

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



AUGUST 2023

POST EMAIL: COMMANDER@AMERICANLEGIONTHAILAND.COM

VOL. 6, ISSUE 8

LINKS CONCERNING ISSUES OF GENERAL EXPAT INTEREST IN THAILAND

US DOLLAR TO THAI BAHT EXCHANGE RATE (AS OF 24/07/23)

\$1.00 USD:34.48 THB

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



POST COMMANDER'S COMMENTS...BRUCE TEMPLEMAN

A word from the Commander...

Our comrade and Post TH01 charter member, John M. Eschenbaum, passed away, on 17 July. He was an active Member-at-Large and very helpful to the Post and its members. I spoke with him about twice a month over the past year and visited him when he became housebound. He conducted frequent buddy checks and participated in meetings, attending by videoconference when his health declined. He was a good friend. By keeping in touch often, he was able to open up and discuss things, like health, family, and future plans. He will be missed and remembered.

I am proud of the way in which the Post immediately stepped in to provide support and military funeral honors to John and his family. Thanks to 1st VC Potyrala, 2nd VC Skabry, Adj. Ludwig, and JAG Ben-Yehuda for the comfort and honor you provided his family.

Our new membership year has begun, and I am reminding everyone to pay their dues, as early as possible, and to refer all veterans that you meet to our Post Membership Chair.

Please, read the wonderful articles by our Post officers. They have been diligent in compiling items of interest for you. Feel free to submit articles of your own, so that we can keep informed. Articles about your military service, ideas for making the Post better, topics of local concern, etc. are most welcome. This newsletter is for all of us to communicate, so please use it.

I will see you all at the August Post meeting.

Bruce A. Templeman
Commander
American Legion Post TH01
Ubun 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 and Communication Center – For all Online Presence, Website, Email, Social Media Management, and Technical Support Matters
comms@americanlegionthailand.com

THE PACT ACT AND YOUR VA BENEFITS

~FILE YOUR PACT ACT CLAIM BY AUGUST 9 TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR BACKDATED BENEFITS~

THERE'S NO DEADLINE TO APPLY FOR PACT ACT BENEFITS. BUT IF YOU FILE YOUR PACT ACT CLAIM—OR QUICKLY SUBMIT YOUR INTENT TO FILE—**BY AUGUST 9, 2023**, YOU MAY RECEIVE BENEFITS BACKDATED TO AUGUST 10, 2022. SO DON'T WAIT, APPLY TODAY.

The PACT Act is a new law that expands VA health care and benefits for Veterans exposed to burn pits, Agent Orange, and other toxic substances.

The PACT Act adds to the list of health conditions that we assume (or “presume”) are caused by exposure to these substances. This law helps us provide generations of Veterans—and their survivors—with the care and benefits they've earned and deserve.

<https://americanlegionthailand.com/benefits/>

NEW TRAVEL REQUIREMENTS FOR AMERICANS VISITING EUROPE

https://travel-europe.europa.eu/etias/what-etias_en

POST HOLIDAYS AND EVENTS CALENDAR

11 August

100-day Merit Making for Comrade Joe Reedy (Thailand)
0930 in the Morning
Liu Reedy's Home

๗๐๒ 12 Tambon Kham Yai

Amphoe Mueang Ubon Ratchathani

Chang Wat Ubon Ratchathani 34000

<https://goo.gl/maps/u4jSPzLqSf3NmVnM8>

01-02 August

Buddhist Lent Day (Thailand)

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

04 August

United States Coast Guard Birthday

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

07 August

Purple Heart Day

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

09 August

American Legion Post TH01 Membership Monthly Meeting

12 August

The Queen's Birthday (Thailand)

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

14 August

Day off for The Queen's Birthday (Thailand)

19 August

National Aviation Day

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

20 August

National Senior Citizens Day

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

26 August

Women's Equality Day

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

POST TH01 OFFICERS 2023 MEMBERSHIP YEAR

COMMANDER – Bruce Templeman
commander@americanlegionthailand.com

1st VICE COMMANDER AND
HISTORIAN – Ted Potyrala
1vice@americanlegionthailand.com

2nd VICE COMMANDER AND
OUR LEGION RIDERS DIRECTOR – 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
renegademarine@icloud.com

CHAPLAIN –

PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICER – Chris Lampert
comms@americanlegionthailand.com

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

MEMBER-AT-LARGE – Billy Holland
billybholland@gmail.com

MEMBER-AT-LARGE –

MEMBER-AT-LARGE – Michael Baines
mkbaines1@gmail.com



ADJUTANT'S CORNER...JEFF

LUDWIG

Greetings Comrades,

Are you registered at myLegion.org?

If you aren't registered yet, I encourage you to register and sign-in to the members section of myLegion.org. See the detailed instructions for registering below.

Once you register, just login and then click on the button "My Account," and you are in. From here, you can see your personal data loaded in your record. This includes things like your contact and emergency contact information. Also, you can view your membership information, including Post committees and positions you hold, type of membership and renewal dates, saved credit cards, and billing addresses. Most of this you can change right from there by clicking on the edit button. From here, you can also print out a membership card.

Under Membership discounts, you can find discounts on travel, car rental, entertainment, retail, financial and insurance, relocation, and more. You can subscribe to publications, such as the American Legion dispatch. You can also view our newsletter and network with other myLegion members, using networking tools.

I promise you. It is simple and easy. Just try it.

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

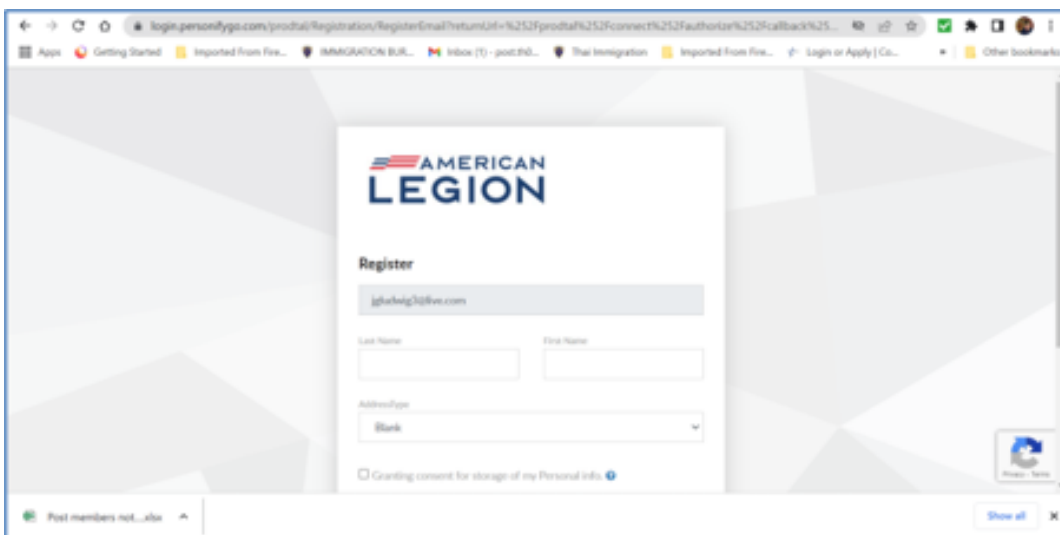
1. Click on the link above and then click on register. If you are already registered, just click on the Join button.



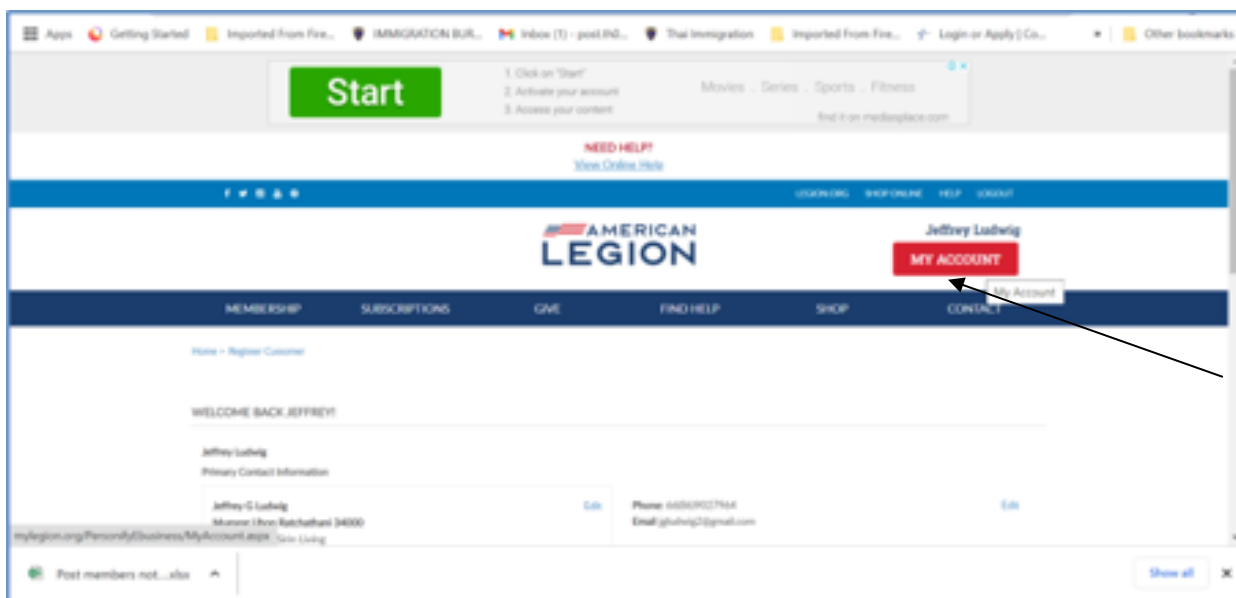
2. Enter your email that you have on your Post record. If not sure, see me. Then, click next.



3. Type in the information request and you are registered.



4. Then, just click on "My Account."



SAFETY MESSAGE

RABIES OUTBREAK IN NORTHEAST STRIKES 74

A rabies outbreak has been detected in some northeastern provinces with 74 people reportedly contracting the disease so far, Dr. Taweechai Wisanuyothin, chief of the Disease Prevention and Control Office...



Citing data from thairabies.net from October to the start of this week, he said 67 people had tested positive in Surin and seven in Buri Ram. All had previously been vaccinated against rabies.

Dr. Taweechai urged people and their pets to get vaccinated against the disease and avoid having direct contact with the saliva of infected animals. Meanwhile, officials from the Buri Ram Provincial Livestock...

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) estimates that worldwide, 90 percent of exposures are due to rabid dogs; those exposures cause 99 percent of the human deaths. However,

rabies is not as rare as most people think, and it remains a disease of public health significance. According to the CDC, it exists in every continent except Antarctica. It's difficult to assess the annual number of human rabies deaths worldwide due to under-reporting in developing countries (particularly, Asian and African countries); however, it is estimated to be in the tens of thousands (possibly, as high as 55,000).



So how can you protect yourself?

Unless you are certain, always assume any dog you encounter has not been vaccinated.

Do:

- Always ask if it is okay to pet someone else's dog before reaching out to pet the dog.
- When approached by an unfamiliar dog, remain motionless ("be still like a tree").
- If a dog knocks you over, curl into a ball with your head tucked and your hands over your ears and neck.

- Immediately let an adult know about any stray dogs or dogs that are behaving strangely.

Don't:

- Don't approach an unfamiliar dog.
- Don't run from a dog.
- Don't panic or make loud noises.
- Don't disturb a dog that is sleeping, eating, or caring for puppies.
- Don't pet a dog without allowing it to see and sniff you first.
- Don't encourage your dog to play aggressively.
- Don't let small children play with a dog unsupervised.
- Do not pet a dog without allowing it to see and sniff you first.

What to do if an unfamiliar dog approach you, and you do not want to interact with it:



- Stop! Stay still and be calm.
- Do not panic or make loud noises.
- Avoid direct eye contact with the dog.
- Say "No" or "Go Home" in a firm, deep voice.
- Stand with the side of your body facing the dog. Facing a dog directly can appear aggressive to the dog. Instead, keep your body turned partially or completely to the side.
- Slowly raise your hands to your neck, with your elbows in.
- Wait for the dog to pass or slowly back away.

Excerpts from...

(1) Reference Link

<https://www.bangkokpost.com/thailand/general/2503184/rabies-outbreak-in-northeast-strikes-74>

(2) View Policies Link 1

<http://goo.gl/9HgTd>

(3) View Policies Link 2

<http://goo.gl/ou6lp>

In the event you are bitten, follow these steps:

1. Wash the wound thoroughly with soap and water.
2. Apply an antibiotic cream.
3. Cover the wound with a clean bandage.
4. See a healthcare provider if the wound becomes red, painful, warm, or swollen; if you develop a fever; or if the **dog** that **bit** you was acting strangely.

If possible, capture and isolate the animal. If the animal is healthy at the end of the 10-day period, then no **rabies** exposure occurred, and the person bitten will not need rabies vaccination. If the animal is not a domestic dog, cat, or ferret, it should be captured, humanely destroyed and the brain sent for rabies testing.

Although rabies incubation periods in humans can range from days to years, the average is 3 to 8 weeks. This range is why it is so important to



promptly receive PEP vaccination (Rabies) shots – but also why a person should still pursue PEP vaccination even if time has lapsed since the bite (possibly, because they didn't initially consider the possibility of rabies). In this case, if the incubation period is on the protracted end, the PEP vaccination may still work.



1ST VICE COMMANDER & HISTORIAN...TED POTYRALA

Greetings fellow Legionnaires,

As you already know, July kicks off the 2023-2024 membership drive. Yep, already. Seems like only yesterday we were doing the 2022-2023 drive. We already have approximately 33% of our members renewed. That is not a bad start.

The result of last year's drive netted the Post awards for being the 1st post to reach 100% of departments goals. We also received a monetary award for exceeding department goals by 102% before 1 May. We would not have received anything, if not for our members.

I am confident that the majority of our members fully intend to renew but sometimes we put that on the back burner and forget. The thing about renewing early is if our post reaches certain goals set by the department, we qualify for money from the department. As you know, being located in Thailand limits us on how we can generate funds for the post. This is why it is important to renew as soon as you can.

You should have received an email from me about the membership drive. It contained instructions on the different ways of

renewing. If you renew online, you may experience a problem with the address the Legion has for you, versus the billing address that the credit card company has on you. When you get to the page about payment, it will show you your address the Legion has on you. If this is not the billing address of the credit card, you need to edit the address. There will be a small box in the upper right corner that will allow you to change the address. This will not change your address with the Legion. It only changes the billing address. If you don't change the address, your card will not work. This mostly affects us in Thailand.

I, personally, and our Post, appreciate your continued membership. Please try and renew as soon as you can. Mark it on your calendar as a reminder.

Thank you.

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

HISTORY ARTICLES

ON 29 AUGUST 1916, THE US MARINE CORPS RESEVE WAS BORN

As WWI was on the horizon, President Woodrow Wilson signed the Naval Appropriations Act which established the Marine Corps Reserve. They started out with 35 Marines, and by the end of WWI, there were 6,467 Marines including 300 women. They fought in many battles, including Belleau Wood, Muesse-Argonne, Soissons, and St. Mihiel.



By 1922, the reserves were demobilized to inactive status with less than 600 Marines. Marine Corps Commander, Maj. Gen. John A. Lejeune, knew this wasn't good and declared that "it's absolutely necessary that there be in the Marine Corps prior to an emergency an adequate and well-trained Reserve."

On 28 February 1925, Congress passed an Act that created 18 battalions in the reserves. The ranks grew to over 10,000 Marines even though they did not receive any drill pay, except for their annual two-week summer camp. They also had to purchase their own uniform items. This says a lot about their dedication.



were from the Reserve Corps.

The Reserve Marines took part in some of the most bitter fighting, including the Solomon Islands, Marshall, Marianna, Iwo Jima, and Okinawa. Of 82 Medal of Honor recipients, 44 of those were Reservists. One of the most famous USMC Reserve Pilots was Gregory "Pappy" Boyington, a Medal of Honor recipient and leader of the Black Sheep Squadron.



During this time, 19,000 women joined the Marine Corps. They served in over 200 positions. Also, 19,168 African Americans served.

Along came Korea, Vietnam, Enduring Freedom, and Iraqi Freedom. The Marine Corps Reserve served with distinction and honor. The regular US Marine Corps could not have done what they did without the Marine Corps Reserve.

Excerpts and Photos from...

(1) The Web
<https://military.com>

IN MEMORIAM ARTICLE

PASSING OF JOHN ESCHENBAUM



*John Eschenbaum
1947-2023*

It is with great sadness, Post TH01 announces the passing Comrade John Eschenbaum, on 17 July.



John's military career was as a Commander in the U.S. Naval Reserve where he served as a Staff Registered Nurse Anesthetist and Officer in charge of students.

Krachaeng in Kantharalak where we were honored to provide a military ceremony. Post TH01's 1st Vice Commander, Ted Potyrala, 2nd Vice Commander, John Skarby, Adjutant, Jeff Ludwig, and Judge Advocate, Paul Ben-Yehuda, were honored to attend John's funeral and provide a military ceremony.



John was also a dedicated member of our Post, serving as a Member-at-Large where he was active and instrumental in The Post's Buddy Checks. John will be missed very much.



John will be greatly missed not only for the dedicated service he provided our post but also as a fine representative of an American living in a small village in Thailand.

A farewell funeral service was held for Comrade John Eschenbaum, on 20 July 2023, at Wat Ban

He is survived by his partner Kit.



AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

Joseph Brown

David Bums

Larry Edmonds

John Eschenbaum

Hugh Mason

Bruce Postel

David Reis

Russell Staples

Bruce Templeman



SERVICE OFFICER'S MESSAGE

Greetings Comrades,

I would like to remind you again that 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/>.

Last month I stated that military retirees can have 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. **I DO NOT KNOW IF THIS WORKS WITH ANY OTHER BANK EXCEPT BANGKOK BANK LTD.** If you find that other Thai banks accept this or charge fees, please let me know.

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/>