



Brig. Gen. Robin Olds American Legion Thailand Post TH01

Bruce Templeman, Commander Jeff Ludwig, Adjutant



Post meetings held the 2nd Monday of each month at the
Wing 21 Ubon Royal Thai AB

Driving Range Club house at 10:00 a.m.

All members are encouraged to attend.

Post email address: amerilegionth01@gmail.com

February 2021
Volume 5, Issue 2

Calendar of Events for February

- **February 8** - Post Membership Meeting (Virtual via Skype Go Meet)
- **February 28** - Department's Commanders and Adjutants meeting

2020/2021 Post Officers:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Office</u>	<u>Email</u>
Bruce Templeman	Commander	bruce.templeman@gmail.com
Wayne Wright	1st Vice Commander	waywright@outlook.com
Billy Holland	2nd Vice Commander	billybholland@gmail.com
Ted Potyrala	Historian	tpubon@gmail.com
Maurice(Rocky) Hatzke	Service Officer	mrhatzke3@gmail.com
Hugh Mason	Chaplain	htmmason@aol.com
Jeff Ludwig	Adjutant/Finance Officer	jgludwig2@gmail.com
Salvatore (Sal) Salzarulo	Sergeant at Arms	salzy48@hotmail.com
Larry Edmonds	Judge Advocate	ldedmonds@aol.com
Joe Reedy	Public Affairs Officer	joereedy4@gmail.com
Paul McDermott	Members at large	paulny54@hotmail.com
Dave Bell	Members at large	davebell211@hotmail.com
Kirby (Cosmo) Raines	Members at large	cosmotyson@yahoo.com

COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

Bruce Templeman



Our meeting hall has been closed due to local Coronavirus policy. The Executive Committee convened on 28 January and voted unanimously to hold all future Post Membership Meetings via Skype until further notice. When we get the "all clear" signal, we will convene the Executive Committee and decide when to resume in person meetings.

Since we are not able to meet up in person this month and our return to regular meetings is uncertain, please think about sending in articles to our newsletter showing how you and your family are getting along. The American Legion is a family organization, as demonstrated by creation of the Auxiliary and Sons of the American Legion. Not only are we veterans, but we're veterans with families. We're all in this together. Let our Post see what projects you're working on. Show off new changes to your home or village. Brag about your children. If there is something that we need to be concerned with, let the group know. Try to keep things upbeat and positive. This is our newsletter - Let's share the news. The Department of France has commented on our newsletter several times as unique, informative, and a good model for the rest of the Department. Let's show the Department that we can improve on that and set the bar higher.

February is Americanism Month. I have requested information from the Boy Scouts of America in Thailand. It's my hope that we can find an opportunity to help support an American organization here in Thailand. As they respond, I will invite the leaders to our Post meeting (in person when possible, or via Skype) to brief our members on the Boy Scouts of America program in Thailand.

Mid-Winter Conference notes:

1. If a Post decides to move from one city to another, it requires a Post Resolution, forwarded to Department, then they will forward to National. The Post Charter will be reissued reflecting the new location.
2. The Department accepts newsletter articles and photos up until the last day of the month and will include them for the following month.

The Consul General from the US Embassy Bangkok held a teleconference with Past Commander & JAG Edmonds, 2nd Vice Wright, and me on 29 Jan 2021. He and his staff clarified some issues of concern for Americans in Thailand. In the interest of keeping my column brief, I will lay out some of the points and we can discuss at the next meeting. Those that cannot

attend the meeting may email me for questions, clarification, or other matters.

1. Embassy appointments are ongoing, although staffing is at 50%
2. There has been no progress on having Tricare accepted by Immigration for visas or extensions. It was suggested that individuals try to encourage the hospital to accept Tricare and file on your behalf, but this will not affect the issue with immigration.
3. Everyone entering the US by air must have proof of a negative COViD-19 test being administered no more than 3 days before entry. Proof of vaccination is insufficient. There are no federal quarantine restrictions implemented. Quarantines upon arrival in the USA are a State issue.
4. Assisting the elderly is a critical mission. Encourage wills to be completed. There is a Civilian Liaison Volunteer in Krabi that manages a law firm and can be contacted to assist.
5. The US Embassy has no say in how Thailand conducts their Coronavirus vaccine program and the US Embassy will not be administering a vaccine program for Americans.

I look forward to seeing everyone at the meeting on Skype. Uniform shirts are the uniform of the day and, since it's a Skype meeting, you may wear your pajama bottoms, just as long as you stay seated. Belay that... We'll all be standing for the opening ceremonies. Dress appropriately and please try to eliminate all background noises and other interruptions. See you then.

Post Finance Officer:

Jeff Ludwig



Finances: As the Finance Officer as well as your adjutant Let me touch briefly on the financial state of our Post. Currently we are financially sound. This month the Executive Committee met to review the coming year's budget to determine if we needed to raise dues. All agreed we can keep the dues at the same level.

Annual Audit: Also know that our auditor has completed the annual audit of the Post accounts and procedures and has found that our accounts and procedures are sound and adhere to generally accepted accounting principles. Thank you to Peter Ritzel for taking time to complete a thorough audit.

Children Day Fund: We wish to thank all who generously donated for the annual Children's Day Open House event which was canceled due to the pandemic. Rest assured the funds will be dedicated to the Children's day event or other youth directed activity as the pandemic and government restrictions allow.

Finally, let me say thank you to all who renewed their membership and paid their dues. Know that our primary income is from your membership dues. Without you we would not be able to help our fellow veterans and local community in time of need. Now more than ever we need your continued support.

Speaking of financial support. We were just two members shy of reaching 100% of Departments goal by 31 December and receiving a monetary award from the Department. Good news, we are still in the running for second monetary award from Department if we can reach 102% of their goal by April. We can do this just by having those members who have not renewed to do so. If you know some who has not renewed, you can do your part by encouraging them to renew. Also, if you know a veteran who might be interested, strongly encourage them to consider becoming a member in our Post. Let me know and I can send them an information packet. Working together we can strengthen our Post even in the face of this adversity.

Post Adjutant Corner:

Jeff Ludwig



Post Membership: Membership retention was the main topic at this month's National Training Tuesdays. In the training session they stated in years 2019 and 2020 the American Legion had over 600,000 members nationwide that did not renew their membership. They emphasized that current practices are not working. They emphasized using current information technology to better manage the program. The leaders recognize that it's a new world, a new culture but the same mission. There will always be a need for veteran advocacy and taking care of our veterans and their families. They stated that we need to find new innovating methods for marketing our Post to attract new members. They encouraged using the social media technology to engage and interact with fellow members.

Thanks to all of you we continue to have a strong membership program. Even with our unique challenges in Thailand because our members are so geographically separated. We have members who reside throughout Thailand and the USA.

Many of you may ask what can you do being you are so far away and can't make a meeting. Well with the meetings being virtual all should be able to dial in and participate in the meetings. This is our new reality and a reality that many of our younger generation embrace. This is especially true now with the pandemic and travel restrictions. If you have trouble linking to the meeting just call me and I can step you through the process. It's really not complicated.

While participating in the meetings is important, it is more important to actively participate in your/our post. There are many ways to get actively involved in the post. You can become an officer, join a committee, or help with the buddy checks to name a few. It may be something as simple as contacting and chatting with a fellow veterans. Now more than ever we need to reach out and help our fellow veterans. Social media gives us easy access to contacting and helping veterans in need. If anything, to let them know they are not alone. Conversely if you are in need or just need to talk to someone, we are there for you. Just pick up the phone, send an email, post a comment on Facebook, send a Messenger chat, or send Line chat. We are there for you. The American Legion has a variety of programs to help veterans. You just have to ask.



Safety Topic

Jeff Ludwig

February is National Burn Awareness Month. In the home most "fire-related injuries" are burns. In fact, approximately every 60 seconds someone in the U.S. sustains a burn injury serious enough to require treatment. Most of the burns occur in the kitchen. The national Fire Protection Association created the below illustration to highlight tips for preventing burns and fires in the kitchen.

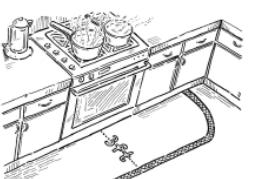
Be Fire-Safe in the Kitchen

If you have a fire and it does not go out, get out of the home and call the fire department.

Keep things that can burn away from the stove.

NO  **YES** 

Keep kids at least three feet from the stove.

NO  **YES** 

A Recipe for Keeping Your Community Cooking Safely
NFPA • 1 Batterymarch Park, Quincy, MA 02169 • www.nfpa.org

Be Fire-Safe in the Kitchen

Stay in the kitchen when frying food or cooking with oil or grease.

NO  **YES** 

Never cook when you are tired.

NO  **YES** 

To put out a pan fire, slide a lid over the pan. Turn off the stove and let the pan cool.

NO  **YES** 

A Recipe for Keeping Your Community Cooking Safely
NFPA • 1 Batterymarch Park, Quincy, MA 02169 • www.nfpa.org

Federal Emergency Management Agency FEMA provides simple and effective tips to prevent burns and scalding. They also provide instructions for first aid of burn and scalding victims. The following handout from FEMA is a great quick and handy reference guide that you can print and have posted in and around your kitchen.

Burn and Scald Prevention



Prevent burns and scalds in the kitchen:

- ➊ Place objects so that they cannot be pulled down or knocked over.
- ➋ Turn pot handles away from the stove's edge.
- ➌ Use dry oven mitts or potholders. Hot cookware can heat moisture in a potholder or hot pad, resulting in a scald burn.
- ➍ Wear short, close-fitting or tightly rolled sleeves when cooking.
- ➎ Have a "kid-free zone" of at least 3 feet around the stove.



General first aid for burns and scalds:

- ➊ Treat a burn right away by putting it in cool water. Cool the burn for three to five minutes.
- ➋ Cover burn with a clean, dry cloth. Do not apply creams, ointments, sprays or other home remedies.
- ➌ Remove all clothing, diapers, jewelry and metal from the burned area. These can hide underlying burns and retain heat, which can increase skin damage.



For more information and free fire-safety resources, visit
www.usfa.fema.gov.



[Click here to add image.](#)





Historian

Ted Potyrala



Gen. Montgomery C. Meigs, Designer of Arlington National Cemetery

General Meigs was a WestPoint graduate who served under Robert E Lee. He admired Lee but when Lee resigned from the army and joined the Confederacy, he turned against him. He considered Lee an insurgent and should be put out of the way by death or if caught, execution.

Meigs moved to make official, that the land surrounding the Arlington Mansion be appropriated as a National Cemetery, to be properly enclosed, laid out and carefully preserved. He proposed devoting 200 acres to be used as a cemetery. Any soldiers presently interned should be unearthed and reburied closer to Lee's mansion.



On the day Secretary of War Stanton signed the order making Arlington a national cemetery, Meigs took a tour of the new cemetery and became incensed to find that the graves were not being dug where he wanted them near the mansion. The officers stationed at the mansion did not like the dead being buried near them. Meigs had the officers evicted and installed a military chaplain and a loyal lieutenant to oversee cemetery operations.

The new burials encircled Mrs. Lee's garden with tombstones of prominent Union officers. Among the first of these officers was Capt. Albert H, Packard. He was laid to rest where Mrs. Lee had enjoyed reading. By the end of 1864, some 40 officer graves had joined Capt. Packard.



Meigs added others as conditions allowed. He had crews scour battlefields near Washington for unknown soldiers. He had a huge pit excavated at the end of Mrs. Lee's garden, filled it with the remains of 2,111 unknown soldiers and raised a sarcophagus in their honor. By doing so, he believed that by having these unknown patriots buried there it would be politically difficult to disinter these heroes later.

More next month plus how the Lee's regained Arlington.

*Credit to Smithsonian Magazine.

Chaplain's Message:

We cannot deny it. Our nation is in trouble and we are facing peril. You can turn on your television or scroll through your Facebook newsfeed right now and see that there is so much violence, corruption, fear, and hatred in the hearts of those around us. We are contending with issues that are causing the very foundation of our country to crumble.

In the face of all of this, it's important that we pray not only for the healing of our nation, but also for our president and all those in government leadership who are in positions to make change happen.

"Heavenly Father, today I pray for our nation. I ask that You would give our President wisdom beyond his own understanding and the courage to choose the right path no matter how narrow the gate. I pray for all in authority over us that You would give them the grace and strength to stand against the temptation to use power as a weapon but rather to carry it reverently as one would a child. I pray for the spiritual leaders of our country that they would hear Your voice and know your heart. I pray that they would lead from their knees and by that simple grace bring each one of us to our knees before Your throne. Have mercy on our nation Lord, In Jesus name, Amen."

*<https://www.beliefnet.com/faiths/prayer/prayers-for-our-nation-and-president.aspx>



TAPS: Dale Ridgeway has transferred to Post Everlasting. We ask that you keep his family in your prayers. We have reached out to his family and let them know we are here to help them through this difficult time. Dale lived in Chaing Mai Thailand at the time of his passing. Dale learned of our Post and transferred from Post FR9999 in 2017. Because of his health, Dale was never able to make it to a Post meeting. He did however enjoy tracking the activities of the Post. He especially enjoyed our newsletter and often provided constructive advice. We will miss him.

February Birthdays:

- Tony Francois
- Tom Hughes
- Marleen Madding
- Joe Reedy
- Kirby (Cosmo) Raines
- Phil Colombey

A very happy birthday to all

