



Brig. Gen. Robin Olds

American Legion Thailand Post TH01



Bruce Templeman, Commander Jeff Ludwig, Adjutant

Post meetings held the 2nd Wednesday of each month at the
Wing 21 Ubon Royal Thai AB
Driving Range Clubhouse at 10:00 a.m.
All members are encouraged to attend.

Post email address: amerilegionth01@gmail.com

November 2021
Volume 4, Issue 10

Calendar of Events for November

- **November 10- US Marine Corps 246th Birthday**
- **November 11- Veterans Day (Remembrance Day Ceremony)**
- **November 11 - Post Membership Meeting 1300 hours**
- **November 25 - Thanksgiving**

2021 Post Officers:

<u>NAME</u>	<u>OFFICE</u>	<u>EMAIL</u>
Bruce Templeman	Commander	<i>bruce.templeman@hotmail.com</i>
John Skabry	1 st Vice Commander	<i>Dive.safely@gmail.com</i>
Larry Edmonds	2 nd Vice Commander	<i>lledmonds@aol.com</i>
Ted Potyrala	Historian	<i>tpubon@gmail.com</i>
Maurice (Rocky) Hatzke	Service Officer	<i>mrhatzke3@gmail.com</i>
Hugh Mason	Chaplain	<i>htmason@aol.com</i>
Jeff Ludwig	Adjutant/Finance Officer	<i>Jgludwig2@gmail.com</i>
Salvatore (Sal) Salzarulo	Sergeant at Arms	<i>salzy48@hotmail.com</i>
Christopher Lampert	Judge Advocate	<i>dukeboxer@gmail.com</i>
Joe Reedy	Public Affairs Officer	<i>joereedy4@gmail.com</i>
Paul McDermott	Member at large	<i>paulny54@hotmail.com</i>
Wayne Wright	Member at large	<i>waywright@outlook</i>
Kirby (Cosmo) Raines	Member at Large	<i>cosmotyson@yahoo.com</i>

COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

Bruce Templeman



An abundance of COVID caution almost prevented us from gathering as usual for the Veterans Remembrance Day Ceremony at Thung Si Muang Park this year. As per the email that went out to all members, the ceremony is still on. We will assemble at the northeast corner of the Park on 11 November by 1030 hours and be prepared to present the floral wreath at the monument.

We will continue to honor our veterans on this day, and every day as we will continue to assist those that are in need. Our Post has built relationships with the US Embassy and veterans' groups such as American Legion Post TH02, six of the VFW District 5 Posts, and the International Veterans Association in Phuket. Soon we will have contact with the Navy League as well. Our network for helping veterans and their families here in Thailand is growing stronger than ever. Let's forge ahead and reach out to all veterans, wherever they reside. Don't forget about current and past members; reconnect one on one, heart to heart and ask how they would or wouldn't want to get involved.

It's been a long and difficult year with the myriad of problems that the pandemic has brought, but we can be thankful that we have all come out on the other side and have a group of friends that we can lean on. In the spirit of Thanksgiving and the hope of a wonderful future, we should look towards having a Holiday Party in December to celebrate our comradeship and families. I look forward to the next Post meeting and hope that all will contribute to the success of our next event.



From the Desk of the Post Adjutant:

Jeff Ludwig



Well fellow members, we are six months into the migration of the American Legion's new online Membership system. It was a tremendous undertaking to transfer over 2 million records. While it wasn't always smooth, given the size of the operation the

programmers have done a commendable job. One of the new features of the new online system is the new Address format that adapts to fit the country that the members and Post are located. For us in Thailand the address fields change from City, County, and State to Sub District, District, and Province. The new address module also has a built in GPS Identifier that is intended to insert the correct Postal code/Zip Code in the address. This function works really well in the USA and in most English-speaking countries. However, in non-English speaking countries it has a difficulty deciding the correct postal code.

That is especially true here in Thailand simply because we use two significantly different alphabets. We are trying to fit a 70 - letter Thai alphabet into a 26-letter alphabet. You add in the differing phonetic rules and punctuation, and it is not hard to see how words can be translated differently. Working with Google Maps and the World Postal Code Website and assistance from the Department of France, we believe we have been able to correct the members addresses in Thailand.

A good test will be if you get your monthly magazine. Also, I encourage all of you to go online and review your address loaded in your myLegion.org account profile. If you see any errors, contact me and I will take the appropriate corrective action. If you are not sure how to log into your account or having difficulties, let me know and I can walk you through it.

Bldg. #, Lane & Road:	<input type="text"/>
Sub-District:	<input type="text"/>
District:	<input type="text"/>
Province:	<input type="text"/>
Post Code:	<input type="text"/>



My **LEGION.ORG**

1st Vice Commander and Membership Chair:

John Skabry



Greetings Comrades,

I want to share some cautious optimism with you. It would appear that the rainy season may have passed. With the change of the season comes our excellent cool(er) dry weather we know and love. Couple this with the recent announcement that fully vaccinated US Citizens enter the Kingdom without the need to quarantine. We could be looking at our first real opportunity to welcome old friends back and prepare a place for newcomers in quite a while.

At our last Post meeting, surplus revenue of over 14000 Thai Baht was made available for any Post member with a proposal that they then submit to the Post Executive Committee for approval. So, with that, the only thing missing is you. Want the Post to do something? We will. With the imminent lifting of restrictions, there is no longer a requirement for self-imposed stagnation.

I look forward to seeing you all again very soon.



Status of Covid-19 Vaccinations in Thailand:

The total amount of doses of all types delivered to date would cover 27.75 million people. The estimated population of Thailand is 66 million. At present, the delivery of the Moderna vaccine has not occurred, but has been promised for delivery sometime in November. The Janssen (Johnson & Johnson) vaccine was approved for French nationals only and administered by the French Embassy.

The following information was obtained from [COVID-19 vaccination in Thailand - Wikipedia](#)

Total number of people who have received vaccinations in Thailand as of 14 Oct 2021^[1]

* Percentage of population with right to medical treatment^[2]

█ Unvaccinated population: ~30.312 million people (45.12%)

█ Population who has received only one dose of a two-dose vaccine: 11,700,826 (17.42%)

█ Population who are fully vaccinated: 23,327,680 (34.72%)

█ Population who are received first booster dose: 1,839,439 (2.47%)

█ Population who are received second booster dose: 1,293 (0.00%)

Donation for Covid-19 Relief

Comrade Billy Holland and his wife, Nhing, donated 10 days of food supplies and water for ten families (20 to 30 people) in Ban Don Yai, Trakan Phuet Phon, Ubon Ratchathani. We would like to thank everyone for the assistance provided in making this happen.

Commander's Note: Our Post has Legionnaires scattered all across Thailand and it's a testament to their selflessness to see them helping out their local communities as well as our host community of Ubon Ratchathani City. I'm proud to be a member of an active American Legion Post.





Thai Immigration changes:

There have been several news articles posted about changes to the health insurance requirements for OA visas and subsequent extensions. As these changes are not official until they are posted in the Royal Thai Government Gazette, they are simply informational and to be used as a bellwether to plan future actions. The latest information was that the amount of health insurance coverage required for an OA visa was to be raised from 400k baht to 3 million baht.

From an article in the **Thaiger** news outlet, *"It has recently be announced there will be change to the regulations for non-immigrant OA visas, visitors will now be required to have a minimum of **3 million baht in health insurance** for in-patient care to be eligible for long-term stays in Thailand, up from the previous requirement of 400,000 baht. The Deputy Minister of Public Health, Satit Pitutacha, says 'the increase in insurance is necessary to make sure that, should a traveler get ill during their one year in the country, more insurance money available is necessary to guarantee they receive the proper treatment.' Inpatient care (or IPD) must have a coverage limit of at least 3,000,000 Baht, and outpatient care must have a coverage limit of at least 40,000 Baht."*

This article does not address the situation of OA visa extensions or those that are already in-country, so it's advisable to monitor the news and official government sources to see what changes will be published in the Royal Thai Government Gazette.

From the Books of the Post Historian



Ted Potyrala



General Colin Powell

1937-2021

**Four-star general, National Security Advisor,
Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and Secretary of State.**

Colin Powell was born in Harlem N.Y. And was raised in the South Bronx. Just like many men at that time, he had no definite plans on what to do with his life. In 1954, he enrolled in the City College of New York where he studied Geology. It was there where he joined the ROTC program and found his calling. He was made commander of his unit and started to gain the experience and direction he needed for his path in the U.S. Army. When he graduated in 1958, he was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the army. In 1963 he was sent to Vietnam as an advisor. While patrolling along the Vietnamese Laotian border, he was wounded by a punji-stick booby trap. In 1968, he was sent back to Vietnam as a Major. While there he was injured in a helicopter crash. Although wounded, he was able to rescue his fellow comrades from the burning helicopter. In 1973, Powell did a tour in Korea serving as a battalion commander. At the completion of his tour, he obtained a staff position at the Pentagon. During this time, he studied at the Army War College and was promoted to Brigadier General and commanded a brigade of the 101st, Airborne. During the Carter administration, Powell was an assistant to the Deputy Secretary of Defense. He was also promoted to Major General. In 1987, he became National Security Advisor which he held for the duration of the Reagan administration. In 1991, he took over the Army Forces Command and was named chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff by President George H Bush. General Powell retired from the army in 1993. In 2000, he was appointed by President George W Bush as Secretary of State. At that time, he was the first African American to hold that office. During his military service, he was awarded 11 military decorations including the Purple Heart, Bronze Star and Legion of Merit.

(Excerpts from the History Channel)

Veterans Day

“On this day, Veterans Day, we are commemorating the service of veterans of all wars. “We remember how men and women set aside their civilian pursuits to serve their nation’s cause, defending the freedom of mankind and preserving our precious American heritage. “We believe our strength on the field of battle, on the supply lines which nourished our armed might, lay in the justice of our cause against the forces of evil. We believe our determination made us better warriors because we fought with our minds and our hearts as well as our bodies. “We recognize service to our country and her cause does not end with the termination of military service. We continue our endeavors on behalf of an honorable world peace with a feeling of profound gratitude to God, and to the men and women who gave their lives as their part of the cost of this noblest of causes. “Out of blood and sweat we learned of purpose, sacrifice, tolerance, bravery and discipline. These are solid foundation stones upon which a great nation is built. In our continuing quest for an honorable world peace, we must cultivate these virtues.

November Birthdays:

- Chris Lampert
- KC Marshment
- John Skabry
- Doug Steuart

A very happy birthday to all



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