

## **The Adjutant's Report**

By Gabe B. Mui, Department Vice Commander, Post Adjutant

The Kimlau Post will celebrate its 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in June this year. It is hard to imagine how fast the festivities are approaching. It is still fresh in my memory that we just celebrated our 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary not long ago. The Chinese School's Crimson King Band are performing patriotic songs in front of the Chinese Consolidated Benevolent Association, the Praying Mantis Lion Troupe are putting on a fantastic show, the New York State Court Officers' Bagpipe Band are still playing patriotic music. But, the truth is that it has been five years and we are now working diligently to ensure we have another successful celebration. Unfortunately our 75th Anniversary celebration was dealt a major setback when the coronavirus pandemic started to spread in the United States in March of this year. Government officials issued a lock-down order for all nonessential businesses, warning that everyone must stay at home to flatten the curve and to prevent further spread of the virus. Our Post complied with the directive and put all planned upcoming events on hold, which included our 75th Anniversary celebration. It was unprecedented to take these steps but it was a necessary one to protect the health and safety of our members, as well as our community. Cancelling our celebration was a huge disappointment to all of us that were looking forward to this significant milestone in our Post's history. Although the celebration was cancelled, our Post is determined to keep up with our tradition of publishing a commemorative journal to document and highlight the past five years.

Over the past five years, we have many accomplishments to be proud of. We are so proud of the hard work and dedication of our leadership to ensure that the Post is marching forward and continuing on a successful path. These accomplishments seem diminished a little when we reflect on the passing of an inspirational leader. It is hard to believe that Peter Woo, our "Chairman", is no longer with us to celebrate the Post's 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Chairman Peter Woo passed away unexpectedly on Saturday, December 15, 2018. It was a huge loss for the Lt. Kimlau Post 1291 and we all miss him dearly. Chairman Woo was a WWII Veteran and served with the famed Flying Tiger Unit in the China, Burma and India Theater. He was the most senior leader of Lt. Kimlau Post 1291 and he was an incredibly kind hearted person, a mentor whom I looked up to and admired. He was a man of warmth and decency, who left an indelible mark on countless people and members of the Kimlau Post during his lifetime of service to the American Legion. He single handedly secured our permanent Post Headquarters. He was a driving force and utilized his close connections with city government officials to expedite the building of the Lt. Kimlau Memorial at Kimlau Square. Above all, he often said he was most proud of the fact that he instilled a sound financial record keeping system in the Post's early days to ensure accountability of the Post's finances, laying the foundation for our Post's continued growth. This was one of many countless contributions made by Chairman Woo that greatly benefited our Post during and after his tenure. Chairman Woo was a fixture in the Post; he regularly came to the Post almost daily for the past 50 plus years. Even on December 15th, he spent the whole day at the Post talking with members and enjoying his favorite game of "Sky Nine" before he passed away peacefully at home.

There have been so many challenging projects we completed over the last five years, but the one that stands out was the renovation of the Post Headquarters. Our Post headquarters, aside from some minor upgrades through the years, had not been renovated since it was completed in the early sixties. Updates to both the second floor auditorium and the offices on the third floor were in desperate need. The first phase of the renovation work was to replace the existing wood paneling, the vinyl floor tiles, the old ceiling, update the bathrooms and all the electric fixtures. After a few months of extensive renovations, the brand new auditorium was formally dedicated on July 4<sup>th</sup>, 2015. It was dedicated as the "Chairman Peter Woo Auditorium", in honor of our long time Chairman, who contributed greatly in the purchasing of the Post's permanent headquarters. The unveiling ceremony was attended by members of the Post, the Chairman's family, community dignitaries, and the Chinese media. The next phase of renovations was the third floor, where the Post operations and day-to-day business are conducted and members socialize. We had to work out the logistics to allow for the renovation work to be done, and continue the Post's normal operations at the same time. Other than the inconvenience of shifting the operation from room to room during the renovation, we encountered very few interruptions. The renovation was completed on schedule, with a modern and comfortable place to meet and work for our members for years to come.

While we are happy that our Post building is in tip top shape, it is disheartening to see the deterioration of the Chinese-American Veterans Memorial at Kimlau Square due to years of neglect by the City of New York. The deteriorating condition of this prominent monument reflects poorly upon our community and the Kimlau Post. It is such an important symbol, held dear in the hearts by Chinese-American veterans and their families for the sacrifices they endured in serving this great country. In the late fifties, our Post recognized the need to memorialize the Chinese-American contribution, especially those who served the country with honor and distinction to protect and defend our freedom. After years of planning and working with City Hall to find a suitable place in Chinatown, which was no small feat, we were finally granted permission to build the monument on a traffic island where Bowery, Worth Street, Mott Street and East Broadway meet. The monument was designed by one of our members, Poy G. Lee, a famed architect. After several revisions to scale down the original design from four columns to two columns due to the underground water main that would not support a large monument, it was finally completed and dedicated in 1962. Every year, we host our Memorial Day, Veterans Day and other ceremonies in front of the monument that are attended by countless community dignitaries and government officials. The monument has become a symbol and sacred place for our members and the Chinese community. Since the piece of land that the monument was built on is city owned land, we were required to turn over the ownership and management, including all maintenance, to the Transportation Department of New York City once it was completed. The area surrounding the traffic island went through a few reconfigurations in the nineties for a new traffic pattern and was merged with East Broadway to become a small park. This was later dedicated and named Kimlau Square Park by Mayor Rudy Giuliani's Administration to honor the Chinese-American Veterans. Following the reconfiguration, the responsibility of maintaining the monument was transferred to the New York City Parks Department. We have observed in recent years that the Parks Department has not kept up with routine maintenance. We have met with the Parks Department numerous times and even offered to repair the damage at our own expense, but to no avail. In 2019, after years

of neglect, the monument was declared unsafe by the New York City Parks Department. We are now urgently working with the Park Department to come up with a solution to either repair or rebuild the monument.

The Lt. Kimlau Post Color Guard has a long and proud history of serving our community and holds a personal place in my heart, as I was a member of this distinguished unit practically from the date I joined the Post. They are not only an essential part of our annual Memorial Day Parade and Veterans Day Parade; they also participate in numerous community functions. They have received much praise and are widely recognized as the best color guard unit in New York County. But many in the color guard unit are of advanced age and we desperately need our younger members to step up and carry on this proud tradition. The Post realizes the cost of the color guard uniform is substantial; a reimbursement program to offset the cost has been instituted for many years. We appealed to our younger members who are interested in joining this proud and patriotic unit and are happy to report that a few young members have responded to our desperate call to reinforce the Post's color guard unit in the past few years.

It was such an honor for the Lt. Kimlau Post to host a parade and a wreath laying ceremony at the Kimlau Memorial when U.S. Transportation Secretary Elaine L. Chao and her father, Dr. James C. S. Chao, visited Chinatown on Memorial Day weekend in 2017. Consolidated Chinese Benevolent Association President Jerry Shao and other community leaders participated in the parade down Mott Street to the Kimlau Memorial. In her speech, Secretary Chao thanked the Chinese-American Veterans for their sacrifices and their contribution in defending and preserving the freedom we all enjoy today. The Kimlau Post was so grateful for the Secretary's participation and tribute to the men and women who have served and continue to serve our country. Secretary Chao also participated in a very moving ceremony after the 9-11 tragedy at the Kimlau Memorial, while serving as the U. S. Secretary of Labor under President George W. Bush's administration.

We were appreciative that Congresswoman Nydia Velazquez took the time to present an American Flag to our Post in the Chairman Peter Woo Auditorium. She had arranged for the flag to be flown on Capitol Hill on behalf of our Post to honor our continued contribution to the country and the community. She told us that her uncle, who was a Korean Veteran, had served during the Korean conflict. She has worked tirelessly on all of the veterans' legislation to ensure that the government does not forget their sacrifices. Our Post is proud of our legacy and our continued service to veterans and the community. It is always such an honor when our elected officials recognize our services.

Our Post had the extreme honor to host a Veteran's Day dinner attended by both National Commander Denise Rohan and Department Commander Rena Nessler. Both Commander Rohan and Commander Nessler were the first females to lead the National and Department of New York respectively. "Family First" was National Commander Denise Rohan's theme and focal point for that year. She asked the Legion posts to open their doors to veterans and their communities for Legion family dinners on and around Veteran's Day. Commander Rohan said the American Legion is indeed a family, similar to those formed during military service. "When we went through basic training, we learned that we may have our own personal families at home, but we also have

a new family in our brothers and sisters within our rank.” We gained new family members every place we went. Thirty-five midshipmen of the Chinese Cultural Club from the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland also attended our Veteran’s Day dinner. They have been visiting our Post around Veteran’s Day weekend for the past four years. They also joined us at “America’s Parade” hosted by the United War Veterans on Fifth Avenue on Veteran’s Day. The Auxiliary and Sons of American Legion members also attended the buffet dinner. It was truly a “Family First” dinner.

Membership is everyone’s business and is recognized as key to every organization’s success. The American Legion has always placed a premium on maintaining a strong membership base, giving the Legion a strong voice in advocating benefits for veterans, which they have earned serving and defending our country. The declining membership throughout American Legion posts in recent years is alarming. Our Post recognized the need for aggressively recruiting new members, but at the same time, keeping our existing members was equally as important. To encourage members to take an active role and increase participation, the Kimlau Post had been reimbursing members’ transportation expenses for attending Post meetings and functions for many years. Even with this policy in place, our Post’s membership was slowly in decline due to the departure of the WWII and Korea Conflict members. In the 2019 National Convention in Indiana, we received good news; the Legion Act was approved by Congress and signed into law by President Trump, which declared the United States has been in a state of war since Dec. 7, 1941. The Legion Act (Let Everyone Get Involved in Opportunities for National Service Act) also opened the door for approximately 6 million veterans to access American Legion programs and benefits for which they previously had not been eligible. With the Legion Act, more veterans are now eligible to join and should help grow our membership. On a brighter note, more than a third of our Post’s membership consists of Gulf War veterans who are eager to participate in Post activities.

We are sad to see the rapid dwindling of our World War II Veterans, the “Greatest Generation”. We need to do all we can to thank them for their bravery in defending our freedom while they are still here with us. Our Post had been working closely the last few years with Chinese American Citizen Alliance on the Congressional Gold Medal project as a way to thank their sacrifice. The Congressional Gold Medal is an award bestowed by Congress and is the highest civilian award in the United States. Bills were introduced to award a Congressional Gold Medal in recognition of the 20,000 Chinese American men and women who served in the U. S. Armed Services during World War II. Retired Maj. General William S. Chen, the first Chinese-American 2-star General and the son of a WWII fighter pilot who served under General Chennault in the 14<sup>th</sup> Air Force, told the audience during a conference at the Chairman Peter Woo Auditorium that the U.S. House of Representatives had unanimously passed the Chinese-American World War II Veterans Congressional Gold Medal Act, also known as H.R. Bill 2358, on December 12, 2018. President Trump signed it into law on December 20, 2018. The Chinese-American World War II Veterans Congressional Gold Medal effort was led by the Chinese American Citizen Alliance and they plan to present the medal in the spring in Washington, D. C. for those WWII veterans and family members who could travel to the nation’s capital to receive the award. Our Post also worked with the Chinese American Citizen Alliance to host a regional medal presentation for WWII veterans and/or their family. General Chen encouraged all Chinese WWII veterans and/or descendants to register to receive their long

overdue recognition for their heroic services to the country during WWII. Our Post mailed out notices to the family members of all WWII veterans in our Post's records to remind them to register for the award. We also worked with New York City Department of Veterans' Services (DVS) to broadcast the message, hoping to reach the descendants of Chinese-American World War II Veterans who are no longer receiving communications from our Post or the Chinese American WWII veterans who are not members of our Post.

Over the past few years, our Post has tried to find an effective way to communicate with our members. With more and more people employing the Internet as their main communication tool, our Post recognized the effectiveness and cost savings gained from circulating important information to our members in a timely manner through email. In June 2019, for the first time, we emailed the quarterly newsletter to all of our members that updated their emails with us. The feedback from our members was a resounding success. At the same time, we reconfigured our Post's website to be easily accessible by members. All pertinent information and past newsletters were uploaded to our website for anyone who wished to check on the older newsletters. Some members suggested the Post should provide members with free Internet connection at the Post during a meeting a couple of years ago. We have since installed a Wi-Fi network with strong signal that allows members to access a free Internet connection anywhere at the Post.

There were many other events our Post participated in over the last five years. To name a few, our Post received an incredible honor when New York State Senator Daniel Squadron nominated the Lt. B. R. Kimlau Chinese Memorial Post as a candidate for the New York State Senate Veterans Hall of Fame. We attended the induction ceremony at the Senate Chamber in Albany, hosted by Senate Majority Leader John Flanagan. Senator Squadron thanked the Kimlau Post for their outstanding service and contribution to the local community and the country. We were invited by retired U.S. Navy Captain Richard Pusateri, Office of Military and Veterans Service Manager at John Jay College of Criminal Justice, to speak to students about our military experience at the Asian Pacific Military Heritage Luncheon in April 2018 at the Veterans Student Center. We highlighted the good times, the struggles, and our unwavering commitment to serve our country and the speech was well received by the students. During the Asian/Pacific Americans Heritage Month in May 2017, the US Army's North East Medical Area Readiness Support Group (NE-MARSG) recognized contributions by the Chinese-Americans veterans. We were invited by Col. Saladin-Muhammad of the NE-MARSG stationed at Fort Wadsworth, Staten Island to speak about our personal, military and American Legion experiences and to receive an award. Our Post has worked with the U. S. Marines on the Toys for Tots program since 2015 and we continue to do so today. We have distributed over 5,000 toys to underprivileged children in the Chinatown community. Our Post is committed to support the Chinatown community by serving on the board of the Consolidated Chinese Benevolent Association (CCBA) and the board of the Chinatown Business Improvement District (BID) since its inception. The BID's main mission is to maintain cleanliness and to advocate for a better Chinatown community for businesses and residents. I was honored to have served as the BID's chairman for the past five years.

It has been a very busy and rewarding five years and I am grateful for all that has been accomplished. I can't help but feel a sense of pride that I have contributed to the success of the Kimlau Post. As we are preparing to

celebrate the Post's 75th Anniversary, I have come to realize that all of the accomplishments in the last five years would not have been achieved if not for the foresight, vision, and strong foundation provided by our past leaders. Undoubtedly, we will be facing a much tougher road ahead without our most respected leader, Chairman Peter Woo, to guide us for the first time in decades. We all must be strong, united and do our very best to continue to build on the legacy that was passed on to us to be successful for the next seventy-five years and beyond. We need the younger members to step forward to take on a more active role and carry the torch in the future. With the large group of young veterans joining our ranks in the past few years, I can envision that the future of our Post will be bright and we will continue to be successful.



## 幹事報告

### 紐約州退伍軍人會副主席梅本立幹事

光陰似箭，很難想像慶祝本會成立七十五週年活動即將來臨。我對七十週年各種慶祝活動仍然記憶猶新，彷彿華僑學校鼓樂隊仍在演奏著愛國音樂，朱超然師父帶領的螳螂醒獅團仍在進行精彩表演，紐約法庭警衛隊仍演奏著愛爾蘭風笛音樂，鑼鼓喧天，歡迎著嘉賓來臨。但事實這些已經是五年前的情境，我們現正在勤奮策劃著慶祝七十五週年的各項活動，確保我們再一次做到像已往的成功慶典。但七十五週年慶祝活動因在三月傳來新冠病毒已經在美國蔓延消息而很可能不能如期舉行。紐約州長宣布所有低關鍵的業務除了醫療，警衛，運輸等數種服務人員下封鎖令，並提醒民眾居家被役，以免新冠病毒進一步傳播。本會為遵從政府指示，在迫不得已之下取消所有在計劃中即將行的活動，其中自然包括七十五週年慶典。這些是前所未有採取的行動，但為了保護本會會員的健康和安全起見的唯一決策。對於取消七十五週年慶祝活動令本會所有會員祈求著為這富有歷史意義的重要里程碑都感到極端失望。儘管慶祝七十五週年活動被迫取消，但本會決定仍依過去一樣每五年出版一本週刊以記錄及顯揚五年來成就。

過去五年來，本會在各位職員及前任主席領導下，各人忠誠服務，會務蒸蒸日上，頗感欣慰。但這些成就，似乎在突然其來的悲哀訊息中黯淡了不少。全沒想到本會在七十五週年即將來臨而伍覺良董事長不再與本會會員一齊慶祝。伍覺良董事長在十二月十五日傍晚不幸在家中突然安祥逝世，這對軍人會實是一個重大損失，我們對董事長離世噩耗深感遺憾。伍覺良董事長在第二次世界大戰被徵入伍，他被調派往美國第十四空軍聲譽卓著的飛虎隊服役，隨十四空軍部隊由印度進駐中國西南各省抗日。他是軍人會最受尊崇及資深的前任主席，亦是我們一班後輩仰慕並欽佩的良好導師。他為人隨和，樂於助人，凡曾受伍覺良董事長熏陶的會員對他都留下深刻的印象。他對本會購買現有的會址大樓全力支持，並以私人名譽擔保軍人會貸款。他利用他熟悉市府政要的私人親密的關係協助軍人會透過一切煩惱的手續，令建造華裔退伍軍人忠烈坊得到順利進行。他覺得最自豪的是在早期制定了一個周全的財務保管規劃，以保障本會財政及預防流弊，從而使本會財政一直循規而上，董事長長期對本會的數不勝數的貢獻使到本會受益匪淺。董事長在過去五、六十年來，經常每日都會到軍人會，甚至在十二月十五日那天，他也一早來到軍人會與同袍熱情傾談，後來又打了整個下午他最喜愛的天九牌局，真想不到他回家後不到半小時就與世長辭。

本會大樓自六十年代購置後大規模改建以適合本會運作外，多年來只作維修及輕微改建，本會一致認為二樓禮堂及三樓辦公室極需更新。裝修工程首先是更換二樓禮堂的木牆板，塑膠地板，舊天化板，衛生



間等。經過幾個月的翻新工程，二樓禮堂煥然一新，受到眾多會員及戚友讚賞。本會並在二零一五年七月四日舉行了既簡單又隆重的揭幕儀式，重新命名為「伍覺良董事長禮堂」以嘉獎伍覺良董事長歷年來對本會的偉大貢獻及購置本會大樓。當日董事長的家眷及親友，各報媒體及一眾會員在場熱烈慶祝。裝修下一階段是三樓辦公室，因為三樓辦公室是本會日常業務的主要地方，不但要配合裝修期間需要亦要繼續執行會務，幸好在整個裝修工程中，除了把日常運作從一個房間轉移到另一個房間帶來不便之外，裝修工程如期完成，裝修後本會會員得以享受一個現代化及舒適的工作及聚會的會所。

美國華裔退伍軍人忠烈坊是眾所皆知的華埠著名地標，亦是本會每年舉辦的國殤日及軍人節紀念儀式的地方。本會前賢為紀念華裔參軍衛國，為自由民主而戰，其中不乏浴血成仁，悲壯英勇事蹟而於五十年代末期決定興建牌坊，永留華人參戰忠烈給後人瞻仰。但向紐約市政府申請繁複的手續及在華埠寬闊合適地方興建忠烈坊實不是易事，頗費時日，但終於獲得紐約市准許在包厘街，窩扶街及東百老匯交接的交通島上興建。本會會員及華埠著名建築師李錦沛原本設計的忠烈坊藍圖是四柱三間，但因地基之下有巨型水管，不能承受超重的四柱三間而縮小為兩柱一間的忠烈坊在一九六二年落成。由於忠烈坊建於交通島之地是屬市政府所有，所以在忠烈坊落成後，必須交由紐約市交通局管理及負責維修。在九十年代交通局為了忠烈坊鄰近街道安全問題，將忠烈坊所在的交通島與東百老匯合併為小公園，因此忠烈坊管理及維修由紐約市交通局轉到公園局。後來紐約市長朱利安尼為表揚華裔退伍軍人的貢獻，命名這小公園為劉錦廣場。近年來公園局忽視對忠烈坊應有的維修工作，以致忠烈坊日趨衰落，且更在不久之前宣布忠烈坊為危險建築物。本會近年曾多次與公園主首會面，願意自負費用去維修忠烈坊但不得其所。目前只有極力與公園局溝通，希望能找到一個妥善辦法去解決這個難題。

我自參加美國華裔退伍軍人會不久就成為儀仗隊隊員，目睹近年儀仗隊日趨凋零而感慨萬分。擁有悠久歷史及向來是本會引以為榮的儀仗隊不但是每年本會舉辦的國殤日遊行及軍人節遊行的重要份子，而且這一隊威風凜凜及步履整齊的儀仗隊更是紐約區公認的頂級隊伍，他們對於服務社區更是不遺餘力。只可惜這一隊享有極高聲譽的儀仗隊近年已現青黃不接的狀況，隊員們多已年及花甲，極需年青一輩會員補充，繼續為本會儀仗隊發揚光大。本會為減輕新隊員購買昂貴的儀仗隊制服，早已設定補助措施。非常慶幸幾位年青會員響應本會的懇求，願意加入本會極需新血補充的儀仗隊。

非常榮幸新任聯邦交通部部長趙小蘭偕同父親趙錫成博士在國殤紀念日週末拜訪紐約華埠，在中華公所蕭貴源主席及一眾僑團領袖陪同下參加本會主辦的國殤紀念日遊行，並在華裔退伍軍人忠烈坊獻花。趙小蘭部長致詞中感謝華裔退伍軍人為維護今天所享有的自由及安全而作出的犧牲和貢獻，更向為國捐軀



的華裔軍人致謝。趙小蘭部長這次參加軍人會舉辦的國殤日遊行，本會深表感謝。趙小蘭部長第一次參加本會活動是在九一一恐襲後，當時她在小布殊總統政府任聯邦勞工部部長。

為表彰並感謝紐約華裔退伍軍人會對國家及華人社區重要貢獻及其積極為退伍軍人服務，國會眾議員維樂貴絲親自到本會，贈送她特別為本會向國會申請曾經飄揚在華盛頓國會大廈的美國國旗。她告訴大家她的叔父亦是韓戰時服役的退伍軍人。她並指出她向來為有關退伍軍人福利的國會議案盡力支持。本會得到國會議員的重視及認同對社區的貢獻，感到非常榮幸。

「家庭為主」是全國退伍軍人總會主席迪妮斯、羅翰在任內的主題和重點。她要求各退伍軍人會在軍人節款待退伍軍人及社區人士。本會非常榮幸全國退伍軍人總主席迪妮斯、羅翰及紐約州總會主席雷納、奈斯勒聯同參加本會軍人節晚餐，她們兩位分別是全國退伍軍人總會及紐約州總會第一位女主席。羅翰主席對我們說，退伍軍人會確是一個大家庭，一個很像我們受軍訓及服役期間的一個大家庭，雖然我們各有自己的家人，但我們新的大家庭便是我們一齊服役的同袍。當我們每到一個新軍營，那裏的同袍便是我們的新家庭。海軍軍官學校的中文文化交流學會繼以往四年來再一次派三十五位會員在退伍軍人節拜訪及參加本會款待總會主席自助晚餐，他們受到本會熱烈歡迎並隨同本會會員參加在十一月十一日曼哈頓五大道由紐約退伍軍人同盟會主辦的美國軍人節遊行。參加這自助晚餐包括婦女會及子弟部很多成員，這正是名符其實的「家庭為主」的餐會。

無論那一個機構或團體能擁有持久的存在，必需要不停地吸收新會員。這對美國退伍軍人會更為重要，因為有龐大的會員人數，影響力增高，向政府爭取退伍軍人為國服務而應得的福利的成數更高。近年來美國退伍軍人軍會會員人數下降，實是非常令人擔憂。所以我們每一個人都應各盡其力，招募新會員來補替那些仙逝的同袍。本會多年來設立車馬費，鼓勵會員參與本會一切活動及關心會務。由於第二次世界大戰和韓戰會員的年齡老大離世而致本會會員人數仍在緩慢下降。幸好去年國會通過並已獲川普總統簽署的「讓曾服役的退伍軍人有機會參與」法案，這法案認證美國自一九四一年十二月七日至今仍在戰爭中，並准許約六百萬退伍軍人有資格參加美國退伍軍人會，這些退伍軍人曾為捍衛自由而從軍，他們是招募為新會員最好對像。慶幸的是本會目前已有三分一會員是曾參戰伊拉克及阿富汗兩個戰役的年青會員，不少已加入本會領導階層。

紐約華裔美國退伍軍人會與紐約同源會合作極力推薦國會參議院提倡的 S 1050 及眾議院提倡的 HR 2358 第二次世界大戰美國華裔退伍軍人國會金章法案，這兩個法案是表彰二萬多服役於第二次世界大戰期間的華裔退伍軍人，這個國會金章是美國公民可以獲得的最高榮譽的勳章。已退休的首位華裔美國

陸軍少將陳紹章九月在本會伍覺良董事長禮堂召開的記者會中宣佈第二次世界大戰美國華裔退伍軍人國會金章法案已經在去年十二月通過並由川普總統簽署成為法例。陳紹章少將是第二次世界大戰飛虎隊後裔，他父親曾服役於威名顯赫陳納德將軍部下的飛行員。陳紹章少將呼籲曾參加第二次世界大戰的榮譽退伍軍人或其家屬應盡早在美國同源會設立的網站上註冊領取這個他們應得的美國公民可以獲得的最高榮譽勳章。陳紹章少將並說將在明年春天在華府頒發第一派金章給能去參加的二戰退伍軍人及其家屬，本會亦密切與美國同源會合作準備在本會七十五週年慶祝大會中頒發金章給大紐約地區的二戰退伍軍人及其家屬。我們亦於上月發信通知本會紀錄尚存的二戰退伍軍人或其家屬，建議他們上網註冊或來電詢問。本會同時亦與紐約市退伍軍人服務部合作，要求他們將這個消息發佈出去，希望這個訊息能達到令一些已經沒有與本會聯絡的二戰退伍軍人的家人及親友或非本會會員的二戰華裔退伍軍人家屬。

由於時代不斷的轉變及改進，電郵已受到社會廣泛的採用，有一些機構更以電郵為其惟一的通訊方法。電郵的聯絡效率快捷及能節省郵費亦是其接受歡迎最重要的原因。本會在二零一九年六月第一次電郵寄出本會會務通訊，效果非常成功，普受會員讚揚。與此同時，本會亦將有關資料及以前會務通訊上載到本會網站，以供會員搜索。同時本會亦在會所內設有免費網路，以供會員可在會所內享用。

本會在過去的幾年我們參加了很多活動。在五月紐約華裔美國退伍軍人會前往首府奧本尼接受紐約州參議員史葛靜在紐約州參議院表彰退伍軍人的「傑出退伍軍人」的榮譽獎章。參議員史葛靜在頒獎時詞感謝紐約華裔美國退伍軍人會為愛國主義以及積極參與社區事務做出了卓越的貢獻。紐約市約翰傑伊刑事司法學院退伍軍人學生服務中心負責人退役美國海軍上校李察、付沙亞利邀請本會參加在四月二十六日舉辦的亞太傳統月軍人午餐並講述有關以亞太裔服役經歷及在美國退伍軍人會的服務為主題演說。為慶祝亞太裔傳統月，表彰亞太裔軍人對國家作傑出貢獻，美國陸軍東北區醫療預備役司令部上校薩拉丁-穆罕默德邀請紐約華裔美國退伍軍人會前往位於史丹頓島的話斯和庫軍營向駐扎該基地的軍人發表演說，與現役軍人們交流個人及軍旅經歷並領取表揚獎狀。為一眾預備役軍人分享作為華裔軍人的軍旅經歷所遭遇的身份挑戰及美國退伍軍人會的組織。本會繼續與美國海軍陸戰隊合作分發兒童玩具，自二零零五至今日，我們已經分發了五千兒童玩具給華埠鄰近的貧窮小孩。本會一向對服務社區是不甘後人，凡是有利於社區之事，本會一定踴躍參與，我們是華埠中華公所董事會成員之一，本會亦是華埠商業改進區董事會成員之一，華埠商業改進區是以清潔街道及促進社區繁榮為宗旨，舉辦各種活動及美化華埠，使居民安居樂業。在二零一四年一月華埠商業改進區年會，我辱蒙愛戴被選為新一屆的董事長，我感到很榮幸不覺間在過去五年中擔任華埠商業改進區董事長。

我慶幸在五年的繁忙中能做到不少有利於退伍軍人會的大小事項，想到五年來能盡己所能和誠懇地為退伍軍人會服務及為會務的進展效勞，不禁感到一點自豪及安慰。當我們預備慶祝本會成立七十五週年之

時，我領略到本會過去五年來的成就，毫無疑問如果不是前賢具有過人的遠見及他們建下的宏厚基礎是絕對不能達到的。但在我們失去數十年以來最資深及欽佩的伍覺良董事長，前路肯定比以往艱難，我們應繼續團結努力為會服務，體諒前人創業艱辛，各盡所能為退伍軍人會續創輝煌的一頁。本會極需年青的會員來補充我們的行列，他們充滿活力及鬥志，必能為本會創造新的理念。幸好年青的一輩源源不絕的參加本會，我深信這些年青的會員定能繼續為本會發揚光大，這豈不令我為本會前途感到欣慰。

