

# The American Legion at Ubon Ratchathani, Thailand



BRIGADIER GENERAL ROBIN OLDS

POST NUMBER TH01



*Post Meeting: 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of Every Month, at 10:00 AM*

*Post Location: Wing 21 Ubon Royal Thai Airforce Base*

*Post Venue: Driving Range Clubhouse*

May 2022

Post Email: <http://amerilegionth01@gmail.com>

Vol. 5, No. 5

## LINKS CONCERNING ISSUES OF GENERAL EXPAT INTEREST IN THAILAND

[Bank of Thailand Intervenes in PayPal Tangle - Thai Examiner](#)

[Minister Resurrects Internet Gateway Scheme - Thai Examiner](#)

[Test & Go May Be Binned Soon – Bangkok Post](#)



## POST COMMANDER'S COMMENTS...BRUCE TEMPLEMAN

My Fellow Legionnaires,

I congratulate and welcome the opportunity to work with all of the Post officers this year. It's good to see some rotation in the lineup as we have our Historian, Ted Potyrala, stepping into the 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Commander position and the former 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Commander, John Skabry, stepping into the 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Commander slot. John Eschenbaum is starting as Post Member-at-Large to represent our members that are remote and/or unable to make the meetings. All of our officers get the chance to develop and put into action the ideas that will make our Post continue to thrive. Everyone in the Post has something of value to offer and becoming a Post officer is a good way to turn your ideas into action. We value all of our members and look forward to making your voices heard.

We anticipate a better year with our events since the Thailand is beginning to reopen after the pandemic. Caution is still recommended for those with

comorbidities, however, it seems like the present strain that is going around is much less severe for those that have been vaccinated and practice good public prevention measures.

On the calendar this year are the opportunities to partner with other organizations and form traveling membership drives around the area. On 25 May, a contingent of Post members will travel to Khon Kaen to donate to the Tawanchai Foundation, which is the premier organization that fixes and cares for children with cleft palates.

As we have members in our Post that are also members of VFW Post 10217, combining events and sponsorship can double our impact on helping the community. I look forward to bridging the communication between the two organizations and hope that we can make a big impact this year on assisting veterans, their families, and the community. We have two special holidays coming in May: Armed Forces Day & Memorial Day.

We solemnly remember our comrades that have reported to Post Everlasting and send our regards and offer of support to their families.

Please let me know if you can assist the Post by decorating the graves of our Post Everlasting members, this year. Contact me directly at [bruce.templeman@outlook.com](mailto:bruce.templeman@outlook.com), so I can get a US flag marker to you. I will be sending letters to the next of kin this month as well.

As always, we must continue to care for our own group in order to care for the community. Keep safe and look in on those members near you. Our Members-at-Large will check on those that are in the outlying hinterlands or the USA, but nothing will take the place of an old-fashioned phone call to check up on a comrade. Facebook Messenger and other social media can work as well. We're a small community here in Thailand and Buddy Checks are essential to the health of our Veteran Community.

#### **NAME OF DECEASED**

Aldrich, Joel  
Bragg, William  
Godinet, Paul  
Kenneth R. Sebring  
Medley, William  
Ridgeway, Dale  
Steele, John  
Wilson, Floyd

#### **GRAVE LOCATION**

Amphoe Na Kae, Nakhon Phanom  
Amphoe Bang Pa-in, Phra Nakhon Si Ayutthaya  
Merritt Island, Fl.  
Amphoe Khong, Nakhon Ratchasima  
Nikhom Kham Soi, Mukdahan  
Amphoe Sansai, Chiangmai  
Amphoe Khanleung, Utumpornphisai, Sisaket  
Kanthararom, Sisaket

### **Holiday & Events Calendar**

#### **01-31 May**

Asian American and Pacific Islander Month

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Asian\\_American\\_and\\_Pacific\\_Islander\\_Heritage\\_Month](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Asian_American_and_Pacific_Islander_Heritage_Month)

#### **05 May**

Cinco de Mayo

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cinco\\_de\\_Mayo](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cinco_de_Mayo)

#### **08 May**

Mother's Day

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mother%27s\\_Day\\_\(United\\_States\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mother%27s_Day_(United_States))

#### **21 May**

Armed Forces Day

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Armed\\_Forces\\_Day](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Armed_Forces_Day)

#### **24 May**

Tawanchai Foundation Charity Donation

<https://www.tawanchai-foundation.org/>

#### **30 May**

Memorial Day

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Memorial\\_Day](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Memorial_Day)

## POST OFFICERS 2022MY

**COMMANDER Bruce Templeman**  
[bruce.templeman@hotmail.com](mailto:bruce.templeman@hotmail.com)

**ADJUTANT Jeff Ludwig**  
[jgludwig2@gmail.com](mailto:jgludwig2@gmail.com)

**1<sup>st</sup> VICE COMMANDER Ted Potyrala**  
[tpubon@gmail.com](mailto:tpubon@gmail.com)

**2<sup>nd</sup> VICE COMMANDER John Skabry**  
[dive.safely@gmail.com](mailto:dive.safely@gmail.com)

**CHAPLAIN Hugh Mason**  
[htmmason@aol.com](mailto:htmmason@aol.com)

**HISTORIAN Ted Potyrala**  
[tpubon@gmail.com](mailto:tpubon@gmail.com)

**FINANCE OFFICER Jeff Ludwig**  
[jgludwig2@gmail.com](mailto:jgludwig2@gmail.com)

**SERVICE OFFICER Maurice Hatzke**  
[mrhatzke3@gmail.com](mailto:mrhatzke3@gmail.com)

**JUDGE ADVOCATE Christopher Lampert**  
[dukeboxer@hotmail.com](mailto:dukeboxer@hotmail.com)

**SERGEANT-AT-ARMS Salvatore Salzarulo**  
[salzy48@hotmail.com](mailto:salzy48@hotmail.com)

**PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICER Joe Reedy**  
[joereedy4@gmail.com](mailto:joereedy4@gmail.com)

**MEMBER AT LARGE Billy Holland**  
[billybholland@gmail.com](mailto:billybholland@gmail.com)

**MEMBER AT LARGE Wayne Wright**  
[waywright@outlook](mailto:waywright@outlook)

**MEMBER AT LARGE Kirby Raines**  
[cosmotyson@yahoo.com](mailto:cosmotyson@yahoo.com)



## ADJUTANT'S CORNER...JEFF LUDWIG

Greetings Comrades,

Spring is in the air everywhere are signs of new growth. It is also the start of a new term for our Post elected officers. Time to formulate new goals and strategies to move our Post forward in

providing better service

to our veterans, families, and local communities. Congratulations to our newly elected officers. You will find challenges this year with the endemic quickly approaching. Along with the challenges you will find opportunities to attain our goals and improve our Post.



You can get a jumpstart on developing your goals and strategies by understanding all the American Legion offers. The best reference and training tool is the American Legion Basic Training course. It will give an insight on the organization of the American Legion as well as the vast variety of programs offering aid to our veterans and their families. The course is free and open to all American Legion Members. The newly revised course only takes as little as two hours. The basic training course should be the first thing all new members should take. If you have not taken it, you are strongly encouraged to do so. Remember, knowledge is power, use it. You can reach the website by simply clicking on the following link.

[American Legion Basic Training Course](#)

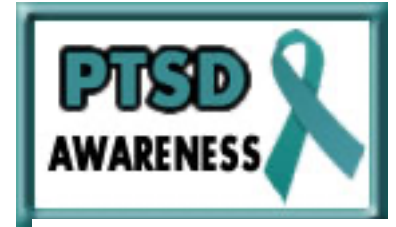
### Finance

The Post Executive committee recently approved the Post budget for FY 2022/2023. We will send it to all of you in the coming weeks. You can easily assess our financial position by comparing our budget to the monthly financial reports. The budget remains fluid in that we will adjust it as it becomes necessary. You are welcome and encouraged to provide your comments and suggestions. As always, we will strive to keep our financial actions as transparent as possible. Reminder, any Post expenditures must be accompanied with a receipt before you can be reimbursed.

## Safety Message

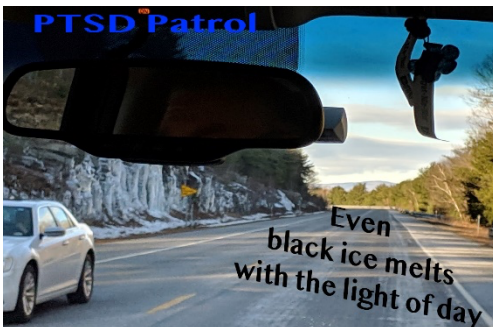
### May is Mental Health Month!

Mental health issues can take many shapes. For Veterans it most often manifests in Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD).



The American Legion provides a program titled PTSD Bytes that presents these 12-minute-or-less talks with experts about technology resources you can use or share to help with PTSD.

- [Treatments for PTSD 1: Overview](#) - Dr. Abigail Angkaw discusses different effective treatments for PTSD and an online Decision Aid to help choose between treatments.
- [Treatments for PTSD 2: Prolonged Exposure](#) - In this 2nd episode of our mini-series on PTSD treatments, Dr. Carmen McLean talks about Prolonged Exposure (PE), and how the mobile app "PE Coach" can help with treatment.



- [Treatments for PTSD 3: Cognitive Processing Therapy](#) - In the 3rd episode of our mini-series on PTSD treatments, Dr. Shannon Wiltsey Stirman talks to us about Cognitive Processing Therapy (CPT) and the mobile app "CPT Coach."

Please take the few minutes it takes to view these sessions to better understand PTSD and to better help those suffering from PTSD.

### Standing Committees

Membership Committee

Communications Committee

Activities Committee

Graves & Registration Committee

## May Birthdays:

- Badtram, Donald – 04/05
- Cardeiro, Joseph – 02/05
- Housden, Dean – 07/05
- Jacobs, Steven – 24/05
- Monninger, David – 30/05
- Rees, Richard – 30/05
- Witmer, Henry – 26/05
- Wright, Wayne – 23/05



POST HISTORIAN...*TED POTYRALA*

Greetings Legionnaires,

## The Fastest Medal of Honor Ever Received



Sgt Erwin stands with a painting depicting his act of heroism  
USAF Photo

There are many stories about people receiving the Medal of Honor but this one is amazing. In April 1945, Staff Sgt. Henry Erwin was part of the crew in the lead B-29 bomber making a low-altitude run on a chemical plant over Koriyama, Japan.

Sgt. Erwin had only been in the war since 1944. After dropping out of aviation school, he became a radio operator. By February 1945, he was in the Pacific Theater flying in unescorted bombers over Japan. His job was to light the phosphorus bombs and drop them into a chute before they could explode. Phosphorus, also known Willie Pete, burns as high as 5,000 Deg F. It ignites when exposed to oxygen.



The crew of the B-29. Sgt Erwin is second from right, front row  
USAF photo

On this mission while pulling the pin of a bomb and releasing it down a chute, the bombs fuse lit the phosphorus too fast and soon was burning at higher than 2,300 deg F. To make matters worse, the bomb jumped back into the plane, hitting Sgt Erwin in the face. He was blinded and his nose and ear were burned off. Smoke immediately filled the plane and no one could see including the pilot.

Even in his condition, Sgt Erwin had the presence of mind to know he had to get that bomb off the plane before it could

ignite the rest of the bombs in the bomb bay. Although completely blind and on fire, he put the bomb under an arm pit, felt his way through the plane stopping to remove items blocking his path and made it to the co-pilots window where he tossed it out of the plane. He then collapsed in the cabin, totally blinded and on fire. Skin burnt to the bone. His only words were concerning the safety of the crew. While all this was going on, the pilot put the plane into a nosedive to clear the smoke pulling out at 300 feet above the ocean. The only words Sgt Erwin had was for concern of the safety of the crew.

The flight crew of the B-29 and Henry Erwin at his Medal of Honor presentation  
USAF Photo



Sgt. Erwin remained awake while the phosphorus burned his clothes and skin. Once on the ground, surgeons removed pieces of phosphorus from his eye's and skin. Each piece ignited as oxygen hit it.

No one thought Sgt. Erwin would live. Command wanted to present him with the Medal of Honor before he died. The citation was signed the next morning by Major General Curtis LeMay after he worked through the night to get its approval. This was the fastest turnaround and approval time for any Medal of Honor ever presented. The next morning Sgt, Erwin was presented with the Medal of Honor. He was then sent to Guam for further treatment and survived from his wounds.

Sgt. Erwin died at the age of 80, in 2002.

Can you imagine picking up burning phosphorus and carrying it under your arm trying to save your fellow crewmen? Amazing.

Excerpts and photos taken from [www.military.com](http://www.military.com).



[Link to AL Thailand Post TH01 Website](#)

## POST NEWSLETTER EDITOR

*Christopher L. Lampert:*  
[sea@standardenglishacademy.com](mailto:sea@standardenglishacademy.com)



Greetings Legionnaires,

I hope everyone's doing well.

If you'd like an article included in the Post THo1 monthly newsletter, please send your input to my above email, by the 15<sup>th</sup> of every month. If you send accompanying pics or graphics, please make sure they're high quality.

I'll surely include all of your input in the newsletter.