



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 2021
Volume 4, Issue 11

Calendar of Events for December

- **December 7- Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day**
- **December 8 - Post Membership Meeting**
- **December 8 - Christmas and Holiday Luncheon**



2020 Post Officers:

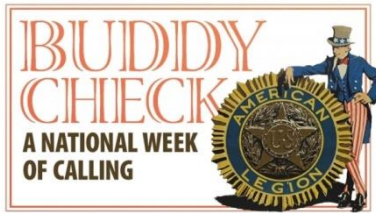
<u>Name</u>	<u>Office</u>	<u>Email</u>
Bruce Templeman	Commander	bruce.templeman@hotmail.com
John Skabry	1st Vice Commander	divesafely@gmail.com
Larry Edmonds	2nd Vice Commander	ldedmonds@aol.com
Ted Potyrala	Historian	tpubon@gmail.com
Maurice(Rocky) Hatzke	Service Officer	mrhatzke3@gmail.com
Hugh Mason	Chaplain	htmmason@aol.com
Jeff Ludwig	Adjutant/Finance Officer	Jgludwig2@gmail.com
Salvatore (Sal) Salzarulo	Sergeant at Arms	salzy48@hotmail.com
Christopher Lampert	Judge Advocate	dukeboxer@gmail.com
Joe Reedy	Public Affairs Officer	joereedy4@gmail.com
Paul McDermott	Member at large	paulny54@hotmail.com
Wayne Wright	Member at large	davebell211@hotmail.com
Kirby (Cosmo) Raines	Member at large	cosmotyson@yahoo.com

COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

Bruce Templeman



As we close the year, we take a hopeful look at our future. We pray for our family and friends, that we may we all share the blessings that we receive and shrug off the inconveniences and bothers that may arise. Let's look out after our fellow Legionnaires as we do our family. After all, our military service has made us brothers and sisters-in-arms; an extended family.



Our Post will be having our Annual Holiday Party on the 8th of December immediately following the Post meeting.

The invitation is below. Please RSVP to me by the 2nd of December. All members should have received this invitation in a separate email last week. I hope to see everyone and their families there. Christmas is about giving and having family and friends around us. Just be mindful of social distancing and wearing of the mask.

A festive invitation graphic for a Christmas Party. The background is white with a border of colorful Christmas icons including reindeer, gifts, musical notes, holly leaves, and snowflakes. The text is centered and reads:

Fellow Post Members
It's a
Christmas Party
Wednesday December 8 12:00p.m.
Peppers Restaurant
Ubun Ratchathani
Bring your friends and family
Cost is 599 Baht per person
RSVP by December 2, 2021
bruce.templeman@hotmail.com

A small circular logo in the bottom right corner of the invitation graphic, featuring a reindeer and the text 'Christmas ISLAND'.

Vaccine Passports:

Vaccine passports will be required for international travel. These may be obtained from your Provincial Health Department. You will need the following:

1. A valid passport that will not expire in the next six months, along with a photo copy.
2. Identification card, along with a photo copy.
3. Certificate of vaccination against Covid-19 issued by the DDC, along with a copy.
4. An application fee of THB50 per passport.

Check your name on your vaccine passport carefully. Occasionally, a clerk will put your middle name as your last name and omit your last name entirely.

Adjutant Corner

Jeff Ludwig



December is a Joyous time but a somber time, A time to remember not so long ago that 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.



To ensure our country does not let is guard down again, The American Legion established National Security as one of the 4 Pillars of the American Legion. Based on current conflicts and their residual effects on U.S. military servicemembers and their families, The American Legion's National Security Division has made the following issues legislative priorities.

- **Increase the Size of the Armed Forces**
- **Quality of Life for Servicemembers, Retirees and Military Families**
- **Homeland Security**
- **Foreign Relations**
- **Full Accounting of POW/MIAs**

How do we do help? Simply strength in numbers! We urge those members who have not renewed to do so at the earliest. We go out and urge other veterans to join our cause. It does not matter if you want to be an active member or just want to be counted. Daniel Wheeler our National Adjutant said it best, *"Whether you choose to get actively involved in The American Legion at the local level, or simply show your support through your membership, there is tremendous value in being an American Legion member. Together, we are accomplishing great things for veterans and their families - - and for a better America"*.

I would like to wish each and every one a safe and joyous holiday season. Let us put aside petty difference and take care of our fellow veterans and their families who may be struggling this holiday season. The Buddy Check is a great way to be in contact with our fellow Post members and veterans in our community.

Membership:

We are getting close to attaining 100% of the Departments goal for this membership year. If you have not renewed their membership, please 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!



Coronavirus News:

Good news on the fight against Covid-19. Pfizer and Merck have each developed a pill for the treatment of Covid-19 and lessens the transmission of the novel coronavirus. You can read more about this here:

[Pfizer Deal Authorizes Generic Drugmakers to Produce Experimental COVID Pill \(voanews.com\)](#)

[Merck says COVID-19 pill cuts risk of death, hospitalization – Saratogian](#)

Veterans Day Event

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



Decorate Safely

Decorating is one of the best ways to get in a holiday mood, but emergency rooms see thousands of injuries involving holiday decorating every season. When decorating follow these tips from the [U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission](#):

- Keep potentially poisonous plants – mistletoe, holly berries, Jerusalem cherry and amaryllis – away from children
- If using an artificial tree, check that it is labeled “fire resistant”
- If using a live tree, cut off about 2 inches of the trunk to expose fresh wood for better water absorption, remember to water it and remove it from your home when it is dry
- Place your tree at least 3 feet away from fireplaces, radiators and other heat sources, making certain not to block doorways
- Avoid placing breakable ornaments or ones with small, detachable parts on lower tree branches where small children can reach them
- Only use indoor lights indoors and outdoor lights outdoors, and [choose the right ladder](#) for the task when hanging lights
- Replace light sets that have broken or cracked sockets, frayed or bare wires, or loose connections
- Follow the package directions on the number of light sets that can be plugged into one socket
- Never nail, tack or stress wiring when hanging lights and keep plugs off the ground away from puddles and snow
- Turn off all lights and decorations when you go to bed or leave the house





Historian
Ted Potyrala

The Only Woman Buried in Fort Bragg's Special Forces Cemetery

She was an actress, singer and a radio personality for around 60 years. She was granted the honorary rank of Lt. Col in the Marine Corp and Army Special Forces. Us older vets will remember her as Martha Raye.

She was born Margie Reed in 1916 I Montana. By the age of 18, she was in film and radio. When the US entered WW II, she was more than willing to do her part by entertaining the servicemen. In 1942 she went to England and then on to North Africa. While flying to a show, she was told they were going to land to get her off of the plane because they needed to get to some wounded soldiers. She used her "Honorary Rank" and told the pilot to get to the wounded men. While on the ground, she helped the medics in any way she could. She did this so often, that a rumor started that she was a trained nurse before she was in films. After the war, she continued to entertain the troops in Korea and Vietnam. She has entertained the troop for 24 years in many conflicts the US was in.



She had a special relationship with the Special Forces. She would go to entertain them in places where no one else would go. Living in the same conditions and attending the wounded.

In 1993, President Clinton awarded her the Presidential Medal of Freedom for her lifetime dedication to US troops.

Raye died in 1994 at the age of 78. Her last wish was that she be buried at Fort Bragg with many of her hero's. She was buried I October 1994 with full military honors, the only woman interred there.



Martha Raye's funeral

News from JUSMAG:



DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
JOINT UNITED STATES MILITARY ADVISORY GROUP, THAILAND
7 SATHORN TAI ROAD
BANGKOK, THAILAND 10120

15 Nov 2021

MEMORANDUM FOR DISTRIBUTION

FROM: CHIEF OF STAFF, JUSMAGTHAI

SUBJECT: APO Service for Eligible Retirees and Surviving Family Members

1. **PURPOSE.** This letter is to announce the limited trial of APO mailboxes for eligible Retired United States military and surviving family members residing in Thailand. This is a trial attempt to provide APO service to the retired community, however due to initial limited capacity APO boxes will be distributed on a space available basis.
 2. **APO SERVICE AVAILABILITY.** For this initial trial the APO has 170 mailboxes available to be issued using a LOTTERY system. Once all available boxes are allocated, a waitlist will be established. Only one box will be issued per member to include dependents.
 - a. **Requirements for Service:** To be eligible for APO service, members must be Retired U.S. Military or family members of deceased retired military member(s), provide proof of local residency, and a valid Thai visa. Proof of local residency can include, but not limited to, lease agreements or property agreements. Individuals must provide phone and email contact information; this is also required for individuals who would like to be on the waitlist.
 - b. APO office must be notified immediately if any information changes.
 3. **APO SERVICE REGISTRATION.** To ensure fairness and equity in allocation of available boxes, selection of recipients will be completed through a lottery. All registered individuals will be notified NLT 15 January 2022 regarding results by email address provided during registration. The first 170 selectees will have 15 days from date of notification to register in person at the JUSMAG APO. The remaining registrants will be waitlisted based on order in which their names were pulled during the lottery. The waitlist will start with number #1 until the last number.
 - a. To register for the lottery, eligible members who meet the Requirement for Service (para 2.a) can submit their request starting on 1 December 2021-0001 through close of business 31 December 2021. Request needs to be submitted to jusmagthaiapo@jusmagthai.org. No request received prior to 1 December or after 31 December will be included in the lottery.
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- b. When submitting the request to be added to the lottery the following information must be included:
1. Name/grade
 2. Sponsor name (same if you are the sponsor)
 3. Address in Thailand
 4. Phone number in Thailand
 5. Email address
 6. Copy of Retiree ID card or Dependent ID card
- c. A confirmation email will be sent to confirm receipt of request within 5 working days. Only one request per member or family will be accepted. Eligible members shall only submit one request for themselves and their eligible family members. Additional requests from eligible family members whose sponsor have already submitted a request will be null and void. If a confirmation email is not received, please contact JUSMGTHAI Joint Support for further inquiry.
4. APO CONSIDERATION. The establishment of the APO is intended to support JUSMAGTHAI mission activities within Thailand. Service to the retiree community is a privilege and should be understood as such. Privileges are limited to mail weighing up to 16 ounces. The 16 ounces restriction applies to incoming and outgoing mail.
- a. APO hours of operation will be 10:30 – 1600 hours, Monday – Friday (Except holidays)
5. After a sufficient period, result of this trial will be used to assess the feasibility of expanding eligible retiree beneficiary APO service.
6. All questions and concerns should be addressed to JUSMAGTHAI Joint Support office at jusmagthai@state.gov.



JOHN M. WAITE
Chief of Staff
JUSMAG, THAILAND

December Birthdays:

- Brian Walters

A very happy birthday from all of us in the Post.



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