



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

January 2021
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Calendar of Events for January

- January 01 - **New Years Day**
- January 09 - **Children's Day Open House Wing 21**
- January 11 - **Post Membership Meeting**
- January 18 - **Martin Luther King Jr. Day**

2020/2021 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 |
| 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 |

December 14, 2020 Post Membership Meeting



COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

Bruce Templeman



This has been a challenging year for many, yet we have much for which to be thankful. Although several of our comrades have had serious medical issues, they are all getting better and we actively follow their recovery until they can be with us again at our Post meetings.

Reflecting on this past year, many of us are fortunate to have stayed in Thailand, a relatively safe place from corona virus. We have reached out to our comrades and families back in the US and who anxiously wait for the delivery of the vaccine so some semblance of normality returns to their lives. Many have been hurt economically due to the COVID-19 restrictions and the reopening of their businesses is essential.

Our goal this year is to have 5 members renew their dues before 31 December. If you haven't paid your dues for the new year, you can really make an impact by paying now. As has been stated in previous newsletters, the Department of France will give our Post \$1.00 for each member when we reach our renewal goal. That money goes a long way here in Thailand.

We are planning to participate in National Children's Day here at the Ubon Ratchathani Air Base, as we have done for the past 5 years. It will be held next month on Saturday 9 January 2021. Past Commander Edmonds and his wife have been very busy coordinating this event and have come up with quite a few monetary donations to help us purchase ice cream bars for all of the children. Their work in making our annual event a success is to be heralded. I encourage all Post members to attend this event and be visible in your American Legion apparel. This is the time to get to know our hosts and let the local community see that we Americans are generous and caring. I plan on being at the base around 7 am since parking will fill up quickly. We will be set up in a tent near the entrance and next to the Officer's Wives tent. If you need assistance getting from your vehicle to the entrance of the event, please call me at 092-605-9661. I look forward to seeing you there.

Our hard-working and versatile Adjutant has made me aware that he has a proposed budget for the coming year, based upon our historical income and expenses. It would do everyone well to look at this proposal and see what we are working with this coming year and to propose suggestions on increasing income and how it may be used to assist our veteran community. The money to host our meetings comes from dues, the 50/50, and out-of-pocket donations. We are very lucky to have members, past and present, that donate to the Post to help with operating expenses. As I stated above, Americans are generous. Not only with their time, but their hard-earned money as well.

As we celebrate this holiday season, please keep in your prayers the families of Comrades Bill Bragg and Sonny Wilson. Reach out and spread good cheer to your family and friends. Keep safe, don't drink and drive; and I wish you good fortune and health in the coming year!

Wayne Wright
First Vice Commander



Well, here we are starting 2021, after a challenging 2020 for our post and meetings. We had our normal meetings in January, February, and March. Then COVID-19 hit! We simply cancelled the April meeting because nobody knew what to do or how to proceed. However, by May we had all become somewhat accustomed to calling each other and asking questions. Using Skypes to broadcast Post meetings and the Executive Committee meetings became the "new normal." Finally, by July things relaxed and we had an in-person meeting, and we got back on track as well as a hamburger and hotdog after the 4th of July meeting.

We learned how bad the COVID-19 problem was "back home" and that were thankful we could again meet here in person and remember what we as veterans represent. We could also reflect on why we started the post, not so much to meet for a good time but more to help each other as a unit. I ask each member to really try to support the post.

We were fortunate to be able to participate in activities again. In addition to the November Post meeting, we were able to attend the Remembrance Day (Veterans day) ceremony. The event was held at was held at Thung Si Muang Park in Ubon Ratchathani. The event is a multinational ceremony honoring the WWII POWs and Mother Ubon. The following month we held the December Post meeting followed by the annual Post TH01 holiday party with lots of food and fun.

I know many have busy schedules or the time is not great because of location, but we all need to be involved in our Post meetings and activities. Don't let petty differences interfere. Just as we did in the military service; leave politics and social difference at the door. Remember first foremost we are Americans, veterans, and American Legion post members. We still live the oath we took when we joined the military. Let us take our American Legion motto to heart "**Veterans Strengthening America.**"

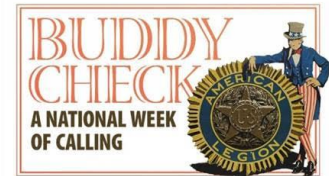
So, let's get together to make 2021 a much better year, even if we must do it online again as could happen. Stay safe first, but we need your participation. The meeting is no further than your computer or phone. I would hope we all renew our membership and our obligations to each other.

Billy Holland
2nd Vice Commander



I want to wish you and your family a Merry Christmas and a much better New Year. We will make it through this challenging new year with help from family, friends, and the Post TH01 family.

The post has initiated buddy checks and many have already been contacted. I can't express how important this is, not only during the holidays but all year, to make contact. So, take a few minutes to send that email, make that phone call or just drop by and check on each other, members and non-members a like here in country. It means a lot to individuals that you would take a little time out of your schedule to check on your neighbors.



I'm hoping to get out and travel Thailand more this new year to see many of our members that live too far away and cannot attend meetings. So, don't be surprised if you get an email or a phone call from me offering to meet and have lunch on me. Looking forward to see many new faces.

This year has brought about many new challenges to the world and to our families. We have persevered to overcome these challenges. We were lucky to be in a country with far fewer cases of the COVID-19 virus. We must stay alert and not get complacent.

Again, Merry Christmas to all and a much better New Year!

Post Adjutant Corner:
Jeff Ludwig



Wow what an unprecedented year 2020 has been! We faced many challenges this year both as individuals and as an American Legion Post. This year saw a worldwide pandemic, social unrest, country lockdowns, travel restrictions, worldwide economic dishevels, and personal tragedies. Through it all with the help of our fellow comrades we kept the Post operating and growing. Thank you to all who have contributed this year to the success of our post.

Good news for the 6 straight month we met and exceeded the Departments target goal for the Post. Right now, we sit at 92.4% of our goal. We only need 5 more renewal or new members to reach 100%. We thank all of you who renewed your membership and encourage those who haven't renewed to consider doing so. If you know a veteran who might have interest or who is looking for some camaraderie, reach out and tell them about our Post. You will be helping them and help in us. It is so true that there is strength in number. That is what allows us to help our fellow veterans and our local communities.

With the year 2020 inevitably ending in the next few weeks, the thought amongst the people all over the world is whether the coming year 2021 will be free of COVID 19. Now, the uppermost question is as to what is in store for the world in 2021. While everyone waits anxiously for the vaccine to be distributed, they also desperately hoping it is effective. All we can do is continue to practice cosmetic solutions like wearing the mask, washing hands, drinking hot water, social distancing etc. As comrades in arms, we must be supportive of our fellow comrades and other veterans here in Thailand back home. We can do this by performing buddy checks.

I wish you all a safe new year full of promise and hope. Together we can get through any and all challenges put before us.



Safety Topic

Jeff Ludwig

Two most common causes of falls in the home

Many people are seriously injured in falls every year. Many are left with permanent disabilities. This is especially true for the elderly. The shame is that most of these falls could have been prevented if only people had implemented fall prevention actions and fall protection.

Using Ladders Improperly

One of the most common and most dangerous home safety mistakes that leads to falls is failing to use a ladder properly. People make many ladder-related mistakes in the home all of which can be devastating. The following are just a few of the more common examples:



- Unsteady Ladders – If you don't take the time to properly steady the ladder when setting it up, it could easily slide out while you're on it, causing serious injuries.



- Leaning from Ladders – When working on a ladder, you should never reach off to the left or right as that can throw the center of balance off, which could cause the ladder to fall.



- Using Objects as a Ladder – Using scaffolding, chairs, stools, or other objects to reach high areas can be dangerous. These things aren't meant for climbing the same way a ladder is.



- Climbing too High on Ladders – One should never step onto the upper rungs of a ladder. Depending on how the ladder is placed, even several rungs down can be unstable.



Fall Prevention in the Home

Bathroom

Install non-slip tape in tubs and shower.

Bedroom

Ensure adequate lighting and clear walkways.

Living Room

Secure area rugs and remove cords from pathways.

Kitchen

Have all ingredients and appliances within reach.



Make sure every room in the house has adequate lighting.



Install rails around stairs and staircases.



Clean up spills immediately.



Talk to your physician about medications and vision concerns about dizziness or balance issues.



Historian
Ted Potyrala



ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY - PART ONE

Arlington National Cemetery located in Arlington, Virginia on the site of the former home of Robert E. Lee and his wife Mary. There are more than 400,000 graves of service members, veterans, families, and civilians. The Tomb of the Unknown Soldier is located there.

Before the land became a National Cemetery, it was owned by George Washington Parke Custis. He was a grandson of Martha Washington and stepson of President George Washington. In 1802 the land owned by George Washington Parke Custis, willed the 1,100-acre plantation to his son Custis. He built the mansion that is there today. In 1857, Custis willed the land to his daughter, Mary Anna Randolph Custis. Mary's husband, Robert E. Lee, was an officer in the U.S. Army.

In 1861 with the civil war on the horizon, Lee resigned from the army and took command of the Confederate Army. He knew that the Union Army would want the property since it offered a strategic view of Washington. Lee left the property, but Mary stayed on thinking that the war would not last long. She was later warned that the Union Army was ready to take over the property, so she packed her things, left the keys with Selina Gray, a slave, and left.

On May 24, 1861 the Union Army used the land as a camp and headquarters.

As the war entered its third year, the Washington D.C. area cemeteries were running out of room.

To leave the shortage, the federal government designated Arlington as a National Military Cemetery.



The first burial was Pvt. William Christman on May 13, 1864. He never saw Combat but died of complications from measles. There are approximately 16,000 civil war soldiers buried there. In 1914, a Confederate Memorial was added to section 16 where 482 Confederate soldiers are buried. There are also the graves of 3,800 former slaves located in Section 27.

Next Month Part 2, The person responsible for designing the cemetery.

**Credit to History Channel and the Smithsonian

Chaplain's Message:

As the dawn breaks on a new year, let us give thanks for all we hold dear: our health, our family and our friends.

- *Let us release our grudges, our anger and our pains, for these are nothing but binding chains. Let us live each day in the most loving ways, the God-conscious way. Let us serve all who are in need, regardless of race, color or creed.*
- *Let us keep God of our own understanding in our hearts and to chant God's name each day. Let us lead the world from darkness to light, from falsehood to truth and from wrong to right.*
- *Let us remember that we are all one, embracing all, discriminating against none.*
- *May your year be filled with peace, prosperity and love. May God's blessings shower upon you and bestow upon each of you a bright, healthy and peaceful new year.*

– Rev. Marcy Sheremetta

TAPS: None



January Birthdays:

- Gary Christopherson
- John Dustman
- Mark Faralli
- Paul McDermott
- JC Molette Jr
- Lee Montgomery



A very happy birthday to all