



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

Daniel L. Squadron

## Senator Squadron Honors Kimlau Chinese Memorial Post 1291 as "Veterans of Distinction"

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### **Squadron: For 70 years, Kimlau Has Set An Example of Patriotism and Community Engagement**

ALBANY – State Senator Daniel Squadron selected Chinatown's American Legion, Lt. B.R. Kimlau Chinese Memorial Post 1291, as "Veterans of Distinction" in New York. Squadron honored the Post on Tuesday at the annual Senate celebration that recognizes outstanding veterans throughout the state.

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*Senator Squadron with members of the American Legion Kimlau Chinese Memorial Post 1291 at the State Senate on Tuesday*

"The members of New York's Kimlau Chinese Memorial Post 1291 are truly Veterans of Distinction," said State Senator Daniel Squadron. "For 70 years, the Kimlau Post has set an example of patriotism and community engagement. Whether helping neighbors through the immigration process, or commemorating September 11th in Kimlau Square, the Post has become an important part of Chinatown's community life. I am glad to recognize Kimlau's achievements, and look forward to many more years of community partnership."

As a leader in the Chinese-American community and beyond, the Kimlau Chinese Memorial Post 1291 is the largest Chinese-American Legion post in the nation. It takes its name from Lieutenant Benjamin Ralph Kimlau, an Air Force bomber pilot killed in action during World War II. The Kimlau Chinese Memorial Post 1291 was officially established on April 28, 1946. Its first Post Commander was George Mar Lee, and there were 96 original charter members. Fang A. Wong, a member of the Kimlau Post, was the first Asian-American National Commander of the American Legion from 2011-2012.

For 70 years, the Post has engaged in issues that matter to the Chinese-American community. For example, the Post successfully appealed to the United States Congress regarding Chinese refugee quotas, and the fair treatment of immigrants. It was successful in memorializing “Kimlau Square” in Chinatown, honoring Chinese-Americans who gave the ultimate sacrifice for our nation. It has petitioned for traffic lights in Chinatown, resolved community issues, and is a member of the Chinese Consolidated Benevolent Association (CCBA).

In the course of its history, the Post established award-winning newspapers including the Bugle Journal and The Kimlau Post Journal. It has provided programs to help people with the immigration process, learn English, gain employment, and care for the disabled and elderly. The Post has held numerous holiday parades, and programs for children and teenagers.

Most recently, the Post established two new units -- American Legion Auxiliary, and Sons of American Legion. These units provide an opportunity for the spouses, children and grandchildren of veterans to join the American Legion. In addition, the Post continues to provide their longstanding successful programming on topics like Support Our Troops, Scouting, and Marine Toys for Tots.