

Commander's Report 2001-2003

By PPC Stanley Moy

"Just a few minutes ago, I took an oath of office with my newly elected officers of the Lt. Kimlau Post. We "... pledged to perform faithfully and impartially the duties of the office in the American Legion ... we are about to assume." And now it's my honor to stand before you wearing the Commander's cap for the first time. I have been a member of this Post for over twenty years and actively engaged in Post activities for the last ten. I am a simple person, other than my beloved family, I enjoy times with my comrades in arms. I care about the community I live in, and most importantly I love the country that has given me freedom and democracy. I believe it is for these reasons that I proudly accepted to serve as your Commander."

Above were the words I used four years ago when I addressed my fellow legionnaires for the first time as the newly installed commander. At that moment my intention was to serve and enjoy my time as the Commander. Little did I know three short months later, on 9-11, the attack of the Twin Towers shattered my plan to pieces. Our nation was at war and as a veterans' organization, what do you do to support our country, our troops, and our community in this chaotic situation? I had no training in this and certainly it was not on anyone's agenda. I really don't know how I managed to survive my first term, but I believe it was teamwork and the trust in each other that ultimately pulled us through those dark days following 9-11.

There were many memories from that first year, I would like to highlight just a few – such as the Post's participation in the first Independence Day Parade through the streets of Chinatown, which demonstrated Chinese-American support and love of our country. Then there was the request to hold a wreath laying ceremony at the Chinese-American Veterans' Memorial by Secretary of Labor Elaine Chao during her visit to Chinatown in the aftermath of 9-11. Secretary Chao's deep respect of the veterans for their contribution to this nation and her genuine concern for our community's well being will not be forgotten by us. And finally, I must mention it was such an honor to be invited to the White House with Adjutant Fang A. Wong in May, 2002 as Chinese-American veteran representatives to join President Bush and other distinguish Asian-Pacific community leaders celebrating Asian-Pacific Islanders Heritage Month. Under any other circumstance any one of the above would certainly qualify as a wonderful memory that can last a lifetime but to me it was the attack of the Twin Towers and the aftermath that will rank as the number one event for the year. After the attack, while Chinatown suffered in more ways than any other community in the city, we witnessed our community came together and transformed overnight. Joined by the belief of benevolence and brotherhood, our community dropped individual difference and pitched-in to help – not just for our community, but help for all those suffering and in need. Under the capable leadership of the CCBA, our community's quick reaction and responsive initiatives received the overwhelming admiration of the Government – Federal, State, and City. The Lt. Kimlau Post and our members were privileged to play a small role in this effort and we are very proud of it.

My second term as Commander was memorable too, but in a different way. Legion year 2002-2003 was the most unique one for the Lt. Kimlau Post as we embarked on a new path never before traveled by any of our members. That year we had someone knocking on the door for Commandership at the Department level and Adjutant Wong was our candidate for this high position. I was very proud to serve as Post Commander that year and work closely with so many dedicated members throughout the year to ensure our efforts were successful. The planning of a formal campaign, organizing a staff capable of handling various arrangements, set fundraising targets, and many other requirements taxed our members' ingenuity and patience. There were several trips to Albany throughout the year for different required activities. We had many volunteers to help and we had so much fun doing it together. The support from the Chinatown Community was tremendous; many friends come out to support Fang on his adventure. The best part of the Department Convention was when Fang's name was placed in nomination and members of the Lt. Kimlau Post led by the Chinese School Crimson Kings Drum and Bugle Corps proudly conducted our floor demonstration by marching through the aisles of the convention hall with Fang's campaign sign. I can't believe it took us 57 long years to get there for the short demonstration. But, I am glad we were there and I am delighted to be part of that historical event.

My two years as Post Commander were filled with fond memories of our team working together, laughing together, and yes, sharing a few tears together. The greatest expectation a Commander can ask for is the total commitment and cooperation of his staff and I had just such a staff to support me every inch of the way. I am forever in their debt – Joe, David, Ted, Bob, Wing, Kwong Y., Hong Y., Hing W., and Fang. I also must thank all our Past Commanders for their wisdom and timely guidance to keep me straight.

As we approach our 60th birthday celebration, I would like to reiterate the following to our younger members and future officers – When we took the oath of officer, we took it together as a team. We need to remember the American Legion always works as a team. We jointly accepted the trust and support of our members and it's our duty to conduct ourselves in accordance with the high standards set forth by those served before us. The challenges ahead of us are always many, some seem to be harder than others, and many are almost impossible to tackle. But, as an old soldier from World War II serving in the China-Burma-India Theater, I learned the harder ones can be taking care of and the impossible one just take a little longer, if we work on it. I have faith in the caliber of the officers we elected. I also believed in the magic of teamwork to make things happen. As an old soldier who loves our Post, I pledge to support you in anyway I can. Service to our members, service to the Community, and service to the Legion causes are always our mandate. It's a tall order, but working together as a team I have no doubt we will be successful. Our goal is clear, our course is just, and our future is bright!

零二年至零三年會務回顧



梅蔭蓀

“在幾分鐘前，我和其他新職員一齊宣誓就職，我們保證將以公正及真誠的態度去執行我們所接受的職責，而現在我第一次頭戴新的主席帽，很榮幸地站在你們面前。我有超過二十年的會齡，而真正的為會服務，卻是近十年的事。我是一個很純樸的人，除了我熱愛的家庭外，我最歡喜與各位袍澤在一起消磨時光。我很關懷我們所住的社區，但更重要的是我深愛這個賜予我們自由及民主的國家。我相信是因為上述的原因，令我欣然地接受主席這個職位的挑戰。”

以上是我四年前第一次就職時對大家致辭的部分。當時我是想能夠平靜地享受做主席的樂趣。但有誰料到，短短三個月後，九一一事件發生，世貿大樓遭到襲擊，此一不幸事件將我美夢化成碎片。國家進入戰時狀態，我們身為一個退伍軍人的組織，該如何去支持國家，支援前線將士，並維護我們社區的安寧。在這一個混亂不安的期間，我並沒有受過任何訓練，也沒有任何預先準備去做什麼工作。基本上我真的不知道當時我們是如何度過那一年的時光。我現在相信是由於彼此之間的衷誠合作、互相信賴而引導大家走過九一一之後的黑暗日子。

第一年任期有很多值得我懷念的事，例如本會參加了華埠第一次慶祝國慶游行，表達了華裔對國家的支持及愛護。又例如美國勞工部趙小蘭部長在九一一後親訪華埠慰問，特別要求本會引領到華裔軍人忠烈坊獻花致敬。趙小蘭部長當時表達她對軍人為國服務的崇高敬意及她對華裔社區遭遇到九一一事件後的關懷，將會永遠存在我們的心中。還有一件很值得提的是在二零零二年五月，我與本會幹事黃宏達非常榮幸地能夠代表華裔退伍軍人們，被邀請到白宮和一大群從美國各地而來的亞太裔精英一同參加布殊總統主持的“慶祝亞太裔傳統月”活動。在平常上述任何一項都是足以令人留下一生難忘的回憶。但無可否認九一一世貿大樓被襲，才是該年首要頭條。事情發生後，華埠經濟及生活品質首當其衝地受到嚴重的影響，遠遠超過本市其他社區，但我們卻能親睹整個華埠社區如何行動起來，在轉瞬間銳變。憑著人溺己溺的心情及四海之內皆兄弟的精神，我們整個社區真正的放下成見攜手合作，非單幫助我們的社區，更遠及於其他需要幫助的社區或人們。在中華公所領導之下華埠社區所展現出的迅速應變能力及各

種措施，事後得到聯邦各級政府的表揚。紐約華裔美國退伍軍人會同人能在那個時刻，跟隨社區先進為救災貢獻一點棉力，我們也著實感到光榮。

我第二年任期也充滿了與眾不同的回憶。因為這年本會踏上了一條從未曾經歷過的道路。本會幹事黃宏達挑戰競選紐約州美國退伍軍人會主席一職。我很榮幸能率領競選委員會各負責人在這一年中展開各種必要的籌備工作，以務求取得美滿成績。我們從規劃，徵求各項工作負責人，到如何籌款及很多其他枝節問題，在在都考驗競選委員會成員的智慧及耐力。那一年我們來回州首府奧巴尼數次以確定各種活動細節。我們得到很多會員幫忙，大家需然忙碌，但卻都感到很興奮及愉快！僑社對我們的支持也是令我們非常感謝的，很多朋友都站出來鼓勵我們。記得最感動的是當黃宏達在大會中被正式提名後，我們在僑校鼓樂隊帶領下，紐約華裔美國退伍軍人會一眾會友及其他分會會友們拿著競選標語，繞場數次為他助陣的感覺。我真的不能相信，那幾分鐘的游行是本會化了五十多年血汗才達到的。我以能有機會參與此一極富歷史性的盛會而感到自豪。

我的兩年主席任期確實充滿了溫馨的回憶。我們的團隊合作無間，大家在工作過程中有很多的歡笑，其間也有比較傷感的時刻。一個領導者最所希求的是擁有一支願意貢獻而又能互相配合的隊伍，在我來說，我就有這麼一群盡責的職員們，他們百份之一百地支持我兩年任內所做的一切。我對他們真的是感激不盡 - 超棠、善群、文芳、洪昌、永源、廣一、同益、興華、以及宏達。同時我也在此多謝本會前任主席們對我的指導及支持，使到會務順暢，幫助良多。

當此我們邁進下一個甲子之際，我謹以下列數言與各職員及本會後進會友們共勉 - 切記當你們就職時，你們是共同一起宣誓的。你們必需永記美國退伍軍人會是一個團體。你們接受了全體會友的信任及支持，因而你們必須以負責任的態度及兢兢業業的精神來為他們服務。你們將來會遇到不少的困難，有些更是看來無法解決的難題，且讓我用一個二次大戰在中印緬戰區服役的老兵經驗來告訴大家，其實所有的困難都可以解決。只要大家能夠盡心合力，一定可以克服任何困難，只要我們能夠堅持正理，有恆心與毅力，最無法解決的也可以找到方法。我對大家選出來的職員有信心，更相信“眾志成城”的魔力。我這個熱愛本會的老兵，會永遠站在支持你們的行列。照顧我們的會員、服務我們的社區、執行美國退伍軍人會憲章導言的訴求，是我們永遠不變的宗旨，這是一個不容易達成的願望，但我深信，只要我們團結努力，始終會有成功的日子。

由於我們的目標非常清楚，以及我們的路線非常正確，因此我們下一個甲子也將是非常明亮的！

