



**Generals Ward & Chennault & LT Helseth China Post 1 Poop Sheet**

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**Welcome from the Commander**

By 騎龍魁 Ron Burkett, Post Commander

I will keep this short because we have a lot of great input from our well run Poop Sheet Team. Organizations cannot survive if people do not step up to grab the reins and help run the organization.

We also need to think about continuity of operations. With this in mind, I have put a mix of younger members and seasoned members on the Executive Committee. Since the last reunion I put Scott Riebel on the Executive Committee. I am talking to another member who has more current service and pertinent experience. We look forward to growing a good team to help China Post 1.

Just a reminder, you can keep posted on the Reunion in San Antonio, TX this year at the webpage; the registration form will be posted on this page: <http://xebo.org/chinapost1.us/post-reunion>.

**Adjutant's Corner**

By 璿麟士 Jim Lint, Post Adjutant

It is coming upon a year that I have been the Adjutant for China Post 1. It has been a learning experience and a fun project for Anna and me. I joined China Post 1 as my first American Legion post back in 1990.

The Adjutant's office has been set up as a virtual office, and Anna and I have been able to reply to mail and get problems solved while on the road. There is no office rental expense. We operate out of our house when we are there. We operate off the laptop at other times. This is good because our American Legion National

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Headquarters is really virtual to us, since I have never been there, but I have made contacts at National that help solve problems. I have run virtual organizations in the past and even the federal government is now running offices with its employees teleworking via computer. The future is here and your Post is part of it!

This brings me to our next topic. The China Post 1 postal address has been in Henderson, NV for a year. The US Postal Service recently sent us an email saying our ability to forward mail from the Houston post office box (POB) is long past and will be stopping. (It took them awhile to catch on.) We have been out of the Houston POB for a couple of years, and the Fate, TX POB is probably due to stop forwarding mail also. Our address for the last year has been:

**American Legion, China Post 1  
P.O. Box 50858  
Henderson, NV 89016-0858**

As members and leaders we should always be thinking of ways to improve. While China Post 1 is great, I have never seen anything that cannot be improved. (Maybe the only exception would be me -- but even Anna says I need some improvement!) Think about ways we, in China Post 1, can improve or help our members. Most businesses have a box for suggestions. Some of those boxes have migrated to online forms. So, if you have new ideas or suggestions for improving China Post 1, let me know by sending me an email at [Adjutant@ChinaPost1.email](mailto:Adjutant@ChinaPost1.email). We are here to help our members.

The 2019 Membership Year starts on 1 July. If you have not renewed you may do so [online](#) or at [https://www.members.legion.org/CGI-BIN/lansaweb?webapp=MYLRENEW+webtrn=wr\\_memberdata+ml=LANSA:XHTML+part=TAL+lang=ENG](https://www.members.legion.org/CGI-BIN/lansaweb?webapp=MYLRENEW+webtrn=wr_memberdata+ml=LANSA:XHTML+part=TAL+lang=ENG)

Renewing your membership online is easy. If you have forgotten your membership number, shoot me an email to [Adjutant@ChinaPost1.email](mailto:Adjutant@ChinaPost1.email) and I will find it for you.

We should soon have information on a Department of France trip to Paris in 2019. The Department of France has initiated a dialog with the Paris Tourism and Visitors Bureau, and they are in the final stages of getting that letter ready to go. Once that is done we will be rolling fast. China Post 1 and the Department of France were born in 1919. It is a good excuse to travel with your China Post 1 family.

*Please remember to confirm your address if you had a recent move, or changed your email address. Keep in touch, and we can get your renewal cards to you in a timely manner.*

## Thoughts on Membership

*By Ken Orrock*

Why is membership so important and why do leaders in the American Legion make such a big deal about it? That is a very good question, and one that is often fielded by leadership and membership chairs in the organization. The simple answer is numbers. Not numbers when it comes to money, although membership dues pay for the majority of our programs. Not numbers so posts and departments have bragging rights about size; many smaller posts are more active, and do more for the veterans in their communities than a mega-post. Numbers because of these simple mathematical formulas: Number of members = Number of Voters, and Number of Voters = Level of Influence with Elected Officials.

You can never underestimate the influence the American Legion has had over the past 100 years because of our size. Veterans vote at significantly higher percentages than the general population. Because of that, as an organization, we have the ability to have a strong and listened-to voice in the Halls of Congress, in our State Houses and at our City Halls. There was a time when the National Commander could boast that he represented over two-million veterans who were members of the American Legion. Although we have been reduced in size with the continued passing of our WWII veterans, and now our Korean War veterans, the American Legion still has a strong voice when it comes to directing our elected officials to do what is right by us.

Every major piece of veterans' legislation passed since 1919 has passed because of the research, support and influence of the Legion. Although other organizations, from time to time, try to claim credit, it was the Legion that wrote and insured the passage of the GI Bill over the objections of other veterans' organizations. It was the Legion that funded research into the effects of Agent Orange exposure, and then fought to have the conditions associated with that exposure presumed to be service connected for our Vietnam veterans. It is the Legion that continues to lead the fight for concurrent receipts of both retirement and disability benefits. And the only reason the Legion has been able to do these things is because our massed voices resound with a boom when we walk the halls of power because of the number of members we have.

So the next time we get bored with yet another membership pitch, or with the press to get new members in our ranks, remember the math, remember the results and remember that if we don't protect what has already been won at great cost, the next generation of veterans will have to fight all over again for what we have.

Membership = Votes and politicians fear the wrath of veterans united behind a common cause more than they fear anything else. Make the pledge to just sign up one new member this year, and you can help double the influence of China Post1!

## 2018 New Members

Month	Name
January 2018	BRYON KENT, JAMES M. GENTILE, PATRICK J. SHEEHAN, CHARLES E. THOMPSON (4)
February 2018	MICHAEL A. ZAKREWSKY, GEORGE S. CRAWFORD, DANIEL HERRERA, JOE W. WALTER JR. (4)
March 2018	RICHARD L. APEL, STEVEN P. VAN BERGEN, JOSEPH CAVALLERO, LANCE T. RIEBEL, VICTOR H. HARRIS, CHERYL A. BORDEN (6)
April 2018	LARRY J. RATTS, JAMES ROACH, STEVE A. WAGERS, JAMES C. NICKLOW, JOHN H. ALLEN, RAINWATER BRIAN, SCOTT W WILSON, JAKIE W SNAPP JR (8)

## The History of China Post 1

By 龍飛龍 *Scott Riebel, Post Historian*

I am seeking copies of missing Poop Sheets. I do not have Poop Sheets 151 – 192, which effectively cover China Post 1 history through the 1980s. Consequently, the history of the Post for this period will rely heavily on oral accounts attributable to their authors. Therefore, I am asking anyone with access to those Poop Sheets, who would like to contribute to China Post 1 history in a substantial manner, to please forward them to me at [Historian@ChinaPost1.email](mailto:Historian@ChinaPost1.email) so that I can make copies. Anything submitted will be returned.

In addition, anyone who might willing to relate their experiences in the international community (subject to non-disclosure restrictions) for publication in Part 3 of China Post's history, please contact me directly at [Historian@ChinaPost1.email](mailto:Historian@ChinaPost1.email). Part 3 will be completed and published before the 100 year anniversary.

## Dragon Fund Donors

Month	Name (Donors)
February 2018	EVERETT L. THOMPSON, VICTOR L. ROLLANDI, GEORGE S. CRAWFORD, STEPHEN L. SACK, JAMES R. LINT, MICHAEL MCFARLAND, HUGH E. MURRAY II (7)
March 2018	FRANK H. THOMAS, ANNA H. LINT, VICTOR H. HARRIS, CHERYL A. BORDEN, TERRIL R. GRAY (5)
April 2018	S. GAYLE MALONE, MICHAEL E. EVANS, JAMES C. NICKLOW, PAUL CURTIS, JAMES R. LINT (5)

## China Post 1 Sons of the American Legion Squadron

By Joe Gentile, *Squadron Commander*

More than 40 of the China Post 1 t-shirts offered in the last Poop Sheet have been purchased by China Post 1 members supporting the American Legion Legacy Scholarships.

## China Post 1 Dragon Riders

By 龍飛龍 *Scott "Renegade" Riebel, China Post 1 Dragon Riders Director*

### A Couple of Things for You to Consider

Hello everyone,

The Dragon Riders have a Facebook presence enabling us to stay in contact and share local events. The address: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1874039582610559> is there for you. Just click on the link and join the discussion. The more the merrier.

The Dragon riders were established in 2006 by our current commander Ron Burkett. Since its inception we have kept the dues at a nominal rate to encourage people to join and maintain their membership. Our annual dues have been \$10 per YEAR; let me repeat that \$10 per YEAR for the last twelve years. Ten bucks, that's three

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gallons of gas; it won't buy you one good micro brew; it will buy you a gallon of milk and dozen eggs and half a loaf of bread. Ten bucks will still buy you a sixer of the white label near beer. Ten dollars annually is less than \$.85 per month. THAT'S LESS THAN EIGHTY FIVE CENTS PER MONTH.

So let's remind ourselves what the dues cover; we collect dues to support the American Legion Legacy Scholarship fund which tries to ensure that higher education is a possibility for children whose parents lost their lives while serving our country. Beginning with the 2017 award year, The American Legion expanded the scholarship to include children of VA-rated, post-9/11 veterans with a combined disability rating of 50 percent or higher. AND YOUR CONTRIBUTION IS TAX DEDUCTIBLE!!!

I am not going to make this decision unilaterally. I personally would like to see dues increase to \$25 annually or just a little more than \$2.00 per month. Now many of you already donate \$50, \$100 and in some cases \$200 annually and I certainly appreciate it. Your generosity allowed us to raise nearly \$2,500 for the Legacy Fund last year. That's a significant amount considering the size of our organization. So let me hear from you. Let's get this discussion rolling on your Facebook page.

One last thought, Harley is recalling their brakes on their 2009-2011 dressers because owners aren't following the manufacturer's recommendation to change the fluid every two years, and their brakes are suddenly failing. So go get your brakes checked.

## Emblem Sales

The new China Post 1 Centennial coins are now available. These coins are numbered up to 100. The cost is \$15 per coin. The coins are 2" in diameter.



For further information or to purchase a coin, contact Rey Quijano at [EmblemSales@ChinaPost1.email](mailto:EmblemSales@ChinaPost1.email).

## Memorial Division News

### Nevada Memorial Division

#### Nevada Memorial Division

By 璩璩士 Jim Lint

**THE NEVADA MEMORIAL DIVISION APRIL MEETING WAS HELD ON SUNDAY, APRIL 15, 2018 AT 7:56 PM:**

1. Round the Table Introductions and Comments.
2. Two visitors: Sons of the American Legion (SAL) Vice Commander (Leroy Cockrell) and Auxiliary (AUX) President (Linda Cockrell).

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3. Mike Kandt gave an update of the museum at the University of Texas. He also donated a flag from the days when Senator Goldwater certified flags. He said it was the property of China Post 1. The Air America Reunion will be held in Seattle. They are losing members as they march off the parade field.
  4. Emblem Sales: Rey Quijano has been having good sales of the China Post 1 Centennial coin (numbered up to 100) for a cost of \$15 per coin. China Post 1 started in 1919 in Shanghai, China and we are approaching 2019.
  5. SAL Vice Commander Leroy Cockrell shared his story of joining SAL (because of his step father). SAL is working hard to recruit members via LinkedIn (cooperating with the SAL Adjutant Corey Kilburn). That is a smart use of technology especially for our younger members.
  6. Auxiliary President Linda Cockrell welcomed the challenges of her first year leading the AUX and enjoys the members.
  7. Dan Adkins is the current Vice Commander of the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Post 3848, Nevada. He introduced the book, "Round Bend". Dan is in the running as a commander of VFW Post 3848. He has been an active member and definitely showing leadership and diplomacy at the Fish Fry every Friday. That VFW Post has a China Post 1 banner welcoming China Post 1 members.
  8. Jim Lint Comments: Jim discussed the role of the virtual office (China Post 1 is the perfect organization for a virtual office). Stop sending mail to the Houston and Fate Post Office Box! (USPS sent him a notice that they are stopping the forwarding service). John Lear has offered to hold one monthly meeting at his home. (Mike will see him and coordinate a pick up for the future Nevada meeting instead of holding the meeting at his home). Tom Tatten purchased a new computer. Jim expected him to be the last. Glad he joined us. The record reflects no discussion of Marines, writing, crayons, or white out on monitors. Doug Haggan, FODPAL and the Department of France sent the history of the Department of France, American Legion. Richard Smith kindly volunteered to scan it to be available as a PDF document. Jim was hoping to get news on the 100 year meeting/tour in Paris sponsored by the Department of France in 2019. Remember, the new American Legion Membership Year starts on July 1, 2018 for 2019 membership.
- As past members of the Northern Virginia Memorial Division, Anna and Jim Lint will attend their annual event at the end of April. From 1997 to 2014, they had various years around the Washington, DC area with breaks of five years in Korea and one year in New Jersey. (They're still not sure which tour was the hardship tour.) Additionally, they door prized a Korean Memorial Division hat from when they were in Korea.
9. Jim Parker told the story of Columbus' second trip (He "civilized" Honduras, Santa Maria, and Nicaragua. Native American tribes and populations in Latin America had a 95% local death rate because of epidemic diseases such as small pox, measles, and cholera.)
  10. Jeff Carson discussed how many people were helped by the work on the Survivor Benefit Handbook. (Paul Kachikis recently died and we supplied Ernestine with a copy.) Members helping members! Also, Jeff talked about issues with wheelchairs only given to veterans with service connected ratings at the Veterans Administration Hospital. The Nevada Disabled American Veterans (DAV) has been providing wheelchairs and scooters for the local veterans. Jeff has been instrumental in taking care of veterans in the Las Vegas valley. Dan Adkins requested a copy of the Survivor Benefit Handbook that Jeff and others worked on after a review of many handbooks.

There were 18 attendees at the April meeting:



**Jim Lint, Tom Tatten, Mike Kandt, Robert Ault, Rey Quijano, Don Loyd, Jim McGarry, Jim Hanke, Mike Evans, Leroy Cockrell, Linda Cockrell, Dan Adkins, Jim Parker, Jeff Carson, Richard Smith, Bud Pattengale, Toni Carpenter, Anna Lint (not in the picture: photographer).**

**A GOOD TIME WAS HAD BY ALL AT OUR 10 MARCH NEVADA MEMORIAL DIVISION MEETING WITH 26 ATTENDEES.**

Tom Tatten will be getting a computer soon, so we have a new way to bother him! Tom brought a potential future China Post 1 member and future Marine. He is shipping out soon, and he is under the age of 50. Commander Ron reminded us at the last reunion that we need to recruit more members in that age range. Suggestions on ways to do this are welcome.

Paul Curtis received the award for being our member with the furthest commute for attending our meeting. This was his second time. He lives near Camp Pendleton, CA. Paul just had heart surgery and is looking good.

John Lear commented: "I use a push cart to get around, but even that is a problem. I would, however, like to invite the Post to have one of their Saturday morning meetings up at my place if we can somehow arrange for catering. (Maybe something like potluck or munchies?) I am limited in what I can provide as every month I am short. I live up on Hollywood Boulevard between Owens and Washington on the corner of Monroe and I have plenty of parking if you can work this out. It would be an honor to have the members of the Post up to my place, maybe in May or June if you can work this out. Thanks for getting my message to Mike.

Jim Lint commented:

- Anyone with a new email address should send it to him and tell him to update National and the Poop Sheet Distribution in MailChimp. Keeping up with 1,230 members is challenging enough without trying to use ESP to figure out email or postal addresses.
- The FODPAL Secretary sent a history of the Department of France that has some interesting information about our higher headquarters. We will share it on SAT.
- The Department of France 2019 Trip planners have a meeting this week, so we should have information for the next meeting.
- Everyone should check their membership card, and if it says 2017 they are nine months late on renewing. The American Legion fiscal year starts on 1 July. Dues renewal is by 1 July. Keep him posted

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if you need any help. You can renew online or via the Henderson Post Office box, or hand him or Anna a check or a \$50 bill with a note, and follow up with email.

- Jim “Mule” Parker may give a talk about Columbus’ Second Trip.
- For new members, remember if you have not signed up via the [CPI-NV@Yahoogroups.com](mailto:CPI-NV@Yahoogroups.com) address it is easy to do. Just send a post to [cp1-nv-subscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:cp1-nv-subscribe@yahoogroups.com). Put something in like your name to let Jim know who you are, since only China Post 1 members of the Nevada MemDiv may join the email group.
- To post a message to the Group: [cp1-nv@yahoogroups.com](mailto:cp1-nv@yahoogroups.com)
- To subscribe to the Group: [cp1-nv-subscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:cp1-nv-subscribe@yahoogroups.com)

The Nevada MemDiv May meeting is scheduled for 12 May 2018, at 12 noon.

#### THE NEVADA MEMORIAL DIVISION MEETS FOR THEIR OUTSTANDING “FISH FRY”



The China Post 1 Nevada Memorial Division has members’ meetings on most Friday nights at 1700 hours. Dan Adkins is a moving force in this Friday night “fish fry.” Above, Lou Rothenstein, Betty Rothenstein, Jeff Carson, Pete Caimi, Jim Lint and Dan Adkins solve world problems and plan global corrections. Two members who meet constitute a Post-meeting. Auxiliary members Anna, Nicole, and Hana are often in attendance to learn just how wonderful China Post 1 members are.

If you are in the area, you are welcome to join us. Please contact Adjutant Jim Lint for further information.

## Northern Virginia Memorial Division

*By Mike Evers, MemDiv Adjutant*

The Northern Virginia Memorial Division annual luncheon will be held on Sunday, April 29, 2018. The schedule of events is:

- 1130 - 1300 Cash Bar and Social Period
- 1300 - 1400 Lunch
- 1330 - 1415 Two Speakers: Fred Donner and Fred Gerken

Fred Donner will present Japanese balloon bomb casualties in the U.S. illustrated with pictures and discussion of Fred's connection to each. Fred Gerken will share with the attendees his pictures from his tour in Southeast Asia.

Also, George Skypeck will bring his original "Assured Victory...A 09-11-2001 and War on Terrorism Memorial" Global War on Terror (GWOT) painting, and as he has done with past paintings, allowed Presidents, VIPs and veterans to sign the back of the original. It would be an honor to have our members of China Post 1 sign the back of it, joining several Medal of Honor recipients that have signed at its various public viewings in Washington, DC (Pentagon), New York City, Texas, and the ANC Visitors' Center, and updated for 16 years with GWOT events. It would be a good statement on how we support our new troops and veterans (like my family members today in this war). I will bring an easel and pen for members to use to sign.

The cost will be \$35.00 per person.

[Editor's Note: Anyone who needs Mike's contact information should request it from the Post Adjutant.]

## Quarterly Feature

*By Hal Hunt, Editor*

### Veterans Online Shopping Benefit

In January of 2017 the United States Department of Defense announced a lifelong online military exchange shopping benefit for all honorably discharged Veterans. The benefit became effective on Veterans Day, 11 Nov 2017.

Veterans of both the active and reserve components of the Air Force, Army, Coast Guard, Marines, Navy, and the National Guard who were honorably discharged are eligible for the benefit.

The benefit enables shopping on the online military exchanges, including ShopMyExchange.com (<https://www.shopmyexchange.com/veterans>) with tax exempt purchases at military exchange prices. However, the benefit does not permit installation access.

To create an account, go to <https://www.shopmyexchange.com/account/register>. This is a four-step process consisting of:

- Step 1: Validate
- Step 2: Credentials

- Step 3: Security Questions
- Step 4: Email Address

The VetVerify customer service team must have an applicant's last name, date of birth and the last four digits of their Social Security number in order to validate eligibility through the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS). If the applicant's military record has not yet been digitized, or was possibly destroyed in the 1973 National Personnel Records Center (NPRC) fire, it may be necessary for the applicant to upload a copy of their discharge paperwork.

If so requested, the applicant must submit a federal government form without redactions that includes the full name at time of discharge, social security number or service number and an "honorable" or "general under honorable conditions." type of discharge. Examples include (but are not limited to): DD214 (Member Copies 2-8), DD215 (with corrected discharge status), NGB-22 or DD256/257.

If needed The VetVerify customer service team can provide further information or assistance:

- Hours of Operation: Monday through Friday from 0800 to 1700 CST
- Call toll-free: 1-844-868-8672 or
- Send questions by email to [CustomerService@vetverify.org](mailto:CustomerService@vetverify.org)

According to the ShopMyExchange website: "Expanding online shopping privileges strengthens funding of military Quality-of-Life programs including Army Child Development Centers, Youth Programs and Fitness Centers, Air Force Outdoor Recreation programs, affordable school lunches for Warfighters' children overseas, combat uniforms below cost and more." Therefore others will also realize benefits from those of us who take advantage of these privileges!

[Editor's Note: The information in this article was obtained from the sources given above. The Editor has successfully registered for the Veterans Online Shopping Benefit by following those instructions.]

## Transitional Employment Opportunities

*By Mike Eisenhower and Dave Vaught*

We have some exciting news regarding the Civilian Employment Opportunities Program that was recently initiated. After discussions with senior leaders of China Post 1 and a presentation to the Executive Committee, we are making two significant changes to the Program. To be in line with The American Legion and our military organizations, we are changing the name of the program to Transitional Employment Opportunities (TEO). The most outstanding change is that the program will be available to all China Post 1 members and any veteran in need of help in finding employment. It has been common knowledge that members share information from the Poop Sheet with friends and relatives who are veterans, and we felt it important to share the TEO program with any veteran who needs help in the transition from military service to civilian employment, whether or not they are China Post 1 member. We are all comrades-in-arms.

Now, I have been told numerous times by many different people that China Post 1 is a 1400 member-driven organization that is dedicated to serve those who have served. We have two issues that we must surmount to make this program successful: Finding members who will volunteer (again) to provide their knowledge and

expertise to those members, or any veteran who needs help in transitioning to civilian employment; and making some changes to the China Post 1 website to facilitate the functions of the TEO program.

The way we intend to assist in the transition from military service to civilian employment is to: 1. Review Resumes and Make Suggestions; 2. Provide Job Hunting Tips; 3. Provide Resume and Interview Coaching; and, 4. Provide Job Postings. We need three (3) China Post 1 members to step up and fill the leadership positions for the first three (3) functions. We will not ask any member to share their email address, phone number or home address to anyone asking for help. The ideal setup would to have one member being responsible for each of the functions and supported by team.

Once we get the website set up and approved with the communications protocol established for applicants requesting assistance and the TOE volunteers responding, we will be ready. We do not expect the implementation to be long, and much depends on members volunteering to fill the important functions.

China Post 1 members thank you for your time and consideration in this matter, and we hope to hear from you in the very near future.

## Fallen Comrades

### Received from Jeffrey Tavernaro on 29 Jan 2018:

My name is Jeff Tavernaro. I am a member of this post and son of LTC John Tavernaro III who was also a very loyal member. I regret to inform you that my father passed just a week ago. He was very active and proud of our post.

### Anna Chennault, 1923-2018

"Anna Chennault ... died at her home in Washington. She was 94." For her obituary, see The Washington Post, Wednesday, April 4, 2018, page B1 or go to <https://www.stripes.com/news/us/anna-chennault-formidable-washington-hostess-and-secret-emissary-dies-at-94-1.520307>

## News from Our Members

**John Pierre-Benoist extends this invitation from Florida:** "I'm getting old, and have not been well. But my wife and I would like to invite any CP 1 member to come on by. We have a nice lanai, and are not very far from Orlando. I offer good drinks and premium cigars."

[Editor's Note: If you would like to get in touch with John, please request his contact information from the Adjutant.]

**Ramiro "Rac" Castillo writes:** I retired on Saturday, January 6, 2018, the last day of the pay period. My separation date is Sunday, January 7th. On Monday the 8th, I showed up at the Port of Entry and turned in my gear. I haven't filed my retirement papers yet. It's about 30 pages. I will complete it this week. We also intend to attend the reunion in Texas but I will wait to see when my retirement check will come in.

**Congratulations to Jeff O'Neill** who started a new position as a Financial Services Professional at NYLIFE Securities LLC in February, 2018.

**“Adventuresome Villages couple got engaged on Concorde travelling at Mach 1 with Yoko Ono aboard.”**

“China Post 1 member Richard Pillsbury and Cathy Hale “... were ‘live-aboard’ neighbors on their individual boats in San Diego, and worked together on Coast Guard Auxiliary projects. When Richard was traveling to far flung oil drilling platforms in Africa and other places, they corresponded using signal flags. ‘Instead of writing characters, we drew signal flags,’ Cathy says. ‘Richard was simple and sophisticated at the same time,’ she says. ‘He could talk about opera one minute and cowboy stuff the next. He’s a great dancer.’

A travel agent, Cathy had won a trip on the Concorde to London. Richard made arrangements to propose to her during the flight.

‘After dinner the Chief Purser came by and said the Captain would like to meet us on the flight deck. I had arranged for champagne and to have a ring for Cathy in her glass.’

He was on his knee and proposing, but Cathy didn’t notice the ring until the Captain turned and pointed it out. ‘How long do I have to make a decision?’ she asked. ‘We don’t have much extra fuel, so you should make a decision soon,’ the Captain remarked.

‘We were engaged at 58,500 feet going Mach 2,’ says Richard. Musician and artist Yoko Ono, who was on board the flight, was one of the first to congratulate the couple. They were married on Friday, Feb. 13, 2004.

‘It’s the anniversary of our first date, a very good day for us,’ Cathy says.”



**Cathy Hale, Richard Pillsbury and Gerda at USS Midway Museum in San Diego**

The above account was written by John W. Prince and published on February 10, 2018 in the *Villages-News* at <https://Villages-News.com>.

**Ron “Shadow” Butts has sponsored Mark “Duke” Wisher, a native of Florence, Kentucky, as a member of China Post 1.** Ron shares with us an account dated March 25, 2003 of an attack in Kuwait where Mark experienced some serious injuries.

“Air Force Capt. Mark Wisher flew F-16 bombing missions over Afghanistan, and guarded the DMZ in Korea without getting hurt. Deployed last month to Kuwait, the Florence native and 1991 St. Henry High School



graduate told his wife and family not to worry because, as an adviser, he didn't expect to be close enough to the enemy to see any combat action. But he didn't anticipate an attack from one of his own.

Wisher, 29, an air liaison officer serving with the 101st Airborne, is being flown today to a military hospital at Ramstein Air Base in Germany to be treated for serious injuries he received in a bizarre attack on Saturday at Camp Pennsylvania, a U.S. Army base in Kuwait.

After two surgeries, Capt. Wisner is in critical but stable condition with serious injuries to his abdomen and minor damage to his leg, said his wife, Tara Wisner.

### **Mark and Tara Wisner**

Sgt. Asan Akbar of the 101st Airborne was taken into custody after one soldier died and 15 were injured by grenades and small arms fire. Three soldiers suffered serious injuries, among them Wisner.”

The above account was written by Patrick Crowley and published on March 25, 2003 in *The Cincinnati Enquirer*. The complete article can be seen at [http://enquirer.com/editions/2003/03/25/loc\\_warlocalman25.html](http://enquirer.com/editions/2003/03/25/loc_warlocalman25.html).

### **Andrew Ertl writes from Beijing, China where he's studying at Tsinghua University:**

I just returned from my Chinese New Year travels. I was in Shanghai and Harbin at the end of last month. The old American Club (which is now a post office) was not hard to find at all, being located very close to my hotel. I also went to a hockey game among other places! Harbin is known for its annual ice sculpture festival. The sculptures are cool, but it is a different kind of cold up there (haha).

I then traveled to Seoul for a few days and had a very nice first-time experience in that country.

From February 8-22 I was in Vietnam. I began in the North and worked my way South from Hanoi to Hue, Danang, and then Ho Chi Minh City. In Hue, outside the imperial citadel, I bumped into two former Marines who had fought there (one of the Vietnam War's toughest fights) 50 years ago. Hearing about some of their experiences was something I will take with me forever. Next I stopped by Danang. The only reason for doing so was to see the site where Marines came ashore in March 1965 (Nam O Beach--which kicked off the United States' rapid escalation). I was the only one there.



**Andrew Ertl at Nam O Beach**

Of all the places I visited in Ho Chi Minh City, one of the most impactful was the American Consulate General (which used to be the US Embassy), where the Viet Cong broke in on January 30, 1968 during which two Marine guards (a job I used to do) died in its defense.

Aaron O'Connell wrote a book called "Underdogs: The Making of the Modern Marine Corps" in which he likens the Marine Corps to a religion. He's right, and I was on a pilgrimage.

I'm back in Beijing now and the next semester starts Monday, February 26.



**Members Ken Stein (R) and Lou Holub (L) enjoying libation at the newest watering hole and safe house in Thailand.**

We are in The Camel Pub in Banchang, Rayong Thailand. Come on down, the beer is cold...

Cheers,

Ken

## Poop Sheet Contributions Wanted

We welcome contributions to the Poop Sheet from all of our members, including links and photos that are directly related to our Post, its members, and their activities and accomplishments. However, please DO NOT send anything classified or sensitive including topics of a political, sexual or religious nature. Your contributions to the Poop Sheet should be sent to [poopsheet@chinapost1.email](mailto:poopsheet@chinapost1.email) with the Subject: Poop Sheet Article. **PLEASE SEND ALL OTHER NOTICES, REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION OR SUPPORT, AND ANY OTHER MESSAGES TO THE APPROPRIATE INDIVIDUAL IN THE DIRECTORY THAT FOLLOWS.**

**Correction:** On page 6 of the Winter 2018 Poop Sheet, the phrase "...Medal of Honor (MOH) winner..." appears. The correct phrase should have been "...Medal of Honor (MOH) recipient..." Thanks to Billy Martin for bringing this to our attention.

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