



# Brig. Gen. Robin Olds

American Legion Thailand Post TH01



Bruce Templeman, Commander      Jeff Ludwig, Adjutant

Post meetings held the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday 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](mailto:amerilegionth01@gmail.com)**

February 2022  
Volume 5, Issue 2

### *Calendar of Events for February*

- 1-15 February      Chinese New Year
- February 3      [4 Chaplains Day](#)
- February 4      [USO Birthday](#)
- February 9      **Post Membership Meeting 1000 hours**

**If a member wishes to request Post 2022 elections to be held by ballot, it must be requested and approved at the February Post meeting.**

- February 14      Valentine's Day
- February 20      Chiang Mai Toy Run
- 21 February      Presidents Day

## 2021 Post Officers:

<u>NAME</u>	<u>OFFICE</u>
Bruce Templeman	Commander
John Skabry	1 <sup>st</sup> Vice Commander
Larry Edmonds	2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice Commander
Ted Potyrala	Historian
Maurice (Rocky) Hatzke	Service Officer
Hugh Mason	Chaplain
Jeff Ludwig	Adjutant/Finance Officer
Salvatore (Sal) Salzarulo	Sergeant at Arms
Christopher Lampert	Judge Advocate
Joe Reedy	Public Affairs Officer
Billy Holland	Member at large
Wayne Wright	Member at large
Kirby (Cosmo) Raines	Member at Large

## **COMMANDER'S Comments**



**Bruce Templeman**

Although we had to have a virtual meeting in January, it seems that things still go on regardless of our physical presence at the Post meeting hall. During the January Post meeting, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice, and Past Commander Larry Edmonds announced that he was heading back to the USA for an indefinite period. We will surely miss him and his wife, Pensri at our meetings. His experiences and guidance as a charter member and founder have been invaluable. We hope that he will still be able to participate from afar. With current technology, the biggest hindrance to participating from the USA is the time difference. We wish them safety, health, and happiness and hope to hear from them often.

I recently learned that one of our members, Mark Faralli underwent an extreme illness and is recovering at his home in Khon Kaen Province. We wish him a speedy recovery and will look in on him from time to time. Buddy checks are extremely important, especially as our members are spread out across the country.

Our Judge Advocate, Chris Lampert, takes very little rest and is a high achiever. In addition to being the Chair of the Media and Communications Committee, he has volunteered to be the editor of the Department of France newsletter. I wish him great success and ask that all our members support him by offering topics and articles that he can use. Having representation at the Department level helps the Department include us on issues before them.

A US military veteran, Neil S. Alper, passed away in Yasothon Province on 27 January 2022. Although he wasn't a member of the American Legion, I went to see his spouse the next day to help the family and arrange for military funeral honors. The widow had arranged a speedy funeral that occurred just hours after I had arrived. Sometimes we just can't do what we set out to accomplish, however, I was able to put her in contact with American Citizen Services at the US Embassy to report the death of an American Citizen abroad. We mourn the loss of another veteran and offer our service to his family.

As a reminder to all that read our newsletter, it's important to have your documents ready for your next of kin to carry on when you pass. To begin your education of what you can do for them, click here: [http://www.jusmagthai.com/rao\\_portal/Casualty\\_Worksheet.pdf](http://www.jusmagthai.com/rao_portal/Casualty_Worksheet.pdf)

The health of our Post is commensurate with the participation of the members. While we all enjoy the camaraderie, it takes people to participate and people to administer the organization. To that end, I encourage everyone to participate and, most importantly, volunteer or run for a Post office in which you feel you can best contribute.

Our February meeting will be held at the Wing 21 Golf Driving Range Club House at 10:00 a.m., on 9 February 2022. It will be great to see everyone attend. If you cannot, please attend via Skype. Our adjutant will be sending the Skype link prior to the meeting.

## Adjutants Corner

Jeff Ludwig



It is new year and a good time to reflect on the Post and what we can do moving forward. We need your ideas. In February's Post membership meeting we will be addressing the upcoming year including review of the 2022 budget. To do that we need to plan on the activities for the year. We urge you to attend the January meeting and bring your ideas.

We welcome our new members who joined the Post this last year and encourage you to get involved in the Post—your Post. There are many opportunities for you to help our Post. The Post elections are coming up and you might consider running for an officer position where you can make a direct impact in the success of the Post. Additionally, you can join the various Post committees. A Post is only as good as its members. With everyone's help, we can continue make this a great Post committed to helping our fellow members, veterans, and local community.

A great way to learn more about the American Legion and what we do is to take the American Legion online Basic Training course. In the course you will learn about the American Legion's organizational structure its mission and goals, its history, and most importantly all the various programs the American Legion has to offer veterans and their families. The best part, the course is free for any member, and it only takes a few hours to complete. The knowledge gained far exceeds your time spent. At the end of the course, you get a certificate and pin recognizing that you successfully completed the course. I cannot stress enough how important this course is. It will teach you about all the programs that the American Legion has to offer and how you and the Post can use them to help our veterans, their families, and our local community. Just click on this link and follow the instructions [\*American Legion Basic Training Course\*](#).

## Safety Message:



By now most of you are tired of hearing about COVID-19 and all its variants. If you are planning to travel from the USA to Thailand or vice versa there are some important websites you need to have in your arsenal. The requirements and restrictions change with the wind. The one thing certain is it will change and often. Compound that with all the news articles and blogs offering advice that may or may not be true. So how do you navigate through all this? There are several essential websites to help you with that.

If you are going to the USA, then you need to keep in contact with our American Embassy in Bangkok and consulate in Chiang Mai. The best way to do that is to Enroll in or update your information in the Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP) [US Embassy Step](#). The embassy will alert you to any changes to requirements, restrictions, or safety alerts. The Embassy American Citizens Services Website, <https://th.usembassy.gov/u-s-citizen-services/> is also a great website for the latest information.

If you are traveling to Thailand, there are several official websites that provide current information. Right now, the best site to get the latest official news is the **Entry Thailand** website <http://entrythailand.go.th/en/index.php>.

It provides you with the latest news as well as useful links to other resources. The following excerpt from the US Embassy Citizens Services website provides additional resources, "*As inter-provincial travel restrictions are subject to change, all travelers are strongly encouraged to monitor travel conditions and requirements at the [Tourism Authority of Thailand's website https://www.tatnews.org/2021/](#). General information regarding travel conditions can be found on the U.S. Embassy Consular Section website (see the section entitled "Travel in Thailand" at <https://th.usembassy.gov/u-s-citizen-services/covid-19-information/>).*

*Information about restrictions across Thailand can also be found at the Ministry of Public Health's [Department of Disease Control COVID-19 website at: https://ddc.moph.go.th/viralpneumonia/eng/index.php](#). "*

The best advice we can give you is to remain flexible.

## Membership:



## Post Elections:

In accordance with the Post TH01 bylaws, ARTICLE V Elections Section 1. General: 1. Elections will be held annually for all elected offices and executive committee members-at-large. 2. The Post elections will normally be by open election; however, the election may be by ballot if requested. Election by ballot must be requested and approved by the members at the February Monthly Post meeting. This will allow sufficient time for preparation of nominations and ballots. If election by ballot is not requested and approved at the February meeting, the Post will hold an open election as described in Section 2 of this article.

## February Birthdays:

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





**Historian**  
Ted Potyrala

## The Great Escape, Part II



The movie The Great Escape, Film Publicity Archives / United Archives Via Getty Images

The prisoners set up various means to prevent the Nazis from learning about the planned escape. They had a lookout system to alert the diggers of an approaching guard such as a turning of a page of a book or the tying of a shoestring. They also bribed the guards, using items from the Red Cross such as chocolate, coffee and sugar. They obtained cameras and travel documents to forge I.D. Cards, passports and travel passes. They replicated travel stamps by carving out patterns in boot heels and using shoe polish as ink.

The Nazis discovered tunnel Tom and demolished it thinking they stopped an escape. They were unaware of the other two tunnels. The prisoners turned tunnel Dick into a storage area and concentrated on tunnel Harry, which was completed by the end of winter 1944.

On March 24, 1944, British bombardier pilot Johnny Bull traversed the tunnel and popped his head out of a snowy ground on the outside of the camp fence. Unfortunately, he found they were several feet shy of the cover of the forest.

One by one the prisoners dressed in civilian clothing lay down on a trolley and were pulled to the end of the tunnel.

Around 5 AM, a German soldier nearly fell into the exit shaft. The Germans discovered that 76 prisoners had escaped from their escape proof POW camp.

The Nazis mobilized a massive man hunt. Within two weeks, 73 of the escapees were captured. Only three escapees made it to freedom, Two Norwegians made it to Sweden by stowing away on a freighter and one Dutchman made it to Gibraltar by rail and foot.

A furious Adolf Hitler ordered the execution of 50 of the escapees. The Gestapo murdered Bushell and Bull.

After the war, British investigators brought the Gestapo killers to justice. A military tribunal found 18 Nazis guilty of war crimes. 13 of them were executed.

Credit to Christopher Klein, History Channel

## ***5 More States Make Military Retirement Tax Free***



More than 100,000 military retirees living in five states will soon be seeing more money in their pockets, thanks to new laws that were passed in 2021 making their military retirement tax free.

While residents in two of those states will have to wait until the new year to stop paying taxes on their military retirement, retirees living in Arizona, North Carolina and Utah will see the changes take effect immediately. Indiana and Nebraska will see the changes become effective with the 2022 tax year.

Read the entire article here:

<https://www.military.com/daily-news/2022/01/10/five-more-states-make-military-retirement-tax-free.html>

Article by Military.com | By [Jim Absher](#)

**Chiang Mai Toy Run-** Rob Rositer and John Skabry have joined together to have the American Legion Riders sponsor an event in Chiang Mai. This event raises donations and toys for children in the local community. It is a great way to get the Post and American Legion Riders into the eye of the public. I thank Rob and John for using their initiative and generous wallets to further the goals and prestige of the American Legion.

The following two pages are the advertisement for the Toy Ride:

**10 January 2022 15:11 - 20 February 2022 12:00**

Chiang Mai Toy Ride 2022

Richco Harley-Davidson joins with Chiang Mai Toy Ride to organize warm social activities. Consecutively for the 3rd year

Inviting two-wheelers, bikers, riders, old and new, from every camp, every model, every cc, who have the heart to share with the children. jointly improve the stadium Build a roof for a playground for a remote school and donate sports equipment to needy children

At Ban Mae Sap Community School, Samoeng Tai Subdistrict, Samoeng District,  
Chiang Mai Province

On Sunday, February 20, 2022

Chiang Mai Toy Ride

It is an event where motorcycle lovers decorate their bikes with dolls and toys. Join the ride to bring happiness to the children. Donate necessities, sports equipment, teaching materials that are useful for children. and join in creating a public space for children There are activities for trip participants to build relationships with children as well.

school shortage

- Construction of the roof of the playground
- Improve the stadium and purchase sports equipment.
- toys and dolls For children aged 5-12 years
- Medical supplies/alcohol gel/hygienic mask
- media equipment Computer/Tablet/PrinterSchool supplies and teaching materials
- More part-time reading books in the library.
- Shoes, socks, apparel other support as you wish

Bring items to donate at Richo Harley-Davidson Chiang Mai.

Every day from 10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. from today until 20 February 2022

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Custom Powder Coating Ltd



bridge  
consulting



# US Voter Information

**Registering to Vote and submitting a ballot is fast, easy, and can be done from anywhere in the world!**

Start by confirming your voter registration with your state. Some states require absentee voters to register annually so you may need to re-register. Go to [FVAP.gov](https://www.fvap.gov) to connect to your state's voter portal to register to vote, request a ballot, and more. Once you confirm your registration, follow a few simple steps to vote in the 2022 U.S. elections:

- 1. Request Your Ballot:** Most states provide the option to request ballots through their state election portals, which you can easily access via [FVAP.gov](https://www.fvap.gov). You can also choose to complete a [Federal Post Card Application \(FPCA\)](#). The completion of the FPCA allows you to request absentee ballots for **all elections for federal offices (President, U.S. Senate, and U.S. House of Representatives)** including primaries and special elections during the calendar year in which it is submitted. [FPCA](#) forms that are correctly filled out and **include a signature and date** are accepted by all local election officials in every U.S. state and territory. FVAP's easy [online assistant](#) can assist you with completing the FPCA.

Whether you request your ballot through your state's portal or the FPCA, we encourage you to select the option to receive your ballot electronically (by email, internet download, or fax) when available. This is the fastest way for you to get your ballot and ensures you have it in time to return a completed form before your state's deadline.

- 2. Receive and Complete Your Ballot:** States are required to send out ballots 45 days before a regular election for federal office and states generally send out ballots at least 30 days before primary elections. Most states allow you to confirm your [ballot delivery online](#).
- 3. Return Your Completed, Signed Ballot:** Some states allow you to return your completed ballot electronically and others do not. If your state requires you to return paper voting forms or ballots to local election officials by mail, you can do so through international mail, professional courier service, or through U.S. Embassy Bangkok's diplomatic pouch. The diplomatic pouch provides free mail service from embassies and consulates to a U.S. sorting facility. You will need to place your ballots in postage paid return envelopes or in envelopes bearing sufficient U.S. postage, in order for them to be delivered to the proper local election authorities.

If using the diplomatic pouch, ballots can be dropped at the U.S. Embassy Bangkok American Citizen Services check-in window on Wireless Road during regular business hours. Please note that all visitors to the Embassy are subject to security screening and you will not be permitted to bring electronic devices, including cell phones, inside the facility.

You may also mail ballots via Thai Post to the address below. Please ensure that your ballot is sealed, addressed, and has postage before being placed inside of the second envelope that is used to mail the ballot to the U.S. Embassy.

Voting Assistance Officer  
ACS/Consular Section  
U.S. Embassy Bangkok  
95 Wireless Road  
Bangkok, Thailand 10330

Please note that it can take up to three weeks for mail to reach its destination if sent by an embassy or consulate via diplomatic pouch. All overseas U.S. citizens are advised to submit their forms and ballots accordingly.

**Researching the Candidates and Issues: Online Resources.** Go to the [FVAP links page](#) for helpful resources to aid your research of candidates and issues. Non-partisan information about candidates, their voting records, and their positions on issues are widely available and easy to obtain on-line. You can also read national and hometown newspapers on-line or search the internet to locate articles and information. For information about election dates and deadlines, subscribe to FVAP's Voting Alerts ([vote@fvap.gov](mailto:vote@fvap.gov)). FVAP also shares Voting Alerts via [Facebook](#) (@DODFVAP), [Twitter](#) (@FVAP), and [Instagram](#) (@fvapgov).

**Learn more at the Federal Voting Assistance Program's (FVAP) website, [FVAP.gov](http://FVAP.gov).** If you have any questions about registering to vote overseas, please contact U.S. Embassy Bangkok at 02-205-4000 or at [VoteBANGKOK@state.gov](mailto:VoteBANGKOK@state.gov).

Any articles or comments for the Post TH01 newsletter should be directed to:  
[bruce.templeman@hotmail.com](mailto:bruce.templeman@hotmail.com)

Brig. Gen. Robin Olds American Legion Thailand Post TH01