



Brig. Gen. Robin Olds American Legion Thailand Post TH01

Bruce Templeman, 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 2021
Volume 5, Issue 3

Calendar of Events for February

- **March 8** - Post Membership Meeting
- **March 15**- The American Legion Birthday

2020/2021 Post Officers:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Office</u>	<u>Email</u>
Bruce Templeman	Commander	<i>bruce.templeman@gmail.com</i>
Wayne Wright	1st Vice Commander	<i>waywright@outlook.com</i>
Billy Holland	2nd Vice Commander	<i>billybholland@gmail.com</i>
Ted Potyrala	Historian	<i>tpubon@gmail.com</i>
Maurice(Rocky) Hatzke	Service Officer	<i>mrhatzke3@gmail.com</i>
Hugh Mason	Chaplain	<i>htmmason@aol.com</i>
Jeff Ludwig	Adjutant/Finance Officer	<i>Jgludwig2@gmail.com</i>
Salvatore (Sal) Salzarulo	Sergeant at Arms	<i>salzy48@hotmail.com</i>
Larry Edmonds	Judge Advocate	<i>ldedmonds@aol.com</i>
Joe Reedy	Public Affairs Officer	<i>joereedy4@gmail.com</i>
Paul McDermott	Members at large	<i>paulny54@hotmail.com</i>
Dave Bell	Members at large	<i>davebell211@hotmail.com</i>
Kirby (Cosmo) Raines	Members at large	<i>cosmotyson@yahoo.com</i>

COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

Bruce Templeman



I request and encourage our members to write articles to post in our Department renowned newsletter. We can always improve, and your suggestions, articles, and stories are a perfect addition to an already excellent product. The only guidelines that we have are to make these positive, upbeat, apolitical, helpful, and entertaining. It's not as difficult as you might think. Our first such member article is from Comrade John Eschenbaum, who provides a thought-provoking topic for us to consider. He's a Post TH01 Pioneer Journalist now, and we can use more like him to create thoughtful discussion and help us develop more as an effective organization. When submitting articles to the Post, please remember that our newsletter is disseminated to the Department and all the Posts within.

The status of the Boy Scouts of America (BSA) Americanism project is as follows: I have sent introductory emails requesting dialogue and received replies from one of the three BSA Troops in Thailand, Troop731 Chiang Mai. In that reply, I learned that there is a head of Scouts BSA in Thailand as well as a Cub Scout Pack at the same location in Chiang Mai. I also received a reply from the South District Director of the Far East Council which oversees the BSA Troops in Thailand. I requested advice from our Department of France Americanism Chair on the correct and legal way to proceed. I am waiting for the Department to outline the limits of our support to these organizations and define the requirements that we must meet to be compliant with American Legion policy before I contact these organizations again.



Our Post Historian has a difficult task in collecting and archiving information concerning our Post. Please assist him in any way possible to collect information for posterity. If you could send him a photo of yourself and short bio of your military service, it would really help.

I look forward to resuming our monthly Post meetings in person. The March meeting will be in person and I hope to see many of you there. We will still have Skype Go Meet for those who can not attend in person.



Post Adjutant Corner:

Jeff Ludwig

Post Elections are just around the corner. What better way to get involved with the Post than to run for one of the elected positions or volunteer for chairperson of one or more of the Post committees. Members will present nominations at the March 8, 2020 Post membership meeting. Self-nomination is not only acceptable but is encouraged. However, you are free to nominate other individuals as long as the individual has agreed to accept the nomination. Below is the list of positions up for election. For those members who have not served, we encourage you to step up. We need your ideas and your fresh perspective. You will find the experience rewarding; we promise you.



- a. Post Commander
- b. Post 1st Vice Commander
- c. Post 2nd Vice Commander
- d. Post Finance Officer
- e. Post Chaplain
- f. Post Judge Advocate
- g. Sergeants at Arms
- h. Public Affairs Officer
- i. Three Members at Large

American Legion Birthday: A hundred and one years ago this month the American Legion was born. Since then, the American Legion has stood tall and looked out for our veterans and their families. They firmly held their ground and demanded many programs that we take granted today. It wasn't easy but their firm convictions and persistent efforts won out in the end. Today there is still so much more to be done, so many who need our help. Can we do less than our forefathers -- I think not. So, this month let's celebrate The American Legion birthday and reconfirm our commitment to the four pillars of The American Legion. These are:

1. Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation
2. National Security
3. Americanism
4. Children & Youth

Post Finance Officer

Jeff Ludwig



Report of Foreign Bank and Financial Accounts (FBAR)


Every year, under the law known as the Bank Secrecy Act, you must report certain foreign financial accounts, such as bank accounts, brokerage accounts and mutual funds, to the Treasury Department. You must also keep certain records of those accounts. You report the accounts by filing a Report of Foreign Bank and Financial Accounts (FBAR) on FinCEN Form 114.

The FBAR is an annual report, due April 15 following the calendar year reported. You're allowed an automatic extension to October 15 if you fail to meet the FBAR annual due date of April 15. You don't need to request an extension to file the FBAR.

Who must File? A United States person, including a citizen, resident, corporation, partnership, limited liability company, trust and estate, must file an FBAR to report:

1. a financial interest in or signature or other authority over at least one financial account located outside the United States, if
2. the aggregate value of those foreign financial accounts exceeded \$10,000 at any time during the reporting calendar year.

Generally, an account at a financial institution located outside the United States is a foreign financial account. Whether the account produced taxable income has no effect on whether the account is a "foreign financial account" for FBAR purposes. This means that many of our members residing in Thailand that have the bank funds required by their respective visa fall into this category and must file the FBAR report. The web address below will take you to the e filing website <https://bsaefiling.fincen.treas.gov/NoRegFBARFiler.html> . Just follow the instructions.



File Online FBAR

- Adobe Reader NOT required
- You are ready to file today
- One-time submission
- Online form preparation

Prepare & Submit

You must file the FBAR electronically through the Financial Crimes Enforcement Network's [BSA E-Filing System](#). You don't file the FBAR with your federal tax return. The FBAR is required by the Treasury Department and is separate from any IRS filing obligations.



Safety Topic

Jeff Ludwig

Workplace Eye Wellness Month



March is Eye Wellness Month. Each day about 2,000 U.S. workers have a job-related eye injury that requires medical treatment. About one-third of the eye injuries treated in hospital emergency department are preventable when the right PPE is worn and safety precautions are made.

OSHA requires the use of eye and face protection whenever there is a reasonable probability of injury that could be prevented by such equipment. Eye protection should be worn by all employees exposed to the hazards, whether they are working in the area or just passing through. That goes for projects outside the work place.



- Chemicals – When working with chemicals use a face shield or goggles to protect against splashing.
- Particles and Dust – Safety glasses should include side shields to protect from flying objects.
- Hot Work and Other Hazards – When exposed to welding, lasers or fiber optics, be sure to use special-purpose safety goggles and helmets designed specifically for the task.

Contact lenses can't provide significant protection from eye hazards in the workplace. However, there is no evidence that the wearing of contact lenses increases the risk of eye injury. The American Optometric Association believes that workers should be permitted to wear contact lenses in most eye hazardous environments. However, eye protection must be worn over contact lenses exactly as would be required of all workers performing the same job.

Health care workers, laboratory staff, janitorial workers, animal handlers, and other workers may be at risk of acquiring infectious diseases from exposure via the eyes. Infectious diseases can be transmitted through the mucous membranes of the eye as a result of direct exposure (e.g., blood splashes, respiratory droplets generated during coughing or suctioning) or from touching the eyes with contaminated fingers or other objects. The

infections may result in relatively minor conjunctivitis or reddening/soreness of the eye or in a life-threatening disease such as HIV, B virus, or possibly even avian influenza. [\(NIOSH\)](#) Workers in these industries should wear the appropriate eye protection for the hazards. Eye protection should be removed by handling only the portion of this equipment that secures the device to the head (i.e., plastic temples, elasticized band, ties), as this is considered relatively “clean.” The front and sides of the device (i.e., goggles, face shield) should not be touched, as these are the surfaces most likely to become contaminated by sprays, splashes, or droplets during patient care. Non-disposable eye protection should be placed in a designated receptacle for subsequent cleaning and disinfection. [\(CDC\)](#)

In the event of an eye injury, here are the steps to take for first aid.

- Specks in the Eye
 - Do not rub the eye.
 - Flush the eye with large amounts of water.
 - See a doctor if the speck does not wash out or if pain or redness continues.
- Cuts, Punctures, and Foreign Objects in the Eye
 - Do not wash out the eye.
 - Do not try to remove a foreign object stuck in the eye.
 - Seek immediate medical attention.
- Chemical Burns
 - Immediately flush the eye with water or any drinkable liquid. Open the eye as wide as possible. Continue flushing for at least 15 minutes. For caustic or basic solutions, continue flushing while on the way to medical care.
 - If a contact lens is in the eye, begin flushing over the lens immediately. Flushing may dislodge the lens.
 - Seek immediate medical attention.
- Blows to the Eye
 - Apply a cold compress without pressure, or tape crushed ice in a plastic bag to the forehead and allow it to rest gently on the injured eye.
 - Seek immediate medical attention if pain continues, if vision is reduced, or if blood or discoloration appears in the eye.



Members Message.

John M. Eschenbaum



I get a miscellaneous e-mail question and answer service called ***Quora Digest*** which is a collation of folks writing in on general questions from history, current events, military, science etc. etc. Always something interesting. Of late came the question of why more young people didn't join the VFW or the American Legion.

In reading I remembered in my 30's joining while still actively drilling with my navy unit. Dues were paid but I did not go to a meeting or know what they did. My membership withered and died in not paying the dues. The activity of my unit kept me involved with the military side of life from drills, ACDUTRA (active duty for training), giving classes at meetings, or assigning them to name a few. My sense of comradery was filled.

In reading the opinion and resulting responses (over 54 at this point), I was amazed, puzzled, and jaw dropper effect. Many of the responses were from the Vietnam Era and later. They seemed to be folks in their 50s-60's expressing their experiences when investigating a membership.

In a nutshell they spoke of folks sitting around drinking, telling war stories, racist talk, schemes on 'bilking' the VA out of money, politics, and 'flag waving' mentality. In reading these experiences, they seemed stem from the clubs/bars and not from the meetings. IMO this sounded more like the neighborhood getting together at the local pool hall. If not, a sad affair of VETS as they age or mankind in general. I remember my hometown Vets club had the cheapest drinks. It wasn't limited due to need of clientele so more of a club in name only.

For our unit specifically these are not our issues. Ours is more the lack of potential qualified. My personal reasons were the comradery of other Americans, English being 1st language, cultural similarity of which military was the glue. Don't get me wrong. I enjoy my time in Thailand, but a booster shot of 'hometown' once a month can be just what the doctor ordered.

All in all, these comments coming from our fellow VETS should give us a better insight into who and what we are as a group. They may only be a microcosm of our collectivity. We may not identify with any one of them but certainly a part.

The URL to read for yourself.... (6) Why do young veterans not join veteran organizations like the VFW and American Legion? - Quora (<https://www.quora.com/Why-do-young-veterans-not-join-veteran-organizations-like-the-VFW-and-American-Legion>)

Historian
Ted Potyrala



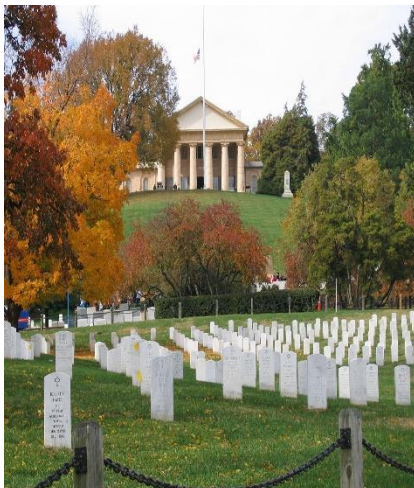
How the Lee's regained ownership of Arlington. Part One

The reason the Federal Government was able to take possession of Arlington was because in 1862, congress passed a law that empowered commissioners to assess and collect tax on real estate in insurrectionary districts. If the taxes were not paid in person, commissioners were granted authority to sell the land.

A tax of \$92.07 was levied on the estate. Because of the fighting and ill health, Mrs. Lee was stuck in Richmond. She sent her cousin to pay the tax but when he arrived, he was told they accept payment from only Mrs. Lee. Thus, declaring the estate in default and put up the property for sale.

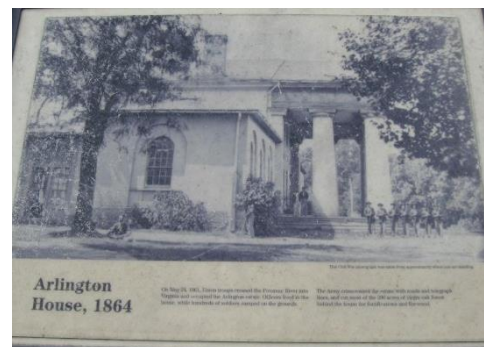
An auction was held. The only bidder was the Federal Government. They offered \$26,800 for a property that was worth \$34,100.

While Mrs. Lee was outraged about what had happened to her estate, Gen. Lee had plans to get the estate back, He kept them hidden from all but a



few friends and advisors. He himself took no part in this attempt but did encourage his lawyer to research his case and report to his legal advisor, Francis L. Smith. Gen. Lee confided to his brother that he wanted to regain ownership of the estate and to stop the burial of the dead. This could only be done if he got the property back.

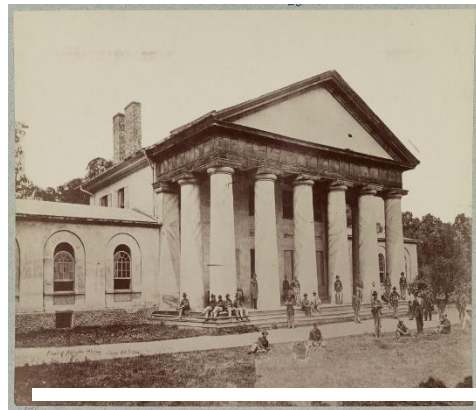
To see if this was even possible, Smith made a clandestine visit to the estate. He determined that it was possible to make it habitable if a wall was built blocking the view of the graves. Unfortunately for him, he told the cemetery supervisor of his plan. The supervisor reported this to Gen. Meigs. Remember, Gen. Meigs was the architect of



the cemetery. This didn't sit well with him and he asked Sec. of War Statton, to make sure the government had clear title to the land. Gen. Lee died in October 1870. The ownership was still unresolved.

Gen. Lee's widow was still obsessed over the loss of her property. She petitioned congress to examine the Federal Governments claim to the land and to estimate the cost of removing the graves. Her petition was bitterly opposed by the senate and was defeated by a vote of 54-4. In June 1873, Mrs. Lee visited Arlington for the last time. What she seen was enough for her to say she did not want to go back and was content to sign over her rights to it. She died 5 months later.

Mrs. Lee's eldest son, George Washington Custis Lee took over the cause. In April 1874, he went to congress with a new petition. All he asked for was an admission that the property was taken unlawfully and requested compensation for it. His petition died in committee.



Custis Lee might have given up but there were signs that the hard feelings between the north and south were softening. Rutherford B Hayes was elected president on his promise of healing the scars of the war. Custis Lee revived his attempt to get Arlington back. This time he went to the courts. Next month find out what happened in the court.

**Credit to the Smithsonian Magazine.

Chaplain's Message:

Prayer of Solidarity



- ✚ For all who have contracted coronavirus, we pray for care and healing.
- ✚ For those who are particularly vulnerable, we pray for safety and protection. [This Photo](#) by
- ✚ For all who experience fear or anxiety, we pray for peace of mind and spirit.
- ✚ For affected families who are facing difficult decisions between food on the table or public safety, we pray for policies that recognize their plight.
- ✚ For those who do not have adequate health insurance, we pray that no family will face financial burdens alone.
- ✚ For those who are afraid to access care due to immigration status, we pray for recognition of the God-given dignity of all.
- ✚ For our brothers and sisters around the world, we pray for shared solidarity.
- ✚ For public officials and decisionmakers, we pray for wisdom and guidance.
- ✚ Father, during this time may your Church be a sign of hope, comfort and love to all. Grant peace. Grant comfort. Grant healing. Be with us, Lord. Amen.

**Contributed by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops <https://www.usccb.org/>

TAPS: None



March Birthdays:

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



A very happy birthday to all