



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



December 2020
Volume 4, Issue 12

Calendar of Events for December

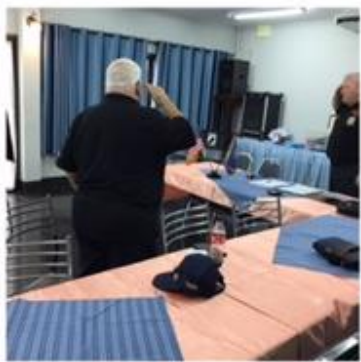
- **December 7- Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day**
- **December 14 - Post Membership Meeting**
- **December 14 - Christmas and Holiday Luncheon**



2020 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
Phil Colombey	IT Officer	pcolombe@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

November 9, 2020 Post Membership Meeting



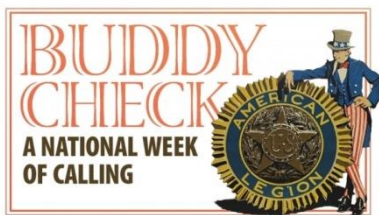
COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

Bruce Templeman



Sadly, we have lost a good member of our Post this month. An email notice of a member going to Post Everlasting was sent to all Post members concerning the passing of Floyd "Sonny" Wilson several days ago. His close friend and Post member, Loyd Garmany, informed us of Floyd's passing and we will do what we can to lessen his grief.

In answer to my call for Buddy Check telephone volunteers, I'm excited that two in-country volunteers answered almost immediately. John Eschenbaum and Dale



Ridgeway will soon be helping the Post connect with all members, hopefully before Christmas. I also have a volunteer stateside, Peter Ritzell. I will be placing a few phone calls stateside to ask for more volunteers there.

Time zones won't be as much of a problem as they are for members here in Thailand. There's room for a few more volunteers, so please let me know as soon as possible if you are interested being a Buddy Check volunteer.

Our Post will be having our Annual Pot Luck Christmas Party on the 14th of December immediately following the Post meeting. I hope to see everyone there as well as their families. Christmas is about giving and having family and friends around us. Just be respectful to social distancing and wearing of the mask.



I reached out to a former Air Force Commander of mine and asked for ideas on increasing membership in our post. Lt. Col. Weber, USAF (Ret) sent me the following bullet points that we can discuss during the Membership Committee portion of our December meeting.



1. Branding - Quick fact sheets and top reasons, main talking points, why to join, probably #1 motivator, business card, booths at key locations.

2. Build relationships with the US Embassy or other American groups....

3. Develop a prospect list including the entire generation of Mom, Dad, kids, etc. Talk to the whole family together.

4. Know your target set - how many Americans, veterans, family members are in that region and how to contact them.

5. Face-to-face contact is the best method; ask them to join and make it easy....fill out their application, annual membership & lifetime membership.

6. Big key is to get away from the bar and alcohol stereotype and start family friendly activities to get the next generation involved.



7. Flyer with benefits especially highlighting your location and add benefits you may be able to provide that Americans need there, notary, advice, scholarships, embassy connectivity for benefits or documentation review.

8. Don't forget about current and past members; reconnect one on one, heart to heart how they would or wouldn't want to get involved.

9. Use computer savvy people; device apps; social media i.e. Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn; and newsletter and flyers....focus on family to bring them in.

10. Referral program with incentives, recruit the entire family.

11. Have cluster events with 10-15 members at homes; will bring membership closer together; have co-leaders to avoid burn out and keep everything fun and simple.

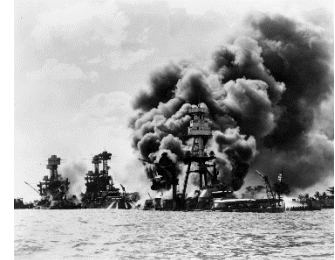
We are all recruiters for our Post. Let's have fun and bring others along. See you all in Ubon on the 14 December.



Post Adjutant Corner:
Jeff Ludwig



December is usually thought of as the time of season that we look forward to celebrating the holidays and spending time with family and friends. But it is also a somber time to remember not so long ago we let our guard down and paid the price. December 7, 1941 we were suddenly and without warning attacked at Pearl



Harbor, Hawaii. The attack killed 2,403 U.S. personnel, including 68 civilians and wounded another 1,178 military personnel. The attack destroyed or damaged 19 U.S. Navy ships, including 8 battleships. The three aircraft

carriers of the U.S. Pacific Fleet were out to sea on maneuvers. This is also the time to remember the resilience and sheer determination of the American fighting spirit. We in the American Legion know that we must be ever vigilant and ready to defend our constitution and way of life. We must also remember that unprovoked attacks on our Republic can take many shapes and forms all equally deadly. As the famous quote states, "Those who do not learn from history are doomed to repeat it." The American Legion Preamble really sums up our commitments as Members of the American Legion

Preamble to the Constitution

FOR GOD AND COUNTRY, WE ASSOCIATE OURSELVES TOGETHER

FOR THE FOLLOWING PURPOSES:

- ***To uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States of America;***
- ***To maintain law and order;***
- ***To foster and perpetuate a one hundred percent Americanism;***
- ***To preserve the memories and incidents of our associations in the Great Wars;***
- ***To inculcate a sense of individual obligation to the community, state and nation;***
- ***To combat the autocracy of both the classes and the masses;***
- ***To make right the master of might;***
- ***To promote peace and goodwill on earth;***
- ***To safeguard and transmit to posterity the principles of justice, freedom and democracy;***
- ***To consecrate and sanctify our comradeship by our devotion to mutual helpfulness.***

Membership:

We are getting close to attaining 100% of the Departments goal for this membership year. We only need 7 more either by recruiting new members or renewing existing members. We must get to 100% by December 31, 2020 to receive the honor ribbon and a monetary incentive of one dollar for every member in the post. We need your help to reach this goal. Please if you know someone who has not renewed their membership, encourage them to do so before 31 December. Also, if you know someone who may want to join our post, let us know so we can send them an information packet. This goal is within our reach—I know we can do this!



Event: Veterans Day

Post members took part in a multinational memorial honoring the World War II Prisoners of War (POWs) at Ubon Ratchathani. The event not only remembers and honors the trials and sacrifices of the POWs but also honors the local Thais that aided and comforted the POWs especially Mother Ubon, Yai Lai Sirisot, who countlessly risked her life and that of her children to aid the POWs. The Post participated in the event by laying a wreath at the foot of the Mother Ubon Memorial. This event allowed us to not only pay homage to those who have served and sacrificed to protect our liberties but also those who are serving now.







Safety Topic

Jeff Ludwig



10 TIPS TO PROTECT YOUR HOME DURING THE HOLIDAYS



HOLIDAY THEFT

Theft overall tends to rise in the months of November and December. Best thing to do is to make sure you secure everything that you can. Lock up cars, trucks, and homes.

LEAVE THE LIGHTS ON

Thieves usually don't approach homes that appear to be occupied. Leave on outside lights at night (or set them with a timer) and when you leave the house during the day; leave on some of the lights inside the home to give the appearance that someone is home.



PACKAGE DELIVERY More and more people are purchasing gifts online and having them shipped to their home. With this trend, more people are having packages stolen right off their front porch. If you're expecting packages, request signature confirmation or have a trusted neighbor hold on to it for you.

COOKING HAZARDS A fried turkey is delicious. A fried house due to a deep fryer accident is not. Make sure you read the instructions on how to prepare your turkey safely and please, use the deep fryer OUTSIDE of the house.



DECORATION HAZARDS

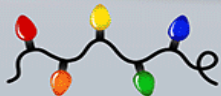
Speaking of fires, Christmas tree fires can be devastating for what is normally such a beacon of happiness. If you have a live tree, make sure that it has water every day, and ensure that any lights you use are checked for breaks or exposed wires.

CREATIVE DISPOSAL Dispose of your presents boxes creatively - placing that 60" TV box outside on trash day after Christmas is just asking for trouble. Try and break down boxes and other packaging as to not give away the wonderful gifts your family received.



SOCIAL MEDIA In today's inter-connected age, it's important to be very careful about what you share on social media. Be very careful about what you post and if you do decide to share your gifts, please make sure you don't have your location tagged to the post.

TRAVEL If you're traveling to visit family or going on a holiday vacation, wait until after your trip to post about it. Have a good friend or neighbor check on your house every couple of days to give you an update.



DECORATIONS & LIGHTING

Make sure not to run extension cords through windows or garage doors. Just the littlest crack can expose a home to thieves.

WHO'S AT THE DOOR

Criminals can try and scope at your home posing as a delivery person or someone looking for charitable donations. Be cautious when talking to people you're unfamiliar with and don't let them in your home





Historian
Ted Potyrala



HISTORY OF TAPS

We are all familiar with TAPS. We hear it played at military funerals, wreath laying, and lights out but where did this emotional music come from?

Before the Civil War, the music the infantry used for Lights Out was from Salis Casey's "TACTICS" which was borrowed from the French. The music was called Scott Tattoo which was used from 1835 until just before the civil war. A second version then came out replacing the first.

The music for TAPS was not composed by Union General Daniel Butterfield but was modified from the earlier version of Tattoo in July of 1862. He felt that the call for lights out was too formal to signal the end of the day and he wanted to honor the men in his brigade. They were camped at Harrison's Landing, Virginia resting up after a battle.

Oliver Wilcox Norton, Gen Butterfield's bugler, was called by the general to his tent. The general showed him some notes written down on the back of an envelope and asked him to sound them out on his bugle. He did this several times. The general would change the notes by lengthening some and shorting others but keeping with the melody. After he was satisfied, he had the bugler play this melody in place of the regulation melody. The music was heard far from the brigade and the next day several other buglers from other brigades came by and asked for a copy of the music. Soon it made its way through the other armies.

The first use of TAPS at a funeral was during the Peninsular Campaign in Virginia by Captain John C. Tidball. He ordered it played at the burial of a cannoner that was killed in action. The enemy was close by and he didn't want the traditional three volleys to start renewed fighting.

There are no official words to the music but there are several versions of verses.

Credit goes to the History Channel and MSgt. Jari A. Villanueva USAF

THE AMERICAN LEGION LEGISLATIVE AGENDA for 2020

Do you know what your American Legion Leaders are working on with congress? The Legislative page on our national website www.legion.org/legislative, is regularly updated with news and information about Legion legislative activities. Below are the top issues The American Legion and lawmakers in both chambers of Congress still tackling in the second session of the 116th Congress:



- Supporting those suffering from illnesses related to toxic exposures such as burn pits. Last year, the Burn Pits Accountability Act was passed into law in the NDAA, which increased the requirements on the Departments of Defense and Veterans Affairs to track and evaluate service members' health when they have been exposed to burn pits. This year, S. 2950, The Veterans Burn Pit Exposure Recognition Act of 2019, is the most immediate priority, as burn pits and airborne toxins have become a major concern for the Post 9/11 generation of veterans. The act would recognize and concede exposure during deployed service. However, the bill would not automatically grant benefits or health care to veterans who served near burn pits, nor would it create a presumption of service connection, like Agent Orange. There are several proposed bills The American Legion is assisting lawmakers and fellow veterans' organizations in crafting and refining that aim to address presumptions of service connection.
- Enhance women's health care at VA. S. 514 – the Deborah Sampson Act – is the bill The American Legion is working with the majority and minority to refine. A version of the bill passed out of the House in December 2019.
- Ensuring the Coast Guard gets paid during a government shutdown. The American Legion championed this issue in 2019. There is a stand-alone bill that would solve the problem (S. 21 - Pay Our Coast Guard Act), but it is also included in the Coast Guard Reauthorization Act.
- Lastly, protecting the GI Bill remains an evergreen issue. H.R. 4625 - Protect the GI Bill Act, which has already passed the House and is awaiting action in the Senate, would create common-sense oversight of schools and give military-connected students the same rights as non-veterans if their school closes, when they face overpayment, and when a school loses eligibility to operate.

You can help by contacting your Representative in both chambers of Congress and illicit their support. You can make a difference.

Service Officer Wall:



[Plans](#) [See What's Covered](#) [Find a Doctor](#) [Costs](#) [Life Events](#) [Forms & Claims](#)

Due Now: TRICARE Select Group A Retiree Enrollment Fee Payments

Dec. 1, 2020

Have you set up payment for your new [TRICARE Select 2021 enrollment fees](#) yet? If not, time is running out. If you're a TRICARE Select Group A retiree, you must set up your payment by Dec. 31 if you want to have TRICARE Select or TRICARE Overseas Program Select coverage on Jan. 1, 2021. You'll be disenrolled from TRICARE if your TRICARE contractor doesn't receive your payment.

To learn more, [read the article](#).

Keep up with [TRICARE and COVID-19](#) updates.

How the Hold Harmless Provision Protects Your Benefits

Social Security works together with the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services to make sure you won't have a reduction in your Social Security benefits as a result of Medicare Part B premium increases. A special rule called the "**hold harmless provision**" protects your Social Security benefit payment from decreasing due to an increase in the Medicare Part B premium. The Part B base premium for 2021 is \$148.50, which is \$3.90 higher than the 2020 base premium. Most people with Medicare will pay the new premium amount because the increase in their benefit amount will cover the increase. However, a small number of people will see little or no increase in their Part B premium — and their Social Security benefit checks will remain the same — because the amount of their cost-of-living adjustment isn't large enough to cover the increase.

To qualify for the **hold harmless provision**, you must:

- Receive Social Security benefits or be entitled to Social Security benefits for November and December of the current year.

- Have your Medicare Part B premiums for December and January deducted from your monthly benefits.

There are exceptions:

The hold harmless provision does NOT apply to you if:

- You enroll in Part B for the first time in 2021.
- You pay an income-related monthly adjustment amount premium.
- You are dually eligible for Medicaid and have your premium paid by a state Medicaid agency.

You can learn more by visiting Medicare.

November 30, 2020 · By Darlynda Bogle, Assistant Deputy Commissioner Social Security Administration

TRICARE

COVID-19 What to do?

Simple measures can protect you and your community. It's also important to identify the symptoms of COVID-19 and know when to seek help. COVID-19 affects people in different ways. Infected people have reported a wide range of symptoms—from mild symptoms to severe illness. Do you think you may have COVID-19?

How does COVID-19 spread?

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), COVID-19 spreads person-to-person, generally between people within 6 feet from one another. It also spreads through respiratory droplets from the cough or sneeze of an infected person. These droplets can reach the noses, mouths, or lungs of nearby people. It's possible that the virus can spread from contact with infected surfaces, but this isn't the main way the virus spreads.

What are the symptoms of COVID-19?

People with COVID-19 have had a wide range of symptoms reported – ranging from mild symptoms to severe illness. Symptoms may appear **2-14 days after exposure to the virus**. People with these symptoms may have COVID-19:

- Fever or chills
- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Fatigue
- Muscle or body aches

- Headache
- New loss of taste or smell
- Sore throat
- Congestion or runny nose
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea

Seek emergency medical attention if you show these signs for symptoms:

- Trouble breathing
- Persistent pain or pressure in the chest
- New confusion
- Inability to wake or stay awake
- Bluish lips or face

This list is not all possible symptoms. Please consult your medical provider for any other symptoms that are severe or concerning to you. Call 911 or call ahead to your local emergency facility: Notify the operator that you are seeking care for someone who has or may have COVID-19. View this information on the CDC website at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html>.

When is the disease most contagious?

Although some spread appears to be possible before people show symptoms, people with COVID-19 are the most contagious when they're very sick. Some spread may be possible before people show symptoms. That's why you should stay home if you believe you're experiencing any virus-like symptoms.

What should I do if I feel sick or think I was exposed to the virus that causes COVID-19?

If you have symptoms of COVID-19, have been in close contact with a person sick with COVID-19, or traveled to an area with widespread or ongoing community spread of COVID-19, don't make an appointment or walk into your local military hospital or clinic. Instead, stay at home and speak with a [Military Health System \(MHS\) registered nurse](#), who will assess your symptoms. The nurse can screen you for potential or suspected exposure or infection. If needed, they can coordinate a virtual visit with a health care provider.

Chaplain's Message:

An International Prayer for Peace

(Adapted from the Upanishads by Satish Kumar)

- *Lead me from death to life, from falsehood to truth.*
- *Lead me from despair to hope, from fear to trust.*
- *Lead me from hate to love, from war to peace.*
- *Let peace fill our heart, our world, our universe.*
- *Peace, peace, peace.*



*New Century Hymnal, United Church of Christ The Work of Christmas begins...

*When the song of the angels is stilled, when the star in the sky is gone,
when the kings and princes are home, when the shepherds are back with
their flocks, the work of Christmas begins:*

- ✚ *to find the lost, to heal the broken,*
- ✚ *to feed the hungry, to release the prisoner,*
- ✚ *to rebuild the nations,*
- ✚ *to bring peace among the people,*
- ✚ *to make music in the heart.*

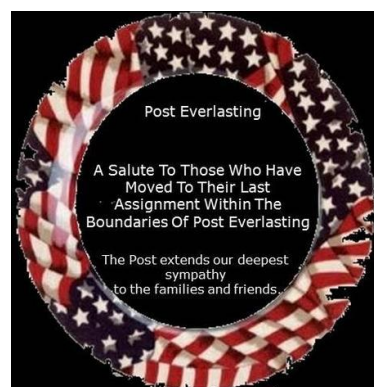


**Howard Thurman, African-American pastor and theologian

TAPS:

"Our Heavenly Father in His infinite wisdom has Transferred our Comrade **Floyd (Sunny) Wilson**

to the Jurisdiction of the Post Everlasting of The American Legion. May his



soul rest in Peace. Amen. O Lord, you have showed us that death is but the Gateway to a more Glorious Life, and that we must not fear its coming; and we know, also, that neither Life nor Death can separate us from Your Love. Assure us yet again that our Departed Comrade is not lost to us, but sharing new Life with You in the Kingdom of Our Father, where we shall in Your Good Time be reunited. We know Them to be with You Forever. Amen."



December Birthdays:

- Brian Walters
- Daniel Fraley

A very happy birthday to all



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