



## **Lunar New Year is Now a State Holiday in California** [Excerpted mainly from Yahoo News, Sept. 30, 2022]

California Governor Gavin Newsom has signed a bill into law officially recognizing Lunar New Year as a state holiday. Assembly Bill (AB) 2596, authored by Assemblyman Evan Low (D-Campbell) and 29 other lawmakers, both Democrats and Republicans, would repeal provisions requiring the Governor to annually proclaim the “Lunar New Year,” and would instead recognize the “Lunar New Year” as a state holiday. The bill would authorize state employees, with specified exceptions, to elect to receive 8 hours of holiday credit for the “Lunar New Year” in lieu of receiving 8 hours of personal holiday credit, and to elect to use 8 hours of vacation, annual leave, or compensating time off, consistent with departmental operational needs and collective bargaining agreements, for “Lunar New Year,” as specified.

“The Lunar New Year celebrates a chance to leave behind the troubles of the past year and invite prosperity and good luck moving forward,” Newsom wrote in his signing message. “Recognizing this day as a state holiday acknowledges the diversity and cultural significance Asian Americans bring to California and provides an opportunity for all Californians to participate in the significance of the Lunar New Year.”

The Lunar New Year, which usually takes place at the end of January or the beginning of February, is predominantly celebrated by Chinese, Korean, Vietnamese and other Asian communities. Based on the lunar calendar, the special event marks the arrival of spring.

Justin Zhu, founder of *Stand With Asian Americans*, stated that Asian Americans are the fastest growing racial group in America who, together with Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders, constitute 15.4% of the Californian population, whose voters are projected to double in number in 15 years. He further noted that, in the present anti-Asian climate in our nation, making Lunar New Year a state holiday is not only symbolic, it also recognizes Asian Americans as a part of the national fabric, helping develop a sense of belonging to America.

Earlier this year, Rep. Grace Meng (D-N.Y.) introduced a new bill that would recognize Lunar New Year as a federal holiday in the U.S.

## **November 8, 2022 is General Election Day!**

If you are a registered voter, by this time, you should have already received an Official Voter Information Guide and an Official Vote-by-Mail Ballot by mail. You can complete and return the ballot by mail, or in person in a ballot drop box, on or before November 8. On November 8, you may also submit your ballot at your county election official’s office, a vote center, or a polling station. Those who choose to vote in person or those who have not received your vote-by-mail ballot may fill the ballot at a designated polling station in your area on November 8, between 7:00 AM and 8:00 PM.

To exercise our citizen's rights, GSGV Lodge encourages all registered members to study the pros and cons of the state propositions, and the candidate stands in the voter information guide before casting their ballot.

For those qualified to vote and not registered yet, you may register to vote online at [registertovote.ca.gov](http://registertovote.ca.gov) or call the Secretary of State’s office at (800)345-8683 to get a voter registration form mailed to you.

Happy Election Day to All on November 8!

## **Several GSGV Members are on the Nov. 8 Ballot**

Wes Hallman, a new member of our Lodge and a Republican, is vying for US Representative, 28<sup>th</sup> District. His opponent is incumbent US Representative (CA-27) Judy Chu, a Democrat and a member of Los Angeles Lodge. For Hallman’s election stand, please refer to the July issue of Piazza or <http://weshallmanforcongress.org>. Judy has been a veteran Congresswoman serving the West San Gabriel Valley area over many years and her campaign stand can be accessed at <http://chu.house.gov>.

Burton Brink, who joined our Lodge recently, is running for the office of Assemblyman, District 49 in California as a Republican candidate. Burton is a retired sergeant after 29 years with the Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department. His political platform is listed in <http://burtonbrinkca.com>. Burton’s opponent is Mike Fong, a Democrat and current Assemblyman with 49<sup>th</sup> District, who won a special election to take the place of Ed Chau who was appointed a judge in the LA County Superior Court.

Eric Chan, a recent addition to our Lodge’s membership, is a candidate for one of the three seats open at the San

Gabriel City Council. He is a tax accountant and property manager by profession. He is one of seven candidates running for the City Council listed on the official website.

Bob Gin, a past president of our Lodge, is running for reelection to be a Board Member District 4 of the Alhambra Unified School District. As we all know, Bob has been part of the AUSD Board for many years making many contributions to the school system in the area. His challenger is Tony Fan who has been Managing Deputy Commissioner III in the California Department of Real Estate since 2012.

Jason Dhing, current Vice President of GSGV Lodge, is running for Monterey Park City Council, representing District 1. To learn more about Jason’s candidacy, please refer to the July issue of Piazza or the website <http://jasondhing.com>. Opponents include Thomas Wong, a member of Los Angeles Lodge.

It is our Lodge’s policy to consider endorsing a political candidate only when the candidate formally requests in writing for the consideration. Except for Bob Gin, for the aforementioned candidates who have formally requested consideration of endorsement, Lodge members present at the previous two lodge meetings have voted for endorsement.

Maychelle Yee, a non-member who is campaigning for the City Clerk seat in Monterey Park, has also received our Lodge’s endorsement after considering her request. Her campaign platform can be viewed at <http://voteformaychelleeye.com>. Her opponent is Hans Liang, a City Councilman soon to be termed out and a GSGV Lodge member.

**Installation of New GSGV Lodge Members-A Pictorial Account:**



After installation, Luis Vega (3rd from R) with Lodge President Scott Kwong (L2) and Past Presidents at the July 11 Lodge meeting. Luis is an independent insurance agent with the National Life Group. He was introduced to the Lodge by Paul Perez.



Wes Hallman with Past Presidents Paul Wong and Charles Mau, after the installation ceremony at the August 8 Lodge meeting.



President Scott Kwong with newly installed members Burton Brink (L1), Eric Chan (R2), and Maychelle Yee (R1) at Sept. 12 Lodge meeting



President Scott Kwong with newly installed members John Mark (L2), Dennis Lam (L4), Burton Brink (L5), Eric Chan (R4), Ruth Tsang (R3), and with Past Presidents Lisa Yang (L1), John Wong (L3), John Gee (R2) and Sharon Wong (R1). Dennis is Sales Manager, Ruth is in charge of design and media, both of Asia Sky Media working in Brink’s campaign. John Mark is a community activist, retired and living in Alhambra. The occasion is the Sept. 12 GSGV Lodge meeting/dinner.

## Qiang Bjornbak and Luis Vega are Speakers at GSGV Lodge Meetings

As part of the Speakers Series, Sister Qiang, a practicing attorney, gave a short seminar on “landlord-tenant disputes” at the June 13 Lodge meeting. This topic is of



relevance given that many Chinese own rental properties as a form of investment. The gist of her talk is mainly on the mistakes made by landlords in not thoroughly screening prospective tenants, not

meeting them in person before leasing, not properly checking move-in and move-out conditions, a poorly written lease agreement, not following proper eviction procedures, or not checking properties regularly. These are pointers to follow to avoid disputes with tenants.

At the August 8 meeting, Brother Luis, an independent insurance agent, gave a broad picture of how we can

preserve our assets and wealth to ensure a secure retirement, especially as we are living through very volatile and



unpredictable times. He suggested an array of financial tools through which we may achieve this objective, with the choice depending on whether you are government, individual or business owner. It is a very educational seminar with practical tips for people who are nearing and in their retirement ages.

## Many GSGV members Attended Jason Dhing's MP City Council Campaign Fundraiser

Vice-President Brother Jason Dhing is campaigning to be elected to the Monterey Park City Council in District 1, a seat vacated by Bro. Hans Liang, who will be termed out. To show our support, many of us attended his fundraiser on August 12 at NBC Seafood Restaurant in Monterey Park. Betty Tom Chu, a former mayor of Monterey Park and a member of Orange County Lodge, was one of the main speakers stumping for Jason's candidacy. Brother Jason has been a community activist in our area for a long time: President of the Monterey Park Lions Club, a Trustee of the Monterey Park Bruggemeyer Library Board, and formerly President of the Mark Keppel High School PTSA. Brother Jason, we all wish you every success in your campaign!



Members of GSGV Lodge with Jason Dhing at his Campaign Fundraiser on August 12, at NBC Seafood Restaurant. Fourth from the right is Betty Chu, former Mayor of Monterey Park, and second from right is Bob Gin, Board Member of AUSD. Fifth from left is Wes Hallman who is running for House Representative in 28<sup>th</sup> District of California.

## C.A.C.A. Is Present at the 77<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of WWII Victory Banquet

Several members of C.A.C.A. attended the 77<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of WWII Victory Banquet, organized by American Flying Tigers Institute, on August 11 at NBC Seafood Restaurant in Monterey Park. The keynote speaker at this event is William Chen, U.S. Army Major General (ret.), who was pivotal in making the Chinese American WWII Congressional Gold Medal campaign, spearheaded by C.A.C.A., such a huge success 2-3 years ago. The event was a spectacular success with about 400 attendees including many local elected officials, representatives from the Chinese Consulate, surviving Flying Tigers members, and prominent community leaders. A moving quote from General Chen's keynote speech: "I believe the most enduring legacy of our Chinese American WWII veterans was that they make known to the American public who Chinese Americans were and their capabilities. ....They opened up opportunities for all Chinese Americans to be in mainstream America post-WWII. And, through their hard work and sacrifices – they enabled the follow-on generations to live the American dream."



At the banquet, from Left: O.C. Lee, Charles Mau, Munson Kwok, Assemblyman Mike Fong, Sandra and Gen. Bill Chen, Tammy Mau, Suellen Cheng Kwok, and Jessica Mei.

## Congressional Gold Medal picked up by WWII Veteran Dung Ngee Yee's Family

On June 10, 2022, Brother John Wong picked up the Congressional Gold Medal replica on behalf of his deceased WWII Veteran Uncle Dung Ngee Yee in a Monterey Park branch of Cathay Bank. In a later private ceremony, he transferred the medal to Uncle Yee's immediate family members, his daughter Irene "Oi Ling" Ng, his son Raymond Kwong and daughter-in-law Lily Kwong.



Dung Ngee Yee

William "Bill" Chang, 95, of Palos Verdes Estates, California, passed away peacefully while sleeping in his home on July 24, 2022. He would have been 96 years old in September.



William was born on September 15, 1926 in the Hubei province of China where his father was governor. William moved to the United States to attend university, studying aeronautical engineering. He worked for various aerospace firms, including Boeing, Hughes Aircraft and Rockwell International. After retiring from Rockwell International where he worked on the space shuttle, he focused on business and banking and helped found American International Bank. When he eventually retired from banking, he worked at the non-profit organization AAEDE helping Asian business owners start their businesses.

William's hobbies included flying airplanes, collecting stamps, singing karaoke and playing tennis. He played tennis a few times a week with his friends until he was about 90 years old and only stopped when the group was no longer allowed to play on their normal court.

William also served as President of CESASC (Chinese Engineers and Scientists of Southern California) and was chosen as a California Elector for the Republican Party when Ronald Reagan and George H.W. Bush were elected to the US Presidency.

William is survived by Margaret, his wife of over 50 years, and by his children, Mark and Kristine, step children Nonie and Leon, and grandchildren Jessica, Elena, Katie, Kaylee, Christian and Emilie.

## GSGV Members Enjoyed Double-10 Event Coordinated by Board Officer Sister Angela Lai



At 111th Anniversary of ROC event, Sept. 24, from left: Sister Shirley Hwong, Ret. LA County Sheriff Lee Baca, Assembly Candidate Burton Brink, and Sister Angela Lai. Not in the photo are Brother Charles Mau, Sister Lisa Yang and former MP Mayor Betty Chu who also attended.



Brother John Wong receiving Congressional Gold Medal replica on behalf of his Uncle Dung Ngee Yee at SoCal CGM pickup session, June 10, 2022



All in the Family; from left to right: Sharon and veteran's nephew John Wong, son Raymond Kwong, daughter Irene Ng (holding the medal), and daughter-in-law Lily Kwong.

## Lodge Mourned Passing of Bill Chang, GSGV Lodge founding member

Brothers and sisters of our Lodge mourned the passing of William Chang, who is one of the founding members of Greater San Gabriel Valley Lodge.