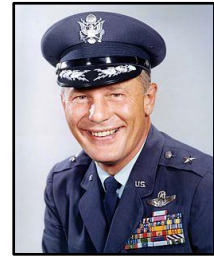




Brig. Gen. Robin Olds
 American Legion Thailand Post TH01
 Email: amerilegionth01@gmail.com



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.

Post email address: amerilegionth01@gmail.com

February 2020
 Volume 4, Issue 2

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

February 6	Lunch at the Physically and Mentally Impaired Children School
February 10	Post Meeting 10:00AM
February 14	Valentines
February 17	Presidents Day

2019 Post Officers:

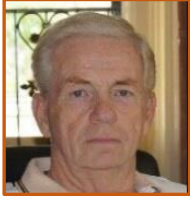
<u>Name</u>	<u>Office</u>	<u>Email</u>
Larry Edmonds	Commander	ldedmonds@aol.com
Bruce Templeman	1st Vice Commander	bruce.templeman@gmail.com
Wayne Wright	2nd Vice Commander	waywright@outlook.com
Ted Potyrala	Historian	tpubon@gmail.com
Maurice(Rocky) Hatzke	Service Officer	mrhatzke3@gmail.com
Hugh Mason	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
Kirby (Cosmo) Raines	Members at large	william_2017@icloud.com

January 2020 Post Membership Meeting

The Post was honored by three guest Shane Curtis, William Ahlberg, and Donald Delomba who desire to start an American Legion Post at Pattaya Thailand. They stayed after the meeting to meet with us to learn about starting and operating a Post.



COMMANDER'S MESSAGE



By Larry Edmonds

Comrades,

We have made it through another busy month. Things should be a little less hectic for a little while. This month on the 6th of February, my wife, other wives of The Post and local community will prepare and serve lunch at the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities. It is located behind the Ubon Ratchathani Cancer Hospital. There are approximately 100 children and adults at this facility. If you are willing to donate or provide food items, it will be greatly appreciated. Items needed are Main dishes, deserts, snacks, and drinks. Please contact my wife at Ldedmonds@aol.com and coordinate whatever you wish to bring or contribute. Your participation is encouraged to show who we, Post TH01, are and the things we wish to accomplish in the community.

At the March meeting, we will be accepting nominations for next year's officers. Please take the time to consider the offices up for election and nominate the individual you think will do a good job at filling that position. At our April meeting we will reopen the nominations for any last-minute nominations. After the close of nominations, attending members will vote on the nominations for each office.

Finally don't forget your loved one on the 14th of February, Valentines' Day. This day is set aside for us to show our appreciation and love to our husband, wife, or partner. Make it special by taking them out for a special treat.

1st Vice / Membership Chairman:



Bruce Templeman

As a part of our Post training program, I am sharing a link to the American Legion Post Officers Guide so that members that have not been able to access the Legion website can look at the Post Officer positions and a description of what each officer position entails.

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1WiSGin975Ey1nG40A1bd0JrdPrYRfIC6/view?usp=drivesdk>

Please look at these positions. Our Post elections are coming soon and this can help you make an informed decision as to how you can help the Post grow during this next year. If you can't open the link, please let me know and I will send you a copy via email.

A reminder for those that are interested in our funeral honors program. We will have a practice session on flag folding after the Post business meeting.



Service Officer:
Maurice (Rocky) Hatzke



Filling Prescriptions With TRICARE: You've Got Options

Jan. 17, 2020

The TRICARE Pharmacy Program provides prescription drug coverage for all TRICARE beneficiaries. There are several options for filling your prescriptions. They include military pharmacies, TRICARE Pharmacy Home Delivery, TRICARE retail network pharmacies, and non-network pharmacies. As described in the TRICARE Pharmacy Program Handbook, how you fill your prescription depends on your beneficiary category and the type of drug prescribed.

VA benefits for spouses, dependents, survivors, and family caregivers

As the spouse or dependent child of a Veteran or service member, you may qualify for certain benefits, like health care, life insurance, or money to help pay for school or training. As the survivor of a Veteran or service member, you may qualify for added benefits, including help with burial costs and survivor compensation. If you're caring for a Veteran with disabilities, you may also qualify for support to help you better care for the Veteran—and for yourself. Find out which benefits you may qualify for and how to access them.

Benefits for spouses, dependents, and survivors

- **Health care**

Find out if you may qualify for health care through our CHAMPVA program, the Department of Defense's TRICARE program, or one of our programs related to a Veteran's service-connected disability. If you already have health care through VA, learn how to manage your health and benefits.

For spouse, dependent child, surviving spouse, surviving child

- **Education and training**

Find out if you may be eligible for help paying for school or job training through our Survivors' and Dependents' Education Assistance Program (also called Chapter 35) or the Marine Gunnery Sergeant John David Fry Scholarship. And learn about how a Veteran may transfer their unused Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits to you.

For spouse, dependent child, surviving spouse, surviving child

- **Home loan programs or financial counseling**

Apply for a Certificate of Eligibility (COE) for VA home loan programs to buy, build, repair, or refinance a home. Or, if you're having trouble making mortgage payments on a VA-backed loan, get help to avoid foreclosure and keep your house.

For surviving spouse

- **Life insurance options, claims, and beneficiary assistance**

Learn how to apply for Family Service members' Group Life Insurance (FSGLI) coverage, explore other coverage options, and manage an existing policy. If you're the beneficiary of a Veteran's or service member's policy, find out how to get free financial advice and will preparation services.

For spouse, dependent child, surviving spouse, surviving child

- **Pre-need eligibility determination for burial in a VA national cemetery**

Apply in advance for eligibility to be buried in a VA national cemetery. This can help you plan ahead to make the burial process easier for your family in their time of need.

For spouse, dependent child, surviving spouse, surviving child

- **Burial benefits and memorial items**

Get step-by-step guidance on how to plan a burial in a VA national cemetery, or in a state or tribal government Veterans cemetery. You can also apply for help paying for burial costs, request memorial items, and learn about bereavement (grief) counseling and transition support.

For surviving spouse, surviving child, surviving parent

- **Survivors Pension**

If you're the surviving spouse or child of a Veteran with wartime service, find out if you're eligible for monthly pension benefits.

For surviving spouse, surviving child

- **Compensation for surviving spouse and dependents (DIC)**

If you're the surviving spouse, child, or parent of a service member who died in the line of duty, or the survivor of a Veteran who died from a service-related injury or illness, find out how to apply for this tax-free monetary benefit.

For surviving spouse, surviving child, surviving parent

Reference, VA.GOV website.

Post Adjutant Corner:
Jeff Ludwig



January was a busy Month for the Post. Post members participated in Children's day throughout Thailand. Here at Ubon Ratchathani we participated in the Royal Thai Air Force Air base Children's Day Open house. We also provided Lunch for the patients and family member at the Ubon Cancer Hospital. See the events below.

We welcome our newest member John Dustman who just transferred from the Department of Arizona, Post 100. We are happy to have him on board and hope he finds it rewarding. We hope to see him at our Post meeting and events. This brings our active membership up to 64. Two more and we will meet Department's goal and join the Departments 100% club.

Election of Post Officers is just around the corner. Now is the time to consider nomination for one of the elected officer position. There is no better way to make a direct impact on the Post. Additionally, actively participating in the Post can be a rewarding experience. The Post will be accepting nominations at the March Post meeting with the elections at the April meeting. If you are considering nominating someone, please contact the individual first to see if she/he would consider accepting the nomination. Of course, you can always nominate yourself. I will email to all members the duties of each position so you will have a good understanding of what is required of each position. The elected officer positions are as follows:

1. Commander
2. 1st Vice Commander
3. 2nd Vice Commander
4. Chaplain
5. Sergeant at Arms
6. Judge Advocate
7. Finance Officer
8. Public Affairs Officer
9. Members at Large (3 members)

Historian: Ted Potyrala



Many of you may not know it but there are remnants of a Japanese run POW camp and airstrip near Ubon. It is near a village named Ban Nong Phai about 9 kilometers north of Ubon off of highway 212 on the way to Mukdahan.

Six months before the end of WW II, the Japanese ordered POW's from the camps that built the Thai-Burma Railway to be brought to Ubon to build a camp and airstrip. The Japanese needed to strengthen their position in North East Thailand.



The POW's were brought by train to Warin Chamrap. The next day they crossed the Mun River by ferryboat and then marched to the site of the POW camp. They arrived to an empty field and were immediately ordered to start building an airstrip.

By the end of May, there were 1,460 British, 1,470 Dutch, 100 Australian, and 4 American prisoners of war.

The airstrip was approximately 1,500 meters long by 30 meters wide. (4,921 feet long x 98.5 feet wide). Construction went well and the men were allowed to hold shows for entertainment on the condition that there would be no laughter. The Japanese were sensitive to being ridiculed by jokes that they did not understand. The penalty for laughing was a severe beating and loss of entertainment.



By mid-1944, Thailand's relationship with Japan was worsening. Even though Thailand was theoretically at war with Great Britain, there were negotiations on going to allow British and American Secret Service personnel to train, arm, and co-ordinate guerrilla activities of the Free Thai movement. By December, British SOE and American OSS officers were allowed into designated areas.

In May 1945, a small group of SOE trained soldiers parachuted into North East Thailand. They were warmly welcomed by the Free Thai and quickly started training and arming the guerrilla groups for an anticipated coordinated offensive on Japanese positions.

By the end of July 1945, the Japanese knew the war was lost. The POW's were ordered to dig deep trenches across the airstrip to prevent allied aircraft from landing; however, later evidence suggest that the Japanese High Command secretly issued orders to kill all of the POW's and bury them in the trenches if allied forces invaded Thailand.

News of the wars end reached the camp on August 18th. The commander reluctantly announced to the POW's that the war had ended but could not bring himself to admit that Japan had lost the war.

The Royal Thai Army took over responsibility of the camp. It became a processing center for an estimated 10,000 Japanese and Korean soldiers. Several of these soldiers, including the commander, were arrested and sent to Singapore to be tried as war criminals.

By January 1946, the camp was empty. The airstrip fell into disuse. Today although the airstrip remains, it is much shorter and narrower.

Information taken from an article written in 2015 by Ray Withnall titled **THE UBON POW CAMP AND AIRSTRIP**. The article appears on the FEPOW Research Group website fepowhistory.com. We wish to thank Ray Withnall for his permission to use portions of his article in our newsletter and invite him to visit us anytime.

Safety Topic



February is Safety Awareness month, so here are some good safety & security tips. What does safety actually mean? Safety is both being physically safe from harm and also the act of avoiding situations with recognized hazards to keep yourself safe. Practicing good safety starts at home, so always be sure to be aware of potential hazards in your daily life. Review these great tips, and avoid being a casualty or victim.

1. Be careful when walking to your car at night; stay in lit areas, walk with others, and always be aware of your surroundings.
2. Never leave cooking food unattended; fires can start quickly, particularly if grease is involved! Being present physically and mentally while cooking will ensure you're able to react quickly if something does catch on fire.
3. Be cautious and trust your gut when dealing with people through online services; always agree to meet in public places, and only exchange goods, services, or money in person.
4. Check your fire and carbon monoxide detectors regularly to make sure they're working, and be sure to replace the batteries as needed.
5. Make sure light bulbs are the correct wattage for the lamp you're using them in. Incorrect wattage is the number one reason for electrical fires!
6. Create an emergency kit for your car in case you break down and have to wait awhile for help to arrive; water, snacks, a first aid kit, and matches are a great start. Also have electrical tape, duct tape, and a small toolkit to make small repairs to get your to a Garage.
7. Periodically revisit emergency contact lists and meeting areas with your child to make sure they know what to do in case of emergencies.
8. If you're going hiking, make a trip plan for your family members saying where you're going and when you expect to be back; if you're not home when you're expected, they'll have some information on where to look for you.
9. Utilize your phone as a safety tool; make sure you have all your emergency contact info programmed into your phone so it's quick and easy to access. Below are the emergency contact numbers for Thailand.



Emergency hotlines



MUST KNOW



1193

Highway Police



1155

Tourist Police



1192

Car Lost



1490

Bus Ticket



1586

The Department of Highways



1690

State Railway of Thailand



1197

Traffic Information



1543

Highways information



1356

Thailand Transport Portal



191

Emergency Hotline



1646

Erawan Emergency Medical Services



1554

Emergency Medical Services



1196

Water Accident



1586

press 7
Motorway Hotline



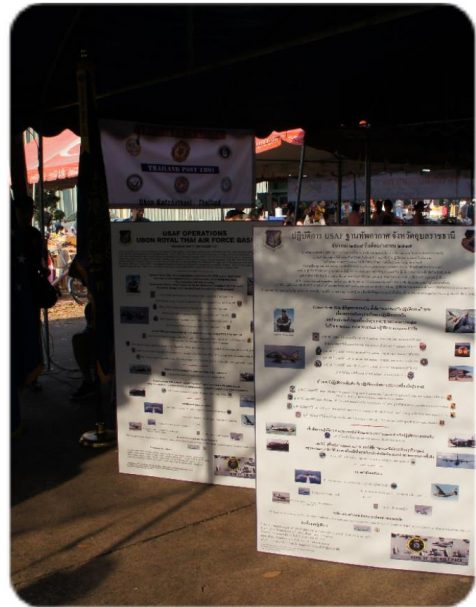
1669

Emergency Medical

Events: Children's Day Open House

On January 10, 2020, a number of the Post members and their wives participated in the Royal Thai Air Force Wing 21 open house Children's Day event. The Post gave out 3,000 popsicles to the children. In addition, the Post had a display setup with military flags and the legion flag. We also had storyboards in English and Thai displaying the rich US military history at Ubon Air Base. A monitor was set up with a slideshow showing the Post participating in various activities. It was a great opportunity for us to showcase our commitment to our veterans and local community. Special thanks to JC Molette for providing the monitor and creating the slideshow.





Event Cancer Hospital Luncheon

On January 16 2020, Several Post members joined Commander Edmonds, Rocky Hatzke and their wives in providing lunch to the patients and families members at the Ubon Cancer Hospital. The hope was to bring a little cheer and joy into their lives if just for a little while.





Featured Member - Neil Tufford.

On January 10, 2020, Neil and his wife Kaesorn represented the Post in the Children's Day at the small School in the village of Donngua Thailand. Neil and Kaesorn provided fried rice, jackfruit, water, and of course ice cream to the children. The children participated with faculty on stage with song, dance, and games with prizes. It was fun for the children, the parents, and the grandparents alike.



Neil and Kaesorn also provide a Christmas party for the village of Non Swang providing gifts to over 70 children. In addition, they gave gifts to 25 elderly in the village. Over 200 villagers joined them in celebrating the holiday season.



Chaplain's Message:

In honor of this exceptional hero and champion of the civil rights movement we find it only fitting to provide some excerpts from some of his prayers and sermons that changed a nation. Let us pray that his words will open our minds and hearts to our fellow brother and sisters and continue us on the path to true fellowship.

"O God, we thank you for the fact that you have inspired men and women in all nations and in all cultures. We call you different names: some call you Allah; some call you Elohim; some call you Jehovah; some call you Brahma; some call you the Unmoved Mover. But we know that these are all names for one and the same God. Grant that we will follow you and become so committed to your way and your kingdom that we will be able to establish in our lives and in this world a brother and sisterhood, that we will be able to establish here a kingdom of understanding, where men and women will live together as brothers and sisters and respect the dignity and worth of every human being. In the name and spirit of Jesus. Amen.

God, give us strength of body to keep walking for freedom. God, give us strength to remain nonviolent, even though we may face death.

God, grant that we wage the struggle with dignity and discipline. May all who suffer oppression in this world reject the self-defeating method of retaliatory violence and choose the method that seeks to redeem.

God, remove all bitterness from my heart and give me the strength and courage to face any disaster that comes my way.

O God, we thank you for the lives of great saints and prophets in the past, who have revealed to us that we can stand up amid the problems and difficulties and trials of life and not give in. We thank you for our foreparents, who've given us something in the midst of the darkness of exploitation and oppression to keep going. Grant that we will go on with the proper faith and the proper determination of will, so that we will be able to make a creative contribution to this world. In the name and spirit of Jesus we pray."

TAPS:

NONE



February Birthdays:

- Phil Colombey,
- Tony Francois
- Tom Hughes
- Marleen Madding
- Joe Reedy
- Kirby (Cosmos) Raines
-



A very happy birthday to all.