



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



October 2019
 Volume 3, Issue 10

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

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

October 14 Post Meeting 10:00am.
 October 14 Columbus Day
 October 31 Halloween

2019 Post Officers:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Office</u>	<u>Email</u>
Larry Edmonds	Commander	<i>lledmonds@aol.com</i>
Bruce Templeman	1st Vice Commander	<i>bruce.templeman@gmail.com</i>
Wayne Wright	2nd Vice Commander	<i>waywright@outlook.com</i>
Ted Potyrala	Historian	<i>tpubon@gmail.com</i>
Maurice(Rocky) Hatzke	Service Officer	<i>mrhatzke3@gmail.com</i>
Hugh Mason	Chaplain	<i>htmmason@aol.com</i>
Jeff Ludwig	Adjutant/Finance Officer	<i>Jgludwig2@gmail.com</i>
Neil Tufford	Sergeant at Arms	<i>neiltufford@gmail.com</i>
Charles (Rusty) Wilson	Judge Advocate	<i>charles.r.wilson1@gmail.com</i>
Joe Reedy	Public Affairs Officer	<i>joereedy4@gmail.com</i>
Phil Colombey	IT Officer	<i>pcolombe@gmail.com</i>
Salvatore (Sal) Salzarulo	Members at large	<i>salzy48@hotmail.com</i>
Dave Bell	Members at large	<i>davebell211@hotmail.com</i>
Bill Medley	Members at large	<i>william_2017@icloud.com</i>

September, 2019 Post Membership Meeting

Canceled due to heavy monsoon rains and heavy flooding in country especially Northeastern Thailand.



COMMANDER'S MESSAGE



By Larry Edmonds

An update on my surgery, my recovery is going well. After the stint was implanted into my Abdominal Aorta, I have slowly gotten back to some sort of normalcy. There is still some soreness in the two incision areas. Doc says in about 30 days I should be back to normal. I can't wait to get back on the golf course. If all goes well at my Post Op appointment on the 15th of October, we should return near the end of October.

Our post is small and growing by the month. I ask all of you who haven't renewed your membership to please renew at the earliest opportunity. Some of you believe that if you renew early, you will be throwing away the remaining months of this year's membership. That thought is incorrect. Membership runs from 1 January through 31 December of each year. We start pushing renewals in July to meet the goals set by National Headquarters and Department of France. It also helps the Post get its \$15 portion of the \$40 dues. These funds help us in planning our budget for the coming year. Meeting certain goals of the American Legion and Department of France also puts us in contention for monetary awards.

Next month, November 11th, is Veteran's Day. I will be in touch with the organizers of the Remembrance Day/Veterans Day festivities at Thung Si Muang park shortly. As soon as I get the information, I will pass it along to all for your planning.

Let's all keep trying to get our Post's name out there. If you do something in the community and can associate it with the Post or Legion, let the heads of the activities know that you represent our Post. If you have them, pass out a few business cards. Our activities have been few this year and I hope we can improve participation and activities in the coming year.



1st Vice / Membership Chairman:

Bruce Templeman

I am happy to say that I should be back in Thailand by the posting of this newsletter. I look forward to getting back to accomplish several goals that I've set for myself.

While I've been in the US, I have been saddened to read about the devastation that the flooding in Thailand has brought and hope that all of our members and their families are safe.

If anyone is threatened with an emergency situation, please reach out to your fellow Legionnaires for help. It's just the sort of thing that we do for each other. Communication is the key to our ability to react and help. In the spirit of this, we can help prepare ourselves for emergencies by making a list of supplies needed and keeping them on hand in the case of hardships or evacuation.

There are many resources for information on emergency preparedness, but I would like to share this one with you since I have been able to use it successfully in the past. <https://www.ready.gov/plan>

I would also ask that the Post members keep our commander and his family in mind as he recovers from an unexpected surgery. Our prayers go out to him and Pensri in this stressful time. We wish him a speedy and complete recovery.

Stay safe and dry. I'll see you at the next meeting.

Service Officer:
Maurice (Rocky) Hatske



VA strengthens Caregiver Support Program and expands timeline of the Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers

WASHINGTON – Today the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) announced actions to strengthen the Caregiver Support Program and establish a timeline for expanding the Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers (PCAFC) in accordance with section 161 of the VA MISSION Act of 2018 ([MISSION Act](#)).

Under the MISSION Act, VA will expand the PCAFC to eligible Veterans from all eras using a phased approach. Currently, the program is only available to eligible Veterans seriously injured in the line of duty on or after September 11, 2001. Prior to expanding, VA must upgrade its information technology (IT) system and implement other improvements to strengthen the program. “Caregivers play a critical role in the health and well-being of some of our most vulnerable Veterans,” said VA Secretary Robert Wilkie. “Under the MISSION Act, we are strengthening and expanding our program to positively impact the lives of Veterans and deliver the best customer experience to them and their caregivers.”

In December 2018, VA suspended certain discharges from the program due to ongoing concerns about inconsistent application of eligibility requirements at VA medical centers. Since then, VA has held listening sessions with caregivers and other stakeholders, developed or amended 14 standard operating procedures to clarify program requirements for VA staff, increased oversight in each Veterans Integrated Service Network, provided training and education to staff and caregivers and is boosting operational capacity with the hiring of more than 680 staff.

To modernize its caregiver IT system, VA is adopting a three-phased approach and will deploy a new system based on a commercial off the shelf product called Caregiver Record Management Application (CARMA) beginning in October 2019. VA will deploy phase two in January 2020 to centralize and automate stipend payment calculations and expects to deploy phase three in

the summer of 2020, which will enable caregivers to apply for benefits online. VA will then perform testing and verify that the system has full functionality before expanding the program as required under the MISSION Act.

The expansion will occur in two phases, beginning in the summer of 2020 or once the Secretary has certified that the new IT system is fully implemented. In the first phase, PCAFC will be expanded to eligible Veterans who incurred or aggravated a serious injury in the line of duty on or before May 7, 1975. The final phase of the expansion will begin two years later. It will expand PCAFC to eligible Veterans who incurred or aggravated a serious injury in the line of duty after May 7, 1975 through September 10, 2001. Additionally, VA has gathered input and is developing regulatory changes to streamline the program and provide more clarity for Veterans and their family caregivers. VA will publish a proposed rule for public comment prior to issuing final regulations.

VA is also working across the department to ensure caregivers have a positive experience through program improvements and initiatives to include:

- Providing home and community-based care alternatives through the Choose Home Initiative at 21 VA medical centers.
- Establishing the Center for Excellence for Veteran and Caregiver Research named after Senator Elizabeth Dole.
- Expanding telehealth services to enable Veterans and their caregivers to get care in the comfort of their homes.
- Delivering valuable programs for caregivers such as peer support mentoring, a Caregiver Support Line, self-care courses and educational programs to help caregivers succeed.

Caregivers play a critical role in enabling Veterans to maintain their highest level of independence and remain in their homes and communities for as long as possible. VA leads the nation in providing unprecedented benefits and services to caregivers. The MISSION Act strengthens VA's ability to serve as a trusted partner in the care of our nation's most vulnerable Veterans.

To learn more about the many support services available for caregivers of Veterans, visit www.caregiver.va.gov or call the Caregiver Support Line at 1-855-260-3274.

Reference: VA » [Office of Public and Intergovernmental Affairs](#) » News Releases, <https://www.va.gov/opa/pressrel/pressrelease.cfm?id=5319>

Post Adjutant Corner:
Jeff Ludwig



I would like to thank all the members who renewed their membership this month. We are currently sitting at 65% of our member renewed. Good news is, we are on target to have another strong membership drive. We only need 35 more members to renew their dues to reach 100% and join Departments 100 club. If we do it before 31 December, we will be eligible for a monetary award. I am confident we can do this. So comrade please consider renewing or membership as soon as possible. We need you and the American Legion needs you. So **please** invest in us (your Post) and help us help our fellow veterans and local communities here in Thailand. You will not only be helping your Post Th01, but also our Department and fellow Posts.

This month is a great time to review you profile in myLegion.org, especially your address. A good way to know is if your address is correct is if you are getting your American Legion Magazine and the American Legion Dispatch. If you are not, then you need to review and modify your address.

For those that have a Thailand address, note that there are only two lines for the address with a max of 26 characters, including spaces on each line. The country goes in a separate line; however, the zip code must go on one of the two address lines. Most Thai addresses are quite long and must be abbreviated. If you're not sure how to abbreviate the Thai address, see the local Thai post office.

On another note, the JUSMAG Thai is losing its APO and closing its mailboxes in October. Now is the time to change your address in myLegion.org. This will ensure no disruption in receiving your American Legion Magazine and Dispatch. If you're not sure how to do it, just send me your new address and I will be happy to change it for you.

Awards:

Continuous Membership Awards: Membership is the lifeblood of the American Legion. It is what has made the American Legion one of the strongest champions of veterans and their families. **Strength in Numbers!** This month we are proud to award 9 of our members the Continuous Membership certificate and Pin. Some will receive their certificate and pin at the next meeting. Others will receive theirs in the mail. Regardless how received congratulations to you all.

The members are as follows:

- Ken Adams 5 years
- Robert Engborg 5 years
- John Eschenbaum 5 years
- Don Ford 5 years
- Rocky Hatzke 5 years
- Charlie Mason 5 years
- Lee Montgomery 5 years
- Sal Salzarulo 5 years
- Sunny Wilson 5 years

Safety Message:

October is Fire Prevention Month – 10 Home Fire Safety Tips

The [U.S. Fire Administration](#) reports that fires kill more than 4,000 Americans each year and approximately injure 20,000 more. U.S. fire departments respond to nearly 2 million fires each year, with three-quarters of them occurring in residences.



A home is often referred to as a safe haven. This month, make sure your home is protected from (and your family is prepared for) a fire. Here are 10 simple tips to help you avoid fires and reduce the risk of injury should one occur:

- 1) **Smoke Alarms** – These are still a very important addition to your home. Smoke alarms are widely available and inexpensive. Install a smoke alarm on every level of your home and test it monthly.
- 2) **Prevent Electrical Fires** – Don't overload circuits or extension cords. Cords and wires should never be placed under rugs or in high traffic areas. Avoid loose electrical connections by checking the fit of the plug in the wall outlet. If the plug loosely fits, inspect the outlet right away. A poor connection between the plug and the outlet can cause overheating and can start a fire in minutes.
- 3) **Keep Plugs Safe** – Unplug all appliances when not in use. Follow the manufacturer's safety precautions and use your senses to spot any potential disasters. If a plug is overheating, smells strange, shorts out or sparks – the appliance should be shut off immediately, then replaced or repaired.
- 4) **Alternate Heaters** – Make sure there is ample space around any portable heating unit. Anything that could catch fire should be at least three feet away. Inspect your chimney annually and use fire screens to help keep any fires in the fireplace.
- 5) **Fire Safety Sprinklers** – When combined with working smoke alarms, home fire sprinklers greatly increase your chance of surviving a fire. Sprinklers are affordable and they can increase property value and lower insurance rates.

- 6) **Create An Escape Route** – Create and practice your escape plan with your family from every room in the house. Practice staying low to the floor and checking for hot doors using the back of your hand. It’s just like a routine school fire drill – but in your home.
 - 7) **Position Appliances Carefully** – Try to keep TV sets, kitchen and other appliances away from windows with curtains. If there is a wiring problem, curtains can spread a fire quickly. Additionally, keeping your appliances away from water sources (like rain coming in from windows) can help prevent wiring damage which can lead to a fire.
 - 8) **Clean Dryer Vents** – Clothes dryers often start fires in residential areas. Clean the lint filter every time you start a load of clothes to dry or after the drying cycle is complete. Make sure your exhaust duct is made of metal tubing and not plastic or foil. Clean the exhaust duct with a good quality dryer vent brush to prevent blockage & check for lint build up behind the dryer at least twice a year.
 - 9) **Be Careful Around the Holidays** – If you fill your home with lights during the holiday season, keep them away from anything that can easily catch fire. Check all of your lights prior to stringing them up and dispose of anything with frayed or exposed wires.
 - 10) **Conduct Regular Inspections** – Check all of your electronic equipment and wiring at least once a month. Taking a little time to do this each month can really pay off.
1. Following these simple tips could potentially save your life or the life of a loved one. Pass this list on to your friends and family and make this fire prevention month count!

- **Reference: Article** by Amber Hunt, October 5, 2010, <https://www.quickenloans.com/blog/fire-prevention-month-10-ways-protect-prepare-fire>

Historian Archives:

Ted Potyrala

Part five in our biography of our namesake Brig. Gen. Robin Olds.

Robin Olds - OPERATION BOLO

From March 2, 1965 to November 2, 1968, the U.S. Air Force conducted Operation Rolling Thunder. It was a gradual and sustained bombing campaign with four goals in mind. The first was to boost morale of the South Vietnam regime. The second was persuade the North Vietnamese to cease its support for the insurgency in the south. The third was to destroy the north's transportation system, industry, and air defense. The fourth was to halt the flow of men and supplies into the south.

During this operation, the U.S. bombers would fly predictable routes. The F-105 as



a bomber/fighter was used during this campaign. The north was using the MiG-21 a small light fighter with low wing loads which made it excellent for maneuvers and its small size made it hard to spot. The MiG-21 was a significant

threat to the F-4 but it was even a bigger threat to its main target, the F-105 which was heavy, sluggish and bomb laden aircraft. In December, MiG-21s shot down 2 F-105s and forced 20% of the strike sorties to jettison their bomb-loads.

Col. Olds, who would become the commander of the 8th.TFW, was sent to SEA to revive the performance of the 8th TFW. Five days after arriving at Ubon, a F-4 was lost to an air to air missile shot from a MiG-21. Two weeks before he became commander, two more F-4s were lost from the MiG-21. Col. Olds was not happy. He was convinced that his pilots could take on the MiG-21 and prevail if it was on even terms. His idea for Operation Bolo was simple. Make the F-4 look like a heavy-laden F-105 and lure the MiGs into a sustained dogfight that would cause them to use up their small fuel supply and short flight time.



Col. Olds assigned the plan to four of his junior officers. Wing tactics officer Capt. John B Stone, 1st Lt. Joseph Hicks, 1st Lt. Ralph F Wetterhahn and Mar. James D

Covington. The group planned for a coordinated mission by a "west force" of seven flights of F-4Cs from the 8th TFW at Ubon and an "east force" of seven flights of F-4Cs from the 366th Tactical Fighter Wing based at Da Nang Air Base, South Vietnam. The west force would simulate the F-105 strike force while the east force would cover alternate airfields and provide a barrier against MiGs attempting to flee to China. The task force also included 6 flights of F-105s for protection from SAMs, airborne radar support by College Eye EC-121 aircraft, and radar jamming support by EB-66s, escorted by four flights of F-104s of the 435th TFS at Ubon.

Take off of the mission was delayed because of bad weather and rescheduled for January 2nd. The mission departed Ubon with Col. Olds leading the first flight. The flight arrived over Phuc Yen Air Base flying a route used by the F-105s. The mission drew no MiGs.



Below was a thick layer of clouds that prevented them from seeing any MiGs that may be taking off. Unknown to Col. Olds, the MiGs did take off but they were delayed 15 minutes because of the overcast.

Next month I will provide the conclusion to the famous mission. It's too long to write and would take up a lot of space in the newsletter.

**** References: All information taken from the references listed below.**

- Wikipedia: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Robin_Olds
- Air Force Biographies: <https://www.af.mil/About-Us/Biographies/Display/Article/106027/brigadier-general-robin-olds/>
- National Museum of the Air Force at Wright Patterson: www.nationalmuseum.af.mil/Visit/Museum-Exhibits/Fact-Sheets/Display/Article/196007/brig-gen-robin-olds-

Chaplain's Message

Thank You that I am Your child. Thank You that You died for me and that heaven is my ultimate "retirement" home and may I live the rest of my days in closer fellowship as I seek to do Your will in every area of my life, from this day forward--even for evermore.

TAPS:



NONE

September Birthdays:

- Jeff Ludwig
- Don Ford
- Doug Foster



A very happy birthday to all.