



Brig. Gen. Robin Olds
 American Legion Thailand Post TH01
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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.

April 2019
 Volume 3, Issue 4

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- April 8 Post Meeting 10:00a.m.
- April 8 Election of 2019 Officers
- April 13 Songkran (Thai New Year)

Post Officers:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Office</u>
Larry Edmonds	Commander
Bruce Templeman	1st Vice Commander
Wayne Wright	2nd Vice Commander
Ted Potyrala	Historian
Maurice(Rocky) Hatzke	Service Officer
Hugh Mason	Chaplain
Jeff Ludwig	Adjutant/Finance Officer
Neil Tufford	Sergeant at Arms
Charles (Rusty) Wilson	Judge Advocate
Joe Reedy	Public Affairs Officer
Salvatore (Sal) Salzarulo	Members at large
Tony Francois	Members at large
Bill Medley	Members at large
Phil Colombey	IT Officer

March 11, 2019 Post Membership meeting



COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

By Larry Edmonds



Comrades,

April is an important month for our post. During the April meeting, we will elect our officers for the coming 2019 thru 2020 year. It is important that as many as possible attend the meeting whether in person or on our internet broadcast. If you wish to run for an office, there will be time before the voting to accept any and all nomination. If you think you can make a difference, then nominate yourself or someone you believe can do the job. As you can see in this Newsletter, all positions have at least one nominee. We can always accept more nominations to give members a broader view of different ways of operating the post.

The latest update I have on The Legion Act is that the bill is in committees of the House and Senate. There is wide support for this Bill and I encourage you to write your Congressman and Congresswomen to encourage them to support this Bill.

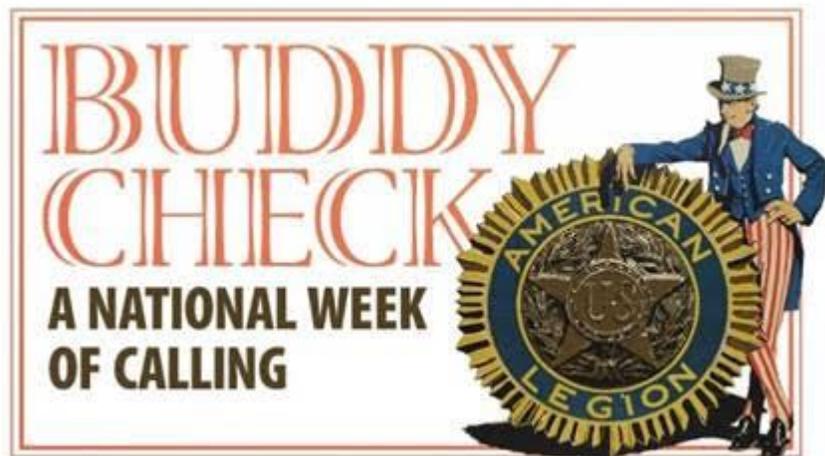
1st Vice / Membership Chairman:
Bruce Templeman



The Thai festival of Songkran is fast approaching, which is a dangerous time to be on the road. Also, April is the month in which the International ACH **Transaction (IAT)** bank transfer format is to take effect. I hope that neither of these events will cause injury or inconvenience to our members. In the event that someone is hurt or impacted negatively by these events, I ask that we all do a buddy check during the month. I was overseas for most of last month

when Kirby Raines was involved in a road accident. I was amazed at how quick our Post members rallied to help him and went to visit him, even

when he was transferred from Mukdahan to Khon Kaen. We're a special group and it's my honor to be a part of such an exceptional band of brothers. I'll see you all next Post meeting.



Adjutants Corner

Jeff Ludwig



Comrades great news! The recent American Legion NEC Resolution to recognize all Veterans who served **Honorably** in actions around the world, that were in response as warriors for our great nation has been submitted to Congress.

On February 14, 2019; Sen. Kyrsten Sinema, introduced Bill S.504 known as the Legion Act.



This bill amends title 36 of the United States Code, to authorize the American Legion to determine the requirements for membership in the American Legion and for other purposes. It adjusts the American Legion Congressional charter as honorable war-time veterans and recognizes everyone's fight since December 7, 1941 until the cessation of hostilities.

The Bill has been read twice and is currently in the Committee on the Judiciary. We just need to urge our senators and congresspersons to set aside their party differences and quickly pass this bill so we can recognize those veterans so deserving of joining the American Legion. You can read the entire bill by going to the [The Legion Act Bill 504](https://legiscan.com/US/text/SB504/id/1945147), <https://legiscan.com/US/text/SB504/id/1945147>

Post Nominations:

Here are the individuals nominated at the March Post membership meeting. Additional nominations can be presented at the April meeting prior to the elections. Hope to see a large turnout either in person or on the group call. The nominations so far are as follows:



POSITION	NOMINATED	NOMINATOR
Commander	Larry Edmonds	Jeff Ludwig
1 st Vice Commander	Bruce Templeman	Wayne Wright
2 nd Vice Commander	Wayne Wright	Joe Reedy
Finance Officer	Jeff Ludwig	Dave Bell
Sargent At Arms	Neil Tufford	Everybody
Chaplain	Charlie Mason	Joe Reedy
Judge Advocate	Rusty Wilson	Larry Edmonds
Publicity Officer	Joe Reedy	Jeff Ludwig
Members At Large	Bill Medley	Wayne Wright
“	Sal Salzarulo	Larry Edmond
“	Dave Bell	Wayne Wright



Service Officer:
Maurice (Rocky) Hatske



Extracted From the US Embassy Bangkok Website:

Did You Know Veterans may apply for benefits on-line from overseas using their home computer? The [Veterans Online Application \(VONAPP\)](#) requires that you have one of four specific browsers installed on your computer and a minimum capability of 128-bit encryption. If you do not currently have the correct browser, you can download one for free from the Veterans Benefits website. The [Veterans Benefits](#) website will tell you if you need to download encryption software, and they will provide a free download link if this is the case

U.S. Citizen Services at the U.S. Embassy in Bangkok can provide limited assistance with Veterans Affairs issues, including:

1. Certifying supporting documents for submission with benefits applications
2. Assisting with Direct Deposit sign up
3. Reporting missing benefit payments
4. Assisting with finding physicians for the Request for Physical Examination (VA Form 21-2507)
5. Reporting the death of a Veteran or beneficiary

The Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA) processes survivor claims, educational benefits, compensation and pension examinations, etc.

For more information:

- Veterans Affairs website homepage: www.va.gov
- Account information: www.ebenefits.va.gov
- Education: www.gibill.va.gov
- Health Care: www.va.gov/healthbenefits
- Foreign Medical Program: www.benefits.gov/benefits/benefit-details/567

SAFETY MESSAGE:

By Jeff Ludwig

Tire Safety,

This month I would like to talk tire safety. As all of you have heard by now, a few weeks ago, we almost lost one of our comrades and good friend, Kirby Raines. He had a single car accident when a tire blew out and his car left the road. The car was totaled and Kirby was left with a serious back injury. Thankfully he had a successful operation is now on a long and painful road to recovery.

I was fortunate not to suffer the same fate. While I was at the gas station filling my truck up before heading to Mukdahan to visit Kirby, I decided to check the air in my tires. As I was adding air to my front tire, I picked at the tread and to my surprised, a chunk of the tread came off. The rubber was dry rotted. I decided to check all the tires and was shocked to find all 4 tires were seriously defective. The two rear tires had the rubber separating inside the tread groove and the front tires were varying degrees of dry rot. I had plenty of tread still on the tires which is why I didn't examine them as carefully as I should have. I was fortunate that I discovered my tires' condition in time. I immediately went to the tire store and purchase 4 new tires.

What happened to Kirby is not all that rare. According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), in the year 2017, there were a total of 738 fatalities in tire related accidents in the USA and that figure is expected to climb in the coming years. Most could have been prevented if the tires were inspected and replaced.

According to Tire Safety Group (TSG), tires expire in six years. That is six year from the date of manufacture. Older tires are substantially more likely to fail than newer ones. This is because tires are made mostly of rubber, and rubber degrades with age. Sunlight, heat, ice, and general wear and tear can accelerate the breakdown of a tire. Once a tire begins to break down, it becomes more likely to fail in the form of a tread separation—often at highway speeds, when the failure is most likely to cause catastrophic injuries or death.

Tires age dangerously because of a chemical process commonly referred to as oxidation, which simply means that as the tire components are exposed to oxygen, the oxygen particles cause the flexible components of a tire to harden and become brittle. Over time, the tire will simply fall apart under normal stress, just like an old rubber band. Because this process occurs naturally, it does not matter if a tire is being used, stored as a spare, or simply waiting on a store shelf for an unsuspecting consumer.

Tire aging is a "hidden hazard" because most consumers don't know that tires expire in six years. A 2006 survey showed that only 4% of consumers are aware that tires become more dangerous as they age. Also it is difficult for most consumers to tell how old a tire is without deciphering an 11 digit code that is imprinted on the side of the tire. Fortunately, you can crack the code on the side of a tire to determine a tire's actual age. Federal rules mandate that the tire's D.O.T. code be clearly branded or etched on the side of each tire. For most tires, the D.O.T. number is typically 11 digits. If the tire has only 10 digits, the tire was manufactured before the year 2000. A current D.O.T. number looks like this for a tire made in the fifth week of 2011:

The D.O.T. 11 digit number Deciphered:



Know what questions to ask when buying new tires:

1. What is the manufacture date of the Tire?
2. What type of tread for your road conditions, rainy season, off road, etc.?
3. What are the tires rated for, (how long the tire tread is expected to last)?
4. What is the traction grade, (ability of the tire to halt within a shorter distance)?
5. What is the temperature grade, (how the tire will resist heat.)?

To help stay safe on the road this summer, know your numbers and follow these easy T.I.R.E. tips: tread depth, inflation pressure, rotation, education.

1. Don't forget to check your tire's tread before hitting the road. Tread depth refers to the amount of tread on a tire, which can impact handling, traction and stopping distance, especially on wet roads. Most new car tires start with 11/32 inches of tread. If your tires don't have at least 2/32 inches, it's time to replace them. Use the "penny test" by sticking a penny upside-down in a tread groove. If Lincoln's entire head is visible, your tread is worn beyond the legal minimum requirement and it's time to replace your tires.
2. Check your tire inflation pressure at least once a month to make sure they are at the appropriate inflation pressure. Low tire pressure leads to decreased steering and braking control, poor gas mileage, excessive tire wear and the possibility of tire failure. Temperature changes affect tire pressure. For every 10 degrees of temperature change, tire air pressure changes 1 PSI (pound per square inch).
3. To increase tread life and smooth out your ride, rotate your tires every 6,000 miles or earlier if irregular or uneven wear develops.

Stay educated on your tires and what you need to do to keep them safe. Drivers unsure of the condition of their tires should consult the experts at your local tire shop. Inspect your spare and make sure it is in good condition.

Events:

American Legion 100 year birthday luncheon: The Post held a luncheon in honor of the 100-year birthday of the American Legion immediately following the March Post membership meeting. The menu included hamburgers, french fries, tuna salad, and of course cake. We wish to thank all those who helped to make this happen. A special thanks to Wayne Wright for procuring the hamburgers, to Commander Larry and his wife Pensri for purchasing the cake.



Chaplain's Message

*Lord God, as the Post Officer election approaches,
we seek to better understand the issues and concerns that confront our
Post, the Department and The American.*

*We pray for discernment
so that we may choose leaders who hear your Word,
live your love,
and keep in the ways of your truth
as they follow in the steps of Jesus and his Apostles
and guide us to your Kingdom of justice and peace.*

TAPS:

None



April Birthdays

- Doug Bull
- Gerald Churchill
- Paul Godinet
- Bill Rutherford
- Sal Salzarulo
- Ed Sostack



A very happy birthday to all!

Upcoming Events in May:

National Day of Prayer

National Nurses Day

Military Spouse Appreciation Day

Mother's Day

Armed Forces Day

Memorial Day