

THE AMERICAN LEGION AT UBON RATCHATHANI, THAILAND



BRIGADIER GENERAL ROBIN OLDS

POST NUMBER TH01

POST MEETING: 2ND WEDNESDAY OF EVERY MONTH, AT 10:00 AM
POST LOCATION: WING 21 ROYAL THAI AIR FORCE (RTAF) AIRBASE
POST VENUE: WING 21 GOLF DRIVING RANGE CLUBHOUSE



OCTOBER, 2022

POST EMAIL: [HTTP://AMERILEGIONTH01@GMAIL.COM](http://AMERILEGIONTH01@GMAIL.COM)

VOL. 5, ISSUE 10

LINKS CONCERNING ISSUES OF GENERAL EXPAT INTEREST IN THAILAND

AMERICAN LEGION 2023 MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

https://mylegion.org/PersonifyEbusiness/Membership/Renew?fbclid=IwAR3kG7akDFdUfEooHme5ldHFeftSedZsFW6CUHwEXZQE1oqg_lgrq1K1Kg#legion-org

US DOLLAR TO THAI BAHT EXCHANGE RATE (AS OF 17/09/22)

\$1.00:฿36.86

<https://www.x-rates.com/calculator/?from=USD&to=THB&amount=1>



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

A word from the Commander...

Please read and follow the Adjutant renewal instructions in his article below. We are having difficulties with Bank of America protecting our account from hackers and scammers. To protect Post funds, we are going to get a Post bank account at a better financial institution. If any members have suggestions as to how or where we should bank the Post funds, please send those suggestions to the Post email.

November is our time to get out and let all expats know that we are the premier US Veterans Service Organization in Thailand. Full participation in the Remembrance Day Ceremony will give us an excellent public relations opportunity and we can post the occasion to our website and social media accounts. I thank the Publicity Officer and the Media and Communications Committee for their work in maintaining these accounts and for getting us several membership leads.

Our plan for the Remembrance Day ceremony is to meet at Thung Si Muang Park 11 November no later than 10:00 and

assemble for the presentation of a wreath commemorating Mother Ubon. We then will go to take a photo at the Wing 21 memorial that we have helped sponsor, followed by a short Post meeting and lunch at the Gold Driving Range. It's a full day, so please be prepared. These plans will be adjusted and/or finalized at the October Post meeting on 12 October.

We are doing well at renewals this year and I encourage those that are still out there to renew as soon as possible. I hope that everyone will put a note on their calendar to renew in July of each year. This will allow us to get the incentive awards and focus more on helping our veterans and the community rather than focusing on the health of the Post. We exist because of you, the members of Brig. Gen. Robin Olds Post TH01.

Bruce A. Templeman
Commander
American Legion Post TH01
Ubon Ratchathani, Thailand

USEFUL INFORMATION FOR MEMBERS

INFORMATION FROM YOUR US EMBASSY CIVILIAN LIAISON VOLUNTEERS

US Embassy Civilian Liaison Volunteers: Wayne Wright, John Skabry, and Bruce Templeman

Although the emergency nature of Covid-19 has dissipated somewhat, it still presents difficulties in travel. Before you undertake international travel, look at the State Department travel and health alerts for all countries that you plan to visit or transit through. Better yet, enroll in the **Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (state.gov):** <https://step.state.gov> and sign up for email alerts according to your itinerary.

Below is a health alert for all that are transiting through Hong Kong or Macau.

Event: COVID-19 Prevention and Control Measures for Passengers Transiting HKIA

The U.S. Consulate General in Hong Kong and Macau urges U.S. citizens to reconsider transiting Hong Kong International Airport (HKIA) due to the risk of being denied boarding, removed from the airport, and sent to a Hong Kong government-managed facility if local authorities determine you are exhibiting symptoms of COVID while in transit.

The U.S. Consulate General in Hong Kong and Macau has been made aware that transit and departing passengers at HKIA are being temperature screened by local authorities. If a passenger registers an elevated temperature, they will be pulled out of the transit/boarding process and sent to a local hospital for COVID testing and to a government-managed isolation facility if they test positive. There have been several incidents where passengers transiting through Hong Kong International Airport have been denied boarding to their onward flight, removed from the airport, and sent to a Hong Kong government-managed isolation facility after undergoing temperature screening while in transit.

AN IMPORTANT MESSAGE FOR U.S. CITIZENS LIVING IN THAILAND

We're getting very close to the deadlines in each state for requesting ballots for the midterm elections...

MAKE YOUR VOTE COUNT FROM THAILAND!

Voting - U.S. Embassy & Consulate in Thailand
<https://th.usembassy.gov/u-s-citizen-services/voting/>

MESSAGE FOR U.S. CITIZENS IN THAILAND (22 JUNE 2022) RECREATIONAL USE OF MARIJUANA IN PUBLIC IS ILLEGAL IN THAILAND

"Thailand made marijuana legal for medical purposes on June 9, 2022. However, according to a health directive announced in the Royal Gazette on June 14, anyone smoking cannabis and hemp in public for recreational purposes shall face imprisonment of up to three months or a fine of up to 25,000 baht if they cause a public nuisance or pose health hazards to others."

<https://th.usembassy.gov/message-for-u-s-citizens-in-thailand-june-22-2022/>

HOLIDAY & EVENTS CALENDAR

10 October

US Indigenous People's Day

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Indigenous_Peoples%27_Day

10 October

Columbus Day

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Columbus_Day

12 October

American Legion Post TH01 Membership Monthly Meeting

13 October

United States Navy Birthday

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_Navy

13 October

Anniversary of the Death of King Bhumibol (Thailand)

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Death_and_funeral_of_Bhumibol_Adulyadej

14 October

Bridge Public Holiday (Thailand)

<https://www.bangkokpost.com/thailand/general/2209699/4-extra-holidays-next-year>

23 October

Chulalongkorn Day (Thailand)

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chulalongkorn>

24 October

Substitution Holiday for Chulalongkorn Day (Thailand)

31 October

Halloween

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Halloween>

POST OFFICERS 2022MY

COMMANDER Bruce Templeman
bruce.templeman@hotmail.com

ADJUTANT Jeff Ludwig
jgludwig2@gmail.com

1st VICE COMMANDER Ted Potyrala
tpubon@gmail.com

2nd VICE COMMANDER John Skabry
dive.safely@gmail.com

CHAPLAIN Hugh Mason
htmason@aol.com

HISTORIAN Ted Potyrala
tpubon@gmail.com

FINANCE OFFICER Jeff Ludwig
jgludwig2@gmail.com

SERVICE OFFICER Maurice Hatzke
mrhatzke3@gmail.com

JUDGE ADVOCATE Christopher Lampert
americanlegionth01@gmail.com

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS Salvatore Salzarulo
salzy48@hotmail.com

PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICER Joe Reedy
joereedy4@gmail.com

MEMBER AT LARGE Billy Holland
billybholland@gmail.com

MEMBER AT LARGE John Eschenbaum
john_eschenbaum2003@yahoo.com

MEMBER AT LARGE Kirby Raines
cosmotyson@yahoo.com



ADJUTANT'S CORNER...JEFF LUDWIG

Greetings Comrades,

Let me first give a warm welcome to our newest members, Paul Schramm and David Rhoutsong. We are happy to have you as part of our Post family.

Congratulations to the Post for meeting and exceeding the Department's first membership renewal target goal for the 2023 membership year. The goal for September 1 is 50% renewal and the Post achieved 69% membership renewal. A big thank you to all of those who renewed their membership for 2023.

If you have not renewed your membership, know that your early renewal will help the Post achieve monetary awards that we can use to help our veterans and local community. The easiest way to renew is to go online and renew. All you need is your member ID number, last name and a credit card. Your member ID number is on the face of your membership card. If by chance you do not have your membership ID card, contact me and I will provide you your number.

Below is the step-by-step process for renewing your membership online. If you are not comfortable doing it online, no problem. You can simply call the American Legion Customer Service phone number for help: **(800) 433-3318 or (833)253-9995**. Just provide the customer service representative with your member ID number, last name, our Post: **TH01**, and your credit card information. They will gladly process your renewal over the phone.

The American Legion will accept a variety of cards, including Visa, Master Card, Discover Card and American Express.

Renewal is just that easy.

Jeff Ludwig
Adjutant & Finance Officer
American Legion Post TH01
Ubun Ratchathani, Thailand

STEP-BY-STEP, ONLINE RENEWAL INSTRUCTIONS

1. The first step to renewing online is to have your member ID number and Credit card readily available.
2. Next, click on this link: <https://www.legion.org/renew>. That will take you to the website renewal portal, as displayed below.
3. Just click on the **RENEW** button at the top.



4. Clicking on the red **RENEW** button will take you the Renewal webpage below. Just enter your member ID number and your last name. Then, click on the **SUBMIT** button.

A screenshot of the American Legion website's 'RENEW MEMBERSHIP' form. The page features the American Legion logo at the top center. To the right of the logo are two red buttons: 'DONATE' and 'JOIN'. Below the logo is a navigation menu with links for 'MEMBERSHIP', 'SUBSCRIPTIONS', 'GIVE', 'RESOURCES', 'SHOP', and 'CONTACT'. The breadcrumb trail reads 'Home > Membership > Renew'. The main heading reads 'RENEW MEMBERSHIP'. Below this is a blue link that says 'Please enter Member ID and Last Name below. If you do not know your Member ID, please sign in to renew your membership online.' Underneath are two input fields: 'Member ID' and 'Last Name'. Below the input fields is a blue 'Submit' button and a grey 'Cancel' button. A blue arrow points from the right side of the page to the 'Submit' button. In the bottom right corner, there is a small circular logo with a recycling symbol and the text 'Recycling & More'.

5. Once you click on the **SUBMIT** button, it will take you to the webpage below. This page will show all your contact information. Review it for correctness, make changes if needed, and then click the **SAVE** button. If you scroll further down the page, you will see the Membership Details. This area gives you the option to set up automatic payments. Once you complete your entries click the **PAY NOW** button at the bottom and it will take you to the payment screen.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL NOTICE

Your membership is due for renewal. Please review the renewal notice below, and make changes if desired. Click the Pay Now button at the bottom of the page to process this renewal.

John Doe

EDIT ADDRESS

- * Required
- * Country

EDIT CONTACT INFORMATION

- * Required
- * Email Address:

MEMBERSHIP DETAILS

Current Post:	France Post TH01	\$45.00
Term:	01/01/2023 - 12/31/2023	
Rate:	1 Year Membership \$45.00	
Additional Benefits:	The American Legion Magazine	Included

Renewal Options

I want to setup automatic payments for future annual membership renewals. (By clicking this box you have read and agree to the [Terms of Use Policy](#).)

Please send my future renewal notices by email

A portion of the annual dues (\$3.00) is allocated to The American Legion Magazine for a 12-month subscription; it is non-refundable and non-deductible from dues.

Subtotal: \$45.00
Total Due Today: \$45.00

Pay Now

6. The payment screen allows you to enter your Credit card information. Review the card billing address block. If it is incorrect, you can correct it by clicking on the small **EDIT** button next to the address. This will allow you to change the address. It will not affect your address on record with myLegion.org. Once you have entered the data, just click the **PAY NOW** button at the bottom of the page. The system will process your information and display a confirmation page that you can print out and keep for your records.

MY INFORMATION
 Name & Demographics
 Military Service
 Contact Information
 Address
 Emergency Contact
 Username / Password

MEMBERSHIP
 Membership Card
 Membership Details
 Paid Up For Life
 Member Discounts
 Coupons

SUBSCRIPTIONS
 Church
 Enrichment
 Magazine

PURCHASES
 Purchase History
 Pay Open Orders
 Donation History
 Send Credit Cards

This renewal payment will include:
 Order Number 1306754273
 France Post TH01 (345.00)

Add Coupon or Promo Code:

Total To Pay: \$43.00

PAYMENT INFORMATION

We Honor:

* Credit Card Number:
 * Name on Card:
 * Expiration Date: * Month: * Year:
 * Security Code:

Save this Credit Card Information!

Card Billing Address:
 88 Moo 8
 Bangkok, Khwa Kwan, 10140
 THA

It is just that simple and usually only take 5 minutes to complete. If you have any problems, call me, and I can guide you through the steps of the whole process. Remember, your membership **does** make a difference.

We need you!

SAFETY MESSAGE

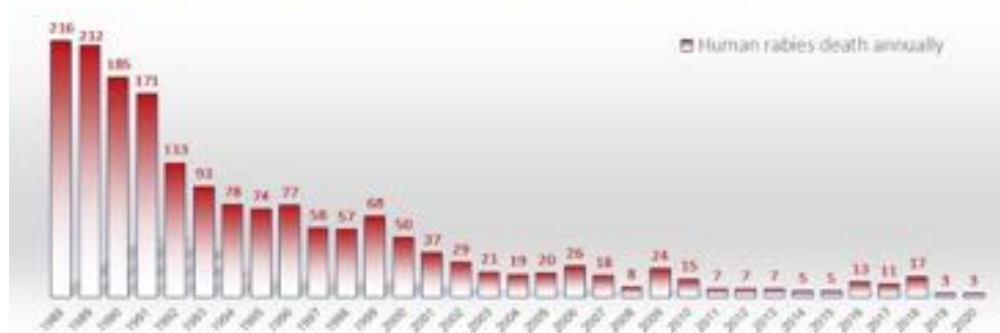
RABIES IN THAILAND: IS IT A REAL DANGER?

Yes!

Rabid dogs are commonly found in Thailand.

Anyone who has been to Thailand has observe the large number of stray dogs throughout the country and even in the large cities such as Bangkok. It is estimated that Thailand has ten million stray dogs, with one in ten dogs in Bangkok suspected to be infected with rabies. Most of the stray dogs do not get a rabies vaccination. Thailand has made great strides in recent years to reduce the number of deaths attributed to rabies. Pre and post vaccinations of humans attributed to the larger part of the reduction in deaths. Despite the vaccinations, rabies remains a viable health threat to visitors and residents alike.

Rabies Epidemiology in Thailand During 1988 – 2020^(19 Sep)



During the past decade, there was a dramatic decrease in human rabies deaths in Thailand attributed to improved and more widely available post-exposure treatment.

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), Rabies is present on all continents, except Antarctica, with over 95% of human deaths occurring in the Asia and Africa regions. Rabies is one of the Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTD) that predominantly affects poor and vulnerable populations who live in remote rural locations. Approximately 80% of human cases occur in rural areas. Although effective human vaccines and immunoglobulins exist for rabies, they are not readily available or accessible to those in need. Globally, rabies deaths are rarely reported and children between the ages of 5–14 years are frequent victims.

So, what is rabies?

Rabies is a virus that attacks the central nervous system causing neurologic disease in the brain and, in many cases, death. The infection occurs when infected saliva gets into an open wound or the mouth or eyes. It is usually transmitted through animal bites. While all mammals are vulnerable to infection, only a few are commonly identified as carriers. Dogs, cats, bats and foxes are the usual suspects for animals infected with rabies.

Transmission

People are usually infected following a deep bite or scratch from an animal with rabies, and transmission to humans by rabid dogs accounts for up to 99% of cases.

Symptoms

The incubation period for rabies is typically 2–3 months but may vary from 1 week to 1 year. There have been recorded cases of the virus lying dormant for as long as 7 years. The dormant stage can vary dependent upon factors such as the location of virus entry and viral load. The Initial symptoms of rabies include a fever with pain and unusual or unexplained tingling, pricking, or burning sensation (paranesthesia) at the wound site. As the virus spreads to the central nervous system, progressive and fatal inflammation of the brain and spinal cord develops.

There are two forms of the disease:

- (1) Furious rabies results in signs of hyperactivity, excitable behavior, hydrophobia (fear of water) and sometimes aerophobia (fear of drafts or of fresh air). Death occurs after a few days due to cardio-respiratory arrest.
- (2) Paralytic rabies accounts for about 20% of the total number of human cases. This form of rabies runs a less dramatic and usually longer course than the furious form. Muscles gradually become paralyzed, starting at the site of the bite or scratch. A coma slowly develops, and eventually death occurs. The paralytic form of rabies is often misdiagnosed, contributing to the under-reporting of the disease.

What to Do If Bitten?

- ~ If bitten by a stray animal, the wound should be cleaned immediately with soap and water in order to decrease the risk of infection. The next step should be to seek medical attention as quickly as possible.
- ~ An experienced doctor should determine whether there is need to administer rabies vaccination, known as postexposure prophylaxis (PEP): In Thailand always opt for the vaccine.
 - ~ If the animal involved is at risk to transmit Rabies.
 - ~ If the bite is severe enough to warrant treatment.
- ~ If the treatment would require both Rabies Immunoglobulin (sometimes difficult to obtain) and Rabies Vaccine (Most cases require both treatments for more assured protection against the disease) To be effective, the treatment would require 4 doses of Rabies Vaccine over a 2-week period.

Use the below Chart to help you decide.

Rabies Post-Exposure Prophylaxis Modalities

In countries or areas enzootic for rabies, exposure to suspected or confirmed rabid animals are categorised by WHO as follows:

Category of exposure	Description	Post-exposure prophylaxis
Category I	Touching or feeding animals, licks on intact skin, contact of intact skin with secretions or excretions of rabid animal or person	Not regarded as exposures, therefore no PEP required
Category II	Nibbling of uncovered skin, minor scratches or abrasions without bleeding	Vaccine should be injected as soon as possible
Category III	Single or multiple transdermal bites or scratches, licks on broken skin, contamination of mucous membrane with saliva from licks and exposure to bats.	Vaccine and rabies immunoglobulin should be administered at distant sites as soon as possible. Immunoglobulin can be administered up to 7 days after injection of the first dose of vaccine

[This Photo](#) by Unknown Author is licensed under [CC BY-SA-NC](#)

The Bottom line: if you are bitten by any dog in Thailand, assume it has not had rabies shots and could potentially be rabid.

Get the rabies vaccine. It could save your life!

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS



Don Ford

Douglas Foster

Jeffrey Ludwig

John McPherson, Jr.

Ronald Monninger



1ST VICE COMMANDER & HISTORIAN...TED POTYRALA

Greetings fellow legionnaires,

As you probably know, the PACT ACT was signed into law on 10 August 2022.

So, what is the PACT ACT. The ACT is named after Sergeant First Class Heath Robinson, an Ohio National Guardsman who passed away in 2020 due to exposure to toxic chemicals. This bill directly addresses the impact on veterans and others who were exposed to environmental toxins, burn pits, radiation, and Agent Orange due to their time in service. The PACT ACT also includes the Camp Lejeune Justice Act.

This bill allows changes for greater care to veterans and others who have been impacted by exposure to harmful toxins. It also improves the VA's processes and ability to determine presumptive conditions due to harmful exposure.

There were 23 conditions added to the Presumptive Burn Pit Exposure list. Such as Asthma diagnosed after service, Head Cancer (of any type), Neck Cancer (of any type), Respiratory Cancer (of any type), Gastrointestinal Cancer (of any type), Reproductive Cancer (of any type), Lymphoma cancer (of any type), Lymphomatous cancer (of any type), Kidney cancer, Brain cancer, Melanoma, Pancreatic cancer, Chronic Bronchitis, COPD, Constrictive Bronchitis or Obliterative Bronchiolitis, Emphysema, Granulomatous disease, Interstitial Lung disease, Pleuritis, Pulmonary Fibrosis, Sarcoidosis, Chronic Sinusitis, Chronic Rhinitis and Glioblastoma.

The bill also expanded Presumptions of service-connection for Agent Orange and herbicide exposure. Republic of Vietnam 9 January 1962 – 7 May 1975, Thailand at any US or Thai base 9 January 1962 – 30 June 1976. (Without regard to the veterans MOS or where on base they were located), Laos from 1 December 1965 – 30 September 1969, Cambodia, at Mimot or Krek, Kampong Cham Provinces from 16 April 1969 – 30 April 1969, Guam or American Samoa or in the territorial waters from 9 January 1962 – 30 July 1980, Johnson Atoll or a ship that called at Johnson Atoll from 1 January 1972 – 30 September 1977.

Two diseases are added to the presumptive conditions of veterans exposed to herbicide agents. Monoclonal Gammopathy of undetermined significance (MGUS) and Hypertension.

There is much more covered than I can write here. More information can be found at sites on the internet.

This information came from <https://ptsdlawyers.com>

Ted Potyrala
1st Vice Commander
Historian & Membership Committee Chairman
America Legion Post TH01
Ubon Ratchathani, Thailand

HISTORY ARTICLE

BRIGADIER-GENERAL ROBIN OLDS

It's been a while since I wrote about our namesake, General Robin Olds. Since 2015, when we formed our Post, we added many new members. We should remember why we chose Robin Olds for the name of our Post.

Robin Olds was born on 14 July 1922 and died on 14 June 2007. He first flew at the age of eight in an open cockpit biplane flown by his father. At the age of twelve he set his sights on attending West Point and becoming an officer and aviator.

After graduating high school, he enrolled at the Millard Preparatory School for West Point. While there, Germany invaded Poland. Olds tried to enlist with the Royal Canadian Air Force, but his dad nixed that idea by refusing to approve his enlistment papers. Olds went on to complete his enrollment and then applied for admission to West Point. Pennsylvania congressman J. Buell Synder nominated Olds and he was accepted into the class of 1944. On 1 June 1940 he entered the academy but after the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor, Olds was sent to Spartan School of Aeronautics for flight training. After one year Olds returned to West Point where he hoped to graduate early so, he could see action in WWII.

After completing his flight training, he was assigned to P-38s. He was promoted to 1st. Lieutenant and shipped out for Europe on 3 May 1944 arriving in Scotland and then to RAF Wattisham in Eastern England.

Olds began flying combat bomber escort missions and attacking transportation targets in France. On a low-level bridge bombing mission to Montmirail, France he shot down his first German aircraft. On another escort mission, his flight encountered 40–50 Messerschmitt's. Olds and his wingman jettisoned their wing tanks and engaged the enemy. During the excitement they forgot to



switch to internal fuel so shortly after, Old's engines quit from fuel exhaustion, but he was already firing so he continued the attack shooting down one plane. He then restarted his engines and continued the attack. During the dog fight, he shot down two more aircraft plus

another on the way home to become the first ACE of the 479th. FG. All together Olds claimed 8 kills while flying the P-38. Five are confirmed.

Olds began his second tour flying the P-51. He was promoted to Major on 9 February 1945. With less than two years since graduating from West Point and only 22 years old, Olds was credited with shooting down 13 German aircraft and damaged 11.5 aircraft on the ground. He became an ACE on both of his combat tours and was twice awarded the Silver Star. Olds was the only pilot to make ACE flying both the P-38 and the P-51.

Next month, Korea and Vietnam.

Credit to Wikipedia

SERVICE OFFICER'S MESSAGE

Greetings Comrades,

If you wish to get your documents mailed to the USA quickly, be advised that USPS Priority Express Mail International guaranteed delivery has been suspended, so save your money and find another guaranteed delivery company to send your documents to the USA. Mail delivery during Covid-19 had been suspended for a time and although it has been resumed, it is not efficient as before. Make sure that you allow at least 30 days for

delivery from Thailand to the USA. Plan ahead and avoid the stress.

Service Officer
American Legion Post TH01
Ubon Ratchathani, Thailand

[CLICK THE FOLLOWING LINKS FOR POST TH01...](#)

WEBSITE

<https://americanlegionthailand.com>

Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/americanlegionthailandposttho1>

Twitter

https://twitter.com/Post_TH01

Instagram

https://www.instagram.com/post_tho1/

YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC74pEhMUgz5KmGcs7RMEXyA>

ASEAN Now

<https://aseannow.com/profile/277159-american-legion-post-tho1/>