Brig. Gen. Robin Olds

American Legion Thailand Post TH01
amerilegionth01@gmail.com

Jeff Ludwig, Adjutant Larry Edmonds, Commander

March 2018
Volume 2, Issue 1

Post meetings held the 2nd Monday of each month at the
Wing 21 Ubon Royal Thai AB, Driving Range Clubhouse at 10:00 a.m.
All members are invited to attend.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

March 12	Post Meeting, Driving Range	10:00a.m.
March 12	American Legion Birth Day Celebration	
March 20	Post Executive Committee Meeting	
March 26	Wing 21 Chapel Restoration Dedication Ceremony	

COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

First, we wish the American Legion a happy 99th birthday. Thank you to Peppers Restaurant for making the birthday cake.

On 26 March, the Post members joined in with the Wing 21 Royal Thai Air Force and local Community officials in a dedication ceremony for refurbishing the Base Chapel. I would like to thank the members of Post TH01, their wives and friends for their help and generosity in making this a successful event. The Post did this as part of our ongoing help and support to the community. We have an outstanding association with the local military, Army and Air Force, and want to continue our good relations with them. During the Vietnam Conflict, Ubon was an extremely busy base. We have a rich history with the Thai Air Force. The Chapel restoration efforts will help to preserve our memory.

WHAT'S HAPPENING

March 26 we participated in a dedication ceremony for the Wing 21 Base Chapel, formerly the USAF 8th Tactical Fighter Wing Chapel. Those of you that were stationed at Ubon RTAFB may remember the iconic Base Chapel. Early on, it was called the "Ski Lodge because of its unique design" The Chapel was built by American Forces in the mid-60s during the Vietnam Conflict. Many of the buildings on the base have been removed due to their wood construction and termite infestation, but the chapel remains standing. Over the years, the chapel has stood as landmark and reminder of all the American troops who served at the base. Now it is in need of repairs. A collection was taken raising 10,000 baht ($302.00) towards the renovation. In addition, the Post Wives and the Ex-Pat Wives groups combined took up a collection and donated 20,900 baht donations for the renovation effort. During the dedication ceremony, the Wing 21 Commander recognized our Post's participation in the local community affairs and now in

preserving a part of the rich history shared by USA and Thai Military's.

The Post celebrated the 99th American Legion birthday with cake and coffee. After the March monthly membership meeting, Post members, spouses, and friends enjoyed a delicious chocolate cake and coffee.

Adjutants Post

The Post Officer elections are fast approaching. Are you interested in any of the officer positions? Now is a good time to think about it. What better way to make a difference than by getting involved in the Post. The Officer Positions provide you with a rewarding challenge and an opportunity help our Post grow. The Nominations will take place at the April Post meeting and the election will follow at the May meeting. Not interested in an officer position but want to get involved and help the Post? Then why not volunteer for one of the standing committees.

Thank you to all members for your quick response in our recent record validation efforts.

1st Vice and Membership Chairman's Fence Post

Congratulations Comrades! For the sixth straight month, the Post not only met but also vastly surpassed our target goal! This month we achieved 144% of our 2018 membership goal. We have the distinction of having the highest percentage among eligible Post in the Department of France. We have also achieved Membership in the "*100% Post Membership Club for The American Legion, Department of France*." In fact, we reached 100% of our membership goal on November 10, 2017 making us eligible for some automatic awards from Department. Thank you all for your efforts to make this happen and **welcome** to all our new members! We are happy to have you as vital members of our Post. For the guys who passed out literature at the Embassy outreach in Udon Thani this month, we thank you!

Service Officers Corner

Aid & Attendance (A&A) and housebound, have you heard of this valuable program available to eligible veterans and their survivors?

Veterans and Survivors that are eligible for a VA pension and require A&A of another person, may be eligible for additional monetary payment. These benefits are paid instead of the regular monthly pension and are not paid without a monthly pension. You cannot collect A&A and Housebound payments together.

A&A may be added if you meet one of the following conditions:

- You require aid of another person in order to perform personnel functions required in everyday living such as, bathing, feeding, dressing, attending to the wants of nature, adjusting prosthetic devices, or protecting yourself from the hazards of your daily environment.

- You are bedridden

- You are a patient in a nursing home due to mental or physical disability.

- Your eyesight is limited to a corrected 5/200 visual acuity or less in both eyes, or visual field of 5 degrees or less.

Housebound monthly pension maybe added when you are substantially confined to your monthly premises because of disability.

The A&A minimum payment is $3700.43. The monthly amount is paid instead of the regular VA Disability compensation. This is the Special Monthly Compensation (SMC L) level for Veteran only. The tables go up to SMC R2 and SMC T and are available on line. SMC K can be awarded for up to three instances and each pays $105.00 which is added to the SMC L or other levels.

Directions for applying are online and I can help if needed. The VA Disability can be paid anywhere in the world you choose to live and your pension must be service connected to qualify for these additions.

Americanism Chairman

Have you ever wondered just what is Americanism? After all the word itself is somewhat abstract. Well this excerpt from the American Legion Department of Iowa does a good job of defining Americanism. In their Americanism Manual, they define it as follows:
" … Americanism is love of America; loyalty to her institutions as the best yet devised by man to secure life, liberty, individual dignity, and happiness; and the willingness to defend our country and flag against all enemies, foreign and domestic.

It is a vital, active, living force. Americanism means peace, strength, the will and the courage to live as free men in a free land. It means a friendly hand to people everywhere who respect our institutions and our thinking. It is not a word; it is a cause, a way of life – the best way of life ever known – a challenge and a hope in this world.

Americanism is an ideal of loyal patriotism, religious tolerance, righteous freedom, fearless courage, honest integrity, abiding faith in the commanding destiny of the United States, and a fathomless love for the principles that led our forefathers to found this country.

It is complete and unqualified loyalty to the ideals of government as set forth in the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution of the United States. It is respect for, and ready obedience to, duly constituted authority and the laws of the land. It is freedom without license, religion without bigotry, charity without bias, and a desire to secure the blessings of liberty for our nation and for our posterity."

POST TH01 OFFICERS

Name	Office
Larry Edmonds	Commander
Wayne Wright	1st Vice Commander
Ted Potyrala	2nd Vice Commander and Historian
Maurice(Rocky) Hatzke	Service Officer
Hugh Mason	Chaplain
Jeff Ludwig	Adjutant/Finance Officer
Neil Tufford	Sergeant at Arms
Don Ford	Judge Advocate
Joe Reedy	Publicity Officer
Salvatore (Sal) Salzarulo	Members at large
Tony Francois	Members at large
Sunny Wilson.	Members at large

Final TAPS

None reported for the month of March.

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

Ken Adams
David Bell
Rocky Hatzke

Please submit any announcements or items for the newsletter to Jeff Ludwig, Editor.
Requests should be received by the 15th to ensure inclusion in the current newsletter.