



RON CHAN – CHINESE AMERICAN HERO

Roger Dong, Chairman and Founder of the Chinese American Heroes Organization has recognized Ron Chan for his significant contributions in support of Chinese American Veterans and community service. “Ron has tirelessly been the advocate of our Veterans specifically, and generally a role model amplifying Chinese American history and their contributions to America. For that, he has been inducted as a Chinese American Hero”.

Ron, when asked about this honor, notes, “To be considered a “Chinese American Hero” is very humbling. Frank Wong, a Korean War Veteran, I think said it best, “What we do for ourselves is surely going to die with you. What you do for others is immortal.”

Ron founded two organizations. He is Founder and Executive Director of the Bay Area Chinese Genealogy Group, and Co-Founder, Chief Marketing Officer and Associate Producer of the Chinese American GI Project.

With the Chinese American GI Project, he was instrumental in launching Veteran focused webinars, the book “Fighting On All Fronts”, the upcoming museum exhibition for the San Francisco War Memorial Veterans Gallery, and other numerous multimedia programs - including the American Legion Cathay Post 384’s 90th Anniversary Celebration video.

Additionally, he is a lecturer, flight leader, and volunteer for Honor Flight focusing on recruiting Chinese American Vets so we may be equally recognized on flights to Washington DC to visit the memorials in their honor.

Ron is an Advisory Consultant to the Locke Foundation Oral History Project, and an Advisory Board member of the Chinese Historical and Cultural Project.

Ron received many letters regarding his service to the Veteran community.

Connie Johnson, Honor Flight Bay Area Medical Director
Ron is an exceptional advocate for Chinese American veterans. He went to the trouble of finding particularly World War II veterans in Northern California, lobbied for them to get the Congressional

Gold Medals, assisted in creating the award ceremonies, then helped write a book about these worthy veterans. Ron Chan absolutely deserves to be named as a Chinese American Hero. He already is to many of us.

Melanie Chan, Chinese American Citizens Alliance, National President
I have always been impressed with Ron’s drive to honor the Chinese American veterans and his many other activities to benefit both the veterans and the Chinese American community. I will let his many accomplishments speak for itself, but what you don’t see in his impressive resume is his sense of organization and willingness to jump in and help wherever he can, even when he is not asked. He gives his time and skills willingly to help the community recognize the Chinese American veterans.

He worked closely with my organization, the Chinese American Citizens Alliance to award the Congressional Gold Medal to the few remaining living WWII Chinese American veterans. He was also instrumental in helping us to secure a large venue for the medal presentation in the East Bay. Yet, Ron does what he does not because he desires the recognition or limelight, but because of his strong desire to recognize the veterans in honor of his father and his drive to help the Chinese American’s understand their legacy. Ron is truly an Hero and deserving of this award.

David Yick, Chinese Historical and Cultural Project, Board President
I consider Ron to be a Hero of Heroes based on his work on so many U. S. Veteran projects that I have lost count. He is the most passionate person about promoting and acknowledging the contribution of Chinese American Vets that I know. What I remember most was his ability to assemble and lead a talented group of volunteers that worked tirelessly and many, many hours on the project.

Corliss Lee, Chair, LF Oral History Project, Director, Locke Foundation
Ron has been a vital advisory consultant to the Locke Foundation Oral History Project. Our mission is to collect stories about Locke, a National Historic Landmark and the only rural Chinese town

left in America in one of the most prolific agricultural lands in America. These stories are vital to the understanding of the Chinese in America. From its inception in 2019, Ron was instrumental in showing us how to conduct oral histories and has been accessible for any and all issues that have arisen since that time. In addition he has written very interesting and relevant articles based on his interviews for the Locke Foundation newsletter. Through his example, the Oral History Project has since written articles for every newsletter. Our success is due greatly to Ron’s involvement with the Locke Foundation. No words can really express our gratitude to Ron. We whole heartily support Ron on becoming a “Chinese American Hero”.

[Helen Wong asks] Ron, what are your motivations to work with the Veteran and Chinese American Community?

[Ron Chan response]
“Every Veteran Is An Extension Of My Father. Although I am not a Veteran myself, I am proud to serve, those who served. I do this to honor my father, Alfred Chan, who was a WWII Navy Seabee. Dad served on Midway Island helping build the military infrastructures for the invasion of Japan. It was on Midway he celebrated VJ Day.

My Dad returning from the war, became a Founder, Charter Member, and Life Member of VFW East Bay Chinatown Post #3956. There he held every post, including Commander over the course of 50 years.

I spent half a century growing up with VFW among my father’s comrades and children. In fact, as a young child, I thought Santa Claus was Chinese, because the only time I saw Santa was at a Chinatown VFW Christmas party!

For my many contributions to the East Bay Chinatown Post #3956, I received the Veteran’s of Foreign Wars (VFW) Service Award.

Working with both the San Francisco VFW Chinatown Post 4618, and the American Legion Cathay Post 384, and visiting the New York American Legion Kimlau Post, has been a great opportunity to engage the Veteran community

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FROM THE OFFICE OF COMMANDER HELEN WONG

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to tell the story of their lives so our voices are no longer silent, ignored or forgotten.

I am proud to serve, those who served.”

For more information:
The Chinese American GI Project
<https://chsa.org/wwii-chinese-american-gi/>

Facebook
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/chineseamericangiproject>

Honor Flight Bay Area
<https://www.honorflightbayarea.org/>

Bay Area Chinese Genealogy Group
<https://bacgg.org/>

Chinese Historical and Cultural Project
<https://chcp.org/>

Locke Foundation
<http://www.locke-foundation.org/>

Chinese American Citizen’s Alliance
<http://www.cacanational.org/>

WWII Congressional Gold Medal Program
<https://www.caww2.org/>



Above: Alfred Chan & Ron Chan, Honor Flight 2018



Above: 50th Anniversary Book Editor, VFW Service Award Recipient.



Above: Ron, Alfred, Christina Lim (Book Author), and VFW Commander Ed Yu



Above: Alfred sworn in as VFW Commander 1965



Above: Moderator Operation Chinese American GI



Above: Moderator Warriors in Our Midst A Chinese American Veterans Day Retrospective



Above: Seabee Alfred and Sailor Ron 1956



Above: Ron’s acknowledgement in “Fighting On All Fronts” book



Above: Alfred Chan Carpenters Mate 3/c Midway Island 1944 - 1945



Above: Ron Chan