



Ventura County Chinese American Association VCCAA



Newsletter

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www.vccaa.org

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<https://vccls.wikispaces.com>

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* * * *

VCCAA Newsletter

P.O. Box 806
Camarillo, CA 93011

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Greetings from the President

Dear VCCAA members and friends,



It's been a long time since the last newsletter. The VCCAA Board and I hope that you have been healthy and safe. Even though we haven't been able to resume our normal association activities, we have continued to participate in activities in our community.

Since I was involved with registering Chinese American WWII veterans to receive the Congressional Gold Medal (CGM) in Ventura County, my husband Ricky and I were invited to be members of the SoCal CGM Committee tasked to deliver the medal to the over 400 registered veterans in Southern California. Our first assignment focused on the living veterans since most were in their mid-90s. It was an honor and a humbling experience to meet with these veterans and their families, from Carlsbad and National City, to Rancho Mirage, Monterey Park, Silverlake, Ventura and Santa Paula. Our first veteran almost cried and said that he wished his wife could be there when he received his medal. Another veteran described his experience fighting in the Battle of the Bulge where he lost some of his hearing, got frostbite on his feet, and almost lost part of his leg when he was accidentally shot by one of his fellow soldiers. He offered some wise advice: before people go to war, they should talk it over at a conference table, because a lot of innocent people will be killed. This really touched my heart and it is still so true today. Sadly, we just found out that he passed away in August of last year. On April 11, 2021, we delivered the CGM to Arnold Jue at his home in Santa Paula. A ceremony including a color guard, state and local dignitaries, including Congresswoman Julia Brownley, County Supervisor Carmen Ramirez, Santa Paula Mayor Rick Araiza, family and VCCAA members were present.

VCCAA teamed up with the Chinese American Heritage Foundation to take part in a unified nationwide rally for National Day of Solidarity Against AAPI Hate on May 31, 2021. Our Ventura County Rally was held at Constitution Park in Camarillo. We had an impressive lineup of speakers including Dr. George Yu, Judge Kee Choo Ling, County Supervisor Carmen Ramirez, Kim Stephenson, Annie Cho, Anouk Hirano, Dr. Wenli Jen, and Dr. Jeffrey Davies. Dr. Shiuman Lee gave a moving talk about his personal relationship with Vincent Chin. After the rally, Judge Ling offered to teach a free self-defense class to anyone who was interested. He followed up a year later in May 2022 with another free self-defense class. Thank you so much, Judge Ling!

On November 14, 2021, VCCAA was a co-sponsor to a CGM Ceremony at the VFW Museum of Military History in the Simi Valley Towne Center. Local Chinese American WWII veterans' families with ties to Ventura County received their long overdue medals and recognition for their service to our country. Members of our association served as volunteers. Honored veterans included Albert Fong Chan, Edwin Lowe, William Soo Hoo, Edward Soo Hoo, Sonny Leo, Donald Jue, and Yit Sang Jew.

Cathy Tom's father, George O. Soo Hoo, was awarded a combat medal, the Bronze Star, in addition to his CGM because the generals reviewing his discharge paper determined that should have received the medal during the war. My father-in-law, Sonny Leo, was also recognized by Maj. Gen. Robert Lee after he did some research on how my father-in-law received his Silver Star medal. He carried a wounded comrade to safety, through 500 yards, 5 football fields, of mortar and gun fire during the Battle of the Bulge.

Continued on next page →

Greetings from the President (cont.)

I would like to thank all of the volunteers who made this event a success with a special recognition of Richard Lu who did the Chinese calligraphy for the awards we presented to Major Generals Robert Lee, Suzanne Vares-Lum and Ted Wong and Chinese American Citizens Alliance National President Melanie Chan. Thanks to Richard and Yong Ping Chen for the calligraphy provided to the participants at the event. An article about the event published in the Acorn, summarized it as “Overdue Recognition”.

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PHOTO BY THE SIMI VALLEY ACORN

DISTINGUISHED APPRECIATION—From top: Major General Robert Lee, Major General Suzanne Vares-Lum, Major General Ted Wong, and Chinese American Citizens Alliance National President Melanie Chan. The group is shown at the award ceremony.



PHOTO BY THE SIMI VALLEY ACORN

HONOREES—Major General Robert Lee, Major General Suzanne Vares-Lum, Major General Ted Wong, and Chinese American Citizens Alliance National President Melanie Chan. The group is shown at the award ceremony.



PHOTO BY THE SIMI VALLEY ACORN

FOR THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS—Major General Robert Lee, Major General Suzanne Vares-Lum, Major General Ted Wong, and Chinese American Citizens Alliance National President Melanie Chan. The group is shown at the award ceremony.

OVERDUE RECOGNITION

Chinese American veterans and their families receive well-earned award at Simi ceremony

By [Name]

The award ceremony was held at the Simi Valley Acorn on November 10, 2021. The event was attended by a large number of guests, including family members and friends of the honorees. The ceremony was a touching and memorable occasion for all who attended.

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In February 2022, George Yu and I presented a “Moment of Inspiration” to the County Board of Supervisors. We highlighted the historical and present day contributions of the Chinese in Ventura County. I also participated in a virtual Lunar New Year ceremony with California State University Channel Islands on behalf of VCCAA, discussing the history and contributions of the Chinese in Ventura County and the projects that our association has worked on.

As a representative of our association, I participated at the inaugural Asian American/Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander Festival at King Gillette Ranch in Calabasas on May 21, 2022. We were invited to the event by Sophia Wong with the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreational Area. There were dance and live musical performances, Taiko drums, and various craft tables. We had a table where the people could come to have their names written in Chinese calligraphy and fold an origami swan. We had a long line waiting throughout the event. Thanks Lee May Little for providing the red paper for me to write on and my friend Julie Myers for doing the origami.

Looking forward, we will be resuming our monthly board meetings to discuss what activities we can offer to our members given that the pandemic is still a concern for many of us. Possibilities are on-line programs featuring guest speakers and educational programs. Let’s be creative. VCCAA is still a strong and vital organization with many ties in the community. I would love to hear from you. Please feel free to contact me with your thoughts and suggestions.

This is also the time of the year to renew your membership. Please fill out the membership form in this newsletter or download from our website and send in your renewals.

Grace 廖陳淑芬

Congressional Gold Medal Ceremony for Arnold Jue April 11, 2021



Ventura County Rally for National Day of Solidarity Against AAPI Hate Constitution Park – May 31, 2021



L to R: Shiuman & Bette Lee, Judge Kee Choo Ling, Dr. George Yu, Anouk Hirano, Mary Kay Daniel Yu, Annie Cho, Grace Leo, Kim Stephenson, County Supervisor Carmen Ramirez, Betty-Jean Hanna-Baker, Dr. Jeffrey Davies, Ricky Leo



Congressional Gold Medal Ceremony VFW Museum of Military History - November 14, 2022



The Congressional Gold Medal for Chinese American WWII Veterans



Congressional Gold Medal Ceremony VFW Museum of Military History - November 14, 2022



L-R: Maj. Gen. Ted Wong,
Christian Tom, Cathy Tom,
Maj. Gen. Robert Lee,
Maj. Gen. Suzanne Vares-Lum



Ricky, Grace & Jennifer Leo



Harold Soo Hoo & Family

Congressional Gold Medal Ceremony VFW Museum of Military History - November 14, 2022



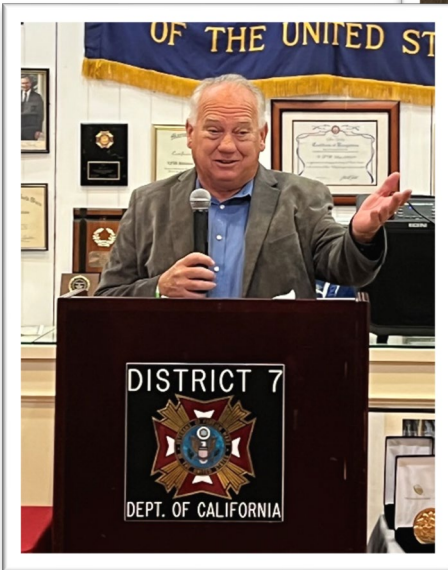
Flo Lowe & Richard Lu



Our Emcee Dorina Timbol



SoCal CGM Committee



Simi Valley Mayor
Keith Mashburn



Congressional Gold Medal Ceremony VFW Museum of Military History - November 14, 2022



Brian Soo Hoo
& Family



Maj. Gen. Robert Lee,
Patty Chan,
Congressman Mike Garcia



Maj. Gen.
Ted Wong,
Donna Jue,
Shirley Jue
Melvin



Jadene Moon,
Henson Jue,
Maj. Gen Suzanne
Vares-Lum

Congressional Gold Medal Ceremony VFW Museum of Military History - November 14, 2022

Tony Boucher,
C.A.C.A. Nat.
Pres.
Melane Chan,
Congressman
Mike Garcia



Dr. George & Mary Kay Yu



Our neighbor Tulima provided
transportation services,
Eugene Moy, &
Maj. Gen Robert Lee



Richard & Alex Lu

**Asian American/Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander Festival
King Gillette Ranch – May 21, 2022**



Julie Myers



Sophia Wong



Chinese Historical Society of Southern California – Anne Olivares, David Castro, Coryn Hardison & her fiance

VCCAA Scholarship Recipients by Irene Sy, Chair

This is to share with you the recipients of our scholarships as follow. Thank you Andy for your time to help select the recipients.

1. Tony Chen Scholarship (\$750) - Awarded to Kate Lan, Rio Mesa High School, Oxnard, CA

2. VCCAA Scholarship (\$500) - Awarded to Dylan Davis, Nordhoff High School, Ojai, CA

The College and Career counselor from respective schools has been informed regarding the award.

Kate Lan was presented the Tony Chen Scholarship at Rio Mesa High School on June 1.



Ventura County Chinese-American Association

P.O. Box 806
Camarillo, CA 93011-0806

VCCAA MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Dues are \$25 per family per year (July 1 to June 30)

New Member \$25 **Renewal \$25** **Lifetime Member \$500**

Make check payable to: VCCAA

(Please print or type)

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I am interested in _____

I hereby apply for membership in the Ventura County Chinese American Association. I realize that the association is not liable for individual association members at association activities. I understand that during association activities, my image and/or my family members may be taken by the association.

Signed: _____ Date: _____

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The Ventura County Chinese American Association

Dance Troupe

is currently welcoming new dancers!



All classes are currently open

Sunday 9:30am - 11:00am
(Intermediate & Advanced)

Monday 4:30pm - 6:00pm
(Beginner)

Dancers must be at least 5 years of age.
No experience needed. All dancers welcome.

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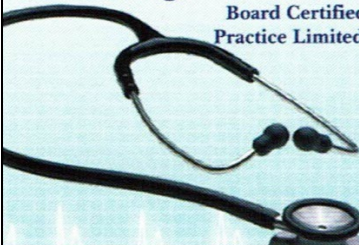
Dr. Yong Ping Chen
 Professor at 3 U.S. Oriental Medical Universities
 Earned MD., Ph.D. Degree in China
 Practiced 26 years in China & the U.S.

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Upcoming Events



WHAT	WHEN	WHERE	Point of Contact

If you get a chance to visit Yosemite National Park this summer, make sure you see the Chinese Laundry next to the Wawona Hotel. It is a recognition by the National Park Service of the contributions made to the national park by Chinese immigrants.

The VFW Museum of Military History in the Simi Valley Town Center is a great place to visit. You can see the Congressional Gold Medal that was awarded to Chinese American WWII veterans. You can view the videos of the ceremonies by clicking on the following links:

Morning session: <https://tinyurl.com/58dmsb63> Afternoon session: <https://tinyurl.com/3hh4cu5p>

Membership Renewal Reminder

If you have not renewed your VCCAA membership for 2022-2023, please send your check for \$25, made payable to VCCAA
P.O. Box 806
Camarillo, CA 93001-0806.



Please fill out and enclose the membership form on Page 11, including any changes to your physical address, email address, or contact phone number so we can update the directory.