



THE AMERICAN LEGION AT UBON RATCHATHANI, THAILAND

BRIGADIER GENERAL ROBIN OLDS

POST NUMBER TH01

Post Meeting: 2nd Wednesday of Every Month, At 10:00 A.M.

Post Location: PEPPERS RESTAURANT AND BAKERY



January 2025

POST EMAIL: COMMANDER@AMERICANLEGIONTHAILAND.COM

VOL. 8, ISSUE 1

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Calendar for January 2025

- | | |
|------------|------------------------|
| January 20 | Martin Luther King Day |
| January 20 | Inauguration Day |

2024/2025 POST TH01 OFFICERS

Commander – Rob Davis

<mailto:Commander@americanlegionthailand.com>

1st Vice Commander & Historian – Ted Potyrala

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2nd Vice Commander – John Skabry

<mailto:2vice@americanlegionthailand.com>

Adjutant & Finance Officer – Jeff Ludwig

<mailto:adjutant@americanlegionthailand.com>

Service Officer – Larry Haynie

<mailto:larryjoedog@yahoo.com>

Sergeant-At-Arms – Sal Salzarulo

<mailto:salzy48@hotmail.com>

Judge Advocate – Paul Ben-Yehuda

<mailto:renegademarine@icloud.com>

Chaplain – David Burns

Public Affairs Officer & IT Dir.– Chris Lampert

<mailto:comms@americanlegionthailand.com>

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Member-at-Large – Wayne Wright

<mailto:waywright@outlook.com>

Member-at-Large – Ernest(William) Knowlton

<mailto:ewilliamknowlton65@gmail.com>

Member-at-Large – Douglas Palzer

<mailto:dpalzer@rojana.org>

Membership Renewal Membership Chair - By Ted Potyrala



Fellow Members:

We closed out 2024 with an 80% renewal rate. We missed the 100% target but we still have until May to reach it. For those members that did renew by December 15th. I will be drawing a winner of \$100 at the January meeting in Mukdahan. One thing I ask is if you receive an email or phone call to please respond. If you do not intend to renew, let me know and why. All of our members are important to the post. Members are the lifeblood of the post. Without you, we cannot continue to support the various activities that we do. Whether it is Children's Day, Tawanchai, handing out donations to schools, decorating veteran's graves or funerals; it is all done by volunteers who do so at their own expense. Those of us that live in Thailand see firsthand what the Post does but 1/3 of our members live in the US. They don't have the opportunity to participate in Post activities but yet they continue to support our Post. That says a lot. So, I ask you if you have not renewed, please do so. Renewing online is the easiest way. If you need help just ask.



Adjutants Corner

Well the year 2024 has past and it's the time that many of us make our new year resolution. For many, getting more active in our Post is a great new year resolution that will really help the Post grow and reach a new level in supporting our veterans and local communities. There is a lot you can do to help the Post. You can run for one of the Officer Positions; you can volunteer for one or more committees; you can volunteer to host an event; you can volunteer to help with the buddy check program; you can help with recruiting new members. The opportunities are there, you need only step up. We can't do it without all of you.

Not to worry we can train you for any position. We have a variety of tools to help with the training such as the American Legion Basic Training Course, the National and Department Publications and our own continuity guides. Each month National has a Vlog title "Training Tuesdays" where National address topics that Post have questions or concerns. Anything from how to run a Post meeting to how to have a successful recruiting program.

Department also a training program called The Department of France's Mid-Winter Conference. Each year the Department puts on a two-day training session. The Department provide training on various topics the Posts would like covered. The topics are intended to give you better understanding of the American Legion, its programs, Officer positions, and four pillars. This year it will be held on 25-26 January. It is offered on line using WEBMX app. I will send out the link before the meeting so all can attend. I encourage all of you to attend.



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

New submission for the January Post Newsletter;

Hello and "Happy New Year" to all my fellow veterans and your families!!!!

For those military veterans who served in Thailand, the issue of Agent Orange (AO) exposure is a very important one indeed. The DOD and the Veterans Administration still have not acknowledged the use of Agent Orange in Thailand, yet it was used extensively around military bases here.

Unlike Vietnam veterans, military personnel that served in Thailand must PROVE that they were exposed to AO. However in 2019, the VA implemented a computer-based program named the "Individual Longitudinal Exposure Record (ILER). This is a program developed during the Obama Administration in 2013 and then adopted by the VA. The ILER scans a veteran's medical and personnel records and supposedly can accurately determine if a veteran was exposed to AO, during the performance of their military duties.

Performance Reports (PR) for Enlisted personnel are usually based on job performance for promotional purposes and are not used to describe daily activities, nor do they indicate where those duties had taken place. Whether you're an aircraft mechanic, an office clerk, cook, Security Police, or a veterinary technician, your duties required you to travel all over a military facility in the performance of your duties. Agent Orange exposure may have occurred at any time or anywhere you went, on duty or off.

The ILER program is primarily used by the VA to disprove (deny) veterans claims for disability for exposure to Agent Orange. Even if a veteran has developed PACT ACT "Presumptive Conditions", that does not mean the VA will grant a disability rating. This is a major obstacle, especially for military veterans who served in Thailand, and were most definitely exposed to toxic chemicals.

"We Serve Those Who Served"

Larry Haynie
Post Service Officer

Events:

Donation to the Children of the Nong Han Grace Church/Orphanage, Udon Thani: By Comrade Jesus Zamarripa

My wife and I went to the Nong Han Grace Church today. It was a full house. Kids and their parents. It was an actual Christmas program service with two things in mind. The teaching of what Christmas means and the gift giving to the needy. As you can see from the pictures, all the items we helped purchase were lined up against the wall next to the Christmas tree and then distributed. We were not the only ones that donated to the program. There was a group of Chinese missionaries and a group of local folks that also donated gift bags (contents unknown). But we were, as far as I can tell, the biggest giver. They also had food, drinks and snacks for the followers and food for us. They were very gracious and thankful for our donation. I did mention that we were willing to do this again next year and that drew big smiles. I also spoke about our Post and who we were. It was a great experience. I could not have done it without my wife Premruthai. Without her we would not have known about this and could not have communicated with them. Great translator. Here are some pics.



General Membership Outreach Meeting in Mukdahan

On January 7th. We will be holding a social event at Mumsabai Rim Kong restaurant. It will start at 6:00 PM. They are located on the Mekong River in Mukdahan, Thailand. The food is pretty good and they serve both Thai and Western food.

If you type Mumsabai Rim Kong in Google, you will be able to view their menu. I made reservations for 15 but can increase it if necessary. Because of the chance the weather will be cool, we will be eating inside. The restaurant is next to Big Nose Coffee which is to the left.

The name of the restaurant is Mumsabai Rim Kong:

Link for Google Maps: [Mumsabai Rim Kong restaurant](#)

114/9 Samran Chai Kong Nae Mukdahan, Thailand

16°33'32"N 104°43'47"E

16.55888889 104.72972222



Mumsabai Rim Kong Restaurant.



On the corner of 212 and the road heading towards the river, There is a new hospital. Big white and blue building.

The next day, January 8th our post meeting will be held at Mooky's Cafe.

Directions can be found using **Google Maps**. [Mooky's Cafe](#)

Address: GPHC+6XX, Si Bun Rueang, Mueang Mukdahan District, Mukdahan 49000

Lat long 16.5285 104.7225



Parking is on the street with plenty of room to park. Our American Legion meeting sign will be out front.

There will not be food available but after the meeting you can order drinks. If your significant other would like to bring food so they can eat and talk while we have our meeting, that will not be a problem.

There are many hotels in Mukdahan. Use Hotels.com or another site. I do suggest not staying at the River City Hotel. While it looks nice, it isn't. I stay at Villa Thiwa Hotel. It's fine. 500 baht with a small Thai breakfast Buffet: Toast, coffee and a couple of other items.

Villa Thiwa Hotel
367 Highway 238
Lat Long 16.57138, 104.70815



Safety Message: Regular Check-up and cancer screening:

When you hear the dreaded word "cancer" it conjures up vision of Cemo, radiation treatment and the possibility of death. However, many of the cancers are successfully treated if found early. That is the key "early detection." The problem with most cancers is by the time that the person has any symptoms the cancer has progressed to a point where it may not be successfully treated. That is why it is critical to get routine screening for cancers, especially for older members. Take for example Prostrate cancer which is typically not an aggressive cancer and is almost 100% successfully treat if detected early. Yet we continue to see people even celebrities who die from the cancer. He is a list of a few Celebrities who have died from prostrate cancer:

- Bill Bixby, 59 (actor)
- Telly Savalas, 70 (actor)
- Frank Zappa, 52 (rock star)
- Timothy Leary, 75 (LSD advocate)
- Earl Woods, 74 (Tiger Woods' dad)
- Don Ameche, 85 (actor)
- James Herriot, 79 (author)
- Francois Mitterrand, 79 (French President)

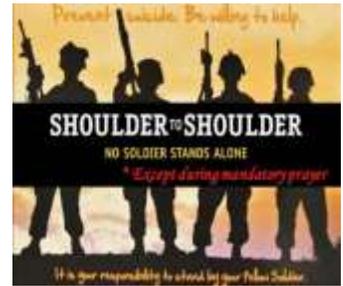
I can tell you first hand. I developed prostrate cancer and had it not been for regular check up and screening, I would never had known until it was too late. I had no symptoms. That was 14 years ago and I am still cancer free.

That is just one type of cancer but the message holds true for most all cancers whether it be breast cancer, lung cancer, or any other type of cancer. The key is early detection through regular checkups and screening.

Chaplain's Prayer:

The Year Ahead

*May God make your year a happy one!
Not by shielding us from all sorrows and pain,
But by strengthening us to bear it, as it comes;
Not by making our path easy,
But by making us sturdy to travel any path;
Not by taking hardships from us,
But by taking fear from our heart;
Not by granting us unbroken sunshine,
But by keeping our face bright, even in the shadows;
Not by making our life always pleasant,
But by showing us when people and their causes need us most,
and by making us anxious to be there to help.
God's love, peace, hope and joy to us for the year ahead*



This Photo by Unknown

January Birthdays:

- Mark Faralli
- William Knowlton
- Robert Lagroue
- Ethan Schaal
- Paul Schramm



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 33.74 THB

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