

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: PEPPERS RESTAURANT & BAKERY



JUNE 2023

POST EMAIL: COMMANDER@AMERICANLEGIONTHAILAND.COM

VOL. 6, ISSUE 6

LINKS CONCERNING ISSUES OF GENERAL EXPAT INTEREST IN THAILAND

US DOLLAR TO THAI BAHT EXCHANGE RATE (AS OF 14/06/23)

\$1.00 USD:34.62 THB

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



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

A word from the Commander...

I thank all those that participated in the military funeral honors for Comrade Joe Reedy last month. He was a fine man and will be missed. His family will need our support for a time, so please ask what you can "do.to" help: <http://do.to/>.

At the last meeting, we received a delivery of the VA bronze grave marker for Comrade Joel Aldrich. It's good to see our order requests being answered quickly by the VA. Joel is interred in Nakhon Phanom in an unmarked family pagoda. I will schedule a date with Usa Aldrich for the Post to present the marker.

Post elections: We have a new Judge Advocate, Paul Ben-Yeuda. He has been hitting the ground running by getting involved with the re-drafting of our Post Constitution. Our former JAG, Chris Lampert, has been spearheading this rewrite and has just been elected as the Post Public Affairs Officer as well as the Communications and Media Committee Chair. We will be moving forward at a faster pace this year with the two of them working together.

We are still looking for a chaplain and service officer. These positions are highly needed and invaluable to our organization and mission.

The duties of the chaplain are substantial. The chaplain helps console the families of the bereaved and steers them to the various people within our organization to help. The chaplain also runs the

graves and memorials program with the Post, ensuring the fallen are remembered each year and their graves are decorated on the various US public holidays. reserved for military veterans. The chaplain is integral to the Post achieving its goal to care for veterans and their families. Hand in hand with the Post service officer, they connect veterans and their families with the various programs of support that are occasionally needed.

The Post Service Officer is the fountain of knowledge on the many programs available for veterans and families, as well as being able to assist with questions and issues that arise with the various federal agencies. Some examples are assistance in filing income taxes & FBAR, help in obtaining online accounts with federal agencies, sending reports of death to insurance & pensions companies, arranging SSA interviews for surviving spouses, etc...

I encourage everyone in the Post to take a shot at performing as a Post Officer at least once. Training is available. The personal fulfillment you receive from helping others in need cannot be measured. Please contact me if you can devote some time to helping your comrades and their families.

Let's keep checking in on each other and keep our comrades close.

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

Post Adjutant and Finance Officer – For Specific Administrative and Capital Finance Matters
adjutant@americanlegionthailand.com

Post 1st Vice Commander and Historian – For all Memberships, Including New Applications and Renewals, Charity Donations, and Historical Matters
1vice@americanlegionthailand.com

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

Public Affairs Officer – For all Communication, Online Presence, Website, Email, Social Media Management, and Technical Support Matters
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 June

First Day of LGBTQ+ Pride Month
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pride_Month

03 June

Queen Suthida's Birthday (Thailand)
<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Suthida>

Visakha Bucha Day (Thailand)
<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vesak>

05 June

Day off for Queen Suthida's Birthday (Thailand)

Day off for Visakha Bucha Day (Thailand)

06 June

D-Day Remembrance Day
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Normandy_landings

10 June

Belmont Stakes
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Belmont_Stakes

14 June

United States Army Birthday
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_Army

Flag Day

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Flag_Day_\(United_States\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Flag_Day_(United_States))

American Legion Post TH01 Membership Monthly Meeting

18 June

Father's Day
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Father%27s_Day_\(United_States\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Father%27s_Day_(United_States))

19 June

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

POST TH01 OFFICERS 2023MY

COMMANDER – Bruce Templeman

commander@americanlegionthailand.com

1st VICE COMMANDER AND

HISTORIAN – Ted Potyrala

1vice@americanlegionthailand.com

2nd VICE COMMANDER – John Skabry

2vice@americanlegionthailand.com

ADJUTANT AND

FINANCE OFFICER – Jeff Ludwig

adjutant@americanlegionthailand.com

SERVICE OFFICER –

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS – Sal Salzarulo

salzy48@hotmail.com

JUDGE ADVOCATE – Paul Ben-Yehuda

reneqademarine@icloud.com

CHAPLAIN –

PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICER – Chris Lampert

comms@americanlegionthailand.com

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

MEMBER AT LARGE – Billy Holland

billybholland@gmail.com

MEMBER AT LARGE – John Eschenbaum

john_eschenbaum2003@yahoo.com

MEMBER AT LARGE – Michael Baines

mkbaines1@gmail.com



ADJUTANT'S CORNER...JEFF LUDWIG

Greetings Comrades,

First, we bid a sad farewell to one of our founding members, Joe Reedy, who transferred to Post Everlasting, this past month. You will be truly missed.

The new membership year is fast approaching. 01 July marks the beginning of the 2024 membership renewal drive. All members are encouraged to renew their dues as quickly as possible. There are various ways to pay your dues. The first and most preferred method is to renew online with a credit card. It is fast and simple, plus, it works with both domestic and foreign credit cards. The second most preferred method is electronic transfer to The Post's bank account: First Command Bank. The third method, and probably the easiest, is to simply give cash, check, or your money order to me, Adjutant and Finance Officer, and I will renew your dues online through <https://mylegion.org/>. As a reminder, we can only accept checks issued from American banks. Sorry, but we cannot take Thai checks. Also, please do not send cash through the mail.

A. POST TH01 BANKING INFO.

1. **Financial Institution:** First Command Bank
2. **Account Name:** American Legion Thailand Post TH01
3. **Account Number:** 557-9-818
4. **Routing Number:** 1119-9369-5
5. **SWIFT Code:** NONE

B. POST MAILING ADDRESS

Brig. Gen. Robin Olds American Legion Post TH01
P.O. Box 41
Wanarom Post Office
Ubon Ratchathani 34003 Thailand

FLAG DAY PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE



In 1892, writer-poet, Francis Bellamy composed The Pledge of Allegiance to The United States of America, which was formally accepted by Congress in 1942. In 1954, the powerful words "under God" were added.

Reverend Francis Bellamy

*"I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America,
and to the Republic for which it stands,
one Nation under God, indivisible,
with liberty and Justice for all."*

Read more...

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

Jeff Ludwig
Adjutant & Finance Officer
American Legion Post TH01
Ubon Ratchathani, Thailand

SAFETY MESSAGE

JUNE IS NATIONAL SAFETY MONTH

In 1996, the National Safety Council established June as National Safety Month, aiming to increase awareness of the leading safety and health risks and ultimately decrease the number of unintentional injuries and deaths in the United States. This year, the theme of National Safety Day 2023 is "Our Aim-Zero Harm." The focus, this month, is on reducing leading causes of injury and death at work, on the road and in our homes and communities.

The National Safety Council website provides a list of tips for protecting against accidental falls, both at home and at work:



LIST OF TIPS

<http://downloads.nsc.org/pdf/nsm/R&TFallPrevention.pdf>

NATIONAL SAFETY COUNCIL TIPS TO PREVENT FALLS

<https://www.nsc.org/workplace/safety-topics/slips-trips-and-falls/slips-trips-and-falls-home>

FALL PREVENTION FOR SENIORS

<https://www.visitingangels.com/fall-prevention-program>

1. Aisles, stairs, and walkways should be clutter-free, spills should be wiped, dropped objects picked up, and cabinet drawers closed when not in use.
2. Use handrails in stairways, take one step at a time, and report or repair broken stairs or loose stair coverings.
3. Apply nonskid floor coatings and slip-resistant mats where falls are likely. Slow down and take small steps when walking on a wet or slippery surface.

4. Inspect ladders before and after every use.

The Web site also includes specific tips for aging adults, including:

1. Wear proper footwear. Athletic shoes greatly reduce the risk of falls among the elderly. The risk of falling increases if in stocking feet or barefoot.
2. Use non-skid throw rugs to reduce the chances of slipping on linoleum.
3. Store frequently used items in easy-to-reach areas.
4. Exercise regularly. The stronger the body, the more likely a person is to sustain a fall with minimal injury.

CHAPLAIN'S MESSAGE

Heavenly Father,
maker and lover
of all,
we ask you to
bless all the
people
of our great
country.



We ask that you bless our American Stars and Stripes and let it always remind us of the principles it stands for.
Help us to work together in peace
so that we may give you glory by our lives.

We ask this grace, loving Father,
through Christ our Lord.

Amen!



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

Greetings fellow legionnaires,

PASSING OF A CHARTER POST MEMBER

As you know, we recently loss Joe Reedy. His loss not only effected our post but also the expat community. His vast knowledge about immigration helped many expats and visitors. He also was our Public Affairs Officer, a former Member-at-Large, and a charter member.



I would like to thank all of our members and non-members that donated towards Joe's funeral. It's nice to know that when one of us needs help, we are ready to assist however we can. After all, that's what we are here for: Veterans Helping Veterans. Joe also received donations from many people that are not members of The Legion. Thanks, to Pen Edmonds, for getting donations from friends in the US.

Funerals in Thailand may not be as expensive as in the US, but they are still expensive here in Thailand. I tried to find the average cost of a funeral, and the figure of 60,000 baht shows up a lot. Of course, like all funerals, it depends on many things. While it is easy to say that you should be prepared for when that day comes, many, if not most of us, are not. You are gone, so you have no worries, but the people you leave behind have a ton of worries. Not, only with paying for the funeral, but also, how are they going to live if the deceased was the sole provider?

Go to our website:
<https://americanlegionthailand.com/family-support/>,

and download "What My Family Should Know." It will not only help your family, but also The Post Service Officer in gathering all needed documents to file for any benefits your family may be entitled to. It is in both English and Thai. Remember, you are not going to be around to answer any questions about where this or that document is.

MEMBERSHIP DRIVE, 2023

They say that, the older one gets, the faster time goes by. It seems like only yesterday that I was working on membership renewals for 2022-2023. I know, you are probably thinking, already? Yes, already. We will start the membership drive, in July.

Last year, we had a very good membership drive. I am hoping that, this year, we can do as well, if not better. So, be prepared to be hearing from me, in July. Last year, some of you kept getting emails asking to renew, even after you did renew. I want to avoid that. This year, I want to reach each of you, individually, instead of sending a mass mailing to everyone. The best way to keep from getting repeated emails is to renew early.

I know, you are all anxious to get your dues paid, but you need to wait until after 01 July. If you renew before that, it will not count towards our goal of 100% renewals. Also, and this is important, do not renew using the department's website. I will have instructions on how to renew in the email you will receive, in July.

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

HISTORY ARTICLES

FLAG DAY

Flag Day is a day to honor the national flag of the United States. It is observed, on 14 June, which is the anniversary of the date in 1777 when the Second Continental Congress passed a resolution to adopt the first official American flag. The flag had 13 stripes and 13 stars to represent the original colonies that fought for independence from Britain.

The idea of celebrating Flag Day came from different sources, but one of the most influential was Bernard J. Cigrand, a Wisconsin schoolteacher, who urged his students to observe 14 June as "Flag Birthday," in 1885. He also wrote an essay to promote the idea of a national flag day and later

became the president of the American Flag Day Association.

Flag Day became an official holiday, in 1916, when President Woodrow Wilson issued a proclamation to recognize it. In 1949, Congress passed an act to establish 14 June as National Flag Day. Although it is not a federal holiday, some states, like Pennsylvania, celebrate it as a state holiday.

Every year, the president delivers an address to proclaim the week of 14 June as National Flag Week and encourages all Americans to fly the flag during that week.

REMEMBERING THE BRAVERY AND SACRIFICE OF D-DAY



On 6 June, 1944, also known as ****D-Day****, was a pivotal moment in history when Allied forces landed on the beaches of Normandy, France during World War II. Codenamed Operation Overlord, it was the largest seaborne invasion in history and marked the beginning of the campaign to liberate Nazi-occupied north-west Europe.



On that day, troops from the UK, US, Canada, and France attacked German forces on five separate beachheads in Normandy. The operation required extensive planning and coordination between the Allies and was a critical turning point in the war.

As we remember this historic event, we honor the bravery and sacrifice of those who fought on D-Day. Their courage and determination helped pave the way for the eventual defeat of Nazi Germany and the restoration of peace in Europe.

Let us never forget the sacrifices made by these brave men and women on that fateful day. Their legacy lives on as a testament to the power of courage and determination in the face of adversaries.

Billy Holland
Member-at-Large
American Legion Post THo1
Ubon Ratchathani, Thailand

Excerpts from...

CONVERSATION WITH BING, 27.04.23

(1) D-Day - Normandy Invasion, Facts & Significance | HISTORY

<https://www.history.com/topics/world-war-ii/d-day/>

(2) 10 Facts About D-Day You Need To Know | Imperial War Museums

<https://www.iwm.org.uk/history/the-10-things-you-need-to-know-about-d-day/>

(3) Army Senior Leaders Send — Lessons from D-Day

<https://www.armyupress.army.mil/Journals/NCO-Journal/Archives/2019/June/Lessons-From-D-Day/>



2ND VICE COMMANDER ...*JOHN SKABRY*

Comrades and Riders,

AMERICAN LEGION RIDERS ARTICLE

COMMUNITY SERVICE: 2023 CHIANG MAI TOY RUN

Of the four pillars of the American Legion, children and youth are dear to us.



On 26 February, for a second year in a row, the American Legion Riders Post TH01, Ubon Ratchathani, Thailand participated in a joint,

annual toy run event to support children in need in the Khan Sub-district of Chiang Mai.

The purpose of the toy run event was to provide needed renovations to buildings and libraries and purchase and repair computers for the Baan Huey Sai School. We also bought school supplies and uniforms for all the school's students. During the toy run, we were also able to hand out stuffed toys and dolls for youngsters, aged 5-12.

For this year's toy run event, Post TH01 donated 5,500 baht and the Our Legion Riders Assistant Director, Bobby Rositer, donated 5,000 baht for sponsorship entry fee, i.e., Our Legion Ubon Patches on T-Shirts, gaining exposure and showing everyone where the Our Legion Riders Thailand stand, and banners for the event. All the sponsors that joined us in the toy run are in the corresponding pictures.

If you wish to join in any future charity events, please get in touch with Bobby Rositer or myself. We also welcome all Post members interested in joining the Our Legion Riders Thailand.

You can reach out to us at...

<https://americanlegionthailand.com/al-riders/>

OR

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/577113676242197>

Thank you.

John Skabry
2nd Vice Commander
Events and Activities Chairman
Our Legion Riders Director
American Legion Post TH01
Ubon Ratchathani, Thailand

4TH PILLAR OF THE AMERICAN LEGION: CHILDREN & YOUTH



JUNE BIRTHDAYS

Darwin Dennis

James Gilmore

Robert Larson

Carl Manchester

Peter Ritzel



SERVICE OFFICER'S MESSAGE

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

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/>