

The American Legion at Ubon Ratchathani, Thailand

# NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2026

BRIGADIER GENERAL ROBIN OLDS POST TH01



**FITNESS  
WELLNESS  
SERVICE**

*Celebrate America's 250<sup>th</sup>*

American Veterans in Thailand Helping Veterans & Their Families  
Since 2015

The American Legion at Ubon Ratchathani, Thailand

# DISCLAIMER

BRIGADIER GENERAL ROBIN OLDS POST TH01

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Connect with and find more resources from Post TH01 at

[AmericanLegionThailand.com](http://AmericanLegionThailand.com)

*This newsletter is for American veterans, spouses and dependent children that are living in Thailand and elsewhere to keep up with current Post news.*

# MARCH 2026

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## COMMANDER'S MESSAGE



*For God  
and  
Country*



**John Skabry  
Commander**

Fellow Comrades,

### **Communications Policy: Upholding Professionalism, Neutrality, and Trust**

Effective communication is essential to the strength and credibility of The American Legion. Whether engaging internally with members or externally with the public, all communications must reflect the organization's mission, values, and long-standing commitment to service, integrity, and unity.

This communications policy establishes clear expectations to ensure that all messaging—across meetings, publications, and digital platforms—remains professional, respectful, and aligned with the Legion's core principles.

### **Core Communication Principles**

At the foundation of the policy are several non-negotiable standards that govern all forms of communication:

#### **Non-Partisan Requirement**

The American Legion is strictly non-partisan. Members and Posts are prohibited from using official communication channels to promote partisan politics in any form. This includes political endorsements, partisan commentary, jokes, or the sharing of political images. Maintaining neutrality

is essential to preserving the organization's integrity and unity.

#### **Respectful Conduct**

All communications must be conducted with professionalism and respect. Content that smears, threatens, harasses, or disparages individuals or other organizations is strictly prohibited. The expectation is simple: communicate in a manner that reflects dignity and mutual respect at all times.

#### **Internal Communication**

Communication within the organization should focus on informing and educating members. This includes sharing updates on programs, initiatives, meetings, and activities that support engagement and participation across the Post.

#### **External Communication**

Outward-facing communication should promote awareness of the Legion's mission and purpose. Messaging should highlight service to veterans, families, and communities, reinforcing the organization's positive impact and public image.

#### **Social Media Guidelines**

As digital platforms continue to shape how organizations communicate, strict guidelines are in place to ensure responsible use:

#### **Permission-Based Posting**

Photos or images of members must not be posted without their explicit permission. Protecting



# *For God and Country*

individual privacy is a fundamental responsibility.

## **Content Restrictions**

Members must avoid posting:

- Information from confidential executive sessions
- Gossip or unverified information
- Content that negatively portrays the Legion Family

All shared content should reflect positively on the organization and its members.

## **Handling Conflicts**

Disputes or disagreements must be addressed privately through appropriate internal channels. Social media is not an acceptable platform for airing grievances or engaging in public conflict.

## **Official Representation**

If contacted by media representatives regarding Legion matters, members must notify the appropriate authority—such as the Department Adjutant—before responding. This ensures consistency and accuracy in official messaging.

## **Best Practices for Effective Communication**

To maintain a strong and informed membership, Posts are encouraged to adopt the following practices:

## **Consistency Across Platforms**

Utilize multiple communication channels to reach members effectively. This may include newsletters, official websites, and messaging platforms such as WhatsApp or text communication. A consistent flow of information ensures members remain informed and engaged.

## **Professionalism in All Formats**

Regardless of the platform, all communications must maintain a professional tone. Content should always align with the Legion's values of service, integrity, and respect.

## **Final Thought**

A strong communications policy does more than guide what is said—it defines how the organization is perceived. By remaining non-partisan, respectful, and mission-focused, The American Legion ensures that every message strengthens its reputation, supports its members, and honors its commitment to those it serves.

# POST ADJUTANT



**PAUL BEN-YEHUDA**

As members of the American Legion, it's vital to engage actively in the democratic process that governs our post. Annual elections are not just routine duties—they embody the core principles of participation and leadership that our organization stands for. This article aims to shed light on the significance of these elections, the responsibilities of our leaders, and how you can make your voice heard.

### **The Importance of Elections**

American Legion Post elections provide a platform for members to select their leaders, shape the direction of the post, and ensure that the values and objectives of the Legion are upheld within the community. These elections reflect our commitment to democracy, allowing all members to partake in steering the organization towards fulfilling its mission of serving veterans, their families, and communities.

Election time is not only about choosing the individuals who will represent us. It's an opportunity to pause and reflect on the past year—on the achievements and the challenges we have faced together. It allows us to evaluate how effectively our post is serving its members and how we can continue to grow and improve. Engaging in the election process reinforces our camaraderie and solidifies our collective goals.

### **Key Positions and Responsibilities**

Leadership roles within the American Legion Post vary, but each position plays a critical role in maintaining the post's mission. As an example, common positions include:

**Post Commander:** The Commander leads the post and represents it at the district and local levels. This person must be able to inspire and mobilize members

while fostering a sense of unity.

### **Preparing for Elections**

As elections approach, it's essential for members to actively participate.

Here are some steps to take:

- **Know the Schedule:** Familiarize yourself with the election timeline, including dates for nominations, candidate forums, and the election itself.
- **Evaluate Candidates:** Take the time to know who is running for each position. Many posts hold forums or meetings where candidates can present their visions and answer questions. Attend these events.
- **Cast Your Vote:** Participating in the voting process is your right and responsibility. Make sure to vote on Election Day.
- **Consider Running:** If you're passionate about serving and have ideas for positive change, consider running for a position yourself. Your insights can significantly impact the post.

### **Conclusion**

Engaging in the American Legion Post elections is an empowering experience. It's a chance to contribute to the future of the organization and uphold the ideals we cherish as veterans and community leaders. Every vote matters, and every candidate has the potential to bring fresh perspectives and energy to the post. As we approach this pivotal time, let us all dedicate ourselves to ensuring that our voices are heard and that our community continues to thrive. Together, we can shape a better future for our post and the veterans we serve. The General Robin Aids TH01 American Legion Post holds its nomination for post election at the March General Membership meeting with the Elections held at the April meeting it is essential members participate.

# MARINE AIRCRAFT GROUP 24 (MAG-24)



**Paul Ben-Yehuda**  
Post Adjutant

In the annals of military history, few stories resonate as powerfully as those of brotherhood, courage, and unwavering resolve. Among these stories are the heroic efforts of Marine Aircraft Group 24 (MAG-24), a squadron that played a pivotal role during the intense battles of World War II in the Philippines. For veterans, as well as those who honor their service, understanding the legacy of MAG-24 is a tribute to the sacrifices made in the name of freedom.

On the sunlit shores of Lingayen, Luzon, the first elements of MAG-24, commanded by Colonel Lyle H. Meyer, made their arrival. The date marks a significant moment in history, as the group prepared to provide crucial close air support for Army ground forces. This collaboration epitomizes the spirit of joint operations and the unity across branches of the United States military, emphasizing that every soldier, sailor, airman, and Marine plays an integral role in achieving a common goal.

Over the next three months, from January to April 1945, MAG-24, alongside Marine Aircraft Group 32 (MAG-32), would embark on a relentless campaign in the skies. Their resolve was underscored by an impressive tally of 8,842 combat sorties and the deployment of over 19,000 bombs. This staggering commitment to air support not only exhibited the capabilities of Marine aviators but also showcased their dedication to the troops on the ground who were engaged in fierce combat.

The contributions of MAG-24 were vital for the success of the Sixth Army's operations. By providing air support in the form of tactical bombings and

reconnaissance missions, MAG-24 helped to weaken enemy defenses, offering a strategic advantage that saved countless lives. Each mission flown was fraught with peril, and the pilots who bravely manned these aircraft were aware that their engagement could mean the difference between life and death for those on the front lines.

For veterans looking back on these events, the legacy of MAG-24 serves as a reminder of the collective effort that defines military service. It underscores the importance of camaraderie among service members, the sacrifices made, and the often-untold stories of support that accompany every successful military operation. These pilots and ground crews, many of whom worked tirelessly behind the scenes, embodied the spirit of perseverance, working day and night to ensure that their brothers in arms had the air support they desperately needed.

As we reflect on the contributions of MAG-24, it is crucial to recognize the ongoing impact of these operations on the perception of air power in modern warfare. Their achievements not only influenced tactical strategies during the war but have also shaped military doctrines that continue to be relevant today.

In honoring the legacy of Marine Aircraft Group 24, we pay respect to all veterans—those who served alongside MAG-24, those who have gone before us, and those who continue to serve. Their bravery in the face of adversity and their dedication to duty contribute to the freedoms we cherish today. Let us remember their stories and carry their spirit forward, ensuring that their sacrifices are never forgotten.





One reason the Services have trouble operating jointly is that they don't appear to speak the same language.

For example, if you told...

Navy personnel to "secure a building," they would turn off the lights and lock the doors.

Army personnel would occupy the building so no one could enter.

Marines would assault the building, capture it, and defend it with suppressive fire and close combat.

The Air Force, on the other hand, would take out a three-year lease with an option to buy.

# MILITARY COMMUNICATIONS



## *Jesus Zamarripa*

### **2nd Vice Commander & Americanism & Activities Chair**

Greetings all!

Another year has passed us by and as always, our committee has been very busy in supporting the many events and communities around Thailand. We are spread out from Chiang Mai to Korat, Khon Kaen to Ubon Ratchathani. But as spread out as we are we find ways to support our communities and out post.

The month of February had been deemed Americanism and Activities Month in which we are meant to refocus ourselves and stress the importance of celebrating America. As you all may know, our country is celebrating its 250th Birthday this coming 4th of July. 250 years since our founding fathers signed the Declaration of Independence. In light of this, The American Legion created the USA250 Challenge in which participants

can sign up for a fee and promote physical fitness, mental wellness, and community service by accomplishing certain goals. There is still time to accomplish these goals. You can also support someone who is signed up by pledging to the cause. Donations will go to the Veterans and Children Foundation (VCF). For more information please go to <https://www.legion.org/get-involved/community-programs/usa250/challenge>

We also urge all members to celebrate our Nation in their own way even though we are away from the USA. Get together for some burgers and hot dogs and your favorite refreshments. Celebrate proudly but responsibly.



## DATES TO REMEMBER

**10 Mar 2026**

Tawanchai Hospital Donation (Khon Kaen)

**15 Mar 2026**

American Legion 107<sup>th</sup> Birthday

**25 May 2026**

Memorial Day (event in Chiang Mai)

**14 June 2026**

US Army Birthday and Flag Day

**4 Jul 2026**

American Independence Day (250<sup>th</sup>)

**14 Jul 2026**

BG Robin Olds Birthday

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS**

**8 DECEMBER 2026**

**END OF YEAR PARTY, UBON RATCHATANI, PEPPERS**



**WE SERVE THOSE WHO SERVED**

# **SERVICE OFFICER SUPPORT**

**SERVICE OFFICER, POST TH01**

**LARRY HAYNIE**

**[SERVICE@AMERICANLEGIONTHAILAND.COM](mailto:SERVICE@AMERICANLEGIONTHAILAND.COM)**



I feel I must again address a subject that not only affects veterans living in Thailand, but also directly impacts the families of veterans as well. That issue is financial planning and access to monetary assets.

If a veteran becomes incapacitated or passes away, how do they ensure their wives and family are cared for? Where and how a veteran does their banking is their personal business. However, when the veteran loses that ability to conduct banking transactions and make payments for things such as utility bills, reoccurring debts, rents, food and other expenses, the wife then becomes responsible for meeting those financial obligations.

If the wife is not given access to her spouse's accounts and can not pay expenses from her own pocket, that can cause an extreme burden for the spouse to meet those financial obligations. If there are children in the household, then they will also be affected.

Veterans who have disabilities that directly affect their physical and

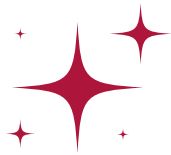
mental health should have contingency plans, that allow for their spouses to gain access to funds for the health and welfare of her husband and their children.

As Service Officer, I've had quite a few instances of wives contacting me after their husbands either became incapacitated or passed away, and the wife has no access to her spouse's banking accounts. If a wife is entitled to VA benefits such as Widows Pension, DIC compensation or other retirement benefits, it could take months or even years, before a wife receives entitlement payments.

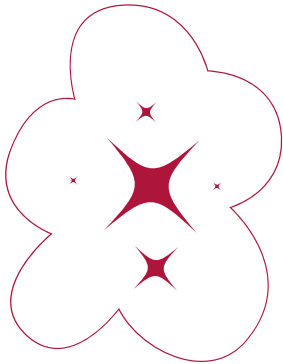
It is incumbent upon the veteran to give his wife access to funds that she will need to care for her husband and their family. One final thought for veterans is, if a veteran is hospitalized or passes away, the spouse will have to cover not only final expenses, but she may be required to pay for hospitalization not covered by the Foreign Medical Program (FMP) or by TRICARE. These programs will require up front payments, before reimbursements are paid.



## **MY FELLOW VETERANS;**



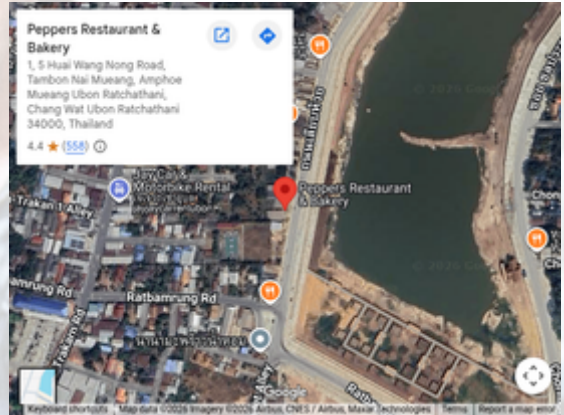
**HAPPY BDAY**



**KENNETH ADAMS  
LOYD GARMANY  
MAURICE HATZKE III  
THOMAS MAHER  
JOEL PIERSON**

**LET'S HELP WISH  
POST TH01 MEMBERS  
A HAPPY BIRTHDAY  
FOR THE MONTH OF  
MARCH**

# POST TH01 MEETS ON THE 2ND WEDNESDAY OF EVERY MONTH



**FACE-TO-FACE**

**1, 5 HUAI WANG NONG RD.**

**TAMBON NAI MUEANG,**

**MUEANG UBON RATCHATHANI DISTRICT,**

**UBON RATCHATHANI 34000 THAILAND**



**VIRTUAL**

**MONTHLY MEETINGS CAN BE**

**ATTENDED ONLINE/REMOTELY VIA**

**GOOGLE MEET**

ONLINE



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Instagram

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[www.AmericanLegionThailand.com](http://www.AmericanLegionThailand.com)

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