

Brig. Gen. Robin Olds



AMERICAN LEGION THAILAND

POST TH01

Post Meeting: 2nd Wednesday of Every Month, at 10:00 AM

Post Location: Wing 21 Ubon Royal Thai Airforce Base

Post Venue: Driving Range Clubhouse



April 2022

Post Email: http://amerilegiontho1@gmail.com

Vol. 5, No. 4

Links Concerning Issues of General Expat Interest in Thailand

[Bank of Thailand intervenes in PayPal tangle - Thai Examiner](#)

[Minister resurrects internet gateway scheme - Thai Examiner](#)



COMMANDER'S COMMENTS...BRUCE TEMPLEMAN

My Fellow Legionnaires,

Elections will occur in April and officers installed in May. Please contact the Adjutant for the complete list of positions and nominees. Nominations will also be accepted at the April Post Membership meeting before the voting begins.

We, as a Post, are first and foremost dedicated to helping our members. With that in mind, it is important that each member prepares for emergencies and other significant situations. To this end, we need to know how the Post can help. Buddy checks are simply a tool that we can use to identify where our attention and resources may be needed. When asked about your health or welfare, please be candid. If you know of other veterans that are going through difficult life events, pass this on to the Post leadership so that we can prepare to help. Don't wait until the situation becomes catastrophic. I promise to handle each of these issues with the utmost discretion.

It's my vision for American Legion Post TH01 to become the premier source of US military veteran support and information in Thailand.

Our Post has great intentions but has barely tapped our capability to inform and assist our veteran communities. As the first American Legion Post in Thailand, we have been successful in recruiting and retaining members within an area that spans 17 Provinces. While we may be spread out across the nation, the ability to communicate and disseminate information is our strength. We can assist veterans regardless of the distance from Ubon. Every Post TH01 member is a representative of the American Legion and all it does for veterans. We are an immensely powerful virtual network of American Legionnaires.

My goal for American Legion Post TH01 for 2022 is to strengthen our ability to recruit new members by expanding our reputation. We can do this and it's going to take some effort from everyone in the Post.

This Is What You Can Do

- a. Increase your participation in local events with emphasis on community service. Look around your local area. Get involved and look for opportunities for the Post to help. It doesn't always have to be financial; it could simply be a time to show up and attend a social function where our members can be seen and pass out information and cards. You would be surprised at how fast our reputation gets spread among the expat community through being seen at these events. I have had my "business" card given to an American expat from an Australian that I met at Yasothon immigration. It was more than two years since I had given the Australian my card and he gave it to one of his golf partners that needed assistance with an immigration issue. The American called and I was able to offer him some sound advice. Unfortunately for me, he was not a military veteran, but it served me well in getting several people aware that there is an American Legion Post that is able to help. Other events, although sad, are funerals. We have presented military funeral honors to 6 of our members as well as to at least one veteran that was not a member. Our reputation for taking care of our veterans has been excellent and the assistance to the spouses is an ongoing program. The local attendees of these events are witnesses and spread the word of our organization. The more we do, the more we will be called on to do, therefore it is up to every one of us to participate and become a recruiter for our Post. We have a mission and we need people to carry this mission on.
- b. Immigration offices are a focal point for all expats that require visas and residence reporting. As such, these are prime places for locating Americans, and perhaps, US military veterans. Be an Ambassador of the American Legion by informing your local immigration office of your affiliation with our organization and its ability to assist Americans. I have been able to assist members of the Yasothon community (to include two veterans), due to my relationship with my local immigration office. All that's needed is to let the officers know who you are and to have a sincere desire to help. We have Post members that are very experienced and knowledgeable in many areas and we can parlay those abilities into support for American citizens here in Thailand. Don't be afraid to ask our other members for help.
- c. We have many free sources for publicity. We have a website, Facebook, and have access to other social media (e.g., Rumble, Instagram, YouTube, etc.) Members with some time and social media acumen can assist by updating our pages, regardless of where they live... even in the USA.
- d. Educate and advise elderly Americans ***and their loved ones*** on final plans. It's an uncomfortable discussion, but they will never forget where to go when they need assistance. If you don't want to be the one to have that discussion with them, refer them to me. I have some hard-earned experience in these matters. I'm willing to be uncomfortable now than to be ineffective later.
- e. Instruct veterans where to go for the information they are seeking concerning veteran services. Although there are many forums for information, Thailand-specific information would help our veterans here much more than from forums located elsewhere.
- f. Offer advice based on your experiences to assist other expats on how to assimilate into Thai society. It's not as easy as one thinks. Sage advice from old-timers can be very helpful but try to avoid becoming a family relationship counselor. Generalizations and observations on local social etiquette can be fairly helpful.
- g. Interact with other organizations within Thailand (US Embassy, JUSMAG RAO, USAID, VFW, Post TH02, Navy League, International Veterans Association, Special Forces Association-Thailand, Thai Ministry of Public Health, Thai Red Cross, Tawanchai Foundation). Ask questions as to how they think that we would be able to help them with their missions. Our exposure with them could reap great benefits.

Calendar of Events

01-30 April

National Volunteer Month

04 April

Post THo1 Membership Meeting, at 1000 hrs.

06 April

Chakri Day

The day is officially called Chakri Memorial Day or The King Yodfa Chulaloke the great day, it observes the founding and establishment of the great Chakri Dynasty in 1782 by Phra Buddha Yodfa Chulaloke. He was also known as King Rama I and has declared Bangkok, then called Krung Thep, capital of Siam (now Thailand). The day commemorates the coronation and contributions of King Rama I along with all the following Kings of the Royal family. So far 10 royal candidates have been coronated as the king and King Vajiralongkom (Rama X) currently sits on the throne, following sad demise of his father King Bhumibol Adulyadej in October 2016.

07 April

World Health Day

World Health Day is a global health awareness day celebrated every year on 7 April, under the sponsorship of the World Health Organization, as well as other related organizations. In 1948, the WHO held the First World Health Assembly.

The Assembly decided to celebrate 7 April of each year, with effect from 1950, as the World Health Day. The World

Health Day is held to mark WHO's founding and is seen as an opportunity by the organization to draw worldwide attention to a subject of major importance to global health each year. The WHO organizes international, regional and local events on the Day related to a particular theme. World Health Day is acknowledged by various governments and non-governmental organizations with interests in public health issues, who also organize activities and highlight their support in media reports, such as the Global Health Council.

13-15 April

Songkran (Thai New Year)

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

15-23 April

Passover

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

17 April

Easter

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

18 April

Tax Day (15 June for US Taxpayers Residing Overseas)

<https://www.irs.gov/individuals/international-taxpayers/us-citizens-and-resident-aliens-abroad>

22 April

Earth Day

23 April

ANZAC Memorial Ceremony Hellfire Pass, Kanchanaburi

https://thailand.embassy.gov.au/files/bkok/Anzac%20Day%202020%20Info%20Sheet_both%20services.pdf

POST OFFICERS 2021MY

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ADJUTANT'S CORNER...JEFF LUDWIG

Greetings Comrades,

Post Elections

The Post officer elections are fast approaching. Are you interested in any of the officer positions? Now is a good time to think about it. What better way to make a difference than by getting actively involved in our Post.



The Post officer positions provide you with a rewarding challenge and an opportunity help our Post grow. The Commander opened the nominations at the March meeting. You can nominate individuals including self-nomination for any of the elected positions. No special training needed; just the desire and determination to make a difference helping us grow and serve our veterans, their families and our local communities. We will accept nomination right up to the elections at the April Meeting. Not interested in an officer position but still want to get active in our Post? Then, why not volunteer for one of the standing committees. If you are interested or have a nomination you want to bring forward, you can contact me or any of our officers. Please ensure anyone you nominate is willing to accept the nomination.

To help you out below is a list of the elected positions and the standing committees. You can make a difference – even a small pebble dropped in a pond touches all its shores.

Elected Positions

Commander	Finance Officer	Publicity Officer
1 st Vice Commander	Chaplain	Judge Advocate
2 nd Vice Commander	Sergeant-at-Arms	3 Members-at-Large

Standing Committees

Membership Committee

Communications Committee

Activities Committee

Graves & Registration Committee

April Birthdays:

- Churchill, Gerald
- Brill, Robert
- Bull, Bruce
- Salzarulo, Salvatore
- Sostack, Edward
- Rutherford, William



1ST VICE COMMANDER...JOHN SKABRY

Comrades,

Sometimes we see our efforts come full circle. Last September, our Post donated medical supplies to a rapidly deployed Covid-19 field hospital. That specific field hospital was packed up and redeployed to another location in need. The equipment we gifted the system moved on to help many other people suffering since then.

Eight months and two variants of the Covid-19 virus later, I woke up with a runny nose. It could have simply been the mild but dreaded "man flu." After forty-five days in quarantine, due to extensive travel in the Middle East and Southeast Asia, two rounds of Pfizer shots, boxes of masks, and gallons of alcohol sanitizer. Rona had found me.

The next day saw me reporting to the local hospital in my zone for ATK and then PCR confirmation. Standing in the crowd, the indiscriminate nature of the virus was apparent. The elderly sat with runny noses while sweat-browed mothers held babies. Young men paced anxiously while the women tried to distract themselves with their smartphones.

The sorting system broke our group down into several categories. One category was for people that required further observation and confinement within a field hospital. I briefly filed through this area to get a chest x-ray. While passing through I noticed in the back, beyond rows of people lying on reed mats with mosquito nets, I saw several metal-framed beds. While looking around for more items a nurse slipped a battery-operated pulse oximeter on my finger strikingly like the units our Post had supplied eight months earlier in September.



HISTORIAN...TED POTYRALA

Greetings Legionnaires,

April Is Children & Youth Month

The 4th. Pillar of the American Legion is Children and Youth. It goes back to the very beginning of the legion. At the first caucus held in Paris in 1919, instead of thinking about themselves they focused on the orphans from the result of war. They knew the children had a little chance of succeeding in the world without some help. The American Legion has a slogan, "A Square Deal for Every Child". Our Post firmly believes in this. In the past we have purchased school supplies for disadvantaged rural schools. We have also provided food for a handicap center, cancer hospital, and orphanage. Annually we participate in National and local Children's Day activities.

With April being Children & Youth Month, it is appropriate to bring forward an excellent opportunity help some children who were not born with a square deal. We are talking about children born with cleft lip and or palate. These children are starting life at an extreme disadvantage. It can be a minor disfigurement or a very major one.



Here in country these children will most likely never attend school. These children often ostracized; have difficulty with eating, breathing, and speaking. Most will have hearing, tooth problems, and delayed developmental and growth. We can change all that and give them a square deal. Here in the northeast of Thailand, it is estimated that 700 children a year and 2,000 children nationwide are born with a cleft lip and or palate. Mostly to families who do not have the finances to take proper care of these children.



*Good news there is help available. **Smile Train** is a nonprofit organization and charity providing corrective surgery for children with cleft lips and palates. Headquartered in New York City Smile Train provides training, funding, and resources to empower local medical professionals in 70+ countries to provide 100%-free cleft surgery and other forms of essential cleft care in their own communities. Recognized by Smile Train the Tawanchai Foundation here in Thailand is dedicated to helping these unfortunate children. The Tawanchai Foundation received Royal Permission to set up a project in honor of Her Royal Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn to provide service and develop a care system for cleft lip and or palate.*

At our February post meeting, we discussed donating to Smile Train. Since the meeting, I found the Tawanchai Foundation. If we donate to the Tawanchai Foundation, all the donations stay in Thailand. At our March meeting the members agreed that we should donate to this foundation ensuring that all our donations will be used to help local children.

Not surprising of the generosity of our members, we have already collected 34,700 baht. This is a very good start; however, with your help we can do far more. We hope to keep this going as a perpetual donation fund. Look for an email from Adjutant Ludwig very soon that will provide you with all the details for donating to this worthy project. We can really see to it that these unfortunate children *get a square deal!*



Additional Info. From The Post Commander

Other Areas of Interest

1. US INCOME TAXES

If you are a U.S. citizen or resident alien residing overseas, or are in the military on duty outside the U.S., on the regular due date of your return, you are allowed an [automatic 2-month extension](#) to file your return without requesting an extension. For a calendar year return, the automatic 2-month extension is to June 15. For calendar year 2021 you must pay any tax due by April 18, 2022, or interest will be charged.

If you qualify for the 2-month extension but are unable to file your return by the automatic 2-month extension date, you can request an additional extension to October 15 by filing [Form 4868, Application for Automatic Extension of Time To File U.S. Individual Income Tax Return](#), before the automatic 2-month extension date. If you are allowed extensions to June 15 and/or October 15, you will owe interest on any unpaid tax amount from the original due date of the return (April 18, 2022, for calendar year 2021).

a. Where to File if you are a U.S. citizen or resident alien (including a green card holder) and you live in a foreign country, and you are:

(1) Requesting a refund, or no check or money order enclosed, mail your U.S. tax return to:

Department of the Treasury
Internal Revenue Service
Austin, TX 73301-0215
USA

(2) Enclosing a check or money order, mail your U.S. tax return to:

Internal Revenue Service
P.O. Box 1303
Charlotte, NC 28201-1303
USA

b. Electronic Filing (e-file)

Taxpayers with an AGI (Adjusted Gross Income) within a specified threshold can electronically file their tax return for free using [Free File](#). Taxpayers with an AGI greater than the specified threshold can use the [Free File Fillable Forms](#), the [e-file by purchasing commercial software](#), or the [Authorized IRS e-file Provider Locator Service](#). A limited number of companies provide software that can accommodate foreign addresses.

(1) Free tax preparation software [About the Free File Alliance | Internal Revenue Service \(irs.gov\)](#)

The [Free File Alliance](#) is a group of industry-leading private-sector tax preparation companies that provide free online tax preparation and electronic filing only through the [IRS.gov](#) website. IRS Free File is a Public-Private

Partnership (PPP) between the IRS and the Free File Alliance. This PPP requires joint responsibility and collaboration between the federal government and private industry to be successful.

(2) Do I need to file?

[Frequently Asked Questions About International Individual Tax Matters | Internal Revenue Service \(irs.gov\)](#)

(Note: The stimulus payments were made to those that had filed a tax return prior to the payments being authorized. Several of our members filed in order to get these payments, yet there was an instance of a member not applying for a Taxpayer Identification Number (TIN) for his spouse, therefore making her ineligible for the full EIP and possible tax credits.)

c. Taxpayer Identification Number:

Each taxpayer who files, or is claimed as a dependent on, a U.S. tax return will need a social security number (SSN) or individual taxpayer identification number (ITIN). To obtain an SSN, use form SS-5, Application for a Social Security Card. To get form SS-5, or to find out if you are eligible for a social security card, contact a Social Security office or visit [Social Security International Operations](#). If you, or your spouse, are not eligible for a SSN, you can obtain an [ITIN](#) by filing form W-7 along with appropriate documentation.

2. FEDERAL VOTING ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

[Voting - U.S. Embassy & Consulate in Thailand \(usembassy.gov\)](#)

3. SOCIAL SECURITY ISSUES

If you reside in Thailand and have other questions regarding services provided by the Social Security Administration (SSA), you must contact the SSA Federal Benefits Unit (FBU) located in U.S. Embassy in Manila, Philippines. For more information on their services and how to contact them, please visit their webpage at: <https://ph.usembassy.gov/u-s-citizen-services/social-security/>

[Link to AL Thailand Post TH01 Website](#)



POST NEWSLETTER EDITOR

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Greetings fellow Legionnaires,

Hope everyone's doing well.

If you'd like an article included in the Post TH01 monthly newsletter, please send your input to my above email no later than 10 days before the 1st of every month. If you send accompanying pics, please make sure they're high quality.

I'll surely include your input in the newsletter.