



**Brig. Gen. Robin Olds**  
 American Legion Thailand Post TH01  
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September 2020  
 Volume 4, Issue 9

Bruce Templeman, Commander      Jeff Ludwig, Adjutant

Post meetings held the 2<sup>nd</sup> 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](mailto:amerilegionth01@gmail.com)**

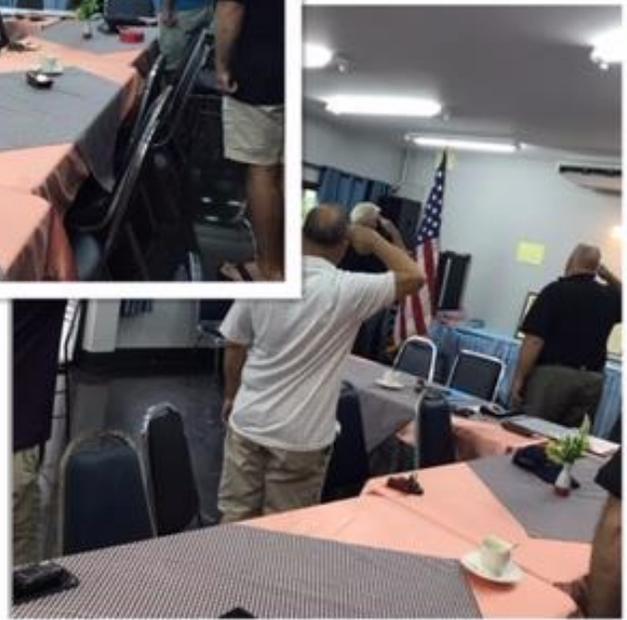
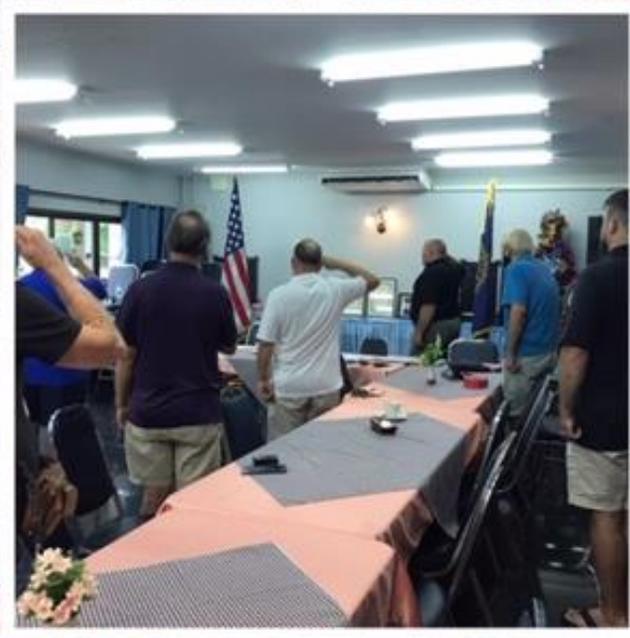
*Calendar of Events for September*

- **September 2 - Labor Day**
- **September 14 - Post Membership Meeting**
- **September 11 - Patriot Day**
- **September 18 - POW/MIA Recognition Day**
- **September 17 - Constitution Day and Citizenship Day**
- **September 27 - Gold Star Mother's/Family's Day**

**2020 Post Officers:**

<u>Name</u>	<u>Office</u>	<u>Email</u>
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Joe Reedy	Public Affairs Officer	<a href="mailto:joereedy4@gmail.com">joereedy4@gmail.com</a>
Phil Colombey	IT Officer	<a href="mailto:pcolombe@gmail.com">pcolombe@gmail.com</a>
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Kirby (Cosmo) Raines	Members at large	<a href="mailto:cosmotyson@yahoo.com">cosmotyson@yahoo.com</a>

# August 11, 2020 Post Membership Meeting



## **COMMANDER'S MESSAGE**

Bruce Templeman



The ceremony held at Kanchaburi War Cemetery was attended by Ken Adams who sent some good photos. He said that it was a nice memorial. Hopefully, we will get a timely invitation next year.

A Post TH01 member, Comrade William (Bill) Bragg, reported to Post Everlasting and his widow, Lamduan, has come back to Thailand. I plan to contact her and offer condolences from the Post, and possibly visit at her convenience.

The Thai government has made 4-7 September a replacement holiday for the Songkran Festival that was cancelled due to Covid-19. While no major events have been announced, we can expect the same road and traffic hazards that accompany every extended holiday. Please take care and let a Post buddy know of your plans. It is part of our buddy check program, an invaluable tool for providing emergency assistance to our members and their families.

I'm always soliciting ideas for community projects that we can do in Ubon. Even if you're stateside and don't attend the regular Post meetings, you can email in your suggestions to be brought up during the meeting. Your participation is very important to the viability of the Post.

Dues are important as well, so please help us reach our goals by renewing now. We're on target for September, but need your effort to have your dues paid before October so we can receive a rebate from the Department. Your dues are important to our mission of assisting veterans. By paying the dues before they're due, you help increase the amount that we as a Post receive.

Remember and give voice to our motto. **"Veterans Strengthening America"**.

**Service Officer:**

Rocky Hatzke



## Medical Records and Emergencies

*Make medical records part of essential preparations*

This is time of year that we often experience severe weather. If you live in the USA along the coast, you're hopefully preparing for Hurricanes and tropical storms. If you live in the Midwest, you're preparing for tornadoes, hail, and sudden severe storms. If you live in Thailand, you're preparing for the monsoons, floods, and typhoons. What all have in common is the need to be prepared and have medical records on hand and protected.



My HealthVet has the tools to help access your health records during an emergency. By preparing your family now, it can help you avoid potential dangers that may come from being in the storm's path. Don't wait until it's too late to gather the items you need, including medical records, to stay healthy.

### What do you need to do to be prepared?

**Form a communication plan with your family.** An emergency can strike at any time. Make sure everyone in your family has a way of contacting each other. If possible, identify an emergency contact person who is outside of your area so that everyone has a back-up, central point of communication.

**Keep health records handy.** Print out a copy of a recent Blue Button file and keep it in a safe place. When a disaster hits, you could be stranded without access to a pharmacy. Stay ahead of schedule and have an extra supply of your prescriptions. If you need help in the USA, use My HealthVet's **Secure Messaging** (*sign in required*) to contact your physician with a protected, private message about your care, (But remember that Secure Messaging is not for emergencies - always call **911** if you need urgent care.)



**Know your resources.** Each community has an evacuation plan, and many also offer emergency shelters. If you need to leave your home or community, learn the best exit routes. Also, find out where local emergency shelters are located.

**Assemble an emergency kit.** Don't wait until the last minute! Here are a few suggestions:

- Water and non-perishable food items

- Small amount of cash - ATMs and credit card machines may be inoperable
- Weather radio
- First-aid kit and family prescriptions
- Flashlights, lanterns, and batteries
- Blankets
- At least one change of clothes
- Hygiene and sanitation products
- Copies (front and back) of your identification and credit cards
- Full tank of gasoline
- Cards, toys, and other small recreational items, especially if you have children
- And of course, a supply of personal, reusable face masks for every member of the family.

**Don't forget to plan for your pets!** Make sure Fluffy has her carrier and enough food and water, too. Ideally, the supplies in the emergency kit should last at least three days and should be restocked or replaced at least once per year.



### **What should you do when you know a storm is coming?**

**Stay informed.** The National Hurricane Center, other online tropical weather sites, and local news stations issue constant weather updates. You can also sign up to receive alerts on your phone. Follow instructions issued by local officials - if evacuations are ordered, leave immediately!

**Protect your home and your belongings.** Safeguarding windows are a priority. If broken, strong winds may enter your house and pry open the roof. It's best to cover windows with either shutters or plywood. Tie-down or bring inside any loose items in your lawn. Storms spring up quickly, so there's no such thing as taking too many preventative measures.

For more information on preparing for severe weather, visit [\*\*Ready.Gov\*\*](https://www.ready.gov)

**Post Adjutant Corner:**  
**Jeff Ludwig**

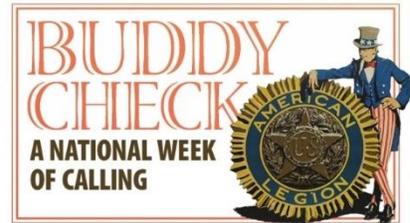


I want to thank all of you who renewed your dues for 2021. Your efforts aided in the Department of France being the first Department in the Northeast Region to achieve the 50% Target! Our Department is not only in first place in the region but is currently in first place in the entire American Legion organization, **Great Job!**



Let us continue to do our part by helping to keep this going. The next target and date is 55% by October 1, 2020. How can we help? Well if you haven't paid your dues then please do so. If you have already paid your dues, you can still help by encouraging others to pay and by finding new members for the Post. Our Department target goal for 2021 is 66 members. Our Department goal includes existing members paid for 2021 and new members paid for 2021. We are currently at 36 and just need 30 more to reach our goal. So let's get to work and give our best effort.

With all that's going on in the world like the pandemic, the natural disasters, and the unrest in various areas across our Nation, let's not forget to check on our fellow veterans and Americans here in Thailand. Let's also not forget our comrades who are currently back in the States. We have to look out for each other.



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**Remember to vote in the primaries!**







## Americanism

When we think of September, we think of celebrating Labor Day weekend. While that is a great holiday, there are four other just as important patriotic holidays in September that we should consider observing and commemorating. At the very least, we should know what they are and what they represent.

### **Patriot Day – September 11**

Patriot Day, also known as the National Day of Service and Remembrance, occurs on September 11 each year in memory of those killed during the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks. Those we lost on September 11, 2001, will forever hold a cherished place in our hearts in the history of our nation.



By a joint resolution approved December 18, 2001 (Public Law 107-89), Congress authorized the President to designate September 11 each year as "Patriot Day" to perpetuate the memory of those who perished in the attack on America, and to pursue peace and justice in the world and security at home. Appropriate ceremonies and activities include a moment of silence beginning at 8:46 a.m. EDT, remembrance services and candlelight vigils. **Flags should be flown**



**at half-staff on Patriot Day.**

### **POW/MIA Recognition Day – Third Friday in September**

POW/MIA Recognition Day is September 15, 2017. POW/MIA Recognition Day honors the commitments and the sacrifices made by our nation's prisoners of war and those who are still missing in action. National POW/MIA Recognition Day is one of the six days specified by law on which the black POW/MIA flag shall be flown over federal facilities and cemeteries, post offices and military installations. Plan ahead and check with your local facilities to make sure they have a POW/MIA flag and if not, it would be a great time to make a formal presentation of the flag to the facility. **POW/MIA – YOU ARE NOT FORGOTTEN.**



## **Constitution Day and Citizenship Day – September 17**

This day commemorates the formation and signing of the U.S. Constitution on September 17, 1787, by 39 delegates to the Constitutional Convention. This document established the



framework of our government and the rights and freedoms that “We the People” enjoy today.



In 1940, Congress designated the third Sunday in May as “I am an American Day.” In 1944, “I am an American Day” was promoted by the U.S.

Immigration and Naturalization Service. On February 29, 1952, Congress moved “I am an American Day” observation to September 17 and renamed it “Citizenship Day.” In 2004, Congress renamed the holiday “Constitution Day and Citizenship Day.”

## **Gold Star Mother’s/Family’s Day – Last Sunday in September**

Gold Star Mothers and Family’s Day is September 24, 2017. Gold Star Mother’s/Family’s Day honors mothers and families who have lost a service member in the line of duty or in support of military activities. The name comes from the custom of families hanging Service Flags in the window of their homes. The Service Flag has a star for each family member in the armed forces.



- A blue star represents a family member in active service.
- A silver star represents a family member wounded or injured in a war zone.



- A gold star represents a family member killed during active-duty and stands for sacrifice made for honor and freedom.

The American Gold Star Mothers, Inc. was founded shortly after World War 1 by Grace Darling Seibold, who lost her son, George Vaughn Seibold, during the war. Gold Star Mothers are often socially active, but are non-political.

Gold Star Mother’s Day was designated by Congress on June 23, 1936. In September 2012, President Barack Obama rededicated the last Sunday in September as “Gold Star Mother’s and Family’s Day.”



**Historian**  
Ted Potyrala

## The First Convention

The formal founding convention was held in Minneapolis, Minnesota from November 10 – 12, 1919. There were 684 delegates in attendance.

One of the first declarations made was to write into its constitution that “This organization shall be absolutely Non- Political and shall not be used for the decimation of partisan principles or for the promotion of the candidacy of any person seeking public office or preferment; and no candidate for or incumbent of a salaried elective public office shall hold any office in the American Legion or in any branch or post thereof.” A semi-official historian of the legion noted that this explicit refusal to affiliate with any political party had the effect of building great political power for the legion. Politicians from both old parties competed for the favor of the legion’s massive and active membership.

One of the primary accomplishments was the establishment of a permanent national legislative committee to advance the legions political objectives as its lobbying arm. The first lobbyists consisted of four members, two republicans, and two democrats.

High on the legions legislative agenda was for an improvement of the level of compensation for soldiers who suffered permanent disability from the war. At the time of the end of WW I, American Law stated that soldiers who suffered total disability were to receive the pay of a private which was \$30.00 per month. The legion concentrated its lobbying efforts to get legislation passed to increase the amount for total disability to \$80.00 per month. A sum which was sufficient to live on for the day. Partially disabled would receive a lesser amount. A flurry of lobbying by the legion plus cables being sent to congressional leaders by national commander Franklin O’oilder helped to pass this legislation into law. By the end of 1919, it was passed.

During the legions first years, the chief base of support was from among the officer's corps of the reserves and national Guard. The size of the regular army was comparatively small and its representation in the league was limited. For nearly two decades, the legion maintained an isolationist perspective. This can be seen in three resolutions passed by the founding convention.

1. That a large standing army is uneconomical and un-American. National safety with freedom from militarism is best assured by a national citizen army and navy based on the democratic principles of equality of obligation and opportunity for all.
2. That we favor universal military training and the administration of such policy should be removed from the complete control of any exclusory military organization or caste.
3. That we strongly opposed to the compulsory military service in the time of peace.

Additionally, resolutions were passed for the need of military preparedness but maintained through a citizen army of reservists and National Guardsman. This national isolationism would last until the eve of WW II.



## Safety Topic

Jeff Ludwig

# September is Home Eye Safety Awareness Month

Most people might not think about wearing eye protection while cleaning, cooking, doing yard work, or working in the garage, but according to the American Academy of Ophthalmology (AAO), half of all eye injuries occur when doing these everyday chores. Moreover, while 90 percent of eye injuries are preventable by wearing the proper eye protection, AAO reports that 78 percent of those injured were not wearing any protective eyewear.



Prevent Blindness America has declared September as Home Eye Safety Awareness Month in an effort to remind everyone of the hazards in their own homes that could damage the precious gift of sight.

“All too often, when we’re working around the house and doing chores that we’ve done a thousand times before without incident, we forget about the risks we take by not protecting our eyes,” said Hugh R. Parry, president and CEO of Prevent Blindness America. “But all it takes is one split-second accident that could damage your vision for a lifetime.”

Prevent Blindness America strongly supports the AAO and the American Society of Ocular Trauma (ASOT) in their recommendation that every household have at least one pair of American National Standards Institute (ANSI) approved eyewear. The eyewear should have the “Z-87” logo stamped on the frames and can be purchased inexpensively at hardware stores and home building centers.

## Safety Tips

Almost 40 percent of home eye injuries occur in the yard or garden. Debris from lawn mowers or power trimmers unexpectedly can enter the eye at a high rate of speed. Prevent Blindness America offers these tips on how to protect your eyes while doing work in the yard:

- When mowing, wear safety glasses with side protection or goggles. Check your yard and remove debris before mowing.
- When using a weed eater, wear safety glasses or goggles under a face shield.
- Wear goggles when working with power saws or trimmers.
- Turn off power tools when near an unprotected bystander, especially when young children approach. Bystanders and helpers need eye protection when around tools that are in use.
- Wear goggles to protect your eyes from fertilizers, pesticides and other yard chemicals, including lime dust.
- Read and follow all product instructions. Obey warnings on yard chemicals and equipment.

In addition, household chemicals, including bleach or other cleaners, cause 125,000 eye injuries every year. Eye protection should be worn when using any chemical, and wash hands thoroughly before touching the eyes or face.

[Laura Walter](#)

SEP 02, 2008

**THE 5 STEPS TO Eye Safety**

**Step 1** Ensure your eye protection fits well.

**Step 2** Use appropriate guards, screens and other safety devices.

**Step 3** Choose the proper eye protection for the job.

**Step 4** Replace worn or damaged equipment.

**Step 5** Avoid prolonged periods of looking at computer or other screens.

Supreme Safety

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## Events:

### *Thai Mother's Day*

After the monthly Post meeting the members, their significant others and friends celebrated Thai Mother's Day and enjoyed a birthday celebration for those August birthdays. Past Commander Larry Edmonds and his wife, Pensri provided a delicious barbeque lunch with all the trimmings.





## Ceremony held at Kanchaburi War Cemetery:

On the morning of the 75th anniversary of the Allied victory over Japan (VJ Day), the Ambassador from the Netherlands and the Ambassador from the United Kingdom presided over a memorial service of the military service by prisoners of war that died while forced to labor on the Japanese Army railway project at Kanchanaburi, Thailand during World War 2. The event was attended by members of the American Legion and Veterans of Foreign Wars in solidarity with our Allied Forces to never forget the sacrifices made by those that have paid the ultimate price for the freedoms we enjoy.



## Chaplain's Message:

*"I in them and you in me--so that they may be brought to complete unity. Then the world will know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me." [John 17:23](#)*

It's in these very times of tension and struggle that we need, more than ever, to come together as one, unified, and strong.

**And** we can be assured, it's in these times, that Satan is fighting the hardest. For he knows that's when we have the greatest potential to make a difference in this world. He knows that we're stronger together as we encourage one another on. He's aware that we're courageous and brave when we're covering one another in prayer. He understands that the unity of believers through the power of Jesus Christ, is a force that can't be reckoned with. For it's hard to tear apart a cord of three strands, which can't be easily broken.

That's why he's determined to fight harder. And he's there, in the midst of it all, cheering on the battle. He loves it when we target one another. He laughs at evil, riots, and violence. He gains momentum when we forget that he's the cause.

Don't be unaware.

His schemes are cunning and cruel. He'll twist words and truth, trading them for lies, and stirring up fires.

Let's say "No more."

Let's choose to set aside our differences and look to the greater purpose in this life. To honor Christ as King. We'll never agree on everything. And that's never been the goal anyway. Let us pray

*O Thou kind Lord! Unite all. Let the religions agree and make the nations one, so that they may see each other as one family and the whole earth as one home. May they all live together in perfect harmony. ... O Thou kind Father, God!*

**TAPS:**

William (Bill) Bragg



May you be united with your fellow comrades who reported before you and find peace and harmony at Post Everlasting.

**September Birthdays:**

- Fred Berg
- Chappie Chapman
- Robert Engborg
- Billy Holland
- Ted Potyrala
- Rusty Wilson



A very happy birthday to all