



# 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 A.M.

Post Location: PEPPERS RESTAURANT AND BAKERY



May 2025

POST EMAIL: [COMMANDER@AMERICANLEGIONTHAILAND.COM](mailto:COMMANDER@AMERICANLEGIONTHAILAND.COM)

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## Calendar for April 2025

May	Post Membership Meeting & Elections
May 14	Post Membership Meeting
Mat 14	New Officers Induction Ceremony
May 17	Armed Forces Day
May 26	Memorial Day

## 2025/2026 POST TH01 OFFICERS

Commander – John Skabry

1<sup>st</sup> Vice Commander & Historian – Ted Potyrala

2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Commander – Jesus Zamarripa

Adjutant– Jeff Ludwig

Finance Officer – Doug Palzer

Service Officer – Larry Haynie

Sergeant-At-Arms – Wayne Wright

Judge Advocate – Paul Ben-Yehuda

Chaplain – David Burns

Public Affairs Officer & IT Dir.– Chris Lampert

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Member-at-Large –Salzarulo, Salvatore

Member-at-Large – Mike Cook

Member-at-Large – Robert Rositer

## **Commanders Comments:**

Well, Hope everyone had a fun, yet safe Songkran holiday. Hope this newsletter finds all of you well and in the AC.

Well, this is my final newsletter as Commander, and I am glad to have served with you all. We have some great Legionnaires in our post, and they continue to step up when needed. I am grateful for all they have done for this post, and I hope they continue and don't get burnt out.

As you all know we had our elections for this new Legion year, and we have some great leadership for the coming year. I am sure our new Commander John Skabry will be a great Commander, as he brings a lot of ideas and initiative to the table. Let's make sure we all do everything we can to help him and see his vision for our post through.

Again, thank you all for the help and support you provided to me as Commander. Now let's show John the same and make this year our best year ever.

For God and Country

Rob Davis

Commander

For God and Country

Rob Davis

Commander

## **First Vice Commander Ted Potyrala**



I Am happy to say that we had two new members join us and that brings us up to 79 members paid for 2025. Welcome aboard Joseph Sowels and Row Dewitt. That leaves us 11 members shy of reaching the goal of 90 members. Seven of those are members that have not renewed. If you are reading this newsletter and have not renewed please do so now. As always, if you need help in renewing, let myself or Jeff know.



## **Adjutants Corner**

Congratulations to our newly elected officers for the 2025/2026 year. Thank you all for stepping up and taking up the challenge of leading our Post for the coming Year. I am sure you find it both challenging and rewarding.

At the May meeting we will conduct the installation of Officers ceremony. There are two versions, a long version and a short version. The Executive Committee will decide before the meeting on which version the Post wants to use. The American Legion Officers Guide and Manual of Ceremonies details both versions. I strongly urge all members especial the newly elected and appointed officers to review the Installation Ceremony in the manual. While it is recommended that a department representative conduct the ceremony, that may be difficult to arrange. We may be able to get a department representative such as our VCAL to conduct the ceremony via online.

Once the Installation ceremony is complete the new officers will take the Position. The first month is a transition month where the outgoing officers should work with the new officers. If available the new officers should review the continuity guides for their respective position as well as the appropriate manuals. The resources are there to help you get started. Remember you are not alone. Don't be afraid to ask for help or advice. It's a team effort.

That being said we look for the new officers to provide a fresh approach to the positions. That is why we label the continuity books as guides. We don't want to get bogged down with old ineffective practices. If there is a better way to do it, then go for it. Just be sure to document it for the next person.

One of the new commanders first task is to appoint in writing the officers for the appointed positions. If possible, this should be done before the Installation of Officers Ceremony in May. The committee chairs should also be appointed in writing.

Again congratulations to all our 2025/2026 Post Officers. We know you will do us proud.



**POST SERVICE OFFICER...**LARRY HAYNIE, POST TH01-Ubon, Thailand

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Greetings My Fellow Veterans;

For those of us veterans who marry here in Thailand, a Marriage Certificate is issued by the District Government Office, in the city, town, or village where the marriage ceremony took place. The marriage can also be registered at the Provincial Government Office as well.

It is recommended that the original Thai Marriage Certificate be translated from Thai to English, as the Marriage Certificate is an important document for veterans, as well as spouses.

The United States government does recognize Thai Marriage Certificates, which may be used for obtaining an Immigration and Naturalization Identification Form (Green Card) if the veteran wants to take his spouse to live in the United States.

The Thai/English Marriage Certificate is also a very important document, especially if a spouse needs to file a Death and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) or Widow's Pension claim with the Veterans Administration (VA) through an Accredited Service Officer.

Veterans and their spouses should maintain sufficient copies of their Marriage Certificate, in order to provide a copy to any organization that requires one.

We Serve Those Who Served!!!!

Larry Haynie  
Post Service Officer



## **Safety Message: Pedestrian Safety - Dangers on the Roads and Streets in Thailand**

### **Safety Message:**

Today I turned on the morning news and witness an horrifying scene as two tourists with a baby stroller at a crosswalk in Bangkok stepped into the crosswalk and was promptly mowed down by a pickup. That reminded me that we need to let our family and friends who come to Thailand on holiday know of the road conditions here in Thailand. They need to know the dangers that await them on the roads, streets, and sidewalks. We are now starting the peak season for tourist in Thailand. Back in October I published the below article and think it is worth repeating, especially if it prevents what I saw happened yesterday in Bangkok.

#### **Stay out of the way**

In Thailand, motorized traffic almost always has the right of way. This will come as a shock to travelers from some Western countries, where, even away from designated crossing zones, motorists often politely display their palm or flash their headlights to signal that they're stopping to let you cross. In **Thailand**, both of these signals have the opposite meaning: **STAY OUT OF MY WAY!**. When crossing even the smallest of side streets in Bangkok, it's your responsibility to make sure that no traffic is coming from any direction. Period.

#### **Motorbikes are everywhere**

This is an important one: motorbikes commonly drive (illegally) on footpaths, go the wrong way on the wrong side of the road, or burst out of tiny alleyways with reckless abandon — or some combination of all of the above. While they may tend to go slowly to do their best to avoid pedestrians on footpaths, this is not always the case. Always keep your head up and be ready for motorbikes to pop out of unexpected places.





### The art of jaywalking

You'll often see locals "wading" onto heavily trafficked streets, pausing in the middle of the road as cars whiz past and waiting for that precious moment when the other side can be reached safely. This is dangerous, but there are times when it's the only viable option. Always do it quickly — there's no shame in hustling. Watch the locals and you'll see that there's a certain smoothness to jaywalking in Thailand. **Best advice is DON'T**



This motorbike seemed to interpret this zebra crossing as a sign to speed up.

### Never trust a zebra

In North America they're called crosswalks while Europeans and Australians might know them as zebra crossings: white lines painted on the road that, in theory, are designated crossing areas for pedestrians. Thailand has tried to institute zebra crossings but motorists nearly always ignore them, even when pedestrians are clearly waiting to cross. Our advice for Thailand: pretend they don't exist at all.

### The walk signal means it's all clear, right?

Some larger intersections with traffic lights come with the usual "walk" and "don't walk" symbols for pedestrians (though many don't). It's generally safe to cross when the traffic is stopped and the "walk" symbol displayed, but even then, you need to be aware. Often there are exit/entry lanes that don't correspond to the traffic lights, and vehicles often ignore pedestrians while making a left turn on red. If a vehicle is moving forward, wait for it to stop or pass before proceeding.



### **Strength in numbers**

You're always safer when crossing with a group rather than by yourself, and there are times, particularly at zebra crossings, when a crowd of pedestrians grows large enough to assert itself onto a busy road. If you need to cross and can see that a few other people are also waiting to cross nearby, go join them and take that fateful step together.

Footbridges appear like beacons of hope.

### **Elevated footbridges are your friends**

Though they often don't seem to be there when you need them, many of Thailand's busier roads are equipped with elevated footbridges. Never follow the example of many locals by crossing a busy street on the ground when a footbridge isn't too far away. We'll use a footbridge even if it means going a half-kilometer out of our way. As an added bonus, you'll get a bird's eye view of a colorful street scene.



### **Metro stations make great crosswalks**

Skytrain stations function the same as elevated footbridges, and some are equipped with attached elevated walkways that allow you to avoid the busy streets altogether. Subway stations are even better since you can walk all the way from one end to the other, crossing major intersections in the process. A good example is Silom MRT station, which can shoot you under busy Rama IV Road, connecting the east end of Silom Road to Lumpini Park.

### **Think it's a one-way street? Look again**

This is a feature of Thailand roads that we've found nowhere else: to ease congestion, a single lane on a large road that typically has traffic flowing in only one direction will sometimes be opened for traffic coming in the other direction. Even on roads that are always one-way, it's not uncommon for motorbikes, and sometimes cars, to go the wrong way.

### **Walking and smartphones: a dangerous combo**

So that maps app on your smartphone is working wonders for your urban exploration. That's great, but every second spent looking at the screen while moving greatly increases your chances of getting hit. When you need to consult Siri or text Mum a picture of you devouring fried bugs, step aside and stop.

### **When in doubt, wait it out**

In Thailand, traffic often flows like an endless torrent of water. We've stood waiting for many long minutes for a gap in the flow that might have been wide enough to run across the street. And then we waited some more. If there's one thing we've learned from living in Thailand, it's that patience can be a life saver.

REVIEWED BY

**David Luekens**

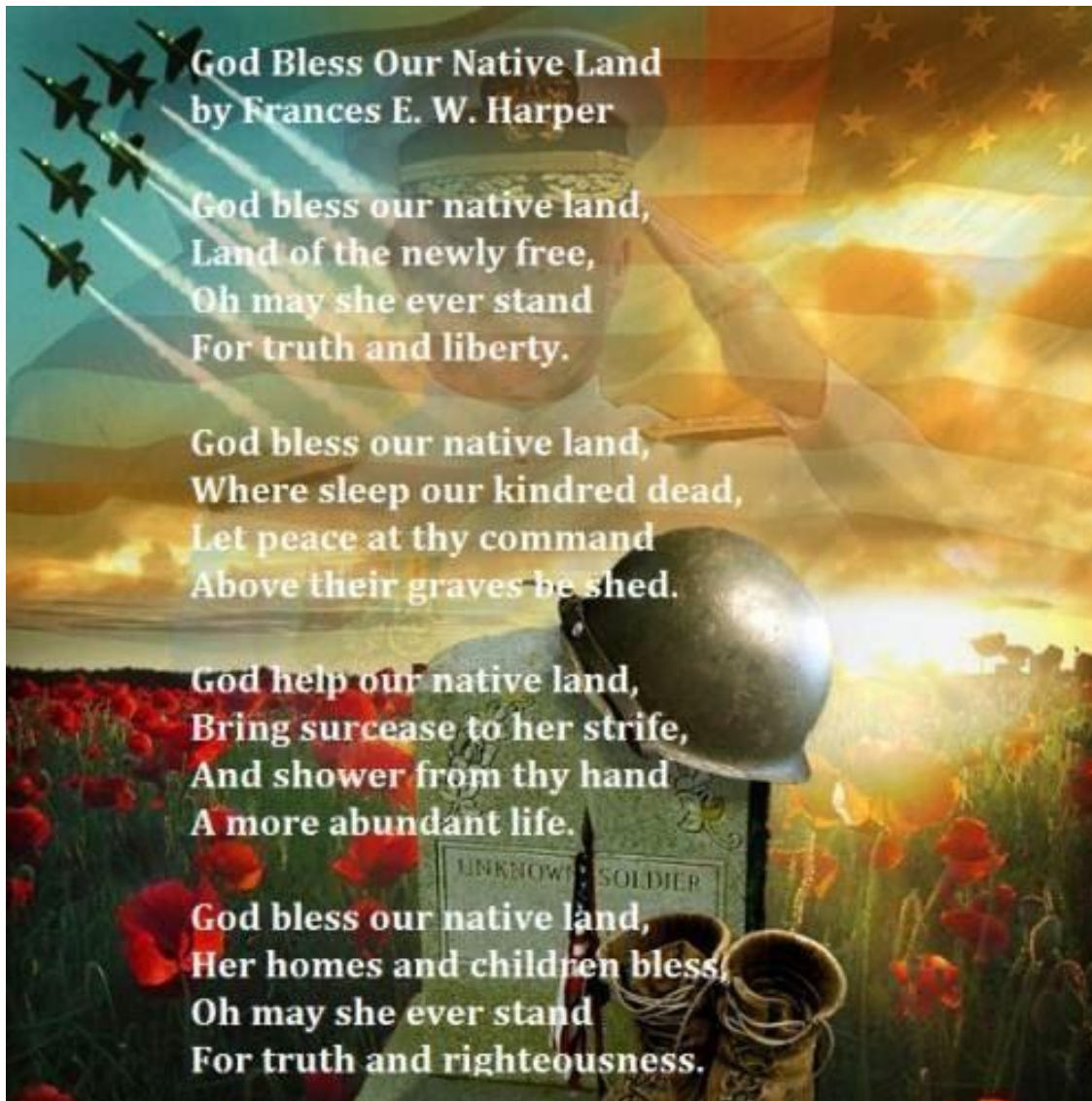


## Chaplain's Message

The American Legion



THAILAND POST TH01



TAPS:



None

**May**

**Birthdays:**

- Don Badtram
- Joe Cardeiro
- James Hassler
- Larry Haynie
- Wayne Jortner
- Stan Line
- David Monninger
- Francesco Paolo
- Alan Shrader
- Henry Witmer
- Wayne Wright



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## **Important links**

**CLICK THE FOLLOWING LINKS FOR POST TH01...**

**WEBSITE**

**<https://americanlegionthailand.com>**

**Facebook**

**<https://www.facebook.com/americanlegionthailandpostth01>**

**YouTube**

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

**LINKS CONCERNING ISSUES OF GENERAL EXPAT INTEREST IN THAILAND**

**US DOLLAR TO THAI BAHT EXCHANGE RATE**

**\$1.00 USD to 32.89THB**

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