



**Brig. Gen. Robin Olds**  
 American Legion Thailand Post TH01  
 Email: [amerilegionth01@gmail.com](mailto:amerilegionth01@gmail.com)



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)**

August 2020  
 Volume 4, Issue 8

**CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

- **August 10 - Post Membership Meeting**
- **August 12 - Thai Mother's Day**

**2020 Post Officers:**

<u>Name</u>	<u>Office</u>	<u>Email</u>
Bruce Templeman	Commander	<a href="mailto:bruce.templeman@gmail.com">bruce.templeman@gmail.com</a>
Wayne Wright	1st Vice Commander	<a href="mailto:waywright@outlook.com">waywright@outlook.com</a>
Billy Holland	2nd Vice Commander	<a href="mailto:billybholland@gmail.com">billybholland@gmail.com</a>
Ted Potyrala	Historian	<a href="mailto:tpubon@gmail.com">tpubon@gmail.com</a>
Maurice(Rocky) Hatzke	Service Officer	<a href="mailto:mrhatzke3@gmail.com">mrhatzke3@gmail.com</a>
Hugh Mason	Chaplain	<a href="mailto:htmmason@aol.com">htmmason@aol.com</a>
Jeff Ludwig	Adjutant/Finance Officer	<a href="mailto:Jgludwig2@gmail.com">Jgludwig2@gmail.com</a>
Salvatore (Sal) Salzarulo	Sergeant at Arms	<a href="mailto:salzy48@hotmail.com">salzy48@hotmail.com</a>
Larry Edmonds	Judge Advocate	<a href="mailto:lledmonds@aol.com">lledmonds@aol.com</a>
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>
Paul McDermott	Members at large	<a href="mailto:paulny54@hotmail.com">paulny54@hotmail.com</a>
Dave Bell	Members at large	<a href="mailto:davebell211@hotmail.com">davebell211@hotmail.com</a>
Kirby (Cosmo) Raines	Members at large	<a href="mailto:cosmotyson@yahoo.com">cosmotyson@yahoo.com</a>

# July 13, 2020 Post Membership Meeting



## **COMMANDER'S MESSAGE**

Bruce Templeman



I really enjoyed the food and company at our Independence Day cookout after the July Post meeting. Our Post members and families came together after a several month forced separation and, in a fairly impromptu, yet socially distanced fashion, celebrated our United States Independence Day in the spirit of friendship. Thanks to all for your participation in making this a great event. We will be celebrating Thai Mother's Day next month, so please bring your loved ones for us to show our appreciation.

We have very little information about the Memorial Event in Kanchanaburi. I have spoken with our American Legion comrade from Post TH02, and he said that he believes that this event may be scaled down. We have yet to see the government response to the recent news of the corona virus cases in Rayong. I will monitor this situation and email all members immediately when I receive any information on this.

On a somber and very serious note: I would like to make mention of another American who has placed himself and his spouse in a very difficult position. Previously in our newsletter, I have advised members to have a written will in order to assist the loved ones they leave behind to adjust to life without them. With that said, there is something much worse than your death. There is the possibility that you become incapacitated and your spouse has no resources available care for you.

This has happened to two Americans here in the past two years. Once a person becomes incapacitated to the extent where he/she cannot understand and sign a durable power of attorney, it is no longer an option for allowing your spouse to access your funds. If your spouse is unable to access money in the event you need medical care, you haven't planned very well.

As we all grow older, we should get wiser and accept the fact that we need to be prepared to help others take care of us when we can no longer take care of ourselves. Plan ahead. A durable power of attorney only becomes effective when the conditions that you put on it are met. Don't make others have to sort out your business. It could lead to an agonizing time for everyone concerned. Let's take care of ourselves and urge others to do the same. Enjoy your time, but take the time to plan for the future. Your loved ones will appreciate it. If you need assistance with planning, please ask.

**Service Officer:**

Rocky Hatzke



How many of you know what this is used for ([VA.GOV](http://VA.GOV))? Well it's your portal to all the answers you need about the VA. What does my wife get when I die? Will I lose my benefits if I do not submit VA Form 21-0538? How do I get a home loan, make an appointment for a medical exam when I get back to the USA? What do I do first?



**VA** | U.S. Department  
of Veterans Affairs

Set up your own account with the VA. You can get answers to all your questions, You can fill out disability claims on-line, get status updates, find out what you need to do to make sure that your wife can get everything she is entitled to.

So check it out; go on line and get your own portal to the VA. You can sign up for VA news articles. Remember to record your user name and password and put it where your spouse can find it. She will need it along with bank accounts, IRA accounts, life insurance, or Survivor Benefits Plans (military retirees). Check it out, your wife will thank you, and your service officer's life will be a lot easier.

**VA C&P Exam Tips for Veterans, Addendum July 15, 2020**

Dr. Nick Walters' (Mission Hospital Bangkok) provided the following addendum to VA C&P Exam Tips for Veterans in Thailand. This July 15, 2020 interim update replaces the January 2020 edition. The addendum is necessary due to the withdrawal of public facing Disability Benefits Questionnaires (DBQs) from VA.gov on April 1, 2020. A copy of the addendum has also been provided to US Embassy American Citizens Services ACS, Bangkok. According to the VA, many of the DBQs from private medical practitioners were found to be falsified.

The VA continues to use the electronic DBQs for C&P exams scheduled through the Veterans Evaluation Services (VES) and paper DBQs for C&P exams scheduled through the US Embassy. These DBQs are not available to the Veteran prior to a C&P exam.

The VA is still accepting the DBQs from private medical Practitioners but is putting little weight on them due to the aforementioned fraud. The VA recommends the private medical practitioner submit a narrative based medical report instead.

\*\*Provided courtesy of Comrade Bruce Postel, Citizen Liaison Volunteer (CLV), U.S. Embassy (Bangkok), JUSMAGTHAI RAO

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



## Renew Your membership for 2021

I would like to thank all our members who have renewed their membership for year 2021. Your renewals have jump-started our 2021 membership drive and we are on track to achieve the first target goal of the year. We just need to keep the momentum going. I highly encourage all of you who have not renewed your membership to do it now. Your membership gives us the power to continue to serve our country, our veterans, our youths, and our community. We hope we can we count on you!

As a reminder, our annual membership dues are \$45.00 if paid in the USA or 1,500 baht if paid in Thailand. Payment can be made in a variety of ways. The easiest way to renew is to go to the website <https://www.legion.org/renew> and renew your membership online. You can use almost any type of credit card including Master Card, Visa, American Express, and Discover card. You can use credit cards from foreign banks and or with a foreign address. All you need is your last



name and members ID number. It's just that simple! Another method you can use is electronic payment or transfer to our USA Bank of America account (see the banking info below). If you have a checking account with a USA banking facility, you can mail us a check. Because of the difficulties of getting an organizational bank account in Thailand, we do not have an account with any banks in Thailand, thus we cannot accept Thailand bank checks except cashier's checks. However, you can send us a money order in the name of our commander Bruce Templeman or myself. Of course, you can always pay your dues in person with cash.

**Banking Info:**

Bank Name: Bank of America  
Account Name: American Legion Thailand Post TH01  
Routing Number: 063100277  
Swift: BOFAUS3N  
Account No: 8980 7550 4316  
Bank Location: 2453 N Wickham Rd, Melbourne, FL 32935, USA.

**Mailing Address:**

Brig. Gen. Robin Olds  
American Legion Post TH01  
P.O. Box 41  
Wanarom Post Office, 34003, Thailand



Jeff Ludwig

## Legion Riders.

Have you ever wanted to be a part of the American Legion Riders Chapter here in Thailand? Well now you can! The Post membership has approved establishing a Legion Riders Chapter right here in Thailand.

- Members must hold membership in and be in good standing with The American Legion, American Legion Auxiliary, or Sons of The American Legion. You do not have to be a member of our Post.
- Members must be legally registered motorcycle owners or be the legally registered owner's spouse within the state or country of registration.



***Today over 425 American Legion Riders programs, organized by chapters, districts, or departments, support Americanism and Children and Youth programs in virtually every state in the nation, and more are organizing each month.***

***One of the fastest growing and most highly visible of the many programs offered by The American Legion, The American Legion Riders are a very diverse group, and so are the programs that they support. What do American Legion Riders do? The activities are far too many to mention in this space and but below are just a few examples.***



***Moreover, we have the opportunity to create activities exclusive to our Thai communities.***

- ***American Legion Riders chapters and districts, nationally have become some of the most generous donors for the American Legacy Scholarship Fund, raising as much as \$5,000 or more in a single event.***
- ***Legion Riders participate in the annual POW/MIA Rally held each Memorial weekend in Washington D.C. known as "Rolling Thunder."***
- ***Legion Riders sponsor or participate in local and national charity events in support of the sponsoring American Legion Post.***



- ***Legion Riders ride to raise money for such organizations as local VA Hospitals, Battered Women and Children's Centers, Varied Children and Youth Programs, a School for Blind Children, Veterans Relief, Needy Families and many, many others.***
- ***Legion Riders founded a national movement called "Patriot Guard" ([www.patriotguard.org](http://www.patriotguard.org)) that honors and protects the sanctity of military funerals and memorial services.***
- ***Legion Riders have formed special motorcycle Honor Guards and ceremonial teams highlighting the special bonds formed in military service and the motorcycling community.***
- ***Legion Riders have also begun to teach motorcycle and driver safety in the community and in schools in co-operation with ABATE and other national motorcycling organizations.***
- ***American Legion Riders are a very dedicated group of Legion Family members.***

**If you are interested or know of anyone else interested, you can contact Comrade John Skabry, Adjutant Ludwig, or Commander Templeman via our Post email account, [Amerilegionth01@gmail.com](mailto:Amerilegionth01@gmail.com). We will have more information coming to you as we start forming the Chapter. Right now, we need names so beat the bushes, roust those bikers, and let's get rolling!**



Jeff Ludwig



**FVAP.GOV**  
FEDERAL VOTING ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

<https://www.fvap.gov/>

As veterans, we have all defended the freedoms that all Americans enjoy. That includes protecting the right to free elections where everyone has the right to cast a vote for whom they choose. As veterans and good citizens, we are obligated to exercise our right to vote. The general elections are coming up in a few short months. Are you prepared to cast your ballot? Have you requested an absentee ballot yet? Not to worry it's not too late. You still have time but you must hurry. The above website can provide you with all you need to know to register to vote, to request an absentee ballot, and to vote while being overseas. In addition, I will send out the PDF document version of the guide to help you. The information in the above website provides important information because each State has different requirements. The website will guide you through the processes for your



**Register**  
★ ★ ★ **to** ★ ★ ★  
**VOTE**

*Every* **VOTE** *Counts!*

State to allow you to register and to request an absentee ballot. Some States allow you to register online and will even email mail you a ballot. I know because I have done this for years. If after reading through the information on the website, you are still not sure, contact

Commander Templeman or me and we will help you get registered. It's your right and your chance to help shape the future of our country--**exercise it.**



**REPORT TO UNITED STATES  
SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION**

**Form SSA 7162**

Due to inconsistent postal delivery during the corona virus pandemic, the annual forms sent from the US Social Security Administration requesting status may not be on time. If you feel uncomfortable waiting on this letter, you may do the following:

Download the SSA 7162 from this link: Copy and Paste into your web browser.

<https://www.google.com/url?sa=t&source=web&rct=j&url=https://secure.ssa.gov/apps10/poms/images/SSA7/G-SSA-7162-OCR-SM-1.pdf&ved=2ahUKEwi2-bqJss7qAhXHTX0KHWduA1gQFjAAegQIAhAB&usg=AOvVaw1pCTt0OyeTFKA15FxG3FSf>

Complete the form and mail to the following address:

**Social Security Administration  
P. O. Box 7162  
Wilkes-Barre Pennsylvania 18767-7162 USA**

You can also email to this email address in the Philippines.

( [FBU.Manila@ssa.gov](mailto:FBU.Manila@ssa.gov) ).

**Important!**

**Please pass this information on to other US citizens.**



**Historian**  
Ted Potyrala

## **Continuation of the History of the American Legion Part II.**

### **Leading up to the convention.**

Before the convention could be held, two caucuses were held, one in Paris and the other in St. Louis.

The Paris caucus was referred to as “The Liberty League Caucus”. It was held at the Cirque de Paris an amphitheater capable of holding 2,000 people. The session was called to order by Eric Wood shortly after 2:45 PM. Wood recommended that they accomplish three things. First was to set up an apparatus to conduct a formal founding conference in the United States. Second, draft a tentative name for the organization, and third, compose a constitution to be submitted to the founding convention.

Convention rules were decided, and 15 committees were formed. Among them was the committee to suggest a name for the organization. There were a dozen names suggested. Some of the names suggested were, “Veterans of the Great War”, “Liberty League”, “American Comrades of the Great War”, Legion of the Great War’ and “The American Legion”.

A draft preamble was proposed. The document stated that

“-desiring to perpetuate the principals of justice, freedom and democracy for which we have fought, to inculcate the duty and obligation of the citizen state, to preserve the history and incidents of our participation in the war and to cement the ties of comradeship formed in service, do propose to found and establish an association for the furtherance of the foregoing purpose”

It was recommended that 11:00AM on November 11,1919 one year to hour after the termination of hostilities in WW I be selected as the date and time for the convocation of a national convention. Location to be determined.

The committee on Permanent Organization recommended an organization based on territorial units rather than those based on military organizations, governed by an executive committee of 50 with half of those from the officer corps and half from the enlisted ranks.

The St. Louis Caucus

The Paris caucus was limited to the soldiers who remained in Europe. A Parallel organizational meeting, for those soldiers that returned to the United States, should have input in forming a convention was deemed necessary.

The work of the caucus was shaped by the decisions made at the Paris caucus. A 49-member advanced committee which included at least one delegate from each state organization drew up a draft program for the organization in advance of the convention.

The time before the scheduled start of the convention was short. On April 10, 1919, Eric Wood mailed a letter to the governors of each state informing them of the upcoming gathering noting of the non-partisan and patriotic nature of the league. Because of the time restraints there was not enough time to properly elect delegates. The Executive Committee decided to allow each state delegation twice as many votes as that state had in the U.S. House of Representatives.

The caucus was not a productive one. It took two full days to choose ceremonial officers and selecting Minneapolis as the site for the convention. Over 1,100 precipitants competed to be heard on the floor. A historian there described it as a melee in which disorder ran supreme. The passage of programs was rushed through during the last day. Actual decisions making was done in committee's at night.

There were many resolutions proposed. Among them were: whether a stand should be taken on the League of Nations, Prohibition, the implantation of universal military service, whether posts should be composed of Negro soldiers and whether the Secretary of War, Newton D. Baker, should be impeached for his leniency towards conscientious objectors in the months following the war.



## Safety Topic

Jeff Ludwig



### Know the Dangers of Heat Exhaustion and Heat Stroke.

During extremely hot and humid weather, your body's ability to cool itself is challenged. When the body heats too rapidly to cool itself properly, or when too much fluid or salt is lost through dehydration or sweating, body temperature rises and you or someone you care about may experience a heat-related illness. It is important to know the symptoms of excessive heat exposure and the appropriate responses. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention provides a list of warning signs and symptoms of heat illness, and recommended first aid steps. Some of these symptoms and steps are listed below.

The infographic is a vertical split diagram. The left side is orange and represents Heat Exhaustion, while the right side is red and represents Heat Stroke. At the top, the words 'HEAT EXHAUSTION' and 'HEAT STROKE' are written in white on their respective colored backgrounds, with 'OR' in the center. Below this, a stylized human figure is shown from the chest down, also split vertically. Various symptoms are listed on either side, connected to the figure by lines. On the left (Heat Exhaustion), symptoms include: Faint or dizzy (with a dizziness icon), Excessive sweating (with a sweat drop icon), Cool, pale, clammy skin (with a thermometer icon showing a low temperature), Nausea or vomiting (with a stomach icon), Rapid, weak pulse (with a heart icon), and Muscle cramps (with a lightning bolt icon). On the right (Heat Stroke), symptoms include: Throbbing headache (with a lightning bolt icon), No sweating (with a dry skin icon), Body temperature above 103° (with a thermometer icon showing a high temperature), Red, hot, dry skin (with a thermometer icon showing a high temperature), Nausea or vomiting (with a stomach icon), Rapid, strong pulse (with a heart icon), and May lose consciousness (with a sad face icon). At the bottom, there are two columns of first aid steps. The left column (orange) lists: 'Get to a cooler, air conditioned place', 'Drink water if fully conscious', and 'Take a cool shower or use cold compresses'. The right column (red) lists: 'CALL 9-1-1' and 'Take immediate action to cool the person until help arrives'.

HEAT EXHAUSTION	OR	HEAT STROKE
Faint or dizzy		Throbbing headache
Excessive sweating		No sweating
Cool, pale, clammy skin		Body temperature above 103° Red, hot, dry skin
Nausea or vomiting		Nausea or vomiting
Rapid, weak pulse		Rapid, strong pulse
Muscle cramps		May lose consciousness

- Get to a cooler, air conditioned place
- Drink water if fully conscious
- Take a cool shower or use cold compresses

**CALL 9-1-1**

- Take immediate action to cool the person until help arrives

## Event: 4<sup>th</sup> of July Independence Day Barbecue.

The Post enjoyed a wonderful day of comradery and fellowship. A special thank you to all those that made this possible. The food and camaraderie were great.





## Chaplain's Message:

### *Prayer during a Pandemic*

*Loving God, Holy One,*

*Your desire is for our wholeness and well-being.*

*We hold in tenderness and prayer the collective suffering of our world at this time.*

*We grieve precious lives lost and vulnerable lives threatened.*

*We ache for ourselves and our neighbors, standing before an uncertain future.*

*We pray: may love, not fear, go viral.*

*Inspire our leaders to discern and choose wisely, aligned with the common good.*

*Help us to practice social distancing and reveal to us new and creative ways to come together in spirit and in solidarity.*

*Call us to profound trust in your faithful presence,*

*You, the God who does not abandon,*

*You, the Hold One, breathing within us, breathing among us, breathing around us in our beautiful yet wounded world.*

*-Chris Koellhoffer, IHM*

**TAPS:**

**NONE**



**August Birthdays:**

- William Bragg
- David Burns
- Larry Edmonds
- John Eschenbaum
- Charlie Mason
- Bruce Postel
- David Reis
- Russel Staples
- Bruce Templeman



A very happy birthday to all