



Important Dates:

- Jan. 1—New Year’s Day
- Jan. 11—Monthly Meeting
- Jan. 20—Martin Luther King Jr. Day
- Jan. 31—Lunar New Year

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CATHAY CHRONICLE

IS NOW CALLED THE...

CATHAY DISPATCH

Veterans - Sounding Off Since 1931

“CATHAY DISPATCH” By Galin Luk

Happy New Year! Back in October, we rolled out our new newsletter format and invited our members to submit their suggestions for a new name for our newsletter. This was a winner take all contest: a twenty dollar gift certificate to Starbucks [who couldn’t use a cup of java?] and most importantly, bragging rights for having their submission forever memorialized on the front page of our newsletter.

The winning entry, “Cathay Dispatch” was submitted by Major Kurt Lee. Major Lee explained that his submission “narrows the chronicle down to post and members/associates related doings of interest that may be dispatched out to other parties of interest, e.g., politicians, supporters, and such. A dispatch reports as well as chronicles events and deeds.”

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Post's 2nd Vice Commander Nelson Lum was one of the first responders to the 1993 shooting at 101 California. Read more about Nelson in the Member Focus section, page 13. Photo published in People magazine.

Director Fred Lau: A Man Who Simply Achieves, Grand Marshal of 2014 Lunar New Year Parade

By Nelson Lum



Photo: SFPD

The San Francisco Chinese Chamber of Commerce Chinese New Year committee selected Fred Lau, who served as the **City’s Police Chief**, and is currently a Federal Security Director for the Transportation Security Administration (TSA), as the **Grand Marshal of the 2014 San Francisco’s Lunar New Year Parade.**

Fred is a San Francisco resident and native with deep ties to the City. He was born and raised in Chinatown, attended Garfield Elementary, Francisco Junior High, Galileo High, City College of San Francisco, and San Francisco State University. The former San Francisco Police Department Chief became one of the highest ranking Chinese American in Federal Service when he became a Federal Security Director for the TSA.

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Cathay Dispatch , Continued

(Continued from page 1)

Indeed, Major Lee summarized the essence of our newsletter. We try to capture the **“going ons”** of our very active veteran and support members and report news that is of interest to our membership. Our newsletter is dispatched not just to our growing membership, but to our friends, supporters, and politicians.

To me, Major Lee’s submission was compelling for another reason. Every time I hear the word **“Dispatch,”** I can’t help but imagine a different era, back in the 1930s, when our Post was founded by 16 trailblazing Chinese and Chinese American veterans. Back when newspaper boys stood on street corners hawking the morning or afternoon daily [back when there used to be morning and afternoon editions]. The **name “Dispatch”** pays homage to our Post’s birth and its 80 plus year history.

Thank you Major Lee and to everyone who

submitted their suggestions. I should note also that Post Treasurer Edward Wong is the winner of a \$10 gift certificate. While I intended to only have **one “prize” winner, one of Ed’s suggestion “Veterans Sound Off”** was too good to not be incorporated into our newsletter. So, a variation of Ed’s suggestion will be used as our **newsletter’s slogan “Veterans – Sounding Off Since 1931.”** And yes, it is purely a coincidence that Major Lee, Ed, and I are Marines.

There were so many other fine suggestions that deserve to be recognized. Before I do so, I want to thank every veteran and support member and friend who also commented on our new newsletter format. **You’ve made it clear** that our new format is a hit. We read each and every comment and are very grateful for your input.

Our newsletter truly is a testament to the teamwork and dedication of our all volun-

teer newsletter staff, including our Chief Reporter [and our **newsletter’s founder**] Roger Dong, Field Reporter Thanh Huynh, Technical Layout Editor John Li, past Technical Layout Editor Michael Louie, and Assistant Editor Chris Kieliger. However, our new newsletter format would not be possible without the help of support member Clara Pon, our Managing Editor and Creative Director. Clara is what one of my old bosses in the Marine Corps called a **“force multiplier.”** She is solely responsible for the entire layout and format of our newsletter. Most importantly, her work in creating a more efficient operation has freed up our staff to focus on what is most relevant to you, our readers.

Now, I want to recognize our other worthy suggestions with **“bragging rights”** awards.

Rogelio Manaois wins the award for having

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Major Lee wins a gift certificate for suggesting the winning entry, “Cathay Dispatch.”



Ed Wong wins a gift certificate for suggesting the Dispatch’s slogan.



COMMANDER DAVID Y. WONG

I want to wish a happy new year to everyone. This past year, our Post has seen happy times, has accomplished much, and has also undergone many struggles. Our Post's membership is at the highest it has been in the past 10 years. I feel Cathay Post is the best of the 19 American Legion posts in San Francisco. The officers of the Post and I are grateful for your support and will do our best to improve our Post.

The executive board will be meeting on

January 4, to plan the Post's activities for 2014. By the way, please pen in May 30, 2014 for the Post's 83rd anniversary gala. Further details will be announced in the coming months.

Several months ago, there was media coverage about the Internal Revenue Service requiring American Legion posts that were being audited to provide copies of their members DD214. However, it does not appear the IRS requires copies of the DD214 unless it has

other information that calls into question the credibility of the post's records. Cathay Post No. 384, is able to generate a computerized printout of our membership from the National headquarters' database. This should satisfy the IRS's requirements.

I wish you the very best of peace, good health, happiness and prosperity in 2014.

If possible, please attend the next general meeting on Saturday, January 14 at 11:00 a.m.



David Y. Wong

dwong900@yahoo.com

415-392-2882

Cathay Post Member since: 2004

Branch: Army

Final Rank: SPC 5

"The officers of the Post and I are grateful for your support and will do our best to improve our Post."



US Coast Guard Lunch—POSTPONED By Roger Dong

Cathay Post's lunch party to honor the local United States Coast Guard, originally scheduled for January 4, 2014, has been postponed. Cathay Post will be working closely with the Coast Guard command to find a more suitable date for the celebration.

Annual Visit To Ft. Miley Just Around the Corner By Roger Dong

Cathay Post's annual visit with the veterans at Ft. Miley Hospital to deliver cheers and goody bags is scheduled for Saturday, January 25, 2014. I will once again be in charge of organizing the trip. I encourage every veteran and support member to provide as-

istance with this effort by helping put together the "goodies bag" that will be distributed to the veterans and most importantly, to make this very important trip. "The veterans light up when they see us there; our members really do a great job of interacting with our Ft.

Miley veterans."

If you are interested in helping or going to Ft. Miley, please email me rsdong@sbcglobal.net or ask any of the executive board members. Additional information will be provided during the upcoming meetings.



Jay Pon

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Cathay Post Member
since: 2001

Branch: Navy, Army

Final Rank: Major

“...these disclosures are necessary to keep the membership informed. We want to make Post 384 a better place.”



1st VICE COMMANDER JAY PON

I want to start by thanking everyone who attended December's general meeting. The turnout for the meeting and the holiday lunch was tremendous; we ran out of seats and almost ran out of food! I also want to thank everyone who shared a **conversation or two**. It's certainly one reason, I keep coming back.

The San Francisco Fire Department Toy Drive was a success! Supporting youth programs is one of the American Legion Pillars. Your generosity gave over 100 underprivileged children a reason to smile this past holiday. Please keep up the great work.

By the way, our Post headquarters is available for community and other events. Please contact any of the **Post's commanders** for information.

On a more solemn note, the Post conducted some serious business during the December meeting. I hope and pray that our members understand

that these disclosures are necessary to keep the membership informed. We want to make Post 384 a better place. In order to do so, we occasionally need to air out our differences and make tough decisions. The new members need to understand that there will be good and bad times in every organization. For the old timers, thank you for joining in the discussions. It shows your love and concern for our Post.

Now, thanks to Wikipedia, back to our history and civics lesson. Today, I will be discussing the amendments awaiting ratification.

The Congressional Apportionment Amendment was approved by Congress in 1789 as part of the Bill of Rights. This amendment, which specifies how seats in the House of Representatives should be apportioned, is the only one of the original twelve amendments in the Bill of Rights that was never fully ratified.

The Titles of Nobility Amendment, which was approved by Congress in 1810 would have revoked the citizenship of anyone accepting a foreign title of nobility.

Congress approved the Corwin Amendment in 1861. This amendment sought to protect slavery from federal intervention and was a last ditch effort to avert the US Civil War. Only Ohio, Maryland, and Illinois ratified this proposed amendment.

Congress approved the Child Labor Amendment in 1924. This amendment would have given Congress the authority to enact child labor regulations that had been rejected by the Supreme Court 1918 and 1922. In 1941, the Supreme Court overturned its earlier rulings and upheld the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 rendering this amendment unnecessary.

This ends our review of the United States Constitutional Amendments.

Happy New Year from the Pon Family!

2nd VICE COMMANDER NELSON LUM

January 2014 is upon us. I want to wish you and your family a healthy and prosperous new year. As we summarized in last month's Chronicle, 2013 was a very busy and rewarding year. Our Post continued to support established programs and embarked upon new and exciting challenges. The most gratifying development was the infusion of new "young" members. These new members are talented, energetic, and they will inject sorely needed vibrancy to our Post. While most American Legion posts are suffering from declining membership caused by aging members who are passing away and not being replaced with newer members, Cathay Post No. 384 has defied the trend. We have strengthened our membership base with younger members. I look forward to seeing our new members assume greater responsibility in 2014 and beyond.

The Executive Board will be meeting on January 4 to map out

the activities for 2014. It is vitally important that we have your input on the activities that our Post should continue to participate in, the activities that our Post should no longer pursue, and new activities that warrant our consideration for future participation. The Post's planned activities will not be set in stone; we will continue to have the flexibility to address unanticipated matters that may surface from time to time. If you have any ideas that you would like to share, please contact any member of the executive board [the commander, vice commanders, secretary, treasurer and adjutant].

During the December monthly meeting, the executive board discussed the problems with the tenant leasing the first floor and the **basement of our Post's** headquarter buildings at 1524 Powell Street. Although it was not presented in the most eloquent manner at times, I hope all of you will appreciate the efforts by the command-

ers to be transparent and informative. We will continue to strive toward the goal of complete transparency to our members with matters affecting our Post.

Once again, let me reemphasize the importance of communication. Like all organizations, misunderstandings and rumors can often create mistrust between members and its officers and Cathay Post No. 384 is not immune. I want to reiterate unequivocally that we, as individuals and as members of the executive board, will do everything within our power to answer any questions that you may have regarding matters that affect our Post. The channels of communication must be opened in order to eliminate unnecessary mistrust within an organization. Please let us know if you have questions as to anything that you feel may adversely affect the efficiency of our Post. As always, I look forward to seeing all of you at our next monthly meeting.



Nelson Lum

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415-392-2882

Cathay Post Member
since: 2005

Branch: Army

Final Rank: SPC 5

"The most gratifying development was the infusion of new "young" members."





Galin Luk

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Cathay Post Member
since: 2009

Branch: Marine
Corps

Final Rank: Captain

“Every Member Focus that I have worked on has left me appreciating the sacrifices that each of you have made for our country.”



3rd Vice Commander Galin Luk

Recently, I asked our veteran and support members to share some information about their time in the military [or civilian life] and their life now so that my staff and I can share their story in **our newsletter’s Member Focus** section. I recently implemented the Member Focus section in an effort to capture history and to give everyone the opportunity to meet and know their fellow members on a more personal level. This is **how we’re trying to make our growing Post a smaller and more personal Post.**

The response was overwhelming. Some members, like Helen Wong and Carl Lewis, sent detailed biographical summaries. Other members, like Herman Jeong and Joe Chan, sent me so many great photographs from their time in service.

Most importantly, the process of turning your words into a personal story to share with our Post has rewarded our staff so immensely.

The process is time consuming. First, it takes a lot of your time and effort. You have to fill out a questionnaire and then dig through your files for pictures.

We take the time to carefully review your submission and to give thought to how we can personalize your story. With every story, we follow-up with our member, requesting additional information to make sure we can tell the most compelling and personal story.

Every Member Focus that I have worked on has left me appreciating the sacrifices that each of you have made for our country. Coursing through each and every member and each and every story are several common themes. Your pride in service, your dedication to the Post and most importantly, your wicked sense of humor.

Several of our Member Focuses have started just from casual con-

versations. Take for example, 2nd Vice Commander Nelson Lum. I wanted to write about Nelson after I casually asked him about his time with the San Francisco Police Department and learned about his role in the Golden Dragon Massacre and the 101 California Shooting. Our newsletter will be doing a Member Focus on the **Post’s Sergeant At Arms and Quartermaster Gary Chew. He’s another member** whose story I picked up during a casual conversation. Stay **tuned, and you’ll learn** why we should start calling Gary **“Hollywood” in a future Member Focus** [once he gets around to filling out the questionnaire so that I can complete his story].

In the near future, **you’ll read about Helen, and Carl, and Joe, and Herman, and many other members. I know you’ll get as much from reading the Member Focus as my staff and I get writing it.**

Director Fred Lau, Continued

(Continued from page 1)

Fred became the third Chinese American to join the San Francisco Police Department on March 1, 1971. He was transferred to the original Gang Task Force in September 1977, shortly after the Golden Dragon Massacre. The unit investigated the notorious crime, ultimately identifying and arresting all of the involved suspects.

When Fred was in charge of the sniper unit as a lieutenant, he and another lieutenant were on the captain's promotion list. The other lieutenant got promoted, with Fred up next. During a training session the following week, the newly promoted captain decided to participate in rappel training. He was up on the roof of an eight story building when his harness got tangled and he ended up hanging upside down. He saw Fred down below and yelled "Fred, I know you put these guys up to this to get rid of me so you can get promoted." Everyone had a great laugh. Fred,

however, never denied the allegation!

On January 1996, Fred became not only the Chief of the San Francisco Police Department, but the first Chinese American Police Chief of a major metropolitan city. Fred retired from the Police Department on July 12, 2002.

Two days after his retirement, Fred was sworn in as a Federal Security Director with the Transportation Security Administration in Washington, D.C. He was assigned to the Oakland International Airport on July 21, 2002, in charge of **that airport's TSA personnel, and** TSA personnel at Modesto and Stockton Airports, while providing Federal oversight for the contracted security officers at the Sonoma County Airport. On July 2013, Fred was elevated to the Director's Post at SFO. On his first day of orientation, he witnessed the emergency response and total mobilization of airport personnel to the Asiana Airline crash. I hope the rest of his time at SFO will not be as stressful.



L-R: Alvin Louie, James Cunningham, Kevin Murray, Chief Fred Lau, Scott Korte, Gerald Lyons, and 2nd Vice Commander Nelson Lum—members of the SF SWAT team in front of City Hall in 2000.

As Fred explained it, he joined the TSA out of a sense of duty following 9/11. "People ask me why I chose to join TSA. Shortly after the tragic incidents of 9/11, I received a telephone call from Betty Ong's

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Cathay Dispatch, Continued

(Continued from page 2)

the most number in a newsletter name: **“The 411 on 384”**. Rogelio also wins the award for most submissions!

The award for the most patriotic submission goes to Henry Chen for **suggesting, what else, the “Patriotic Chronicle.”**

The award for the two most motivating submissions goes to Ed Wong who suggested **“Cathay Post Gung Ho News”** and **“Cathay Post – Veterans Sound Off.”**

Director Fred Lau, Continued

(Continued from page 7)

sister Cathie [Betty Ong was one of the heroic flight attendants on American Airlines flight 11 when it was hijacked; Betty reported the hijacking as it was happening, providing critical information about the hijackers]. Cathie described Betty's heroism and told me that we had lost her as a result of an act of terrorism. From that day forward, I knew I had to do something.

The National Asian Peace Officers Association (NAPOA) and the National Association of Asian American Law Enforcement Commanders (NAAALEC) learned that the newly created TSA was seeking candidates for the new positions of Federal Security Directors (FSD). The FSDs would be in charge of the Federal screeners at the Nation's airports.

The Dr. Seuss Award for best rhyme goes to Rogelio Manaois for **“News and More From 384.”**

The award for the most alliterative name goes to 2nd Vice Commander, **Nelson Lum** for **“The Veterans View.”** Rogelio was a close second with **“The Golden Gater.”**

We at the *Dispatch* look forward to a great 2014. We wish you and your loved ones a healthy, prosperous new year.

Here's to new friends and new adventures!

I was encouraged to apply in order to have "qualified" Asian Americans **represented. The rest is history.”**

In closing, Fred is grateful to the active military and veteran community and Cathay Post. He said **“active members of the military, and veterans deserve our deepest gratitude. Heroes like Betty Ong should also be remembered. Cathay Post is an exemplary example of an organization that respects and remembers our heroes.”**



Police Chief Fred Lau rides through San Francisco on his last day as chief July 2002.

Photo: Deanna Fitzmaurice/Chronicle

Toy Drive Brought Holiday Cheers to Many Kids By Galin Luk



Post members and guests posing with firefighters at Fire Station 2 with the donated toys.

What started off as a great idea by 1st Vice Commander Jay Pon turned into piles of toys for needy kids. Fol-

lowing the December membership meeting, 15 veteran and support members and guests walked, arms full of toys, two blocks south to Fire Station 2. As the toys were loaded into three buckets, the station commander expressed his gratitude for **the Post's participation and that the toys would deliver many happy smiles and cheers to local kids.** This year was the first time the Post participated in the San Francisco Firefighter's Toy Program. The Post's members now expect the Toy Drive to be an annual tradition. The standard has been set very high.

Cathay Post's Early Christmas Lunch By Galin Luk

Christmas came early for Cathay Post's members; Christmas lunch that is. Following its regular monthly meeting, Cathay Post served a special lunch of green salad, corn, baked spiral pineapple and red current ham, roast duck, BBQ pork, **and everyone's favorite sticky rice.** Support member Clara Pon, Mr. Fong and Post Treasurer, Ed Wong spent hours on the lunch, which was enjoyed by over 80 members and guests, many of whom went back for

seconds, and some who went back for thirds. It seemed all saved enough room for the holiday cake.



Members & guests enjoying Christmas lunch.

SF Energy Watch By Galin Luk

The Post with the red shirt has gone green. Cathay Post No. 384 recently contracted with a green energy company, New Light Energy Design to upgrade its energy inefficient incandescent and fluorescent lights to

energy efficient LEDs. The transition will help the Post reduce its carbon footprint, save electricity, and reduce ongoing maintenance cost. The total for the energy upgrade? \$6,805.52. Thanks to San Francisco Energy

Watch, a department of the city and county of San Francisco, and its energy watch rebate program, the total cost to the Post was zero. Who can argue with a zero out of pocket investment that helps our environment?



Veteran Success Center Thanks Cathay Post By Galin Luk



L-R: J. Pon, N. Lum, R. Dong—presenting award to Post Commander D. Wong, and G. Luk.

During the Christmas lunch following the December meeting, Cathay Post board member and Executive Director and co-founder of Veterans Success Center, Roger Dong awarded a certificate of recognition to Cathay Post No. 384 for its outstanding dedication and support to the Veterans Success Center, a non-profit dedicated to providing job placement, technical and

expert resources and job training for veterans. The Post has provided tremendous support for the Veterans Success Center, including generous monetary donations, holding fund raisers, and providing the labor for its recent move to its temporary location.

Roger has called the Veterans Success Center the project that American Legion 8th

District Council should be the most proud of because it delivers job services and jobs to veterans. “We should all be proud of the Veterans Success Center for helping veterans get placed at very good paying and rewarding jobs.” Roger also noted that “we have more jobs than veterans” and urged everyone to get veterans to the Center. The Veterans Success Center is currently located at two locations: 407 9th Street, open from Monday through Wednesday from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. and 1720 Market Street, open from Tuesday through Friday from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

For more info, visit www.veteransresourcecenter.wordpress.com.

A Smooth Transition To Civilian Life By John Li

The military does a good job of preparing its members to serve in the military. The million dollar question for many has been how marketable and transferable that training is to the civilian world. The answer is starting to take shape with the Senate’s recent passage of the Troop Talent Act

of 2013. The American Legion backed key provisions of the Troop Talent Act of 2013 which is intended to help service members receive credentials and licensures for the skills they acquired during their military service. This should greatly ease a service member’s transition to civil-

ian life and aid with post-service employment by expanding job opportunities. To learn more about the American Legion’s role in the Troop Talent Act please check out this link:

www.legion.org/careers/218122/legion-backed-vets-job-measures-pass-senate



Cathay Post Needs Your Donations By David Wong

Where does your \$40 annual membership fee go? You may be surprised to know that our Post only gets \$15.50 of every veteran's membership fees. It is not difficult to figure out that the Post's operating expenses far exceed its share of membership fees. How does the all-volunteer Post, with no government funding, cover the shortfall? Donations certainly help. Chinese

New Year 2014, the Year of the Horse, will be on Friday, January 31. Continuing with Cathay Post's long standing tradition, the Post will be accepting Spring Festival donations (commonly referred in Cantonese as "Heurng Yau" 香油 'incense oil') that will support our many worthwhile programs that aid our veterans and our community. Because the Post is a

501(c)(19) tax exempt veterans organization; your donation is 100% tax deductible. Please bring your checkbook to the February 8 meeting [the Post will be serving a special Lunar New Year's lunch following the general meeting]. If you are unable to attend the meeting, you can mail your donation to the office at: Cathay Post 1524 Powell St, S.F., CA 94133.



Teamwork—Missing Gulf War Veteran Found By Roger Dong



A Gulf War Navy veteran who mysteriously disappeared after leaving San Francisco General Hospital was quickly reunited with his father during the holidays thanks to the joint efforts of several veterans related organizations.

On Tuesday, December 17, 2013 Gulf War vet-

eran Mr. Derek William Sell, who was being treated at San Francisco General Hospital, walked out of the facility carrying just his driver's license.

Mr. Sell was one of those veterans who seemed to care about everyone, particularly veterans and disaster victims. He was a

member of Team Rubicon, a volunteer organization of military veterans, doctors, nurses, and first responders who provide rescue and recovery services to disaster victims. Most recently, Team Rubicon assisted in the Philippines after Typhoon Haiyan.

Team Rubicon members mobilized after hearing that one of their own had disappeared somewhere in San Francisco. Members from Seattle to Los Angeles made their way to San Francisco to search for their col-

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Derek Sell, Continued

(Continued from page 11)

league. Recent San Francisco State University graduate and military veteran Mr. Casey Conklin was one of the local organizers.

Mr. Conklin talked to former American Legion Veterans Success Center manager James Small asking for help finding a central location for the search effort's command post. On Mr. Small's recommendations, Mr. Dennis Newman contacted me, the American Legion Space Allocation Manager. Within an hour of the call at 11:00 on December 26, space was set aside at the Veterans Community Media Center (VCMC) on 1720 Market Street. Mr. Jim Dorenkott of Post 315, volunteered to provide access to the VCMC on Thursday and Friday.

A dozen volunteers, with hundreds more on the way, set out on a 72 hour search effort in four zones, generally in the South of Market area, where the homeless and people hiding from society could be

found. One of those volunteers was Mr. Dennis Newman, Mr. **Sell's father, who arrived from Nebraska on Christmas Day.**

On the day after Christmas, just a few hours after the initial contact with the American Legion, several major television teams arrived at the command post to interview Mr. Newman. He appealed to the public to help locate his son.

That same day, Cathay Post member Jake Goetzow visited the VCMC and learned about Mr. Sell's situation. He joined in the search efforts and recruited others to help.



L-R: Jim Dorenkott, Dennis Newman, and Jake Goetzow at VCMC.

That evening, Sell saw his father on television. On Friday, a few minutes after noon (and barely 24 hours after Mr. Conklin contacted Mr. Small), Mr. Sell called his father to

let him know he was OK. Mr. Newman hopes to see his son soon.

This successful joint venture between the American Legion 8th District Council members and members of Team Rubicon and colleagues and friends is not unique. Team Rubicon has worked with American Legion Posts across the nation. On this one occasion, the timely collaboration with local American Legion members, local veterans resources, and a little bit of luck, we were able to connect a young man who had gone missing with his father in just one day. Mr. Newman was extremely pleased to find his son well and to see the joint effort of our American Legion members teaming up with Team Rubicon members.

The press and Team Rubicon members praised the American Legion and also noted the importance of the centrally located VCMC command post. These were factors critical to **the operation's success.**

Nelson Lum, 2nd Vice Commander, Retired SFPD By Galin Luk

If you spend any time with 2nd Vice Commander Nelson Lum, you'll figure out he's one man who has been in the wrong place at the right time, on many occasions.

It was Sunday morning on September 4, 1977. Officer Nelson Lum was assigned to patrol San Francisco's Chinatown beat. Asian gangs made it one of the City's toughest beats. For Nelson, the beat was made tougher because he was essentially a rookie, with less than two years in the police department.

At 0240, Officer Lum was on Grant Avenue between Sacramento and Clay Street with his partner Officer Joe Aroni when they were dispatched to "a possible robbery in progress" at the Golden Dragon Restaurant on 816 Washington Street. Nelson immediately turned on the patrol car's red lights and began heading towards the Golden Dragon. Unfortunately, they didn't get far. The Chinatown streets were congested, even during the early morning hours. The only thing Officer Lum could do to get to the restaurant was to drive his car on and off the sidewalk for the next two blocks.

When they arrived at the Golden Dragon, Officer Lum jumped out of his car and ran towards the restaurant door with his gun drawn. With his partner as cover, Nelson opened the door and ran into the restaurant where he was met with white smoke so thick he could

barely see in front of him. That was the first clue that he was responding to much more than a restaurant robbery. The cries of pain, the screams of fear and agony and the familiar signature smell of discharged weapons were additional clues. Nelson was the first on scene to the infamous Golden Dragon Massacre, a targeted gang on gang shooting that killed 5, including 2 tourist, and injured 11. None of the victims were gang members.

The Golden Dragon Massacre was a wakeup call for the Chinatown community. Two days after the massacre, and while the ink was still drying on Nelson's incident report, the police department created the Asian Gang Task Force to eradicate the Asian gang problems plaguing Chinatown and the City.



Nelson typing so fast, the ribbon came undone.

Over 35 years later, Nelson Lum's recollection of that morning's tragedy is quite vivid. When you see the Post's 2nd Vice Commander, ask him to fill you in on the details. You should also ask him about the

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Nelson Lum, Washington Square Park, 1990.



Nelson Lum, Continued

(Continued from page 13)

other wrong places he's been in, at the right time. He has seen a lot during his time in the military and his career as one of San Francisco's finest. Prior to joining the police department, where he eventually retired as a sergeant, Nelson served in the Army, discharged at the rank of Specialist 5.

During his one year tour in Vietnam, Nelson fought in one of the largest and deadliest campaigns of the war, the notorious Tet Offensive, a series of surprise attacks launched by the Viet Cong and North Vietnamese Army against the South Vietnamese, American forces, and their allies.

Nelson grew up in San Francisco. He attended Everett Junior High, George Washington High School, City College of San Francisco, and San Francisco State University. After getting drafted into the Army



Nelson instructing officers in a firearms class.

[Nelson's father also served in the Army], Nelson elected to train as a paratrooper, hoping to rid his fear of heights. He'll be the first to admit his plan didn't work.

In 2005, after 30 years of service, Nelson retired as a San Francisco Police Officer. He accomplished a lot in his time on the force. He served 8 years with the SWAT Team, first as an Operator and later as a Team Leader. For 15 years prior to joining the SWAT team, he was one of the department's designated snipers. For over 20 years, he also taught at the Police Academy on subjects ranging from firearms, officer safety, defensive tactics, weapons of mass destruction re-

sponse, National Emergency Management System (NEMS), and active shooters response training. While serving as a trainer, Nelson trained just about every officer in the department on at least one of those subjects.

Nelson's time in the force wasn't limited to just chasing the bad guys. He was the first Asian to be elected as a member of the Board of Directors of the Police Officers Association. He was also one of the original group of Asian officers from Northern California who formed the Northern California Oriental Peace Officers Association [now named the Northern California Asian Peace Officers

(Continued on page 15)



Nelson Lum, Continued

(Continued from page 14)

Association], where Nelson served as president in 1982. The creation of that association gave rise to the current San Francisco Asian Peace Officers Association, where Nelson also served as president, and other Bay Area Asian peace officers associations.

Nelson may be retired, but he has been just as active. Following his retirement, then Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger appointed Nelson to be a commissioner of the Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST), where he served for two years [the Commission is responsible for setting training standards for

all California peace officers]. He joined Ca-thay Post No. 384 in 2005 and in the past four years served as its 3rd Vice Commander and then as its 2nd Vice Commander. Nelson also serves as Chairman of the American Legion War Memorial Commission, having recently been unanimously re-elected for a third term. One colleague noted that Nelson wants to make a difference with the **veterans' community and will be a force to reckon with on veterans' issue.**

By the way, when I mentioned Nelson has been at the wrong place at the right time on many occasions, I **wasn't kidding.** He was among the first

SWAT officers to respond to the mass shooting at 101 California Street. A picture of Nelson in his SWAT gear as he prepared to enter the building was published in People magazine. Spend some time with Nelson and **you'll find out what other wrong places he's been in at the right time.** As for Ca-thay Post, we're fortunate to have Nelson at the right place at the right time.



Long time loyal and trusted friends and partners—Nelson Lum and William 'Bill' Cooke.

Support USS AMERICA's Commissioning



USS AMERICA (LHA 6) is scheduled to be commissioned in San Francisco in early September 2014.

We invite you to be part of something special. The Navy is asking you to sponsor commissioning of this new amphibious assault ship. Visit the website at <http://commissioningamerica.org/>





David Adams By Thanh Huynh

“Big Dave,” if you haven't met him, energizes any space he enters. He is a Cleveland, Ohio native who dreamt of visiting faraway lands and learning new things. The U.S. Army would be his ticket out and launch his big adventure around the world or at least to the Korean peninsula.

The U.S. Army sent the Cleveland native to Korea on three different tours. Dave became a 94B Food Service Specialist. That's Army code for “cook.” He specialized in sugar cookies but apparently not measurements! Ordered to bake 100 cookies at the end of a long day, Dave threw everything he could find into a pile and started baking so he could get out and party! Turns out, Big Dave made too many. 500 too many to be exact. Everyone on base was eating sugar cookies...for days. Along the way, the food service specialist

(94B) turned firefighter (51M) also served stateside at Fort Hood, Texas and Fort Polk, Louisiana.

Big Dave's big adventure eventually led him to the Bay Area. Though a relative new member to Cathay Post, he has been a very active contributor to the Post by attending meetings and volunteering.

“Left, right, left” belted David Adams down Market Street on a bright sunny day in downtown San Francisco. Some of the Post members who heard David call cadence during November's San Francisco

Veterans' Day parade remarked on how his voice sounded strikingly like that of a drill sergeant.

Former Specialist 4 Adams is now beyond his goals set in Ohio. Currently enrolled at City College of San Francisco (CCSF), and working as a security guard, Dave hopes to **join San Francisco's** finest—the SFPD. Looking to connect, learn, and grow with fellow veterans, Dave chose to join Post 384 because of its rich history and professional members. With his infectious energy and positive outlook, Dave is a welcome addition to the Post.



L-R: Comrades Laura Renner, David Adams, and Galin Luk during the Italian Heritage Day parade 2013.

Chinese American Hero of the Month

PHYLLIS M. WISE

Name in English: Phyllis M. Wise	Birth Year: 1945
Name in Chinese: 王斐麗	Birth Place: New York, New York
Name in Pinyin: Wáng Fěi Lì	Current location: Urbana-Champaign, IL



Photo courtesy of:
oc.illinois.edu

Profession(s): Scientist; professor; university administrator.

Education: Bachelor of Arts, Biology, Swarthmore College, 1967; Master of Arts, University of Michigan, 1969; Ph.D., Zoology, University of Michigan, 1972; Ford Foundation Postdoctoral Fellow, University of Michigan, 1972-1974.

Awards: 2012, Asian Pacific Americans in Higher Education Award; 2011, Chang-Lin Tien Educational Leadership Award, Asian Pacific Fund; 2009, Service Award, Association of Chairs of Departments of Physiology; 2008, Honorary Doctorate of Science, Swarthmore College; 2008, Member, **National Academy's Institute of Medicine**; 2008, **Fellow, American Association for the Advancement of Science**; 2004, Roy O. Greep Award for Excellence in Endocrine Research, Endocrine Society; 2004, Quiet Heroes of America, Parade Magazine; 2003, Mentor Award, Women in Endocrinology; 2002, Excellence in Science Award, Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology (FASEB); 2001-2011, National Institutes of Health, MERIT Award; 1998, Solomon A. Berson Distinguished Lectureship Award, American Physiological Society; 1991, Nathan W. Shock Memorial Lecture Award, National Institute on Aging.

Contributions: Dr. Phyllis Wise's parents were scheduled to return to China, from the United States where they studied, when the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor changed their plans. Dr. Wise's parents eventually settled in New York City where she was born and raised.

After completing her post-doctoral studies at the University of Michigan, Dr. Wise was hired at the University of Maryland in Baltimore in 1976 and became a full professor of physiology in 1987. In 1993, she joined the University of Kentucky in Lexington and held the position of professor and chair of the Department of Physiology until 2002 when she became Dean of the College of Biological Sciences at the University of California at Davis. She left Davis in 2005 and became a provost and a professor of Physiology and Biophysics, Biology, and Obstetrics and Gynecology at the University of Washington.

In her scientific work, she has researched whether hormones influence the brain during development and aging, as adults, and after brain injuries. She

(Continued on page 18)



Dr. Phyllis Wise, Continued

(Continued from page 17)

found that a woman's unique physiology makes them more susceptible to cardiovascular and neurodegenerative disease. Dr. Wise's research has helped explain why estrogen is a powerful protector against conditions such as stroke and cardiovascular disease in some women but not others. Her discoveries have enabled physicians to treat their patients more effectively and propelled women's health issues into becoming a greater priority in medical science research.

From 2001 to 2011, Dr. Wise held the distinction of twice becoming an honoree of the National Institutes of Health MERIT award program. The NIH created the MERIT award program to provide stable long-term grant support to investigators whose research skills and productivity are "distinctly superior" and who are highly likely to continue to perform in an outstanding manner.

In addition to her continuing scientific work, she held progressively senior university administrative positions. While serving as Provost of the University of Washington in 2005, she earned the additional position of President for Academic Affairs in 2007. From 2007 to 2010, she held the post of Provost and Executive Vice President, becoming the 2nd highest ranking administrator at the university, exercising leadership in educational and curriculum development, allocation of budgets and space, long-range strategic planning, and management of university research programs. Among her main accomplishments was creating the College of the Environment, which brought together several previously neglected programs. The move gave the programs a stronger voice in university priorities and budget allocations. About her rise to academic leadership she said modestly, "If anything, I've been the person who's been put into positions that I'm not totally qualified for — where I feel that I have to run to be able to meet the expectations of people, including my own expectations of myself."

In 2010, Dr. Wise was appointed the interim president of the University of Washington. She became the first woman and first Asian American to officially hold the position. Because of her status, she knew she'd come under particular scrutiny. "When you are the first, you have extra responsibilities **so that you don't let everyone down, so that you meet the expectations of everyone.** If you succeed, they will be particularly proud, and if you fail, they will be particularly disappointed."

In 2011, she accepted the position of Chancellor at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and Vice President of the University of Illinois. The Urbana-Champaign campus is one of our country's largest public universities, with an annual budget of \$1.5 billion, \$400 million in research expenditures, 42,000 students, and more than 1,800 tenure-track faculty members.

(Continued on page 19)



Dr. Phyllis Wise, Continued

(Continued from page 18)

Dr. Wise has served on a number of scientific advisory committees, including the Council of the National Institute on Aging, the RAND Health Board of Advisors, the Bullitt Foundation Board of Trustees, and the Scientific Advisory Board of the Allen Institute for Brain Science. She is also a member of the prestigious National Academy of Sciences' Institute of Medicine.

Publications/Patents: Dr. Phyllis Wise is the author or co-author of over 200 articles and research papers in endocrinology. She has also written articles about leadership for the professional network website LinkedIn.

["Team of Rivals": What I Learned about Hiring the Best and Shouldering Blame](#)

[No Diversity? No Excellence](#)

[An Unexpected Path: How I Became Chancellor](#)

External Links:

<http://oc.illinois.edu/bio.html>

<http://www.nwasianweekly.com/2010/07/asian-american-female-a-'wise'-choice-for-the-uw/>

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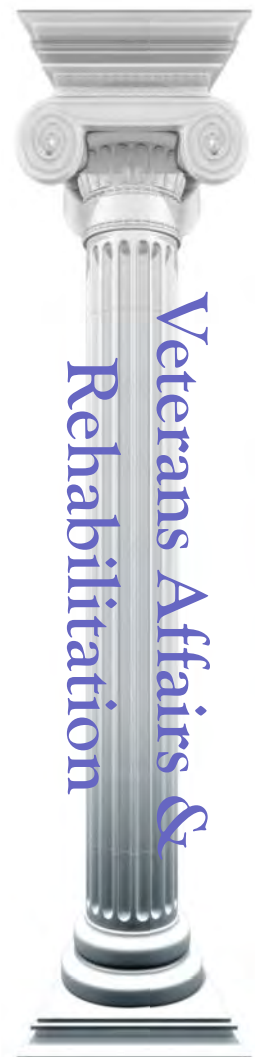
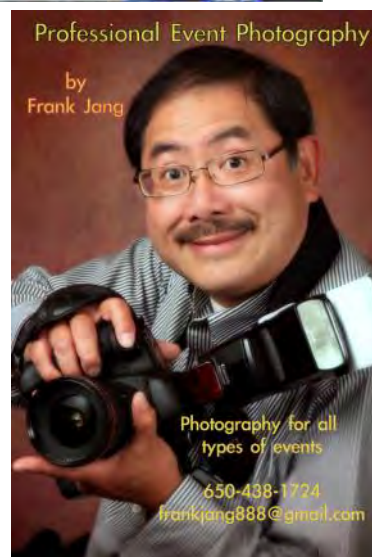
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*Article courtesy from our Friends & Partners: Roger S. Dong, Chairman,
Chinese American Heroes*

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Thanks to our Post Commanders
for contributing to this edition of
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Cathay Dispatch is a proud member of the "National American Legion Press Association."

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www.legion.org

Gulf War/War On Terrorism

*Desert Shield/Desert Storm/
Operation Enduring Freedom/
Operation Iraqi Freedom*

8/2/1990 to today

Panama

Operation Just Cause
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Lebanon/Grenada

*Lebanon War/
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8/24/1982 – 7/31/1984

Vietnam War

2/28/1961 – 5/7/1975

Korean War

6/25/1950 – 1/31/1955

World War II

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