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Subject: Vietnam War Veteran Elected Leader of The American Legion

The American Legion



For God and country

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Vietnam War Veteran Elected Leader of The American Legion

MINNEAPOLIS (Sept. 1, 2011) – A retired U.S. Army veteran has been elected national commander of the nation’s largest veterans organization.

Delegates to The American Legion’s 93rd National Convention here chose Fang A. Wong of East Brunswick, N.J., to lead the 2.4 million-member organization of wartime veterans for a one-year term.

Born in Canton, China, Wong immigrated to the United States as a 12-year-old in 1960. He attended New York City public schools and became a naturalized citizen in 1963. Wong volunteered for the U.S. Army in 1969, served 25 months in Vietnam, and retired from the Army as a chief warrant officer in 1989.

Wong earned a bachelor’s degree in business administration at New York Institute of Technology in 1978 and a master’s degree in management from Central Michigan University in 1981.

Following his retirement from the Army, Wong joined the Lt. B.R. Kimlau Chinese Memorial American Legion Post 1291 in New York. A former national vice commander and past department commander of New York, Wong has held elected and appointed offices at the post, county, district, department and national levels. Wong also served as a director of the New York Empire Boy’s State Program and a member of the planning committee for the creation of the New York American Legion College. He has served on several national committees and commissions, including a term as chairman of the Legion’s National Security Commission.

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Legion Leader 2-2-2-2-2

Through his American Legion post in Chinatown, Wong provided relief efforts during the aftermath of the 9/11 attacks. He has been a member of the Advisory Committee on Veterans' Employment and Training and Employer Outreach of the Department of Labor and served as chairman of the Special Investigation Committee for the Chinese Community Benevolent Association (NYC) and the Office of the Attorney General, State of New York in 2005.

In 2011, Wong retired from L-3 Communications, Command & Control Systems and Software (C2S2) Division in support of the Army Software Engineering Center at Fort Monmouth, N.J. Wong is married to the former Barbara Lam. They have one son, Eric.

Cmdr. Wong took the oath of office along with five other national officers. Serving as national vice commanders are David N. Voyles of Amazonia, Mo.; Milton G. Heifner of Woodward, Iowa; Larry D. Sheets of Miami, Fla; James H. Hales, Jr., of Blairsville, Penn. and Mervin G. Gunderson of Belgrade, Mont.

National Historian. Robert B. Craig of Lincoln, Neb.; National Sergeant-at-Arms David J. Louie, of New York, N.Y; and National Chaplain Gerald Theriot of Schriever, La., were appointed to their positions by Cmdr. Wong following the close of the national convention.

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Media contacts: Joe March or John Raughter; Cellular: (317) 748-1926 or (317) 441-8847.

A photo of Nat. Cmdr. Wong is available on request to pr@legion.org or can be downloaded from The American Legion website at: www.legion.org



Commander
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