

The American Legion at Ubon Ratchathani, Thailand

NEWSLETTER

MAY 2026

BRIGADIER GENERAL ROBIN OLDS POST TH01



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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This disclaimer has been formally reviewed and approved by the Post TH01 Communications Committee and is hereby adopted for use in all current and future newsletter publications.



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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.

AMERICAN LEGION

MAY 2026

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COMMANDER'S MESSAGE



For God and Country

**John S.
Commander**



Together, we continue to honor the legacy of those who served before us while supporting those who still serve today.

Comrades,

This month begins with the observance of Labor Day, recognizing the hardworking men and women whose efforts built and continue to sustain our communities. Many of our veterans transitioned from military service into civilian professions that continue to support others every day, both here in Thailand and around the world.

We also celebrate Mother's Day. To all the mothers within our Legion Family, and to those who raised, supported, and stood beside service members through deployments, hardships, and sacrifice — thank you. Your strength and dedication deserve recognition not just this month, but every day.

Later in the month, we observe Armed Forces Day, honoring all who currently serve in the United States Armed Forces. As veterans, we understand the demands of military life and the importance of maintaining pride in service, professionalism, and commitment to country. We continue to support those who wear the uniform today.

This month also marks an important moment for our Post leadership. During the General Membership Meeting on Wednesday, 13 May, The American Legion, Brigadier General Robin Olds Post TH01 will officially install several newly elected officers into their positions. These members have stepped forward to continue serving our veteran community, and we thank them for their

willingness to lead and support the mission of the American Legion. We encourage all members who are able to attend the meeting and support our incoming officers.

The most solemn observance of the month is Memorial Day. This day reminds us that freedom has never been free. It is a time to remember those who made the ultimate sacrifice in service to the United States. Their names, their stories, and their sacrifices must never be forgotten.

This year, members of The American Legion, Brigadier General Robin Olds Post TH01 will participate in Memorial Day observances in Chiang Mai, where our members will lay a wreath in honor of our fallen brothers and sisters. Any members who wish to participate in the wreath-laying ceremony are encouraged to reach out to the Post for event details, coordination information, and participation opportunities.

We are proud to represent our Post and our veteran community during this important remembrance ceremony.

As always, I thank every member for your continued dedication to our mission, our veterans, and our community throughout Thailand. Whether through volunteer work, outreach, funeral honors support, or simply checking in on another veteran, your efforts matter.

POST ADJUTANT



PAUL B.

Getting Younger Veterans to Join the American Legion: Building a Stronger Future Together

The American Legion has long stood as a beacon of support, camaraderie, and advocacy for veterans across the nation. However, like many traditional veteran organizations, it faces the challenge of attracting younger veterans to join its ranks. Engaging the new generation of service members is crucial to ensuring the American Legion continues to thrive and effectively serve those who have served. But how can the organization appeal to younger veterans and inspire them to become active members? Let's explore some strategies and insights on this important topic.

Understanding the Needs of Younger Veterans

Younger veterans often have different perspectives and needs compared to their older counterparts. Many are transitioning into civilian life, juggling careers, education, and family responsibilities. They may seek connections that offer immediate relevance, practical support, and opportunities for meaningful engagement. Understanding these priorities is the first step toward creating a welcoming environment that resonates with younger veterans.

Modernizing Communication and Outreach

Traditional methods of recruitment—flyers, word-of-mouth at local posts, or print newsletters—may not effectively reach younger veterans who are more digitally connected. Embracing social media platforms, developing engaging online content, and creating mobile-friendly websites can significantly boost visibility. Highlighting stories of younger

members, sharing upcoming events, and providing clear information about the benefits of joining can pique interest and encourage involvement.

Offering Programs That Matter Today

To attract younger veterans, the American Legion can develop programs tailored to their unique challenges and interests. Career development workshops, mental health resources, networking events, and family-friendly activities can address the practical aspects of veteran life. Initiatives such as mentorship programs where seasoned members guide newer veterans through career transitions or educational pursuits also create strong bonds and add value to membership.

Emphasizing Community and Leadership Opportunities

Many younger veterans are driven by a desire to give back and lead within their communities. The American Legion can position itself as a platform for civic engagement, leadership development, and advocacy. By showcasing opportunities to influence veteran policies, participate in community service projects, and take on leadership roles within the organization, younger veterans may feel a stronger connection and sense of purpose.

In conclusion, getting younger veterans to join the American Legion requires understanding their needs, embracing modern communication tools, offering relevant programs, and highlighting leadership opportunities. By evolving with the times and staying true to its core mission, the American Legion can continue to be a vital and vibrant community for veterans of all ages. Together, we can build a stronger future, honoring past service while empowering the next generation.

SGT. RECKLESS: THE UNFORGETTABLE WAR HORSE OF THE USMC

In the annals of military history, stories of valor and sacrifice come from both men and beasts. One such remarkable figure is Sgt. Reckless, a remarkable mare who served in the United States Marine Corps (USMC) during the Korean War. Her steadfast determination and tireless spirit earned her a place not only in the hearts of those who served with her but also in the broader tapestry of American military heritage.

Sgt. Reckless was a Mongolian mare originally purchased by Marines in 1952 from a Korean family who needed money. Her unassuming beginnings belied the extraordinary journey she would embark upon, both as a soldier and as a symbol of courage. Named after the reckless bravery shown by the Marines of the 5th Marine Regiment, she quickly became an integral part of the unit, showing affection for the men in her battalion as well as an uncanny ability to perform daunting tasks.

During combat operations, Sgt. Reckless displayed an extraordinary aptitude for carrying heavy artillery shells and ammunition across treacherous terrain, often under heavy fire. She is known for her ability to navigate the rugged hills of Korea, climbing back and forth to the front lines with remarkable reliability. Remarkably, Reckless made countless trips, reportedly carrying more than 9,000 pounds of ammunition during her tenure on the battlefield. Her actions proved invaluable during key battles, including the Battle of Outpost Vegas and the Battle of the Punchbowl.

Beyond her logistical contributions, Sgt. Reckless established a unique bond with the Marines. Soldiers often referred to her affectionately as “the little mare,” and she quickly became a beloved member of the battalion. Her antics brought levity to the front lines, providing comfort to soldiers amidst the harsh realities of war. Many veterans recount stories of Reckless seeking out comrades during times of stress, offering a sense of stability and companionship that was essential to morale.

After the war, her remarkable contributions did not go unnoticed. In 1959, the United States Marine Corps officially recognized Sgt. Reckless’s service, promoting her to the rank of Sergeant. She was awarded two Purple Hearts for her bravery and was even honored with a hero’s welcome upon her return to the United States. The dedication of veterans in ensuring Sgt. Reckless’s story received recognition manifested in various memorials and ceremonies, keeping her legacy alive.

Sgt. Reckless lived out her days at Camp Pendleton in California, where she was celebrated not just as a war hero but also as a beloved companion to Marine families. Her heartwarming story serves as a testament to the incredible bonds formed in times of adversity, illustrating how courage and loyalty know no bounds, transcending species.

For veterans, the tale of Sgt. Reckless is a reminder that bravery manifests not only in human actions but also in the faithful companionship and unwavering dedication of animals. To this day, her legacy continues to inspire new generations, reaffirming the idea that heroes come in all shapes and sizes.

As we honor Sgt. Reckless, let us also remember the countless brave souls who have served alongside her and recognize the strength of both veterans and their devoted four-legged partners throughout history.





Greetings Comrades,

No major activities for the month of April but I did want to reflect on a few things. We have had an opportunity to support the America's 250 initiative of which tracking and accumulating 250 miles of any fitness activity was a part of it. Some of us accomplished the miles while others supported by donating to the cause. It was greatly appreciated. But behind the cause is a simple after affect. I encourage all of you to get out there and be active in whatever activity you choose and take care of your health. I see some you are posting your activities on social media and that is awesome. Great work. I experienced something this past month that I do not wish for anyone to go through. It just had to do with keeping up with your health. So, stay active.

Jesus Z.

**2nd Vice Commander,
Americanism & Activities Chair,
& Graves Registration Chair**

This coming Memorial Day we will be having an event in Chiang Mai. We will gather as always the night prior for a social event and then conduct our activity the next morning. I urge all of you to support this and all coming events as much as possible. Along these same lines our post will also be open for a 4th of Jul celebration which will start with a small golf outing the morning of the 4th of Jul and then we will gather again at 1800 at Pepper's to celebrate our nations birthday. All are welcome and encouraged to attend.

As always thank you for your support.

DATES TO REMEMBER

25 May 2026

Memorial Day (event in Chiang Mai)

14 June 2026

US Army Birthday and Flag Day

4 Jul 2026

American Independence Day (250th)

14 Jul 2026

BG Robin Olds Birthday

31 Jul 2026

Post TH01 Birthday

4 Aug 2026

US Coast Guard Birthday

15 Aug 2026

Victory over Japan Day/Kanchanaburi (Tentative)

MARK YOUR CALENDARS:

8 DECEMBER 2026

END OF YEAR PARTY, UBON RATCHATANI, PEPPERS





WE SERVE THOSE WHO SERVED **SERVICE OFFICER SUPPORT**

SERVICE@AMERICANLEGIONTHAILAND.COM

LARRY H.

SERVICE OFFICER



There is a Veteran's legal assistance association named the "National Veterans Legal Services Program" (NVLSP). Located in Arlington, Virginia the NVLSP provides legal assistance to veterans and their families, in all matters pertaining to the Veterans Affairs (VA) system.

As the Post Service Officer for American Legion Post TH01 Ubon, Thailand I took advantage of the NVLSP VA Basic Training Course they offer. The course gives Service Officers vital information about how the VA Disability Claims process actually works, and how to assist other veterans and their family members with navigating the claims and benefits system.

Filing claims for initial disability benefits, obtaining an increase in ratings, the appeals process after a denial, and obtaining entitlement benefits for

family members after a veteran has died, is just a small portion of my duties.

The NVLSP also is available to provide legal assistance and even give legal help to veterans and their families, who need "hands on" legal expertise. The NVLSP has lawyers and staff who can help with issues that may require direct legal action with the Veterans Affairs Department.

The NVLSP can be contacted by Email at:

info@nvlsp.org

or telephone number: (202) 265-8305

I would highly recommend veterans or their family members contact the NVLSP, especially with problems concerning claims denials, appeals, or when there are issues that Service Officers should refer to legal experts.

**SAWATDEE
TO
ALL;**



For Liberty

Dear Comrades,

It is truly an honor to step into the role of 1st Vice Commander and take over as Membership Chair. First, I want to say a huge thank you to Ted Portyrala for his many years of outstanding leadership and dedication. Ted built incredible momentum for our Post, and I am committed to carrying that same energy forward.

We are currently strong with 88 members and 109% of our goal, but we know recruitment never stops. Membership is vital to our future, and I look forward to working with all of you to keep Post TH01 growing and thriving.

To be good salesmen for the Legion, we need to listen for what a veteran is in most need of, and

then highlight how we can help solve that pain point. I am going to keep asking veterans for help with things like buddy checks. This will hopefully attract members who are interested in getting active right away.

I would also like to try and recruit veterans who make the news. If you ever see a veteran in the news or who did something noteworthy, please message me the article and I will put them on a list of veterans I am trying to contact.

Together we will continue welcoming new members, getting them involved, and making sure every Legionnaire feels like part of the family.

Thank you for your continued support. I'm excited to serve alongside you!

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL 2026



For Liberty

Comrades,

I am pleased to report that Post TH01 continues to do very well. We now stand at 88 members, reaching 109% of our 81-member goal for the year! This is a strong achievement and I want to thank Ted Portyrala and the entire membership committee for building such great momentum.

However, as Ted always reminded us, this is not the time to slow down. Continued recruitment remains very important for the future of our Post.

My approach to membership focuses on seeking veterans who want to get active and make a difference. I want to really drive home our buddy check program by offering buddy checks not only to members, but also to veterans who are not members and Americans in general. This outreach will create meaningful connections and provide great content for social media that helps us recruit new members. When veterans see us actively serving the community, they will want to be part of what we are doing.

When we find veterans who are interested in service, I encourage them to join our Post, or even another VSO if that better fits their needs. The goal is getting veterans connected and active.

Social Media Recruitment Tips

We are all recruiters, and social media is one of our most powerful tools! Here are some simple but effective ways to help:

Share our Post page and content on your own Facebook and in groups like "Expats Americans in Thailand," "Ubon Expats," and "Ubon RTAFB Memories." When you see veterans asking questions or talking about life in Thailand, tag our Post in the comments. This is incredibly effective for reaching potential members.

Examples of great opportunities to tag our Post:

- Someone posts "I'm heading to Phuket next month" - Comment: "I know it says you're going to Phuket, but if you end up in Isaan or need help while you're down south, send us a message @American Legion Post TH01"
- A veteran asks about moving to Thailand - Comment: "We're based in Ubon, but we have members from all over the world. If you need help, we have an extensive network of veterans who have been helping people in and out of Thailand for a long time. Message us anytime @American Legion Post TH01"
- Discussion about veteran resources in Thailand - Tag our Post and let them know we are a group that serves Americans, veterans, and our local community

The key is letting people know we are here, available for service, and that you don't need to be in Isaan for us to be relevant. Our network reaches far beyond Ubon.

When someone asks about the Post, collect their NPE (Name, Phone, Email) and send it to me. When a new veteran joins, let's make sure they feel welcome right away. Invite them to meetings, introduce them to other members, and give them a chance to get involved.

I am excited to chair the Membership Committee and would love for anyone who wants to help to join us. The more hands, the easier and more fun the work becomes!

Thank you for your continued support. Let's keep growing our Post family together.





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

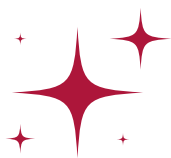
For example, if you told Navy personnel to "secure a building," they would turn off the lights and lock the doors.

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

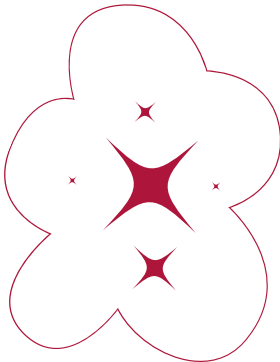
Marines would assault the building, capture it, and defend it with suppressive fire and close combat.

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

MILITARY COMMUNICATIONS



HAPPY BDAY



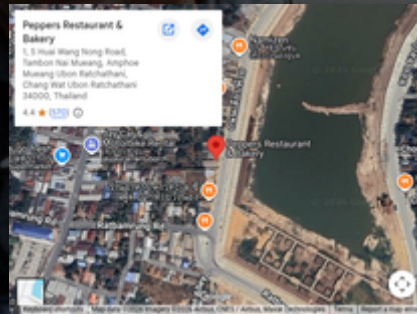
- DONALD B.
- JOSEPH C.
- DEAN H.
- STEVEN J.
- DAVID M.
- RICHARD R.
- HENRY W.
- WAYNE W.

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

The American Legion at Ubon Ratchathani, Thailand

MEETS ON THE 2ND WEDNESDAY OF EVERY MONTH

BRIGADIER GENERAL ROBIN OLDS POST TH01



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

AMERICAN
LEGION

The American Legion at Ubon Ratchathani, Thailand

DISCOVER & CONNECT WITH POST TH01 ONLINE

BRIGADIER GENERAL ROBIN OLDS POST TH01

CLICK THE FOLLOWING LINKS

Post TH01 Facebook Page

facebook

Post TH01 YouTube Channel

 **YouTube**

Post TH01 Instagram Account


Instagram

Post TH01 Website

www.AmericanLegionThailand.com

The American Legion at Ubon Ratchathani, Thailand

2026 ELECTED OFFICERS, APPOINTED OFFICERS, AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS

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