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 American Legion Thailand Post TH01
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April 2018
 Volume 2, Issue 2

Jeff Ludwig, Adjutant Larry Edmonds, Commander
 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 invited to attend.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- | | | |
|--------|-----------------------------|---|
| APR. 1 | Happy Easter |  |
| APR. 9 | Post Meeting, Driving Range | 10:00a.m. |
| APR. 9 | Post Officer Nominations | |



COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

From the Commander;



Comrades,

As our Post election draws near, I felt it necessary to remind all of what the different elements of The American Legion Emblem stand for and represents. Our Emblem has a long and colorful history. Below is a breakdown and the meaning of each element. As you proudly wear the emblem, I hope that you remember the men and women that served our country with Honor and Dignity. **And** -- that you will carry on the traditions of our great organization.

Elements of the emblem



"There shines the Emblem of The American Legion, it is your badge of distinction, honor and service. It stands for God and Country, and the highest rights of man. Of its several parts, each has a meaning."

The rays of the sun



The rays of the sun form the background of our proud emblem and suggests the Legion's principles will dispel the darkness of violence and evil.

The wreath



The wreath forms the center, in loving memory of those brave comrades who gave their lives in the service of the United States that liberty might endure.

The star



The star, victory symbol of World War I, also symbolizes honor, glory and constancy. The letters "U.S." leave no doubt as to the brightest star in the Legion's star.

Outer rings



The larger of two outer rings stands for the rehabilitation of our sick and disabled comrades. The smaller inside ring denotes the welfare of America's children.

Inner rings



The smaller of two inner rings set upon the star represents service to our communities, states and the nation. The larger outer ring pledges loyalty to Americanism.

American Legion



The words American Legion tie the whole thing together for truth, remembrance, constancy, honor, service, veteran's affairs and rehabilitation, children and youth, loyalty, and Americanism.

*2018 Post Officer Guide and Manual of Ceremonies

WHAT'S HAPPENING

April is **Children & Youth Month**. It is this month that the Post focuses on and coordinates children & Youth activities. In the Post meeting we discussed participating in children Special Olympic here in Thailand. We also



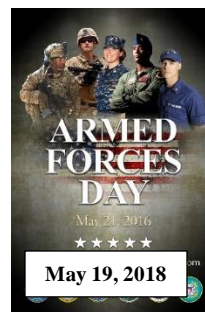
discussed ideas such reaching out to the local orphanages and donating needed items or providing them with a special lunch party with special gift bags. These are things that



don't require a lot of money, just a little of your time. The smiles on the children's faces are sure to provide you with a lifetime of rewarding memories.

The Activities/Americanism Committee will be sure to add this month's agenda to the Post's calendar for next year. We need your help now! We are looking for more activities centered on local Youths. Unfortunately, we had no activities this month.

Get ready for next month. May marks the anniversary of the St. Louis Caucus,



where organization of The American Legion was completed in 1919. It is also National Poppy Week as well as Memorial Day, Armed Forces Day and Mother's Day. We need help to plan for the activities.

This would be a good time for us to reach out to U.S. military personnel in JUSMAGTHAI and the AFTAC site in Chiang Mai. Bring your activity ideas to the May meeting.



ADJUTANTS POST

Post Officer Elections are just around the corner. It is important for all to try attend the monthly Post meeting on May 14. For those that cannot come to the meeting please try to log in to the Google Hangouts. We need maximum participation. Below is the current list of nominations. Of course, we will also take any nominations at the May meeting. To those members nominated-- good luck.

Current Nominees:

Commander

Larry Edmonds

1st Vice

Bruce Templeman
Wayne Wright

2nd Vice

Bruce Templeman
Ted Potyrala

Finance Officer

Jeff Ludwig

Chaplain

Charlie Mason

Judge Advocate

Bruce Templeman

Sergeant at Arms

Bruce Templeman
Neil Tufford

Publicity Officer

Joe Reedy

Members at Large

Rusty Wilson
Bruce Templeman
Anthony (Tony) Francios
Sal Salzarulo

Service Officers Corner

By Maurice "Rocky" Hatzke Post Service Officer

Did you know that a Veterans Service Officer (VSO) can assist you on your claim for benefits that you may be entitled to including: compensation, education, vocational rehabilitation and employment, home loans, life insurance, pension, health care, and burial benefits.

Does your spouse know of your last wishes? Have you sat down with her and outlined your plans for him/her? Please take the time to list all your financial institutions, sources of income, especially military retirement and Social Security. If you have life insurance policies, list the policy number and contact number for claims. Have you listed all persons that could have a claim on your assets? Your passing will be difficult enough for your loved ones so please take the time and give him/her your wishes. Show them what they are entitled to and help them and your VSO get it for them.

Contact me if you have any questions and I will be glad to sit down with you or set up a telephone time on Skype.

Americanism Chairman



Chairman
Bruce Templeman

Last month we found a pretty good definition of what is Americanism. Now let's look at how that applies to our Post and how we can contribute here in Thailand based the American Legion's definition.

As a Post, we can do our part by keeping our traditions and customs alive, even while living in a foreign country. While care must be taken not to cause offense to our host nation, we can demonstrate the principles of Americanism by helping our fellow countrymen and their families. As an American Legion Post, we can also foster Americanism by performing community service and educating those that wish to learn about our country.

To begin, we must recognize that we are different from most American Legion Posts in that we are the only Post in the country of Thailand. Not simply local, but national. As such, we should also recognize our limitation of resources and focus ourselves on conducting physical services within the city of Ubon and surrounding area. However, we are here to assist American veterans and their families throughout Thailand.

Our actions will speak loudly for Americanism as we continue to keep our traditions, customs, and respect for our flag and countrymen. Providing military funeral honors for our fallen veterans has done much in keeping in the spirit of Americanism. Our demonstrated reverence for our comrades and the American flag under which we serve is respected by our Thai friends and their families. Also celebrating US holidays here in Thailand fosters respect. We

can reach out to all Americans and their families, to participate in celebrating American Holidays to further the goals of the Legion.

While we may be a small group, we can reach out through various means and foster American ideals, beginning with the families of Americans residing here in Thailand. In that regard, we welcome you to join our Americanism Committee. I am sure you will find it rewarding. If this article has inspired you to comment, please tell me what you think.

Chaplain's Message

Chaplain Charlie Mason

Blessings to all this Easter!

Be thankful and express your gratitude by extending a helping hand to others. What our God has given you is not yours alone, but is a blessing to those you show mercy to. You are not your own; you are His! You are designed to be His hand extended, and His mouth to encourage and exhort.

Let your heart reflect His heart; Choose to give away His love! Read: Luke 6:38

Blessings and Love.



TAPS: None this month

Membership Chairman:

Membership is vital to the Legion for there is strength in numbers

It seems you are always asked to increase your membership and no matter what programs you begin discussing, you always come back to membership. The reason for this is obvious -- “membership is the lifeblood of The American Legion.” Without members, there would be no Legion programs. Without members, we would have no voice on Capitol Hill. Without members, there would be no accomplishment in assistance and support to veterans, their families, the community, state and nation. But, the American Legion has recorded consistent accomplishments for veterans and their families since 1919. It is often emphasized, “It is not the price you pay to belong, but the price you paid to be eligible to belong.” Often times your members are hesitant to ask veterans to join The American Legion because we are asking the veteran for his money and his time. Do you not feel, as a Legionnaire, that time and money will be well spent in advancing the many and various programs of The American Legion? Don’t be hesitant or apologetic, ask them to join, ask them to renew – NOW. You must offer every eligible veteran the opportunity to be a Legionnaire. Many Legionnaires ask; “What do you talk about when you approach a prospective member?” Because of the American Legion and its nearly three million members there is:

- A fair and equitable GI Bill of Rights for our veterans
- A Flag Code to direct the proper display and respect for “Old Glory”
- A viable VA Health Care system
- Courage to fight for a Constitutional Amendment against flag desecration
- Persistent efforts to secure recognition and treatment for illness

caused by Agent Orange and unknown illnesses from the Persian Gulf War

*Taken from the Membership Team Training guide June 2008



April Birthdays

Doug Bull
Bill Rutherford
Sal Salzarulo

CURRENT POST OFFICERS

<u>Name</u>	<u>Office</u>
Larry Edmonds	Commander
Wayne Wright	1st Vice Commander
Ted Potyrala	2nd Vice Commander and Historian
Maurice(Rocky) Hatzke	Service Officer
Hugh Mason	Chaplain
Jeff Ludwig	Adjutant/Finance Officer
Neil Tufford	Sergeant at Arms
Don Ford	Judge Advocate
Joe Reedy	Publicity Officer
Salvatore (Sal) Salzarulo	Members at large
Tony Francois	Members at large
Sunny Wilson.	Members at large

Please submit any announcements or items for the newsletter to Jeff Ludwig, Adjutant/Editor. Requests must be should be by the 15th to ensure inclusion in the current newsletter.