

THE AMERICAN LEGION AT UBON RATCHATHANI, THAILAND



BRIGADIER GENERAL ROBIN OLDS

POST NUMBER TH01

POST MEETING: 2ND WEDNESDAY OF EVERY MONTH, AT 10:00 AM
POST LOCATION: WING 21 ROYAL THAI AIR FORCE (RTAF) AIRBASE
POST VENUE: WING 21 GOLF DRIVING RANGE CLUBHOUSE



MARCH 2023

POST EMAIL: COMMANDER@AMERICANLEGIONTHAILAND.COM

VOL. 6, ISSUE 3

[LINKS CONCERNING ISSUES OF GENERAL EXPAT INTEREST IN THAILAND](#)

AMERICAN LEGION 2023 MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

https://mylegion.org/PersonifyEbusiness/Membership/Renew?fbclid=IwAR3kG7akDFdUfEooHme51dHFftSedZsFW6CUHwEXZQE1oq9_lgrq3K1Kq#legion-org

US DOLLAR TO THAI BAHT EXCHANGE RATE (AS OF 27/02/23)

\$1.00:฿35.15

<https://www.x-rates.com/calculator/?from=USD&to=THB&amount=1>



POST COMMANDER'S COMMENTS...*BRUCE TEMPLEMAN*

A word from the Commander...

February was a great month for recruiting. We gained five new members, an increase of 7%. I would like to welcome the following comrades to our Post. In alphabetical order, we have:

1. Michael Baines – a veteran of the USMC and Navy and an Ubon local
2. Eric Haynie – a USMC veteran, living in California
3. John Haynie – a USAF veteran and Service Officer of VFW Post 10217, living in Sukhothai (father of Eric Haynie)
4. Wayne Jortner – a retired USAF dentist and neighbor of mine in Yasothon
5. Antony Pater – an Army veteran of the Vietnam era that spends his time between Florida and Ubon

As of the writing of this article, we have two others that are planning to join us and will as soon as our Department can expedite their transfers:

1. Stan Bielawski – an Army veteran and located in Sisaket
2. William Moxham – an American Legion Paid-Up-For-Life member and Army veteran, living in Nakhon Phanom, transferring from New Hampshire

We are getting stronger with a lot of experienced people, adding to our ability to carry out the Four Pillars of the American Legion. With the addition of these fine veterans, I look forward to a very active year.

So far, our calendar looks like this:

On March 8, we will be holding our Post elections. The Post cannot remain viable without the people that can take on a part of managing our business. Help lead the Post in its mission, even if it is only for a year. Self-nominations are most welcome. The Post Adjutant has drafted a list of officer positions and the duties they entail. Get out of your comfort zone and try one out. Step up to a challenge and get the reward of knowing that your efforts are making a difference in the community. E Pluribus Unum.

April 29 is American Legion Family Day, and it is my hope that we take this as a day to bring our families together and celebrate our comradeship as Americans and Legionnaires.

In May, we plan to make our annual donation to the Tawanchai Foundation in partnership with VFW Post 10217. We will contact the Foundation and lock in the date to meet in Khon Kaen for the presentation.

May 29 is Memorial Day and at the request of Sinuan Montgomery, we will be placing a VA provided bronze marker on the resting place of our charter member, Comrade Richard Lee Montgomery (his passing was last year on May 22).

The Department of France conducted a Mid-Winter Conference, 11-12 February, and there is a very informative slideshow that is available here: [Department of France Mid-Winter Conference Slides](#).

I hope that you will look at these and get familiar with the subjects that the Post officers need to know to conduct the business of the Post.

I stress on each and every member to communicate. Communicate with the Post and communicate with your neighbors and friends. We have too many people thinking that they must go it alone when they have troubles. Listen to your comrades. Be discreet and see what you can do to help them get through their troubles. No veteran is alone. Make buddy checks a routine and a way of life.

Bruce A. Templeman
Commander
American Legion Post TH01
Ubon Ratchathani, Thailand

USEFUL INFORMATION FOR MEMBERS

NEW POST TH01 EMAILS

As we grow, the Post officers will cease using personal email addresses to conduct the business of the Post. We ask for your help to migrate to our new email service at <https://www.americanlegionthailand.com>. We thank you for helping us grow and become more organizationally efficient.

Please, help us by updating your email address books with the following addresses:

Post Commander – For General Matters
commander@americanlegionthailand.com

Post Adjutant – For Specific Administrative Matters
adjutant@americanlegionthailand.com

Post 1st Vice Commander – For all Membership Matters, Including New Applications & Renewals
1vice@americanlegionthailand.com

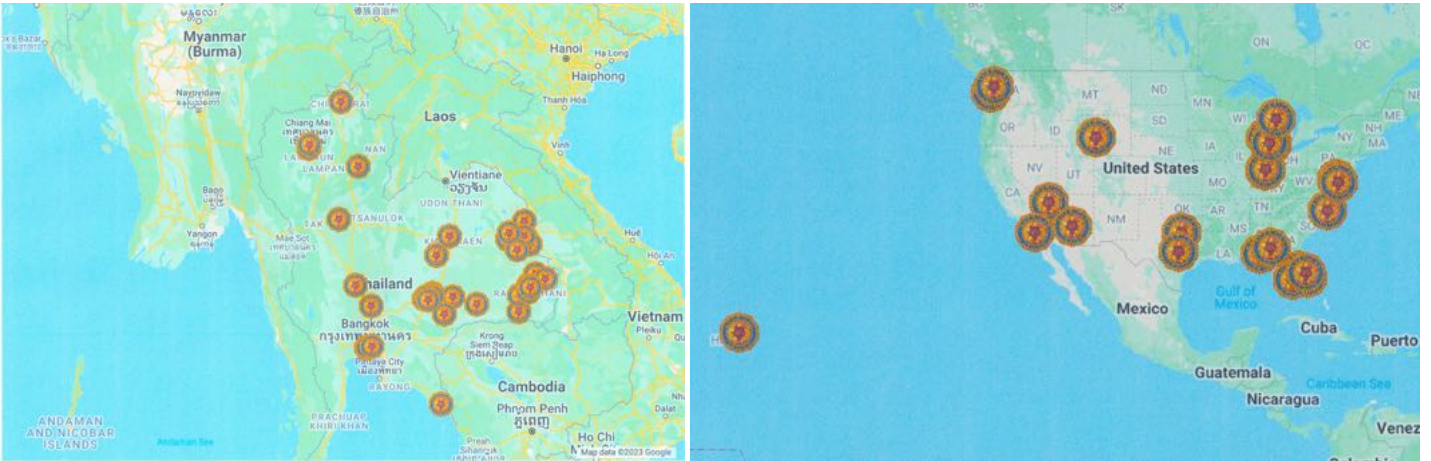
Post 2nd Vice Commander – For all Events & Activities, Marketing, and Sponsorship Matters
2vice@americanlegionthailand.com

Post Judge Advocate – For all Communications, Website, and Social Media Technical Support Matters
comms@americanlegionthailand.com

WHERE POST TH01 MEMBERS ARE LOCATED

"These pictures are to show our comrades in Post TH01 the extent of the network they have created by becoming members of Brigadier General Robin Olds Post TH01. This is why I believe that this will become the finest Post that the American Legion will ever have."

Thailand & the USA



HERE ARE THE RULES ABOUT VAPING IN THAILAND

"The Thai Government introduced a ban on electronic cigarettes (e-cigarettes or 'vaping'), shisha smoking, and electronic shishas in 2014, for "health reasons and to discourage young people from starting to smoke". The Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT) is reminding visitors to the country about this ban, which is part of the Tobacco Control Law, and the law prohibiting smoking in public areas."

<https://phuket-go.com/phuket-news/national-news/here-are-the-rules-about-vaping-in-thailand/>

MESSAGE FOR U.S. CITIZENS IN THAILAND (22 JUNE 2022)
RECREATIONAL USE OF MARIJUANA IN PUBLIC IS ILLEGAL IN THAILAND

"Thailand made marijuana legal for medical purposes on June 9, 2022. However, according to a health directive announced in the Royal Gazette on June 14, anyone smoking cannabis and hemp in public for recreational purposes shall face imprisonment of up to three months or a fine of up to 25,000 baht if they cause a public nuisance or pose health hazards to others."

<https://th.usembassy.gov/message-for-u-s-citizens-in-thailand-june-22-2022/>

CONSUMING CANNABIS IN THAILAND: WHAT TOURISTS NEED TO KNOW ABOUT MARIJUANA RULES

"After easing the ban on the recreational drug, Thailand has created a 'weed Wild West' with confusing rules. So, what are tourists allowed to do?"

<https://www.theguardian.com/society/2023/jan/10/consuming-cannabis-in-thailand-what-tourists-need-to-know-marijuana-weed-rules>

HOLIDAYS & EVENTS CALENDAR

01 March

1st Day of Woman's History Month

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Women%27s_History_Month

01 March

St. David's Day

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Saint_David%27s_Day

06 March

Makha Bucha Day (Thailand)

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Māgha_Pūjā

06-08 March

Purim

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Purim>

08 March

American Legion Post TH01 Membership Monthly Meeting

12 March

Daylight Savings Time Starts

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Daylight_saving_time

15 March

American Legion 103rd Birthday

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/American_Legion

17 March

St. Patrick's Day

Combat Engineer Birthday

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Saint_Patrick%27s_Day

29 March

National Vietnam War Veterans Day

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/National_Vietnam_War_Veterans_Day

POST OFFICERS 2022MY

COMMANDER Bruce Templeman
commander@americanlegionthailand.com

ADJUTANT Jeff Ludwig
adjutant@americanlegionthailand.com

1st VICE COMMANDER Ted Potyrala
1vice@americanlegionthailand.com

2nd VICE COMMANDER John Skabry
2vice@americanlegionthailand.com

CHAPLAIN Hugh Mason
htmmason@aol.com

HISTORIAN Ted Potyrala
1vice@americanlegionthailand.com

FINANCE OFFICER Jeff Ludwig
adjutant@americanlegionthailand.com

SERVICE OFFICER Maurice Hatzke
mrhatzke3@gmail.com

JUDGE ADVOCATE Christopher Lampert
comms@americanlegionthailand.com

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS Salvatore Salzarulo
salzy48@hotmail.com

PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICER Joe Reedy
joereedy4@gmail.com

MEMBER AT LARGE Billy Holland
billybholland@gmail.com

MEMBER AT LARGE John Eschenbaum
john_eschenbaum2003@yahoo.com

MEMBER AT LARGE Kirby Raines
cosmotyson@yahoo.com



ADJUTANT'S CORNER...JEFF LUDWIG

Greetings Comrades,

I would like to extend a warm welcome to the newest members of our Post TH01: Larry Haynie, Eric Haynie, Michael Baines, and Tony Pater.

We hope you will find it rewarding and entertaining. There are many positions where you can make an impact in our service to fellow veterans, their families, and our local community. The best way to learn just what the American Legion is all about and what programs they established to help Veterans and their families is to take the American Legion Basic Training course. The American Legion Extension Institute Basic Training Course has been rewritten, updated, streamlined, and enhanced with videos, digital photos, clickable links, a historical timeline, and additional features. The program should take less than two hours to complete. The course is divided into six sections, with a quiz at the end of each one, followed by a final exam.

I know it opened my eyes to all that the American Legion has done and continues to do. I discovered a myriad of programs that the American Legion has available to assist veterans and their families in need. I urge all who have not taken the course to do so. For those who have already taken the course, you can always use it as a refresher. Just follow this link: <https://www.legion.org/alei>. Once you complete the training, you will receive a training certificate that you can download and print. You will also be eligible for the Basic Training pin.

Do not forget nominations for the elected officer positions are due at the next Post membership meeting on March 8, 2023. Self-nominations are not only accepted but encouraged. So, if you see a position that interests or challenges you, please nominate yourself. I am certain you will find it rewarding.

You can make a difference!
Jeff Ludwig
Adjutant & Finance Officer
American Legion Post TH01
Ubon Ratchathani, Thailand

SAFETY MESSAGE

MARCH IS LADDER SAFETY MONTH

In the USA, each year, there are more than 164,000 emergency room-treated injuries and 300 deaths that are caused by falls from ladders.

Falls from ladders are the leading cause of deaths on construction sites. The most frequent ladder injuries include broken bones, broken backs, broken pelvises, and head injuries. Moreover, approximately 20 percent of fall injuries involve ladders, and among construction workers, an estimated 81% of fall injuries treated in hospital emergency rooms involve a ladder.

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor (2011) Work-related fatal falls, by type of fall, nearly two-fifths involved falls are from roofs or ladders. Out of 646 falls, 20 percent were from the ladder and 18 percent were from the roof.

Therefore, it is a **must** to maintain a 3-point (two hands and a foot, or two feet and a hand) contact on the ladder when climbing, maintain your body near the middle of the step, and always face the ladder while climbing and only use ladders and appropriate accessories (ladder levelers, jacks, or hooks) for their designed purposes (OSHA 2021): <https://search.osha.gov/search?affiliate=usdolohapublicwebsite&query=ladder>.

Additionally, it is important to secure the ladder firmly at the top to prevent it from slipping sideways or the foot from slipping outwards. Hook or tie your ladder (both stiles) to a sturdy anchor point to stop it from slipping.



FINANCE MESSAGE

REPORT OF FOREIGN BANK AND FINANCIAL ACCOUNTS (FBAR)

Every year, under the law known as the Bank Secrecy Act, you must report certain foreign financial accounts, such as bank accounts, brokerage accounts, and mutual funds, to the Treasury Department. You must also keep certain records of those accounts. You report the accounts by filing a Report of Foreign Bank and Financial Accounts (FBAR) on FinCEN Form 114.

The FBAR is an annual report, due April 15, following the calendar year reported. You are allowed an automatic extension to October 15 if you fail to meet the FBAR annual due date of April 15. You don't need to request an extension to file the FBAR.

WHO MUST FILE?

A United States person, including a citizen, resident, corporation, partnership, limited liability company, trust, and estate must file an FBAR to report:

1. a financial interest in or signature or other authority over at least one financial account located outside the United States, if
2. the aggregate value of those foreign financial accounts exceeded \$10,000 at any time during the reporting calendar year.



File Online FBAR

- Adobe Reader **NOT** required
- You are ready to file today
- One-time submission
- Online form preparation

Prepare & Submit

Generally, an account at a financial institution located outside the United States is a foreign financial account. Whether the account produced taxable income has no effect on whether the account is a "foreign financial account" for FBAR purposes. This means that many of our members residing in Thailand that have the bank funds required by their respective visa fall into this category and must file the FBAR report. This web address will take you to the efilings website: <https://bsaefiling.fincen.treas.gov/NoRegFBARFiler.html>. Just follow the onscreen instructions.

You must file the FBAR electronically through the Financial Crimes Enforcement Network's efilings website: <https://bsaefiling.fincen.treas.gov/main.html>. You don't file the FBAR with your federal tax return. The FBAR is required by the Treasury Department and is separate from any IRS filing obligations.



1ST VICE COMMANDER & HISTORIAN...*TED POTYRALA*

Greetings fellow legionnaires,

Last night, I finished my article for the newsletter and was writing about how we needed just one more person to sign up or renew for us to reach 100%. Well at today's Post meeting we had two visitors that attended the meeting as guests and left after handing in applications for membership. So, we have not only reached our goal of 100%, but we are now at 101% and only one more member to reach 102%.

This is really great news!

We are one of the few Posts to reach 100% and should be seeing some awards combining our way. 102% would bring us even more recognition.

There is not a large pool of American Veterans here in Thailand. For those of you that live here as you run into a foreigner, go up to them and just say, "Hi, where you from?" They just might be an American Veteran that lives here or just visiting. For those members living in the US, when you meet someone, ask if they are a veteran and tell them about our Post.

Even though we have reached our goal, that doesn't mean we stop looking. It's never ending. It's also important to keep in contact with each other through "Buddy Checks." Our members are the most important part of our post. We have

some really great programs but without our members, none of that can happen.

ONE VERY IMPORTANT ITEM TO REMEMBER!

If someone joins, they must join through our Post and not through National. If they join through National, their membership will not count towards our Post. Even if they would transfer from National, it wouldn't count. Those of you that renew next year, try to remember this. If you need help signing up someone, you can contact Adjutant Ludwig at adjutant@americanlegionthailand.com or myself at 1vice@americanlegionthailand.com.

Thank you to all that have helped us reach our initial goal.

Now, let's go for the next one.

Ted Potyrala
1st Vice Commander, Historian, and
Membership Committee Chairman
America Legion Post TH01
Ubon Ratchathani, Thailand

HISTORY ARTICLE

BOSTON MASSACRE



Sight of the Boston Massacre
Kings Street

On March 5, 1770, a British soldier was guarding the King's money which was kept in the Customs House. His name was Private Hugh White. He was one of 2,000 British soldiers occupying the city of 16,000 colonists. The soldiers were there to enforce the King's tax laws. The colonists were not very keen on these laws and believed that there should be "No Taxation without Representation."

There were skirmishes before March 5th between the colonists and British Soldiers, but they were not too bloody until the previous February. Among the colonists there were some that were loyal to the King and some that were not. The



ones that were not were known as Patriots. The Patriots attacked a business that was loyal to the King. A customs officer, Ebenezer Richardson, who lived near the business, tried to break up the fighting by firing a shot through his window. Unfortunately, the bullet struck and killed an 11-year-old boy named Christopher Seider. Several days later, another skirmish broke out between workers and the soldiers. Not much bloodshed, but it set the stage for the Boston Massacre.

On March 5, 1770, while Private White was alone guarding the customs house where the King's money was being stored. Patriots started to gather and threw insults at the soldier and threatened him with violence. Private White kept his cool for at least awhile, but eventually he fought back by striking a colonist with his bayonet. That did not go over very well, and the colonists started to attack, using snowballs, ice, and stones. Soon, the bell that was used for fires began ringing which brought out many colonial men.

Private White eventually fell and called for reinforcements. Captain Thomas Preston showed up with several soldiers. He set up a defensive position in front of the customs house. Now, some colonists could see where this was going and pleaded with the soldiers

not to shoot. Others dared the soldiers to shoot. As the violence escalated, the colonists used clubs and sticks on the soldiers. Someone supposedly yelled fire, and the soldiers did. The result was five colonists were killed, including Crispus Attucks, a local dock worker of mixed heritage. There were also six colonists wounded.

Someone arrested and jailed Captain Preston and his soldiers. From his jail cell, Captain Preston wrote his version of what happened for publication. The Sons of Liberty leaders, John Hancock and Samuel Adams, incited the colonists to keep fighting. As tensions rose, the British retreated from Boston to Ft. William. Paul Revere joined in by etching an engraving that depicted

the British as starting the conflict even though it was the colonist that had started it.

John Adams, the future president, defended the British. The death penalty was at stake and even though he despised the British, he wanted them to have a fair trial. In the end, Preston was found not guilty and the remaining soldiers who claimed self-defense were found not guilty of murder, but two: Hugh Montgomery and Mathew Kilroy, were found guilty of manslaughter. They were branded on their thumbs as per English law.

Excerpts from <https://www.history.com>

Photos from the web

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

Kenneth Adams

Loyd Garmany

Maurice Hatzke III

Thomas Maher

Joel Pierson



SERVICE OFFICER'S MESSAGE

Greetings Comrades,

If you wish to get your documents mailed to the USA quickly, be advised that USPS Priority Express Mail International guaranteed delivery has been suspended, so save your money and find another guaranteed delivery company to send your documents to the USA. Mail delivery during Covid-19 had been suspended for a time, and although it has been resumed, it is not as efficient as before. Make sure that you allow at least 30 days for delivery from Thailand to the USA. Plan ahead and avoid the stress.

Please, download and fill out the document, "What My Family Should Know," from our website. Tell your friends and family to do it as well. Your loved ones will appreciate the time you spent caring for their future.

Service Officer
American Legion Post THo1
Ubon Ratchathani, Thailand

CLICK THE FOLLOWING LINKS FOR POST TH01...

WEBSITE

<https://americanlegionthailand.com>

Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/americanlegionthailandposttho1>

Twitter

https://twitter.com/Post_TH01

Instagram

https://www.instagram.com/post_tho1/

YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC74pEhMUgz5KmGcs7RMEXyA>

ASEAN Now

<https://aseannow.com/profile/277159-american-legion-post-tho1/>