

\* SPECIAL ACHIEVEMENTS \* SPECIAL ACHIEVEMENTS \* SPECIAL ACHIEVEMENTS

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**LIBRARY**

## 'Most Interesting Man' in Fla.

After retiring to Florida, Thomas Vercher is continuing his artistry and designing.

Thomas Vercher, Retired from Graphic Designer, Library, where he was known at the "most interesting man," is continuing his artistic endeavors in Orange Park, Fla.

Last summer, he taught silk screening and other graphic skills to youths

"Through this, kids can do T-shirts, they can do little hats, they can be entrepreneurs," Vercher was quoted in the Florida Times-Union.

"I feel life, and mixing of people is like mixing shades of color, like mixing the timing and the right lighting on a photo," he was quoted as saying. "Everything is different in that time period, because all we have are memories, and you have to capture them, because when I'm blind in one eye, sitting in that wheelchair, that's all I have."



Thomas Vercher at his retirement party last year.

**PUBLIC WORKS**

## Medals, Finally

A retired engineer finally gets his World War II medals.

Last fall, Cheong "John" Lew, Retired from Public Works/Engineering's Central District, finally received what he had been working on getting for more than 25 years – official hardware to signify his achievements in the U.S. Army during World War II.

Specifically, John received two medals – a Victory medal, available to all who served during or in the aftermath of World War II, and a Japan Occupation medal, due to his service in U.S.-occupied Japan in 1946 – and three badges, for Glider Training, Marksman, and Paratrooper.

"They weren't for bravery," he pointed out, to be clear. But they recognized his well-given service to our country, and he had been trying for nearly 25 years to get what he was due. "I was taking a V.A. [Veterans' Administration] computer class recently, and they said, 'We can help you with that,'" he explained.

John served in the U.S. Army from 1946 to 1948. He retired from Public Works/Engineering in 1989.

Congrats, John, at long last.



California Congresswoman Judy Chu presents a certificate to John Lew, who's wearing his new medals.

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