

# THE AMERICAN LEGION AT UBON RATCHATHANI, THAILAND



BRIGADIER GENERAL ROBIN OLDS

POST NUMBER TH01

POST MEETING: 2<sup>ND</sup> WEDNESDAY OF EVERY MONTH, AT 10:00 AM

POST LOCATION: PEPPERS RESTAURANT & BAKERY



MAY 2023

POST EMAIL: [COMMANDER@AMERICANLEGIONTHAILAND.COM](mailto:COMMANDER@AMERICANLEGIONTHAILAND.COM)

VOL. 6, ISSUE 5

## LINKS CONCERNING ISSUES OF GENERAL EXPAT INTEREST IN THAILAND

US DOLLAR TO THAI BAHT EXCHANGE RATE (AS OF 24/04/23)

**\$1.00 USD:34.50 THB**

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



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

A word from the Commander...

We say a farewell to our charter member, Anthony "Tony" Francois, of Pattaya.

Tony was living in Ubon and a founding member of our Post. He later moved to Pattaya but still participated as he could in Post TH01. When he passed away, on 8 March 2023, Post TH02 in Pattaya extended their condolences and rendered assistance. We are grateful to them, especially their Adjutant, Mike Chitwood, for getting the Next of Kin identified with the US Embassy and arranging the disposition of Tony's remains. This was at considerable expense to Post TH02. Donations to defray the cost of attending to the unplanned expenses to repatriate remains to the US may be sent to their Post Finance Officer. Contact me for the Bangkok Bank account number. A beautiful military honors ceremony was rendered as befitting of Tony's service to the country. We thank Post TH02 for their graciousness in attending to one of our own. You can watch the ceremony here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z-Nb4INFfl>

**...REQUIESCAT IN PACE.**

Elections were held at the April Post meeting, and we have a few new officers serving. The ones that are experienced will help the new officers settle in and, together, we will guide the Post to accomplishing the goals set by our National Headquarters, the Department of France, and ourselves. I

look forward to a fun and rewarding new year and encourage everyone to participate.

Our first item of accomplishment was to present the Tawanchai Foundation with a gift of \$1,000, accompanied by an additional \$1,000 from our partner, VFW Post 10217 in Korat. This charity is a worthwhile foundation and serves the community well. We're in it for the long haul, so please donate as much as you can and as often as you can. Reach out and encourage your friends and coworkers to chip in as well. Every donation helps a child get urgent facial reconstruction and overcome hardship. The Tawanchai Foundation is literally bringing smiles to the faces of children as well as joy to our hearts.

Several Post officers, including me, will be making short visits to the USA in the near future, but you can always reach out via email or videoconference to speak with us. We pride ourselves in being a well-connected Post and use all available means to stay in touch with our members, regardless of the distance. That being said, I encourage all of you to reach out to our members and keep checking in with each other. Buddy checks are vital and can actually save lives and mitigate problems.

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

## USEFUL INFORMATION FOR MEMBERS

### NEW POST TH01 EMAILS

Post officers will cease using personal email addresses to conduct the business of the Post. Thank you, for helping us grow and become more organizationally efficient. Help the Post out by updating your email address books with the following addresses:

**Post Commander – For General Matters**  
[commander@americanlegionthailand.com](mailto:commander@americanlegionthailand.com)

**Post Adjutant and Finance Officer – For Specific Administrative and Capital Finance Matters**  
[adjutant@americanlegionthailand.com](mailto:adjutant@americanlegionthailand.com)

**Post 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Commander and Historian – For all Memberships, Including New Applications and Renewals, Charity Donations, and Historical Matters**  
[1vice@americanlegionthailand.com](mailto:1vice@americanlegionthailand.com)

**Post 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Commander – For all Events and Activities, Marketing, Sponsorship, and American Legion Riders Matters**  
[2vice@americanlegionthailand.com](mailto:2vice@americanlegionthailand.com)

**IT Director – For all Communication, Online Presence, Website, Email, and Social Media Management, and Technical Support Matters**  
[comms@americanlegionthailand.com](mailto:comms@americanlegionthailand.com)

### 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 May

**First Day of Military Appreciation Month**

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/National\\_Military\\_Appreciation\\_Month](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/National_Military_Appreciation_Month)

**First Day of Asian Pacific American Heritage Month**

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Asian\\_American\\_and\\_Pacific\\_Islander\\_Heritage\\_Month](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Asian_American_and_Pacific_Islander_Heritage_Month)

**Labor Day (Thailand)**

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/International\\_Workers%27\\_Day](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/International_Workers%27_Day)

04 May

**Coronation Day (Thailand)**

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Coronation\\_of\\_the\\_Thai\\_monarch](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Coronation_of_the_Thai_monarch)

05 May

**Cinco de Mayo**

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cinco\\_de\\_Mayo](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cinco_de_Mayo)

**Bridge Public Holiday (Thailand)**

<https://www.bangkokpost.com/thailand/general/2209699/4-extra-holidays-next-year>

08 May

**Victory in Europe Day**

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Victory\\_in\\_Europe\\_Day](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Victory_in_Europe_Day)

10 May

**American Legion Post TH01 Membership Monthly Meeting**

11 May

**Royal Ploughing Ceremony Day (Thailand)**

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Royal\\_Ploughing\\_Ceremony](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Royal_Ploughing_Ceremony)

14 May

**Mother's Day**

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mother%27s\\_Day\\_\(United\\_States\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mother%27s_Day_(United_States))

20 May

**Armed Forces Day**

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Armed\\_Forces\\_Day#:~:text=are%20also%20honored.-,United%20States,Sunday%2C%20as%20in%202016\).](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Armed_Forces_Day#:~:text=are%20also%20honored.-,United%20States,Sunday%2C%20as%20in%202016).)

29 May

**Memorial Day**

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Memorial\\_Day](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Memorial_Day)

## POST TH01 OFFICERS 2023MY

COMMANDER – Bruce Templeman  
[commander@americanlegionthailand.com](mailto:commander@americanlegionthailand.com)

1<sup>st</sup> VICE COMMANDER AND  
HISTORIAN – Ted Potyrala  
[1vice@americanlegionthailand.com](mailto:1vice@americanlegionthailand.com)

2<sup>nd</sup> VICE COMMANDER – John Skabry  
[2vice@americanlegionthailand.com](mailto:2vice@americanlegionthailand.com)

ADJUTANT AND  
FINANCE OFFICER – Jeff Ludwig  
[adjutant@americanlegionthailand.com](mailto:adjutant@americanlegionthailand.com)

SERVICE OFFICER –

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS – Sal Salzarulo  
[salzy48@hotmail.com](mailto:salzy48@hotmail.com)

IT DIRECTOR – Chris Lampert  
[comms@americanlegionthailand.com](mailto:comms@americanlegionthailand.com)

JUDGE ADVOCATE – Paul Ben-Yehuda  
[renegademarine@icloud.com](mailto:renegademarine@icloud.com)

CHAPLAIN –

PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICER – Joe Reedy  
[joereedy4@gmail.com](mailto:joereedy4@gmail.com)

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

MEMBER AT LARGE – Billy Holland  
[billybholland@gmail.com](mailto:billybholland@gmail.com)

MEMBER AT LARGE – John Eschenbaum  
[john\\_eschenbaum2003@yahoo.com](mailto:john_eschenbaum2003@yahoo.com)

MEMBER AT LARGE – Michael Baines  
[mkbaines1@gmail.com](mailto:mkbaines1@gmail.com)



ADJUTANT'S CORNER...JEFF LUDWIG

Greetings Comrades,

Congratulations to our elected and appointed Post officers for the coming 2023-2024 year. We welcome back our returning incumbents and our new officers.

## THE YEAR 2023

Annual Elections  
are over!

Here are your new officers.



Legion has to offer. It is your toolbox to help you grow the Post and help us fulfill the 4 pillars of the American Legion.

Once you complete the course, you will receive a certificate of completion that you can download and print. You will also be eligible for the Basic Training Graduate Pin that you can wear on your Post hat. Department tracks members within the Department that complete the basic training course. The course is open to all American Legion members. I encourage all members to take this course and learn about your great organization, The American Legion.

Jeff Ludwig

Adjutant & Finance Officer  
American Legion Post TH01  
Ubun Ratchathani, Thailand

## SAFETY MESSAGE

### MOTORCYCLE SAFETY MONTH

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) has declared 1-31 May as Motorcycle Safety Month. According to an article, today, in the Bangkok Post, "Thailand's roads are death traps." The article states that Thai roads are some of the deadliest in this region and among the 10 most dangerous in the world. According to the Department of Disease Control, motorcycles attribute to 74% of the traffic fatalities on the roads. Of the 20,000 people killed on roads each year, 15,000 of them are motorcyclists. That is three out of four fatalities.

So, how can you protect yourself and others? Most importantly, if you are riding a motorcycle, wear a helmet and ride



defensively. While you may be obeying all the traffic laws, you can rest assured the typical Thai motorcyclist is not.

#### **HERE ARE SOME MORE TIPS TO HELP KEEP YOU SAFE**

1. Wear your helmet! This one step could potentially save many of the lives lost in accidents.
2. When traffic lights turn green, **watch right AND left first!**
3. Safety distance doesn't exist in Thailand: if there is room for a car, truck, or motorcycle to move over, rest assured they will.
4. Beware of 'Ghost Riders' and other weird things! Ghost riders are incredibly common

here. In case you don't yet know what a ghost rider is, it is a bike driving on the wrong side of



the road, because it's a lot faster for them to reach home than going all the way to the next U-Turn.

5. Always assume the guy coming at the intersection didn't see you. If the other guy has a stop sign, always assume they're not going to stop. Nine times out of ten, they won't stop.

6. Don't underestimate how much you drank. Alcohol and motorcycles don't mix. Don't drink and drive.

7. Keep your eyes on the cars, trucks, and bikes in front of you at all times. Too many fatal accidents occur when bike riders fail to notice they brake hard in front of them.

8. Watch out for potholes and sand spots in the road. The condition of the back roads of Thailand can vary from not-so-good to disastrous. Potholes are frequent, and construction sites are rarely indicated. They're common in Thailand and many of them are not marked.

9. Emergency Phone Numbers: Have a list of emergency numbers with you or on your bike. **CALL 1155**, the tourist police number, and call an ambulance if necessary. **FOR AN AMBULANCE, CALL 1554**. You might hear all kinds of stories, but you will stand a much better chance with an English-speaking police officer, even if just a little.





**NHTSA...**

<https://one.nhtsa.gov/planners/sharetheroad2008/index.cfm>

**Bangkok Post Article...**

<https://www.bangkokpost.com/opinion/opinion/2528069/motorbike-death-toll-a-growing-crisis>



## 1<sup>ST</sup> VICE COMMANDER & HISTORIAN...*TED POTYRALA*

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Greetings fellow legionnaires,

### **Memorial Day is Here...**

To many, Memorial Day is the beginning of the summer season, with store sales, cookouts, and fireworks. To us veterans, it means much more. We honor our brothers and sisters that have made the ultimate sacrifice.

Memorial Day originated during the American Civil War when citizens placed flowers on the graves of those killed in battle. It was first widely observed, on 30 May 1868, by the proclamation of Gen. John A. Logan of the Grand Army of the Republic, an organization of Union veterans. The date was chosen because flowers would be in bloom all over the country. It was originally called Decoration Day, and it only honored Civil War soldiers. It evolved to what is known as Memorial Day, following World War I, when it took on a greater meaning for all

fallen U.S. service members. In 1971, Memorial Day was declared a national holiday through an act of Congress, and it was moved to the last Monday in May.

While we honor these brave men and women, don't forget the others that returned from wars with both physical and mental injuries.

So, while getting ready to attack that hamburger or hot dog, take a minute of silence to remember those that have fallen for not only protecting our freedom but those of other countries as well.

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

## HISTORY ARTICLE

### ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH (APAHM)

The month of May celebrates Americans from the Asian Continent along with the Pacific Islands of Melanesia, Micronesia, and Polynesia.

The person responsible for getting APAHM established was Jennie Jew, a staffer on Capitol Hill. She shared her idea with Representative Frank Horton who, in 1977, introduced the legislation that formed it. Senator Daniel Inouye introduced similar legislation in the Senate. It started out as a week-long celebration but, in 1990, it was extended to a month-long celebration.

Jennie Jew's great-grandfather was a Chinese immigrant that came to America in the 1800s. He, along with thousands of other immigrants, worked on the Transcontinental Railroad. He became a successful businessman in California and later moved to Oregon where he was killed by members of an anti-Asian hate group. Jennie wanted to make something positive from her family tragedy by getting recognition for all of the accomplishments that the Asian Community has given this our country. 15,000-20,000 Chinese immigrants helped build the railroad. It took this many because most white men didn't want to do this type of labor. So, you would think pay and benefits would be really good for them, but that was not the case. They were paid less than the white men that did work, plus they got to work longer hours and had to pay for their own food.

### OTHER CONTRIBUTIONS FROM ASIAN AMERICANS

Chien-Shiung, Ph.D., a Chinese American who worked on the Manhattan Project, improving on existing technology for the detection of radiation and enrichment of uranium in large quantities.

*Excerpts from...*

<https://www.npr.org>

<https://time.com>

<https://www.history.com>

Larry Itliong, a Filipino-American formed the Filipino Farm Labor Union which later joined Cesar Chavez's National Farm Workers Association which became the United Farm Workers Union.

Ajay Bhatt, an Indian American who developed several technologies for computers, including the USB port.

Katherine Luzuriaga, M.D., a Filipino-American developed early diagnostic tests for detecting HIV in children.

Jawed Karim, a Bangladeshi German American who was a member of the team that gave us YouTube.

Yuri Kochiyama, a Japanese American who spent two years in a detention center during WWII. She became involved with Civil Rights, not only helping Asians but the Black, Latino and Hispanic, and Indigenous peoples communities. She campaigned for, and won, a formal apology and reparations from the U.S. government when President Ronald Reagan signed the Civil Liberties Act into law.

Amanda Nguyen, the daughter of Vietnamese refugees, is a survivor of sexual assault. When she tried to get information on her rights, she found no legislation covering sexual assaults. She went ahead and wrote her own which became the Sexual Assault Survivors Rights Act of 2016. She was nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize in 2019.

These are just a few of the many contributions made by Asian Americans. Our country has benefited greatly from them. Even though they haven't been fairly treated, they rose above that.



## CHARITY DONATION ARTICLE

### 4<sup>TH</sup> PILLAR OF THE AMERICAL LEGION: CHILDREN & YOUTH

#### AMERICAN LEGION AND V.F.W. JOIN TOGETHER TO DONATE TO THE TAWANCHAI FOUNDATION



*Wayne Wright, Billy Holland, Mrs. Yupin Puggasung, John Skarby, Sal Salvatore, Ted Potyrala, Prof. Dr. Bowonsit Chaochuen, Mrs. Jiranan Suwannachairob, Mrs. Suteera Pradubwong, Bruce Templeman, Jeff Ludwig, Noi Templeman, and Ning Holland*

20 April 2023, members from our post traveled to the Tawanchai Foundation in Khon Kaen to present our Post's donation along with the donation from V.F.W. Post 10217, Korat. Commander Templeman, being a member of both the American Legion and the V.F.W., represented the V.F.W. Post since they were unable to travel to Khon Kean. Each post donated \$1,000 USD.

This was our second year to make a donation, and this year, we were joined by our brothers at V.F.W. Post 10217. Last year, our post decided to make this a yearly donation, and V.F.W. Commander, David Borchers, said they also want to make this a yearly donation. Both posts have the same goal to help our communities, especially the children.

For those members that might not know what the Tawanchai Foundation is all about, Tawanchai operates under a Royal grant to provide treatment and care to children born with a cleft palate, cleft lip, or other cranial deformities of the head and face. All treatment is free of charge. I have been to

the clinic and seen the work they do, and it is amazing. If you have ever seen a child born with a cleft lip or palate, it simply tears you up. The doctors that perform the surgery are truly gifted, and the staff that supports the foundation is very dedicated.

If you want more information about the foundation, you can go to their website: <https://www.tawanchai-foundation.org>. Use Chrome, and you can easily translate it to English.

I highly encourage you to consider donating. If each member donated \$14.08 USD, we would have \$1,000 USD for next year's donation. \$14.08 USD to give a child a chance at having a shot at a normal life. They start life at a great disadvantage, but this surgery puts them on equal footing with everyone else.

If you would like to donate, you can contact me at [1vice@americanlegionthailand.com](mailto:1vice@americanlegionthailand.com). Let me know if you are located in the U.S. or Thailand, and I will tell you how to donate.

So, thank you, to the members and non-members who donated, and a special thanks to Commander

Borchers, of the Korat V.F.W., for having his post join us in this worthy cause.

**TAWANCHAI FOUNDATION THANK YOU LETTER TO POST TH01 AND V.F.W. POST 10217**



มูลนิธิธนะวันฉาย เพื่อผู้ป่วยปากแหว่ง เพดานโหว่ และพิการทางศีรษะและใบหน้า (ตาวจ)

Tawanchai Foundation for Cleft Lip , Cleft Palate and Craniofacial Deformities (TFC)

สำนักงาน อาคารคณะแพทยศาสตร์ มหาวิทยาลัยขอนแก่น 123 ถ.มิตรภาพ ต.ในเมือง อ.เมืองขอนแก่น จ.ขอนแก่น 40002

Office Faculty of Medicine, Khon Kaen University, 123 Mittraphab Rd., Muang District, Khon Kaen, 40002.

Phone 043 363123, Mobile phone 081 1851151 Fax 043 202558 <http://www.tawanchai-foundation.org> E-mail: [cleft@kku.ac.th](mailto:cleft@kku.ac.th)

มอบโอกาส ชาติฝัน สร้างสรรค์รอยยิ้ม

TFC no.65/2023

26 April 2023

**Subject** Thank you for donation

**Dear** The Board of American Legion

As the Tawanchai Foundation has received a 1,000 US dollars from the American Legion Post TH01 and the Veterans of Foreign Wars, we would like to express our sincerest gratitude and appreciation for the generous support. In order to fulfill your commitment, your contribution will allow us to provide financial assistance for treatment of cleft patients who are not able to afford it in their own communities and ensure that your financial support can reach to our patients.

Your continued support is highly appreciated and we are honored to have your cooperation as we work towards a better life for our patients. We eagerly await the opportunity to receive your support again.

Your Sincerely,

(Professor Dr. Bowornsilp Chowchuen)

President of Tawanchai Foundation for Cleft Palate and Craniofacial Deformities



## MAY BIRTHDAYS

Donald Badtram

Joseph Cardeiro

Dean Housden

Steven Jacobs

David Monninger

Richard Rees

Henry Witmer

Wayne Wright



## SERVICE OFFICER'S MESSAGE

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Greetings Comrades,

FBU Manila is encouraging the use of their Inquiry Form on their website as opposed to emailing requests to them. I have sent many emails to them in the past and can attest to the speed and efficiency of this new web-based inquiry link. If you have to contact them, this link is the easiest way to get a quick response:

<https://ph.usembassy.gov/services/fbu-inquiry-form/>.

Social Security payments to a Thai bank are restricted accounts and make it difficult for your spouse or partner to access this money in the case of your incapacitation. If you are a military retiree, you can offset this by having DFAS send an allotment to your Thai bank. The money will be deducted from your military pay and sent directly to your Thai bank on the same day as your military pay is sent. You eliminate the wire transfer fees and get the normal exchange rate from the receiving bank.

**Be prepared.** It's the motto of the Boy Scouts and sage advice to everyone at every age. As we get older, our responsibilities grow, and we need to be prepared for many more situations than when we were young. Have your will and powers of attorney designated. Fill out the document "**What My Family Should Know**" from 1 of the following links and safeguard it with a person you trust. Register yourself in the "**Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP), A Service of the Bureau of Consular Affairs, US State Department**" from 1 of the following links and designate your next of kin as well as an executor to your estate. The US Embassy is a critical

player in the process of notifying your family of your death, incapacitation, or incarceration. STEP is the first place they look to get information in which to assist you. Make it easier to help you and your family.

### **1. What My Family Should Know**

- English Version: <https://americanlegionthailand.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/1.1-What-My-Family-Needs-to-Know-English-11.03.23.pdf>

- Thai Version: <https://americanlegionthailand.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/1.2-What-My-Family-Needs-to-Know-Thai-11.03.23.pdf>

### **2. Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP)**

- US State Department: <https://step.state.gov>

Our Post is in need of a Post Service Officer that lives here in Thailand. If you feel that you can help veterans, widows, and orphans navigate their issues through the different government agencies, please step up and volunteer. The pay is nonexistent, and the hours can add up, but the feeling of being someone's helping angel is the best feeling in the world. This position is the one that is most needed and crucial to our mission of serving veterans and their families.

Service Officer  
American Legion Post TH01  
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](https://twitter.com/Post_TH01)

## **Instagram**

[https://www.instagram.com/post\\_tho1/](https://www.instagram.com/post_tho1/)

## **YouTube**

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

## **ASEAN Now**

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