," which seems to have served a social function.

The United Spanish War Veterans and its Auxiliary ceased to exist in 1992, when its final member died. Both the Sons and the Daughters groups endure, although they no longer have a presence in San Francisco.

[The January 2016 issue will continue this special historical archival series.]

Post 448 30th Anniversary. A Low Key Event.

Unlike the 20th Anniversary Gala in which the Post spent close to 30 thousand dollars, the 30th anniversary will come short of the its lavish predecessor: nevertheless, its impact will be long remembered. Combined with our Annual Holiday Dinner, the event is slated for **Thursday, DECEMBER 17th, 2015**, in Room 202 in the San Francisco Veterans Building. The 6 to 8pm event will celebrate not only the continued existence of the Corporation and its continued resilience in a chaotic world. Tickets are \$20.00 at the Door. **Please RSVP no later than December 10, 2015 at 415-431-1413.** Please wear your Legion Caps and polish your boots and brass: the Sgt at Arms will be conducting a short membership status inspection. Current Dues are \$35.00, members can renew their 2016 dues at the door. El Nino will probably bring rain in December so to get your rain gear ready now. I would advise all members to set aside five dollars a week until the event for Taxicab fare to and from this event. A one day liquor license will to obtained from A.B.C. There will be a full bar. Mix drinks are \$7.00, beer and wine \$4.00 Soda and Water \$2.00. Veteran Volunteers are needed call 1-415-431-1413. **The Honorable State Senator Mark Leno** has been invited as the only VIP to be notified. Room Decorations start at noon. Cleanup will last until 11pm. Awards will be presented to Cliff Hardware Store, The 440 Tavern, Northern Police Station, Castro Community Room, Golden Gate Guards, Alameda Leather Corps, The Phoenix Uniform Club The V.A. Aids Clinic, and the Ducal Court.



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CHINESE AMERICAN HERO JULIA CHANG BLOCH



Name in English: Julia Chang

Name in Chinese: 张之香 [張之香]

Name in Pinyin: Zhāng Zhīxiāng

Birth Year: 1942-

Birth Place: Chefoo, China

Profession (s): Diplomat, Ambassador

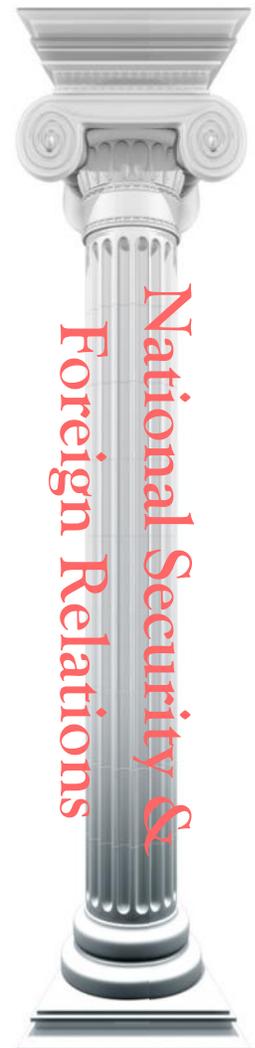
Education: BA, Communications and Public Policy, 1964, University of California Berkley; MA, Government and East Asia Regional Studies, 1967, Harvard University

Award(s): In 1979, Julia Chang Bloch received the Hubert Humphrey Award for International Service. In 1987, the Organization of Chinese American Women, gave Chang Bloch the Woman of the Year Award. In the same year, the Peace Corps gave Chang Bloch the Leader for Peace Award. In 1987, she was also awarded the Humanitarian Service Award from the Agency for International Development. In 1989, she received the Distinguished Public Service award of the National Association of Professional Asian American Pacific American Women. In 1996, she received the Brotherhood and Sisterhood Award of the National Conference for Christians and Jews.

Contributions: In 1964, Julia Chang Bloch began her work in international affairs as a Peace Corps Volunteer in Malaysia. In 1976, Chang Bloch was appointed chief minority counsel for the Senate Select committee on Nutrition and Human Needs. From 1977-1980, she served as Deputy Director of the Office of African Affairs of the International Communication Agency. From 1981 to 1988, Julia Chang Bloch was appointed by the president of the United States to serve at the U.S. Agency for International Development as Assistant Administrator for Food and Peace and as Assistant Administrator for Asia and Near East. In 1989, Chang Bloch was appointed by President George H.W. Bush, as the first Asian American U.S. Ambassador to the Kingdom of Nepal. In 1993, she became the Group Executive Vice President at Bank of America. From 1996 to 1998, Bloch served as president and CEO of the United States-Japan Foundation, a private grant-making institution.

Julia Chang Bloch is currently the Ambassador-in-Residence at the University of Maryland-College Park Institute for Global Chinese Affairs. She is also the Starr Senior Fellow for U.S.-China Relations at Peking University in Beijing and Fudan University in Shanghai. Julia Chang Bloch is the president of the U.S.-China Education Trust, a non-profit organization seeking to further American Studies in China.

(Continued on page 23)



CAH—Julia Chang Bloch, Continued

(Continued from page 22)

Ms. Bloch also serves on several corporate and non-profit boards, including: American Academy of Diplomacy, the Atlantic Council, National Committee on US-China Relations, Women’s Foreign Policy Group and the Fund for Peace.

Philanthropy: Julia Chang Bloch and her husband are sponsors of the Zenith Community Arts Foundation, which raises money for community projects in the Washington DC area. They are also members of the Ibis Society of the University of Miami, established for those that have contributed at least \$250,000 to the university. The "Julia Chang Bloch Scholarship" has also been established at Northeastern University.

External Links: <http://www.americanambassadors.org/index.cfm?fuseaction=Members.view&memberid=15>

Publisher’s Note: The above article is published as it was submitted by Chinese American Heroes. It was not reviewed or proofread by any member of the Cathay Dispatch newsletter staff.

Article courtesy from our friend & partner:

CHINESE AMERICAN HEROES
chineseamericanheroes.org

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		1 ALWMC Meeting, 5:30 p.m.	2	3	4	5
6	7 Pearl Harbor Day	8	9	10 Dist. 8 Meeting 5:30 p.m.	11	12 Post Meeting 11 a.m.
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22 Winter Solstice	23 Jan 2016 CD issue deadline	24	25 Christmas Day	26
27	28	29	30	31 New Year's Eve		

January 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 New Year's Day	2
3	4	5 ALWMC Meeting, 5:30 p.m.	6	7	8	9 Post Meeting 11 a.m.
10	11	12	13	14 Dist. 8 Meeting 5:30 p.m.	15	16
17	18 Martin Luther King Jr. Day	19	20 Per Capita Increase \$5	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						



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2014, 2015



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The Editor-in-Chief may call to verify authenticity. All submissions should be emailed to cathaypost384events@gmail.com.

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Korean War
6/25/1950 – 1/31/1955

World War II
12/7/1941 – 12/31/1946

World War I
4/6/1917 – 11/11/1918

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