

USAWC commemorates Asian American, Pacific Islander Heritage Month

By Curt Keester 22 May 2018



Fang Wong, former American Legion National Commander, discussed his experience immigrating to the U.S. and 20-year career in the Army at an Asian American, Pacific Islander Heritage Month event in Bliss Hall, May 23.

CARLISLE, Pa. (May 23, 2018) – Since 1992 the Department of Defense has recognized the rich heritage of Asian American and Pacific Islanders in the month of May. The month is designated to recognize the personal achievements and valuable contributions to the American story by Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders.

The Army War College hosted an Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month event in Bliss Hall, May 23. The event featured guest speaker Fang Wong, a retired Army Chief Warrant Officer, Vietnam veteran, and former National Commander of the American Legion.

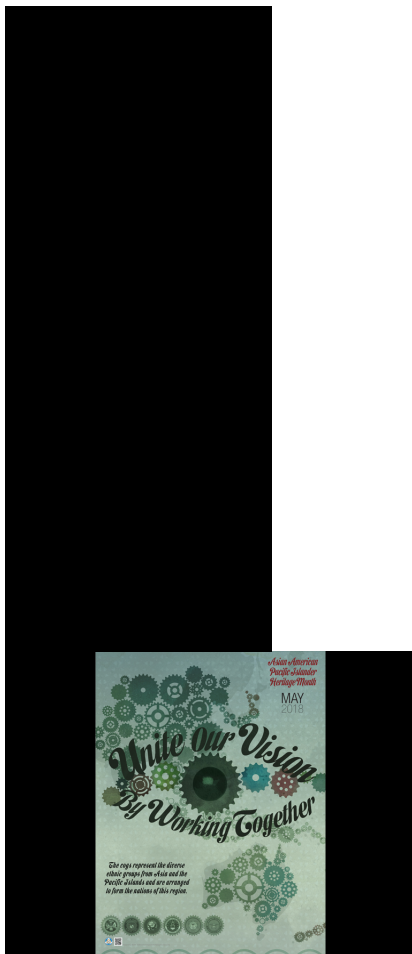
During the event, Wong, a childhood immigrant from China, spoke of his love for this country, his Army service, and his commitment to veterans through his American Legion work. "I believe in this country," said Wong. "I believe that when we moved from China

to Hong Kong and from Hong Kong to here, it was for a reason.”

Wong was born in Canton, China and immigrated to the United States in November 1960. He attended New York City public schools and became a naturalized citizen in January 1963. He volunteered for the U.S. Army in May 1969, served 25 months in Vietnam and retired from the Army in May 1989 as a Chief Warrant Officer.

Following retirement from the Army, Wong joined The American Legion, Lt. B. R. Kimlau Chinese Memorial Post #1291 in New York City and has been a member for the past 28 years. Wong was elected as The American Legion National Commander for 2011-12.

The month of May was chosen to recognize Asian American and Pacific Islanders to commemorate the immigration of the first Japanese to the United States on May 7, 1843, and to mark the anniversary of the transcontinental railroad completion on May 10, 1869. The majority of the workers who laid the tracks of that nation-unifying railway were Chinese immigrants.



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