Brig. Gen. Robin Olds

American Legion Thailand Post TH01
Email: amerilegionth01@gmail.com

Larry Edmonds, 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.

August 2019
Volume 3, Issue 8

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

August 12	Post Meeting	10:00a.m.
August 12	Thai Mother's Day	

2019 Post Officers:

Name	**Office**	**Email**
Larry Edmonds	Commander	*ldedmonds@aol.com*
Bruce Templeman	1st Vice Commander	*bruce.templeman@gmail.com*
Wayne Wright	2nd Vice Commander	*waywright@outlook.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*
Neil Tufford	Sergeant at Arms	*neiltufford@gmail.com*
Charles (Rusty) Wilson	Judge Advocate	*charles.r.wilson1@gmail.com*
Joe Reedy	Public Affairs Officer	*joereedy4@gmail.com*
Phil Colombey	IT Officer	*pcolombe@gmail.com*
Salvatore (Sal) Salzarulo	Members at large	*salzy48@hotmail.com*
Dave Bell	Members at large	*davebell211@hotmail.com*
Bill Medley	Members at large	*william_2017@icloud.com*

***Post email address*: amerilegionth01@gmail.com**

July 8, 2019 Post Membership Meeting

COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

By Larry Edmonds

First, let me thank Congress and the President for passing and signing the Legion Act allowing our fellow, previously ineligible, veterans to join our great organization. We at Brig. Gen. Robin Olds American Legion Thailand Post TH01 warmly welcome all veterans to join our Post. I urge all our members to invite any veteran to join our Post, the only American Legion Post in Thailand.

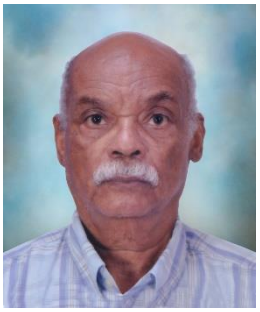
Speaking of membership, we are now into the 2020 membership renewal period. I want to thank those who have already renewed their membership for 2020. I strongly urge those members who have not yet renewed their dues to do it at the earliest opportunity. Our Adjutant, Jeff Ludwig, will be available at the next meeting to take your dues or assist you in renewing online. You can contact Jeff any time if you are not sure how to renew online or for other methods for paying your dues. For our first target/goal we need reach is 50% renewal by September. We can do this.

On another note, our American Legion Centennial celebration is coming up in November. We hope as many of you as can will make it to that celebration and the dedication ceremony down at the Candle Park here in Ubon. More details to come as we move closer to that date. If you have any suggestion or thoughts, please get with our Activities Chairman Bruce Templeman.

Finally, I am still in the USA and expect to be here until sometime in October. 2nd Vice Commander Wayne Wright will be chairing the August and September Post meetings. He will also be there to assist in any matters you may have concerning the Post. Please give him your full support as you have me for the past years. See you soon.

1st Vice / Membership Chairman:
Bruce Templeman

I'm proud to belong to American Legion Post TH01. The camaraderie and devotion to service that we have is unique to veterans. This was magnificently manifested on 13 July 2019, when many members answered the call and attended the unexpected funeral of Member-at-Large William Samuel (Bill) Medley, Jr. Our Post honored Bill and his remaining family members were surprised and pleased with the solemn military recognition that we gave to him.



I met Bill at the Mukdahan Makro several years ago and asked him to join the American Legion. He and I began a good friendship and he taught me a lot of how to deal with life in Thailand. There are many things that we can learn from each other and should share. If there is one thing that I could share to everyone at this time, it is that we need to be clear in making our wishes known to those that we will leave behind. It is they that will have to work with each other to deal with their grief and to work out the administrative and legal issues that occur when an American passes away in Thailand. Bill Medley and his wife had adopted a daughter and she became overwhelmed at the passing of her father. She, like many children, had struck off on her own years before and had not discussed any of these issues with Bill, even after her mother had predeceased him. It seems that discussing death is a difficult thing for people to do and they are under the assumption that there will be time to do that later. There is no time like the present.

I would hope that all of our Post members has made a living will, a last will and testament, and appointed someone to act as executor of them both. While these issues will eventually work themselves out, without a clear plan to follow, there can be discord that interferes with the normal stages of grief that your loved ones must endure. If anyone wishes information on how to prepare a plan for their family, here's a link to a helpful planning document that I have used: http://www.crisisresponse.org/uploadedFiles/19%20What%20My%20Family%20Should%20Know.pdf

I am also available to assist you in whatever way I can.

Service Officer:
Maurice (Rocky) Hatske

VA extends Agent Orange presumption to 'Blue Water Navy' Veterans

Eligible Veterans may now be entitled to disability compensation benefits

WASHINGTON — The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is preparing to process Agent Orange exposure claims for "Blue Water Navy" Veterans who served offshore of the Republic of Vietnam between Jan. 9, 1962, and May 7, 1975.

These Veterans may be eligible for presumption of herbicide exposure through Public Law 116-23, Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act of 2019, which was signed into law June 25, 2019, and goes into effect Jan. 1, 2020. They may also qualify for a presumption of service connection if they have a disease that is recognized as being associated with herbicide exposure.

The bipartisan Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act gives VA until Jan. 1, 2020, to begin deciding Blue Water Navy related claims. By staying claims decisions until that date, VA is complying with the law that Congress wrote and passed.

"VA is dedicated to ensuring that all Veterans receive the benefits they have earned," said VA Secretary Robert Wilkie. "We are working to ensure that we have the proper resources in place to meet the needs of our Blue Water Veteran community and minimize the impact on all Veterans filing for disability compensation."

Blue Water Navy Veterans are encouraged to submit disability compensation claims for conditions presumed to be related to Agent Orange exposure. Veterans over age 85 or with life-threatening illnesses will have priority in claims processing.

Veterans who previously were denied for an Agent Orange related presumptive condition can file a new claim based on the change in law. Eligible survivors of deceased Blue Water Navy Veterans also may benefit from the new law and may file claims for benefits based on the Veterans' service.

The new law affects Veterans who served on a vessel operating not more than 12 nautical miles seaward from the demarcation line of the waters of Vietnam and Cambodia, as defined in Public Law 116-23. An estimated 420,000 to 560,000 Vietnam-era Veterans may be considered Blue Water Navy Veterans. To qualify, under the new law, these Veterans must have a disease associated with herbicide exposure, as listed in 38 Code of Federal Regulations section 3.309(e).

Agent Orange presumptive conditions are:

- AL amyloidosis
- Chloracne or similar acneform disease
- Chronic B-cell leukemias
- Diabetes mellitus Type 2
- Hodgkin lymphoma, formerly known as Hodgkin's disease
- Ischemic heart disease
- Multiple myeloma
- Non-Hodgkin lymphoma, formerly known as Non-Hodgkin's lymphoma
- Parkinson's disease
- Peripheral neuropathy, early-onset
- Porphyria cutanea tarda
- Prostate cancer
- Respiratory cancers (lung, bronchus, larynx or trachea)
- Soft-tissue sarcoma (other than osteosarcoma, chondrosarcoma, Kaposi's sarcoma or mesothelioma).

For more information about Agent Orange exposure in Vietnam waters (Blue Water Navy Veterans), visit https://www.va.gov/disability/eligibility/hazardous-materials-exposure/agent-orange/navy-coast-guard-ships-vietnam/.

Veterans seeking more information should contact their Veterans Service Officer, call VA's toll-free number at 800-827-1000 or visit the VA Blue Water Navy Agent Orange website.

REF: US Dept. of Veterans Affairs: An official website of the United States government, July 5, 2019, 04:54:00 PM

Adjutant Corner:
Jeff Ludwig

The 2019 Membership year was a very successful year for the Post. During the course of the year, the Post received a number of monetary incentive awards.

July 1, 2019 started the 2020 Membership drive. I urge all of you to help us continue our strong membership program so we can meet and exceed our previous years achievements. How can you help us achieve this year's lofty goals?

Well the first step you can take is to quickly renew your membership for 2020. You can do it in a number of painless ways. The quickest and easiest method of renewing your membership is through the American Legion online renewal website. The easiest way to get to the website is to just Google "**American Legion membership renewal.**" You can also copy and paste this web address into your browser, **https://www.legion.org/renew** . All you will need then is your Membership ID number, your last name, and a credit card. It is just that simple. You can also pay you dues at the Monthly Post meeting or send a money order or check to our Post address. *Note: We can only accept checks from US Banks.*

Another way you can help our Membership Program is with active recruiting of new members. You will be helping not only the Post but also and more importantly a veteran and their family.

The table below lists the National Membership Renewal Targets goals and dates for the coming year:

DEPARTMENT OF FRANCE
2019 - 2020
POST MEMBERSHIP TARGET DATES

EARLY BIRD KICKOFF – 50%
Department Cutoff – August 30, 2019
National Cutoff - September 11, 2019

FALL MEETINGS – 55%
Department Cutoff – September 30, 2019
National Cutoff - October 09, 2019

VETERANS DAY – 65%
Department Cutoff – November 04, 2019
National Cutoff - November 14, 2019

PEARL HARBOR DAY – 75%
Department Cutoff – December 02, 2019
National Cutoff - December 11, 2019

MID-WINTER – 80%
Department Cutoff – January 06, 2020
National Cutoff - January 15, 2020

PRESIDENTS DAY – 85%
Department Cutoff – January 31, 2020
National Cutoff – February 12, 2020

LEGION BIRTHDAY – 90%
Department Cutoff - March 02, 2020
National Cutoff – March 11, 2020

CHILDREN & YOUTH – 95%
Department Cutoff – March 30, 2020
National Cutoff - April 08, 2020

ARMED FORCES DAY – 100%
Department Cutoff – May 04, 2020
National Cutoff – May 13, 2020

Legion Act - Change of Legion Eligibility: Great News!

The House of Representatives passed the Legion Act on July 23, 2019. The President signed the legislation on July 30, 2019. This opens the door for over 6 million veterans to access American Legion programs and benefits for which they previously had not been eligible. As a congressionally chartered organization, the legislation was required for The American Legion to change its eligibility criteria.

"Today's passage of the LEGION Act is a victory for veterans who until now have not had their service to our nation fully recognized," American Legion National Commander Brett Reistad said. "These veterans and their family members can now enjoy all the benefits of their service which they so richly deserve."

Awards:

National Post Membership Awards: Post Honor Ribbon Award

I am happy to report that this year we were also awarded the National Post Honor Ribbon Award. This is awarded to all Posts whose membership, as of December 31, achieves an advance membership, for the current membership year, equal to or greater than the final membership of the immediate past membership year

Continuous Membership Awards. Membership is the lifeblood of the American Legion. It is what has made the American Legion one of the strongest champions of veterans and their families. **Strength in Numbers!** This month we are proud to award 2 of our members the Continuous Membership certificate and Pin. Congratulations to all.

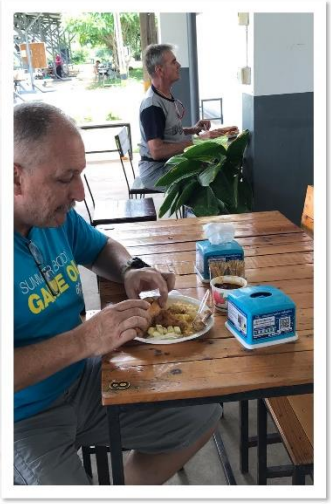
The members are as follows:

- Jeff Ludwig 5 years
- Joe Reedy 5 years

Events:

4th of July Independence Day Luncheon.

In celebration of the Independence Day, the Post held a luncheon immediately following the meeting. Americans in the local area were invited to help celebrate. It was a truly an American affair with hotdogs, potato salad, and apple pie as the main course along with an table was overflowing table if food including homemade chili, mac & cheese, and much more. It was truly delicious and all had a great time. We also celebrated the birthday of our Post's namesake, Robin Olds, with a birthday cake. Special thanks to those who prepared the food and helped setup the luncheon and a special thanks to the US Bakery for the delicious cakes and pies.



Happy Birthday
Brigadier General
Robin Olds

Safety Message:

Rainy season is upon us to that means hazardous driving condition out there especially in Thailand. Rainy Driving Tips:

1. **First and foremost: slow down! It takes longer to stop or adjust in wet weather.**
2. **Stay toward the middle lanes – water tends to pool in the outside lanes.**
3. **Maintain proper following distance (3 Second Rule). This needs to be increased in wet weather.**

4. **Drive in the tracks of a car ahead of you.**
5. **Don't follow large trucks or busses too closely. The spray created by their large tires reduces your vision. Take care when passing them as well; if you must pass, do so quickly and safely.**
6. **Be more alert when driving in wet or slippery conditions. Watch out for brake lights in front of you.**
7. **Avoid using your brakes; if possible, take your foot off the accelerator to slow down.**
8. **Turn your headlights on even in a light rain, or in gloomy, foggy or overcast conditions. Not only do they help you see the road, but they'll help other drivers see you. If your car has daytime running lights you still should put them on, so vehicles behind you can see you better.**
9. **Before it starts to rain, replace old or brittle wipers.**
10. **Avoid off-road driving: it's hard to judge the actual depth of puddles and you can easily become stuck, even in an SUV.**
11. **Never drive beyond the limits of visibility. At night rainy roads become especially treacherous. The glare of oncoming lights, amplified by the rain on your windscreen, can cause temporary loss of visibility while substantially increasing driver fatigue. In**

rainy conditions pedestrians, livestock, and wildlife are extremely hard to spot and even harder to avoid.

12. **Never drive through moving water if you can't see the ground through it; your car could be swept off the road.**
13. **When driving through a puddle of uncertain depth, go slow. If it's deeper than the bottom of your doors, turn around and find another route. Deep water can cause serious damage to a modern car's electrical system.**
14. **Avoid splashing pedestrians.**
15. **If possible, stay off the road during heavy thunderstorms. Large flashes of lightning can temporarily blind and disorient drivers, and the accompanying high winds and heavy rain can create deadly driving conditions.**

Update: Last moth we talked about the dangers of misquotes in Thailand.

The Department of Disease Control (DDC) has reported that Thailand is facing the worst dengue outbreak in half a decade. They reported that there have been 40,402 cases the first half of this year resulting in 58 deaths. The number of cases is 1.6 times higher than this time last year. The Highest concentration is in the ISAN area and of those provinces, Ubon Province has the highest incidents. So be careful out there - where protection.

Historian Archives:

Ted Potyrala

Part three in our biography of your namesake Brig. Gen. Robin Olds.

Robin Olds. Post WW II to Pre Vietnam.

At the end of WW II, Olds was assigned to West Point as an assistant football coach. He apparently was resented by many on the staff for his rapid rise in rank and his plethora of combat decorations. In February 1946, he was transferred to March Field, California to the 412th. Fighter Group to fly the P-80 Shooting Star. At this time began a career long professional struggle with superiors that he viewed as more promotion than warrior minded. While at March, he and Lt. Col. John C. "Pappy" Herbst formed what was believed to be the first Air Force jet demonstration team.

Olds went to England under the U.S. Air Force/Royal Air Force Exchange Program in 1948. Flying the Gloster Meteor jet fighter, he commanded No. 1 Squadron at Royal Air Force Station Tangmere between October 20, 1948 and September 25, 1949, the first foreigner to command an RAF unit in peacetime. Following his exchange assignment, Olds returned to March AFB to become operations officer of the 94th Fighter Squadron of the 1st Fighter Group, flying F-86A Sabres, on November 15, 1949.

Olds was assigned to command the 71st Fighter Squadron, which was soon detached from the 1st FG to the Air Defense Command based at the Greater Pittsburgh Airport in Pennsylvania. As a result, he missed service in the Korean War despite repeated applications for a combat assignment Discouraged and at odds with the Air Force, in which he was seen as an iconoclast, Olds reportedly was in the process of resigning when he was talked out of it by a mentor, Maj Gen Frederic H. Smith Jr., who brought him to work at Eastern Air Defense Command headquarters at Stewart AFB.

Promoted to Lieutenant Colonel on February 20, 1951, and Colonel April 15, 1953, while just thirty years of age, Olds served in several staff assignments until returning to flying in 1955. At first on the command staff of the 86th Fighter-Interceptor Wing at Landstuhl Air Base, Germany, Olds then commanded its Sabre-equipped 86th Fighter-Interceptor Group from October 8, 1955, to August 10, 1956. He then was made chief of the Weapons Proficiency Center at Wheelus Air Base, Libya, in charge of all fighter weapons training for the United States Air Forces Europe until July 1958.

Olds had administrative and staff duty assignments at the Pentagon between 1958 and 1962 as the Deputy Chief, Air Defense Division, Headquarters USAF. In this assignment he prepared a number of papers, iconoclastic at the time, which soon became prophetic, including identifying the need for upgraded conventional munitions (foretelling the "bomb shortage" of the Vietnam War), and the lack of any serious tactical air training in conventional warfare. From November 1959 to March 1960, his section worked intensely to develop a program reducing the entire structure of the ADC with the purpose of generating $6.5 billion for classified funding to develop the SR-71 Blackbird. Following his Pentagon assignment, Olds attended the National War College, graduating in 1963.

Olds next became commander of the 81st Tactical Fighter Wing at RAF Bentwaters, England, an F-101 Voodoo fighter-bomber wing, on September 8, 1963. The 81st TFW was a major combat unit in United States Air Forces Europe, having both a tactical nuclear and conventional bombing role supporting NATO. Olds commanded the wing until July 26, 1965. As his Deputy Commander of Operations Olds brought with him Colonel Daniel "Chappie" James Jr., whom he had met during his Pentagon assignment and who would go on to become the first African-American 4-star Air Force general. James and Olds worked closely together for a year as a command team and developed both a professional and social relationship which was later renewed in combat.

In September 1966, Olds was tapped to command an F-4C Phantom wing in Southeast Asia. En route he arranged with the 4453rd Combat Crew Training Wing, Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, Arizona, (where Col. James was now Deputy Commander of Operations) to be checked out in the Phantom, completing the 14-step syllabus in just five days. His instructor was Major William L. Kirk, the 4453rd CCTW's Standardization and Evaluation officer, who had been one of Olds' pilots at RAF Bentwaters, and who later commanded the United States Air Forces Europe as a full general. Kirk accompanied Olds for practice firing of AIM-7 Sparrow and AIM-9 Sidewinder missiles on the Point Mugu missile range while Olds was en route to Travis Air Force Base for his charter flight overseas. Olds rewarded Kirk by granting him a transfer to his command in Thailand in March 1967.

**** References: All information taken from the references listed below.**

Wikipedia: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Robin_Olds
Air Force Biographies: https://www.af.mil/About-Us/Biographies/Display/Article/106027/brigadier-general-robin-olds/

Chaplain's Message

August 7 is National **Purple Heart Day**. It is a time for Americans to pause to remember and honor the brave men and women who were either wounded on the battlefield or paid the ultimate sacrifice with their lives. As we honor these brave men and women and those still serving and defending us on dangerous and hostile ground, we humbly offer this prayer from the American Legion chaplain's prayer book.

Dear Lord, there is a young man or woman far from home, called to serve their nation in a time of war; sent to defend our freedom on some distant foreign shore. We pray You keep them safe. We pray You keep them strong, we pray You send them safely home, for they've been away so long. Bless those who await their safe return and those who mourn the lost. Bless those who serve this Country well, no matter what the cost. God, bless America and her heroes … and thank You for the privilege to serve. Amen.

TAPS:

This Month Comrade William (Bill) Medely reported to Post Everlasting. An active member, a charitable comrade, a loyal American, and a great friend. We celebrate his time with us below. He will be truly missed.

August Birthdays:

- Bill Bragg
- David Burns
- Larry Edmonds
- John Eschenbaum
- Charlie Mason
- David Reis
- Russell Staples
- Bruce Templeman
- Bruce Postel

A very happy birthday to all.

Upcoming Events:

- **Patriot Day**
- **National POW/MIA Recognition Day**
- **Labor Day**
- **Remembrance of 9/11**