



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.

Post email address: amerilegionth01@gmail.com

March 2020
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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- February 6 Lunch at the Physically and Mentally Impaired Children School
- February 10 Post Meeting 10:00AM
- February 14 Valentines
- February 17 Presidents Day

2019 Post Officers:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Office</u>	<u>Email</u>
Larry Edmonds	Commander	ldedmonds@aol.com
Bruce Templeman	1st Vice Commander	bruce.templeman@gmail.com
Wayne Wright	2nd Vice Commander	waywright@outlook.com
Ted Potyrala	Historian	tpubon@gmail.com
Maurice(Rocky) Hatzke	Service Officer	mrhatzke3@gmail.com
Hugh Mason	Chaplain	htmmason@aol.com
Jeff Ludwig	Adjutant/Finance Officer	Jgludwig2@gmail.com
Neil Tufford	Sergeant at Arms	Neiltufford@gmail.com
Charles (Rusty) Wilson	Judge Advocate	charles.r.wilson1@gmail.com
Joe Reedy	Public Affairs Officer	joereedy4@gmail.com
Phil Colombey	IT Officer	pcolombe@gmail.com
Salvatore (Sal) Salzarulo	Members at large	salzy48@hotmail.com
Dave Bell	Members at large	davebell211@hotmail.com
Kirby (Cosmo) Raines	Members at large	william_2017@icloud.com

February 2020 Post Membership Meeting



COMMANDER'S MESSAGE



By Larry Edmonds

Comrades,

As you know, post officer nominations will be accepted at the coming March 8th meeting. Adjutant Ludwig has sent out a list of officer positions and duties to assist you in determining your nominations for elections at our April 13th meeting. I encourage all of you to review this list and to consider your possible nominees to fill those positions. Through good leadership, new ideas, member involvement, and community programs a post can survive and prosper.

After our March meeting, we will have a guest speaker, Mr. Ray Withnal. Mr. Withnal has done extensive research on the Japanese POW camp/airfield that was here in Ubon near the end of WWII. He will give a talk on his research of the camp and airfield. The airfield is still there. The POW camp itself has since seen many rice harvests. Further details on Mr. Withnal's presentation will be forthcoming.

Increased Membership is always a priority of any post. Without current and future members, any post will slowly fade away through attrition. As I have stated many times, it is up to each and every one of us to strive to increase the posts membership. The American Legion National Commander has an incentive program for those that recruit 3 new members or more. Your name will be submitted by the Post Adjutant to National Headquarters and you will receive a Pin of Recognition for your efforts. Please, beat the bushes and find new or potential members.

1st Vice / Membership Chairman:



Bruce Templeman

I would like to thank those Post members that stayed after the last meeting and took part in the flag folding practice. The more we practice, the more confident we become.

Earlier this week, the Commander, 2nd Vice Commander, and I went to the US Embassy American Citizen Services Civilian Liaison Volunteer outreach in Udon Thani. The focus of the outreach was Family Disaster Planning. It was recommended that everyone take the time to develop a disaster plan. Here are some important considerations for your family disaster plan:

- Where will you meet family members? You should have a designated assembly location outside the house and outside the neighborhood.
- Identify an out-of-area "check-in contact", perhaps use your CLV's.
- Plan for all possibilities—extended stay, sheltering in place, or evacuation.
- How you will escape buildings where you spend time, i.e. your home, workplace, school, and place of worship?
- What route (and several alternatives) will you use to evacuate?
- Do you have transportation?

Feel free to discuss this issue at a Post meeting during "For the good of the order" segment. Stay safe and prepare your family.

Post Adjutant Corner:
Jeff Ludwig



How would you like to have this neat pin from our National Commander? What is it and how much does it cost, You ask. Well it is National Commander James W. "Bill" Oxford 2020 Membership Incentive Pin and it won't cost you a dime. All you have to do to earn this cool pin is recruit (3) new members into the American Legion. How simple is that!

A new member is defined as any eligible veteran joining for the 2020 membership year who was not a member of the American Legion during the 2019 membership year. Sorry but transfers do not count as new members.



Don't forget the nominations for the elected officers for the 2020/2021 year is the March membership meeting. You don't have to wait until then you can email your nominations to me anytime.

Presidents' Day is celebrated on the third Monday in February, in honor of all presidents who have served in the United States. It originated after George Washington's death in 1799 and was originally in honor of his birthday, February 22. By 1885, the entire country recognized the holiday; the celebration of Washington's birth joined the ranks of only four other federal holidays at the time: Christmas Day, New Year's Day, the Fourth of July, and Thanksgiving. It was also the first national holiday that recognized and was named after an individual in American history; the second would be Martin Luther King, Jr. Day (1983).

In the 1960s congress sought to offer more three-day weekends to the public, hence the shift of Washington's birthday celebration from February 22 to the third Monday in February along with a shift to include the celebration of Abraham Lincoln's birthday (February 12), which was not previously a federal holiday. The new law also moved Memorial Day, Columbus Day, and Veterans Day to set Mondays.

"Did you know? President's Day never falls on the actual birthday of any American president. Four chief executives—George Washington, William Henry Harrison, Abraham Lincoln and Ronald Reagan—were born in February, but their birthdays all come either too early or late to coincide with Presidents' Day, which is always celebrated on the third Monday of the month." -

[History.com Editors](https://www.history.com/news/presidents-day)

Historian:



The Battle of Ko Chang

17 January 1941

After France fell to the German's, the Vichy French Government still held an interest in what was then, French Indochina which consisted of Vietnam and Cambodia. There was doubt that Vichy France could continue to defend their interest in Indochina.

Thailand had an interest in annexing the area that France was having trouble defending which was along the Cambodian coast west of Saigon.

French Admiral Jean Decoux worked out a plan to put a stop to these incursions by using a naval attack on Thailand's Navy and coastal cities. He could then have a bombing campaign to support a counter-offensive along the Cambodian coast.

The Thai Navy consisted of 2 Japanese built armored coastal defense vessels, 2 British built armored gun boats, 12 torpedo boats and 4 submarines. In addition, they had over 140 Mitsubishi Ki - 30 light bombers, P-36 Hawk Fighters, 70 O2U-2 Corsair Bi-planes and 6 Martin Bombers.

Admiral Decoux's orders were to attack the Thai coastal cities from Rayong to the Cambodian frontier. He assigned Capitaine de Vaisseau Regis Berenger to command the fleet. On the evening of 15 January, the French fleet entered the Gulf of Siam, undetected. A French reconnaissance plane gathering intel found 1 coastal defense ship and 1 torpedo boat at Ko Chang. Also 1 gunboat, 4 torpedo boats and 2 submarines at Sattahip. The report was forwarded to Saigon and then on the Berenger. Berenger decided on a dawn attack on the Thai ships at Ko Chang.

As Berenger approached Ko Chang he used the several islands and inlets as cover. On 17 January at 05:30, the French split into three groups. The French attempted a bombing attack but were driven off by heavy anti-aircraft fire. This eliminated the element of surprise. The Thai crew were asleep but soon they scrambled to raise steam and slip their anchors. Unfortunately, both torpedo boats were sunk by gun fire from a French ship. A cruiser also destroyed a shore observation post. This prevented the Thai's from informing other what was happening. Lookouts on the French ship Lamotte-Picquet, spotted the coastal defense ship Thonburi. During battle,

the captain, Commander Luang Phrom Viraphan was killed. The ship was grounded at the mouth of the Chanthaburi river. It was later repaired and served as a training ship until it was decommissioned.

A plane approached Ko Chang and attempted to bomb a building on Ko Kgam but missed its target. The crews of the HTMS Songkhla and Chonburi opened fire hitting the right wing. The plane disappeared into the sea.

At 08:40, Berenger ordered the fleet to head home. This is when the Thai aircraft started their attack. Several bombs were dropped with many near misses but one bomb did manage to inflict a direct hit on the Lamotte-Picquet but it failed to explode.

In the end, the Thai navy lost 16 men. The French 11 men. I don't believe these figures are accurate because depending on what articles were written, the numbers seem to change.

The Japanese Government offered to mediate a peaceful settlement. The Thai's got back territory that they had lost to France in the late 19th. Century but the peace did not last long when the Japanese Army invaded Thailand in December 1941. At the conclusion of WW II, Thailand was forced to return all its gains to the French.

Each year on January 17. a memorial service is held at Hat Yuthanavy Beach on the south east part of the island near Long Beach. Wreaths are placed on a buoy where one of the ships sunk.

Researching this I found many discrepancies between articles. There are many articles on Google that you can go to for more information on this conflict.

Safety Topic

Coronavirus: What You Need to Know



Bumrungrad International HOSPITAL

coronavirus

Outbreak originated in Wuhan, China

Infection with the virus will cause pneumonia

Symptoms

of Coronavirus infection

Respiratory infection can result from

- Viral infection
- Bacterial infection
- Fungal infection

Fever, Runny nose, Cough, sore throat, Dyspnea or short of breath

Immediately consult your doctor if you have travelled through Wuhan, China and are experiencing these symptoms

How to protect yourself from infection

- Always wash your hands with soap and clean water, especially if you suspect that you have come into contact with someone infected.
- Wear a mask and avoid people who have a fever, cough, runny nose, and/or phlegm.
- If you have a fever, cough, or runny nose, please use a towel or tissue to cover your nose and mouth when sneezing or coughing.

The CDC recommends:

- Washing your hands often for at least 20 seconds with soap and water. An alcohol-based sanitizer can work in the absence of soap and water.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Stay home when you're sick.
- Cover your mouth when you cough, or sneeze with a tissue and throw the tissue in the trash.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.

It's important to note that alcohol-based sanitizers like Purell are helpful, but not a legitimate preventive measure to stop viruses.

Event: On 6 February 6, 2020 Commander Edmonds and his wife Pensri sponsored and served lunch at the Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities School in Ubon Ratchathani. Joining him were Adjutant Ludwig and his wife Ann; Service Officer Rocky Hatzke and his wife Phaga; Historian Potyrala and his wife Blang; and Chaplain Mason and his wife Al. The Group prepared and served lunch to approximately 100 students. They also prepared and handed gift bags to the students.





Chaplain's Message: A Prayer for President Donald Trump

Dear Lord,

We thank you that no matter who is in office you are sovereign over all. We thank you for the system of leadership and governing we have in the United States, and we pray for wisdom in the upcoming primaries and elections. But we pray specifically today for our current president; we pray that President Trump would draw near to you—that he would seek you above all other things. We pray that you would be an undeniable presence in his life, and we pray for godly leadership over our country.

Lord, please pour your grace over the people in this country. May the people President Trump governs learn to love each other more; may we listen to each other even when there are many differences. May we stand up for what is right and stand against what is wrong according to what you have made clear in Scripture. Give us bold spirits and tongues that proclaim grace and truth, spoken in love. We pray this same attitude for our president that he might ignore the impulse and temptation for harsh responses and choose compassionate ones instead.

God our Father, you know how we are all tempted daily and that we sin against you every day; we thank you that Christ has died for our past, present, and future sins. Holy Spirit please protect President Trump against the many temptations that come his way; make null the temptations of power and pride and help him to focus on you when he is struggling with decisions and responses. We pray spiritual protection over the president's marriage that he and his wife might continue to grow together in your love and remember the covenant promise they made to each other.

Jesus, we pray for the safety of our president and his family. Prevent those who disagree with him from taking sinful and unlawful actions against him or his family. Please surround him with security teams that regardless of politics, will keep their pledge to protect the elected leader of the US. Keep close to the president those who offer godly counsel and wisdom according to your Word. Give him a listening ear and an open heart that is receptive.

We also pray for open communication between President Donald Trump and the legislative and judicial branches of government. Holy Spirit please work among the people in our government to allow them to work together for the glory of God; help them to put people first and to put away differences that delay the work that is needed. Please give our leaders the energy they need to do the work you have set before them.

Lord, we pray that President Trump would trust you and we pray that he would encourage others to do the same. May the president acknowledge that the race you have set before him, is far greater than any other race. On this Presidents' Day, we pray for godly counsel for our president, we pray for godly leadership over this country, and we pray for Christ-centered compassionate hearts for those who rule and those who are governed. Father, we thank you for your mercy, your love, and your sovereign rule over us all. May we look to you in all circumstances God, in your Son's name, Jesus Christ, amen.

TAPS:

NONE



March Birthdays:

- Ken Adams
- David Bell
- Loyd Garmany
- Rocky Hatzke
- Tom Maher
- Joel Pierson



A very happy
birthday to all.

Upcoming events:

- March 9 - Post Membership meeting,
- March 15 - American Legion Birthday
- March 17 - St. Patrick's Day