

The Adjutant's Report

By Fang A. Wong

It's hard to believe I have served as Adjutant for over eight years. In 1997, when I was asked to assume the responsibilities of Acting Adjutant from then Acting Adjutant PPC John F. Lee, in my wildest dream, I never thought I'd be still here in the year 2005.

When we celebrated our 55th Anniversary in 2000 with a special journal; it was an honor for me to take part and report on the State of the Post. Likewise, it's my duty and honor again to submit the State of the Post report with the highlights of the past five years. There were many events that led to changes over the past five years – some subtle, some drastic, some internal, some external, some were sad, some were good, and some were great.

The saddest moment obviously was the 9-11 tragedy. Since the Post and the Chinatown community were located so close to Ground-Zero. We witnessed firsthand what a few terrorist can do to us. With the various security measures enforced upon us and the surrounding neighborhoods, the devastated blow to our economy and the horrific impact to our minds and lives are something we will never forget. But, this act also brought us together, and our people were united more than ever. A week after 9-11, during the memorial service at the Lt. Kimlau Memorial, we witnessed a whole community truly joining hands as one unit. In the following months we saw many actions from the Government and other organizations help the community and its residents to recover. I am happy to report that with every step taken, our members – you - were involved in offering assistance. Through the effort of PCC Frank F. Gee and many others, we provided interpreter and translator services at the Chinese Community Center. We supported and worked closely with the Chinese Consolidated Benevolent Association (CCBA), through our Representative PPC Wing Y. Tam in the various initiatives to re-build Chinatown. Also, as the closest Legion Post to Ground-Zero, we served as a clearing-house for many relief efforts from other Legion Departments/Posts. All in all, I believe we grew stronger as people, and our community matured, when we rallied together to work for a better tomorrow.

When American Legion National Headquarters announced the formation of the "The 9-11 Scholarship Fund" (later renamed "American Legacy Scholarship") in October 2001 to support the children of our fallen heroes, our Post jumped into action. Under the direction of then Command Stanley Moy and PPC Richard Chin, we donated over \$20,000 in the first year through fundraising efforts in the community and from our members. We understand the important message involved here and we are committed to making donations each year. Our nation is at war, brave men and women are willing to risk their lives to ensure our freedom and democracy. We must support them and their families, it's the least we can do!

Community services has always been a major part of our program – in 2001, then Commander Wing Y. Tam entered a partnership with NYU Downtown Hospital to conduct Tai-chi classes at our post for residents of the community. This worthwhile program is entering its fourth year and is still going strong. Over 500 graduates benefited from this ancient exercise and many continued to practice on their own in pursuit of health and harmony. We must thank our members – PPC Lester Fong, Richard Lee, and David Lam for their devotion, in serving as instructors. Recently, under the leadership of Commander Wan Y. Tam the Post formed a partnership with Saint Vincent's Hospital to provide acupuncture treatments to the community. This program is designed to help relieve tension points. We hope this service will result in greater relief to people under constant stress from their busy lifestyles.

In our 55th Anniversary Journal I reported on how proud I was when I represented our Post at the 1998, 80th National Convention in New Orleans, and to make a donation toward the World War II Memorial Fund. On Memorial Day weekend, 2004 I was equally proud to take part in the formal dedication of the World War II Memorial with 20 members/families of our Post. PPC Peter Woo was selected to represent the Department of New York as part of the National delegation to the dedication. It is a great honor not just to him, but also the Lt. Kimlau Post. That weekend, as I walked among members of the greatest generation in the Memorial Mall, I felt

very humble that I was allowed to participate in this once-in-lifetime event. To be with the giants of the decades past, to listen to their war stories and to share with them tears and joys of their heroic services to save mankind was something I will never forget. The Greatest Generation is not asking for anything, they are just grateful that our nation hasn't forgotten them, no matter how long or how late. America and the world should never forget their services, and we should ensure that they are taken care of during their golden years.

There are many exciting things to report for the last five years. The most important one should be the great advancement and recognition of the Lt. B. R. Kimlau Chinese Memorial Post 1291 within the American Legion family. Two years ago we elected our first New York Department Commander and followed that with the election of our first National Vice-Commander last year. I was the lucky person on both counts. I have received numerous accolades for this "rare achievement", but I must confess that it was not I alone that made it happen. I believe it was the "**CAP**" theory at work – whereby for over 50 years our members have been hard at work in search of the American dream. They **Contributed**, they **Assimilated**, and now we are making **Progress** in the Legion. I just happen to be in the right place, at the right time. I was elected because of our WWII members' devotion and dedication to the legion principles that paved the way. I was elected because of the respect and admiration to our Post, extended by other legionnaires and Departments. I was elected because of the recognition that Lt. Kimlau Post is a vital part of the Legion family and to its programs. In large part I owe my good fortune to the past generation of members, it was their blood and sweat in the battlefields aboard, and in the trenches at home that made it possible for me to advance. This is definitely not a coincidence, as the work had started 60 years ago.

Running a Department Commander campaign is both an exciting and tiring experience. The two years of planning and fundraising would discourage the most ambitious. However, under the collective leadership of our past commanders, especially PPC Peter Woo, and then Commander Stanley Moy the Post pulled together a strong team to ensure our victory. Led by able members filled with enthusiasm but short on actual campaign experience, members Frank F. Gee, Wing Y. Tam, Wan Y. Tam, and many others teamed with legionnaires from New York County and Bronx County to try to put on a good show. This team more than put on a good show, the campaign was overwhelmingly successful. Judging by comments received from the Department and other counties, the team had set a standard that is hard to match. As with any campaign, funding was a major requirement to being successful, it was through our internal efforts and with the great support of the community, that our campaign chest was never a concern. For that, we must make time to thank all who contributed, especially to our community friends for their trust and generosity.

For two years (2002-2004) I traveled throughout the Department of New York and the Northeast Region. I visited many legion posts and met with thousands of legionnaires. At each stop and with each visit I was always well received by strangers. They knew about me, they knew why I was there and that was to be expected. What amazed me was many of them knew about the Kimlau Post. Many heard of our Post and some even remember friends from the old days. Often, they gave me names of our members (mostly deceased) that I didn't even recognize. It was during such encounters that I felt certain it was our Post and the generations of members' hard work and goodwill that laid the perfect environment for me. I was at the apex of 60 years of struggle and hope, and that fact is sobering. I came to the realization of who I am, what I represent, and the simple fact that I can not fail. I am happy to report I did not disgrace the good name of this Post and your support and faith in me was not misplaced.

With our Post taking on a more active role in the 21st century, we are also receiving more attention by the mainstream of society. We were honored to have Secretary of Labor, Elaine Chao pay homage to Chinese-American veterans by laying a wreath at the Lt. Kimlau Memorial during her visit to Chinatown after 9-11. We were very pleased that Commander Moy and I were invited to the White House to participate in the 2002 Asian-Pacific Islander Heritage Month celebration. We were equally excited to have accepted on behalf of the Asian community, the State of New York 2002 Asian-Pacific Islander Heritage Month Proclamation from Governor Pataki. The Post also was honored by several community organizations in appreciation of our cooperation and/or services to the community. We are not looking for glory, that's not our reason to serve, but it certainly makes everyone feel good to be appreciated.

The War on Terrorism has been going on for over 3 years. Our Post is involved deeply in the support of our troops programs – Blue Star, Gold Star, Family Support Network ... We are happy that a few of the returning

warriors joined our ranks, especially the celebrity of Bagdad fame – Marine Sergeant Edward Chin. While we welcome the joyous homecoming of many, we also share the sorrow of loss with the families of SPC Roger Ling, SPC Doran Chan, and CPL Jeffrey Lam. These three brave men gave the supreme sacrifice in Operation Iraqi Freedom so that other people can live free. They will always be remembered in our hearts. To memorialize the first Chinese-American casualty in our area, the Post approved the creation of a scholarship to honor SPC Roger Ling, for his patriotism and selfless services for God and Country. We look forward to work and provide all necessary assistance to the new generation of veterans – for they are the torchbearers of our future.

I am delighted to report that after 58 years, our Post finally moves into the 21st century with the creation of an Auxiliary Unit and a Sons of American Legion Squadron in 2003. These two additional organizations completed the Legion Family for the Lt. Kimlau Post. The Ladies of the Auxiliary Unit really hit the ground running. Their performance for the first two years has far exceeded anyone's expectations. With membership on the rise and morale high, their potential is unlimited. We are very proud to call the ladies our equal partner. While the ladies are doing extremely well, I cannot say the same for the SAL Squadron. Maybe because of their youth and inexperience, maybe because of the lack of proper guidance, or maybe because of whatever, we have a challenge at hand and the Post should and must provide the necessary resources to ensure it gets on the right track soon. They are part of our future too!

The past five years have been wonderful for me. When I wanted to step down as Adjutant four years ago to concentrate on the campaign for Department Commander, I was told "It's OK, keep the Adjutant job. We'll help you". History repeated itself over the next few years when I was going through my duties as Department Commander and later as National Vice-Commander. Whenever I asked for relief of the Adjutant's duties, I was always told the same answer, "You can do whatever you want in the Legion and we'll support you 100%, but you must keep your job as Adjutant". True to their words, as I traveled and was away from my duties at the Post, much of the office workload was cared for. We didn't have any serious problems for the last few years that I know of (sometimes I wondered if we really need an Adjutant). With a somewhat guilty conscience and much gratitude I must thank the Commanders – Wing Y. Tam, Stanley Moy, and Wan Y. Tam and the other officers for their understanding, cooperation, trust, and friendship. They 'took care of the store' when their Adjutant was on the road – Campaigning, County Visitation, Department Visitation, Conferences, etc... I have to admit, sometimes it is very hard and a struggle to be on the road constantly, with fulltime employment and family requirements. However, when I am ever in doubt of what I am doing, I would often reflect back of who I am, what I represent, and the simple fact is that I can not fail. With that in mind I often take a deep breath and keep going with the knowledge that many of you back here are cheering me on. A special personal thank you must go to Assistant Adjutant Wing Y. Tam for his hard work the last three years in support of your invisible Adjutant and to our PPC Peter Woo, who gave so much to our Post since its inception. For the past decade PPC Woo has served as a mentor for the younger group, especially for me – his support and encouragement, his counseling and guidance, and his friendship will always be treasured in my heart.

The State of our Post is simple – We are alive and well. What we need is the younger generation to join the active ranks to carry-on the tradition. We have traveled this road for 60 years with hard work and determination. We are enjoying the fruits from the labor of the past generation. But there is a new generation of veterans returning home, who need our help and attention. Their well-being could easily be determined by whether we have a strong enough voice or action to demand a Government mandate to do the right thing – honor and serve those who served before in our great nation. Won't you please join us? – Become Active!



幹事報告

黃宏達

很難相信，從一九九七年接任代理、代理幹事到真除幹事一職，至今不覺已超過八年。我從來不曾想過幹事一職會做到如今。

五十五周年紀念特刊，我有幸參與並提出報告。五年後的六十周年慶典特刊，我當然不會例外。我是懷著興奮及榮譽的心情，再次向大家報告過去五年本會所經歷重大事情。五年來本會內、外都發生不少影響深遠的大、小事，其中有悲有喜，有些值得我們檢討改進，有些值得我們慶幸安慰，更有些值得我們深感自豪。

五年中最沉重悲哀的莫過于九一一世貿大樓被恐怖份子襲擊，而引起數千的無辜生命傷亡及財產損失。由於本會身處災區邊緣，大部分會員都能親身體會到恐怖份子的殘酷，整個華埠社區民眾在生活上及心理上遭受到的打擊，以及整個社區經濟所遭到直接及間接的影響，相信多數人都永遠不能忘記。但此一慘痛事件，卻也帶來了華埠社區一個團結及新生的機會。在九一一之後舉行的燭光晚會，我首次感覺到，華裔和其他所有的族裔一樣，都深深地感受到這一事件為大家所帶來的悲傷。而在這一沉痛時候，大家都能心連心地團結在一起。隨後的歲月中，我們得到來自聯邦政府以下各級單位的援助，社區也主動地組織了不同的服務項目及工作計劃，以振興社區，重建社區。可喜的是，本會在這次悠關社區前途洪流中，並沒有缺席，分別由前主席朱灼輝組織的義工們，及前主席譚永源代表出席中華公所各種不同的救災重建活動中，本會很多同人，默默地也捐獻了我們可以擔當的工作，盡一份心力。同時本會也適時擔任了其他退伍軍人友會支援紐約災區活動的橋樑，分配遠道送來的物資及其他聯絡工作。我敢信，經由此一不幸事件，我們及社區都從痛苦中取得教訓，雖然代價是那麼巨大，但社區和我們學會更堅強、更合作，重建更美好的明天。

九一一之後，軍人會全國總會立即宣布成立“九一一軍人子弟獎學基金”，以幫助那些為反恐戰爭而捐軀的軍人後代。本會當即由梅蔭蓀主席及前主席陳英和帶領，展開籌款運動以支持此一獎學基金。短短期間，蒙社區人士及各會員力助，募得超過二萬元上交總會。這個數目雖然不是很大，但我們支持和感謝為保障我們自由而在反恐前線上作戰的戰士的心意是非常明顯的。此一獎學金籌款活動，一直持續進行，現在本會每年都還有捐獻活動。

服務社區是我們一貫的目標，前主席譚永源於二零零一年與紐約下城醫院合作在本會創辦了“太極養生班”，由本會李自元、鄭榮耀及林善群三位擔任教導之責。四年來已經訓練了超過五百多名學員。大都能從學習太極中取得健康之道。上述三位會員勞苦功高，理應致謝！最近本會譚煥瑜主席又與聖雲仙醫院合作開辦“針灸治療班”，服務社區人士，以期讓在這個忙碌社會中，日常工作備受壓力的居民，能接受到適當的治療，舒解壓力，享受人生。

五年前的特刊中，我曾提到在一九九八年全國年會中，代表本會捐贈建立“二次大戰紀念陵園”款項的光榮。在去年國殤節周末，我以同樣興奮、榮幸的心情與二十位本會會友及家眷，一同參加在華盛頓特區舉行的“二次大戰紀念陵園”揭幕典禮。本會前任主席伍覺良，更被獲選為紐約州的美國退伍軍人總會代表出席觀禮，此非單為伍覺良主席的光榮，本會同人實亦與有榮焉！該周末我曾漫步紀念陵園內與從各地而來的二次大戰勇士們在一起，看到他們有些興致高昂地追憶昔日豪情壯志，也看到他們有些熱淚盈眶地沉思失落的戰友。在這些勇士面前，我是覺得那麼卑微，敢信當日的感受，一生都不會忘記。那些最偉大的一代勇士們，始終都不會苛求什麼，雖然興建這個陵園是拖了超過半個世紀的歲月，他們

還是以充滿感謝的心情，向未曾忘記他們的國家致意。我深切希望美國以至整個世界，都永遠不忘記他們為全人類的自由而付出的貢獻。我們在他們還餘下的黃金歲月裏，一定要好好的照顧他們。

過去五年中，發生很多值得興奮的事。但最重要的莫如本會在美國退伍軍人會大家庭裏所獲得的肯定及重視。兩年前紐約州選出了第一位由本會推薦的紐約州總會主席，隨後去年本會又產生了第一位全國副主席。誠然由於我是被選中這兩個重要職位的幸運兒，從而在過去這兩年中得到了不少來自各方面的鼓勵及肯定。但我必須指出，這並不是單憑我個人能力所能創造出來的榮譽。這個成果是正如本會六十周年慶典主題所標榜的“貢獻”、“融入”、“進步”三部曲。我只不過是適逢其會，佔了天時、地利、人和之光而矣。我之能夠當選，基因于本會前輩們五十多年的耕耘，努力。我之能夠當選，是因為其他分會及州會對本會的尊重和認同。我之能夠當選，也歸因於大家體會到本會對軍人會各項活動的重要性。所以我的當選，有一大部分是因為本會前輩們在戰場上、在社區中數十年來所默默地流下的血汗，今天收到成果。這條艱辛的路，他們在六十年前就已經開始走了。

籌備競選州總會主席，是一件既興奮但又很疲倦的工作。長達超過兩年的計劃及籌款活動，往往會令大多數人望而卻步，但本會在各前任主席，尤其是伍覺良前主席及梅蔭蓀主席的領導下，我們組成一支堅強的陣容來應付各種挑戰。我們有一群充滿活力及熱情，但卻短缺競選經驗的義工。他們在朱灼輝、譚永源、譚煥瑜幾位帶領下，與來自紐約郡及布朗士郡的友會義工們合作無間。在各項競選活動中都有出色表現，至今還令人津津樂道。古語有云“大軍未動，糧草先行”，我們的競選經費，也在大家的努力下，取得極之優異的成績，使得我們無後顧之憂。在此我也特向本會會友以及僑社各界友好的大力支持，表示衷心謝意。

過去兩年來因為職位的之故，我走遍了紐約州及美東各地，訪問各分會及參加他們的活動。所到之處都受到熱烈歡迎。但最驚人的是每每有該地會友和我談及本會或問候他們從前認識的本會會員（其中大部分名字都是我不認識的），正是此點，令我警覺到，我是踏著前賢五十多年來辛苦建立的根基上獲得成果的。此一發現令我反省到，我站出去已不單是代表個人的榮譽，更代表著華裔退伍軍人會整體的聲譽。對此我覺得自己的責任更重大，我絕對不能失錯。兩年忙碌的日子過去了，我可以向大家報告，我並沒有為本會聲譽失分，也沒有辜負大家對我的信任及支持。

當本會在踏進新世紀後，日漸加重與社區及主流社會的接觸時，外界對本會的肯定也相對增加。例如勞工部趙小蘭部長訪問九一一華埠災區時，特別要求到“華裔軍人忠烈坊”獻花。又如我有幸與梅蔭蓀主席應邀到白宮參與慶祝二零零二年“亞太裔月”活動。又再如我們代表亞裔接受紐約州長所頒發的“亞太裔月”褒揚狀。以至其他社區友好團體贈予本會的榮譽，在在都令我們愧不敢當。誠然本會服務社區，並不是以希望獲得贊揚或掌聲為目的，但得到外界的認同，畢竟也是令我們高興及開心的事。

反恐戰爭，已進入三年多了，本會提供的各種相關服務，亦已展開多時。我們很高興得到數位解甲歸田的戰士參加了我們的行列，尤其是在巴格達“一掛成名”的陳同歡。但當我們為他們平安的歸來而高興時，也要為三位不幸壯烈為國捐軀的英魂，以及他們的家人，致以無限的祝福。凌志騰、陳瀚、林呈宏三位年青的戰士，為他們所熱愛的國家及為伊拉克人民的自由與希望，光榮地獻出他們寶貴的生命，他們的名字將永遠活在我們的心中。本會也為紀念美東地區第一位成仁的戰士，特在凌志騰高中母校成立“獎學金”，以表彰青年愛國及無私奉獻的精神。我們非常樂意與年青一代的退伍軍人合作，提供各種需要的援助，因為他們代表著我們的將來！

我非常高興向大家報告，經過五十八年的努力，我們終於組成了“華裔退伍軍人婦女會”及“退伍軍人子弟部”，從而完成了整個退伍軍人大家庭的組織。婦女會經由各成員的通力合作，在過去兩年中不斷茁壯擴展，參與各種服務不遺餘力，短短期間取得驚人成果及獲得各界表揚，真的超出大家的期望。比

較而言，子弟部卻由於年歲尚幼及未能有效組織動員之故，是以表現差強人意，有待來年加以改進。本會同人亦應對他們多加鼓勵及支持，因為子弟部成員，也代表著我們的將來！

過去五年，我曾有數次機會提出要求從幹事崗位上退下來，以便集中精神於競選州主席工作。但每次都被告知，“你一定要留任幹事，但不用擔心，我們會幫助你。”後來還有幾次請辭，想專心於州主席及全國總會副主席的工作，所得到的回答卻是“你需要競選什麼職位、做什麼都可以，我們都會百分之一百支持你，但你幹事一職不能辭。”結果你們沒有違背諾言，這三年來我不斷的因州總會或全國總會事情四處奔波，在會中時間並不多，然而會務工作，都在各職員協力下完成，並沒有發生什麼重大失誤。因此我在此懷著一顆“內疚”的心，向五年來三位極力支持我的主席們 - 譚永源、梅蔭蓀、譚煥瑜以及其他所有職員們，致以深深的謝意，多謝大家對我的信任、合作、諒解、及友誼。我也必須向大家坦白，在過去數年中，那些永不停止的奔波，除了有時感到辛苦及疲倦外，很多時也會對本身工作及在家庭生活中形成種種不便，令我產生矛盾，我也曾發出疑問，自己是否到了應該停止的時候？但每當我想到“不如歸去”時，我便會想到我所肩負的使命，我體認到我現在走出去，並不單純只代表我個人，我還代表了整個華裔退伍軍人會的榮譽，我不能失職，更不能出錯。我同時也會體會到在我身後，更有你們一大群人為我鼓舞打氣、加油，思考到此，那些煩惱及憂慮，也就隨風而散，變得無關重要了。我要感謝我們的助理幹事譚永源，他這三年來辛勞工作，沒有埋怨。更要特別感謝的是本會前任主席伍覺良，他對本會的貢獻，從創建到購買樓業為本會奠定不朽根基，都是大家有目共睹的。但更難能可貴的是他過去十數年來，不斷提攜後輩，極力給予我們磨練、發揮的機會，對我來說，真的是獲益良多。他的支持和鼓勵，他的指導及啟示，以及他亦師亦友的情誼，將永遠銘記在我的心中。

會情報告其實很簡單，五年來本會會務，在各方面都有進步，更充實和更有活力。我們一向所需要的是更年青的新血液來補充我們的行列。過去一甲子時光，大家用勤奮及毅力創造了本會今天的成果。在我們歡欣慶祝的時候，我們絕不能忘記下一代的退伍軍人正源源不絕地從戰場上退下來，回到社會中，他們現在或未來所需要的照顧和幫助，應該由我們這一代去為他們安排，我們一定要有最堅強的聲音來向政府及各界表達我們的訴求 - 以保證那些為國家服役，流血流汗的將士們都能得到國家最好的照顧。請以行動來表達你對他們的支持 - 積極參加本會各種活動！

美國歷次戰爭將士傷亡記錄

Lest We Forget

	Total Deaths	Wounded	POW-MIA
WW I	116,516	204,002	
WW II	405,399	670,846	78,773
KOREA	54,246	103,284	15,177
VIETNAM	58,135	153,303	2,267
WAR ON TERRORISM*	1,777	12,834	

* As of May 5, 2005

Freedom Is Not Free