

THE AMERICAN LEGION AT UBON RATCHATHANI, THAILAND



BRIGADIER GENERAL ROBIN OLDS

POST NUMBER TH01

POST MEETING: 2ND WEDNESDAY OF EVERY MONTH, AT 10:00 AM
POST LOCATION: WING 21 ROYAL THAI AIR FORCE (RTAF) AIRBASE
POST VENUE: WING 21 GOLF DRIVING RANGE CLUBHOUSE



NOVEMBER, 2022

POST EMAIL: [HTTP://AMERILEGIONTH01@GMAIL.COM](http://amerilegionth01@gmail.com)

VOL. 5, ISSUE 11

LINKS CONCERNING ISSUES OF GENERAL EXPAT INTEREST IN THAILAND

AMERICAN LEGION 2023 MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

https://mylegion.org/PersonifyEbusiness/Membership/Renew?fbclid=IwAR3kG7akDFdUfEoHmes1dHFeftSedZsFW6CUHwEXZOE1oq9_lgrq1K1Kg#legion-org

US DOLLAR TO THAI BAHT EXCHANGE RATE (AS OF 31/10/22)

~~\$1.00:~~฿38.05

<https://www.x-rates.com/calculator/?from=USD&to=THB&amount=1>



POST COMMANDER'S COMMENTS...*BRUCE TEMPLEMAN*

A word from the Commander...

This is becoming the best year of service I have experienced. The Post has performed as a cohesive and effective team, meeting and exceeding expectations.

First, I would like to thank our 1st Vice Commander, Ted Potyrala, for leading the membership drive by personally recruiting three new members. I would like to welcome these three and three others to our vibrant and active Post.

Welcome our newest members:

- David Borchert, USA
- Carl Fletcher, USAF
- Dean Housden, USAF
- David Rhoutsong, USAF
- Paul Schramm, USN

Our charter city, Ubon Ratchathani, has suffered a flood and our 2nd Vice Commander, John Skabry, quickly identified a need and set out to support the community by producing meals in his restaurant to distribute to the people displaced by the flood. The Post stepped in to support the operation by providing funds to purchase the food and water as well as

volunteers to help distribute these meals. Peppers Restaurant and Bakery produced up to 300 meals per day to distribute to the needy. The volunteers had to go out by 5 ton military truck and sometimes via boat to get these meals to the city areas hardest hit. I would like to thank the following people for bravely and selflessly going to assist the most helpless in our community:

- 2nd Vice Commander John Skabry and his wife, Kru Fern
- My dear friends, Bunta Pearson, Orasee Kaenkarn, and Khun Nong
- 1st Vice Commander Ted Potyrala and his wife, Plang
- Post Service Officer Maurice (Rocky) Hatzke and his wife, Paga

Our Finance Officer, Jeff Ludwig, and his assistant, Wayne Wright, helped smooth the way to a successful operation and membership drive by taking immediate action, working diligently and quickly to coordinate the donations and pay the bills as they became due. They did this while making a transition from Bank of America to our new financial institution, First Command. Their hard work has enabled us to keep relief operations and recruiting efforts ongoing. They

make it look easy, but it is not, and I appreciate them greatly for getting the job done.

I also want to personally thank all of the people that immediately donated to our Relief Fund without the Post even having the time to solicit them. Without you, the relief operation would have ended almost as soon as it started.

- Fred Berg: 250.00 USD
- Joe Cardiero: 5,000 Baht
- Mark Faralli: 5,000 Baht
- Brian Walters: 500 Baht
- Grant Nightengale: 1,000 Baht
- Joel Pierson: 10,000 Baht
- Jeff Ludwig: 5,000 Baht
- David Reis: 5,000 Baht
- Ted Potyrala: 2,000 Baht

A very generous donation of 38,000 Baht was donated by our partner Veterans Service Organization, **VFW Post 10217 in Nakhon Ratchasima** (Korat). We thank our comrades-in-arms for recognizing the importance of this relief effort and helping us through a crucial time. Their donation enabled us to continue the operation just as the flood was reaching its crest.

Continuing my thanks for our generous donors, I am proud to say that the Post is still on track to raise funds for the **Tawanchai Foundation**, this year. Early donors to this effort are Thomas Heimler with 720 Baht and Paul Dungey with 3,580 Baht. As soon as the waters in Ubon Ratchathani recede and the people begin to recover, we will focus on our

pet project of helping children with cleft palates get the medical and dental operations they need to live normal fulfilling lives.

I know that you are extremely proud, as I am, to be in an organization that displays great generosity and teamwork, especially in times of crisis. I encourage all of you to participate in any way you can. Everyone can do something to help out our veterans and communities. We cannot do anything without you, and we certainly do not know what is needed in your community if you do not tell us. Tell us how we can help.

I also want to make sure that our Members at Large contact each and every one of you to share the news and to check up on you by the end of the year. Answer their call or email. We need to hear from all of you. It's especially pertinent during the holiday season. Let's end the year with success and camaraderie. I look forward to our future as a Post that makes a difference.

Bruce A. Templeman
Commander
American Legion Post TH01
Ubon Ratchathani, Thailand

USEFUL INFORMATION FOR MEMBERS

AN IMPORTANT MESSAGE FOR U.S. CITIZENS LIVING IN THAILAND

We're getting very close to the deadlines in each state for requesting ballots for the midterm elections...

MAKE YOUR VOTE COUNT FROM THAILAND!

Voting - U.S. Embassy & Consulate in Thailand
<https://th.usembassy.gov/u-s-citizen-services/voting/>

MESSAGE FOR U.S. CITIZENS IN THAILAND (22 JUNE 2022) **RECREATIONAL USE OF MARIJUANA IN PUBLIC IS ILLEGAL IN THAILAND**

"Thailand made marijuana legal for medical purposes on June 9, 2022. However, according to a health directive announced in the Royal Gazette on June 14, anyone smoking cannabis and hemp in public for recreational purposes shall face imprisonment of up to three months or a fine of up to 25,000 baht if they cause a public nuisance or pose health hazards to others."

<https://th.usembassy.gov/message-for-u-s-citizens-in-thailand-june-22-2022/>

HOLIDAY & EVENTS CALENDAR

01 November

First Day of Native American Indian Heritage Month

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Native_American_Indian_Heritage_Month

06 November

Daylight Saving Time ends

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Daylight_saving_time

08 November

Election Day

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2022_United_States_elections

08 November

Loy Krathong (Thailand)

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Loy_Krathong

08 November

Yi Peng Festival (Thailand)

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lantern_Festival

10 November

United States Marine Corps Birthday

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_Marine_Corps_birthday

11 November

Veterans Day

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Veterans_Day

11 November

American Legion Post TH01 Membership Monthly Meeting

24 November

Thanksgiving Day

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Thanksgiving_\(United_States\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Thanksgiving_(United_States))

25 November

Native American Heritage Day

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Native_American_Heritage_Day

POST OFFICERS 2022MY

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ADJUTANT'S CORNER...JEFF LUDWIG

Greetings Comrades,

Thank you to all the members who renewed their membership this month. We are currently sitting at 74% of our members renewed! Good news is, we are on target to have another strong membership drive.

The Department's goal also includes new members. We only need a total of 17 renewals and new members to reach 100% and join the Department's 100 club. If we do it before 31 December, we will be eligible for a monetary award, and the national Honor Ribbon. I am confident we can do this.

For those of you who have not renewed your membership, we hope you do, and do it before 31 December. We need you, and the American Legion needs you.

For all members, keep looking for new members to join our Post. The National Commander has a recruitment incentive program. If you recruit three new members, you are eligible for the National Commanders Pin.

Veterans Day is coming up this Month. This is a time to honor our veterans and active-duty members. So many gave so much and some gave their all to keep our country free. What better way to honor our veterans than to join a veteran's service organization like the American Legion and our Post TH01. You can make a difference. Even if it is just renewing your membership. If you want to become active, there are a number of committees that need volunteers. Also, if you know of any veterans in your area, reach out and check on them. While you are checking on them, let them know about our Post, and encourage them to join. If you know of a community in need that we can help with, bring it up to the activities committee.

Jeff Ludwig
Adjutant & Finance Officer
American Legion Post TH01
Ubon Ratchathani, Thailand



SAFETY MESSAGE

IN THE EVENT OF AN EMERGENCY IN THAILAND, ARE YOU PREPARED?

Emergency defines a broad array of situations from car accidents, assaults, health concerns, etc. The list is endless.

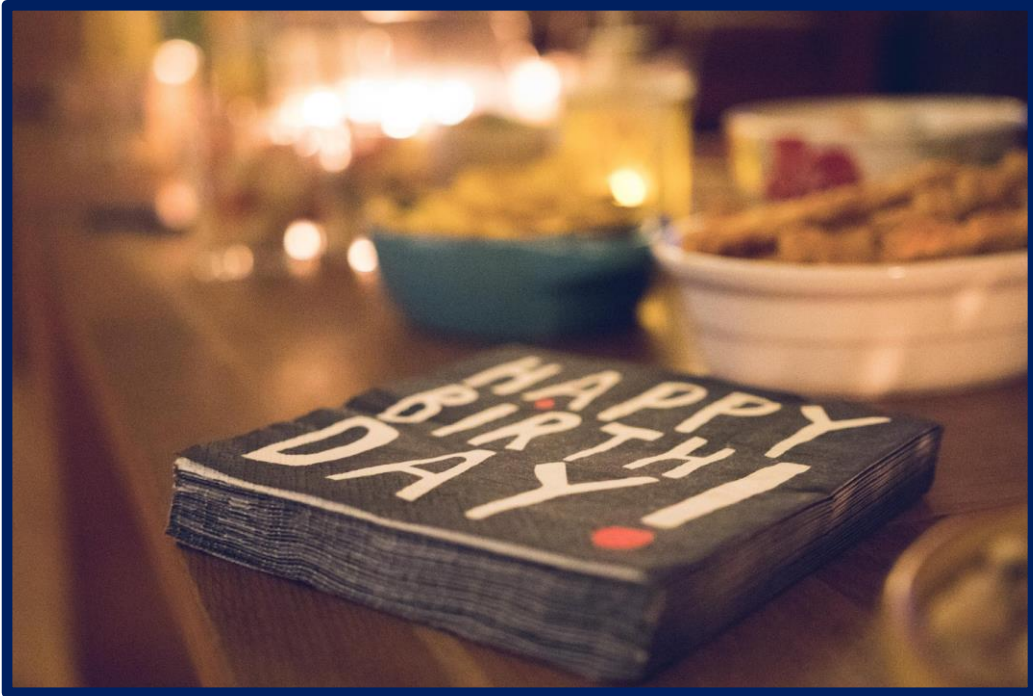
Emergencies usually occur when you least expect it. In the USA, there are a variety of numbers to call, including State and County emergency phone numbers and hot lines. The 911 is the most recognized number and most used. The State and local authorities usually have a list of numbers readily available in the locale where you live. The local yellow pages usually list the local emergency numbers.

What if you are in Thailand: what would you do, and who would you call?

Like many of us, you are probably not well versed in reading Thai Script. Even if you are, where would you look? In an emergency, you will rarely have time to look it up on the internet. Fortunately, the Thai PBS provided the below list of emergency numbers used in Thailand. I strongly recommend you print this list and keep handy. It has saved me on several occasions. I keep a short copy in my wallet and loaded on my phone, so I always have it available. Let us hope you never have an occasion to need it, but it is nice to know you are prepared should the need arise.



NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS



Christopher Lampert

Kelvin Marshment

Paul McDermott

John Skabry, Jr.



1ST VICE COMMANDER & HISTORIAN...*TED POTYRALA*

Greetings fellow legionnaires,

I want to write about a personal issue I recently had that could affect you.

Five days after returning from the U.S., my skin on my lower right back started to feel funny. It was a tingling sensation. I checked it out but did not see anything, so I thought it was just one of many feelings I had in the past that will just go away.

Two days later, a pain developed. While getting ready for bed, I took off my shirt and saw these ugly looking red streaks running across my side. There were five of them. They itched badly and pain was setting in.



The next morning, I asked Mr. Google to show skin rashes. There were pictures of about 22 different common rashes. Mine looked very similar to the shingles rash. I went to Ubon Rak Hospital where a doctor confirmed it. She gave me two meds to take. One was an antiviral medication to be taken five times a day for one week. The other one was for pain. And, she also gave me a cream to be put on five times a day.

As you probably know, anyone that has had Chicken Pox can also develop shingles later in life. Those over 50 are more likely to have a case. Those over 60 are more likely to develop complications. While shingles is considered contagious, it can only be contagious by contact with the open sores. If the person that gets infected from you has not had Chicken Pox, they will develop Chicken Pox instead of shingles.

I was lucky because I seemed to have a mild case. It is very uncomfortable with itching and some pain. Still, it

is not fun. As I said, mine was located on my side which is common, but it can be on the face which if near the eye, can cause a loss of vision. One bad part of having shingles is that even once the rash is gone, the pain can remain for weeks or months. Shingles affect the nerves. It can also cause brain swelling.

I seemed to have recovered but five weeks after I first noticed it, I still have some rash on my back. The pain

lasted four weeks after completing treatment.

So why am I telling you this? Like I said, it could affect you. Shingles are preventable. If I took the vaccine, I may not have gotten this at all. The problem with taking the vaccine is that it comes in a two-shot program, spaced 2 to 6 weeks apart. While I was in the states, I didn't have enough time. I figured I

would just get it in Thailand. There are two vaccines used for shingles, Shingrix which is used in the US and Herpes Zoster which Bumrungrad uses here in Thailand. From what I have read, the vaccine is not available in all parts of Thailand. I may be incorrect, so please tell me if you know different.

Shingles is not a fun thing to have and to us old folks, it can become serious. If you go back home, consider getting this vaccine. Here in Thailand, if you know of a hospital that has the vaccine, let us know.

Ted Potyrala
1st Vice Commander & Historian
Membership Committee Chairman
America Legion Post TH01
Ubon Ratchathani, Thailand

HISTORY ARTICLE

BRIGADIER-GENERAL ROBIN OLDS

AFTER WWII AND BEFORE VIETNAM

Ok, I know I previously said this article would be about Col. Olds during Vietnam, but I should include the time he spent before becoming the commander of the 8th TFW.

After WWII, Olds was assigned to West Point as an assistant football coach. While he was there, he seemed to be resented by many of the staff because of his rapid rise in rank and his combat experience. He was transferred to the 412th Fighter Group at March Field. There he flew the P-80. It was during this assignment that he began a career of a long struggle with superiors he viewed as more promotion minded rather than warrior minded.

In 1946, Olds, along with Lt. Col. John "Pappy" Herbst, may have formed the first Air Force jet aerobatic demonstration team.



Olds was one of four pilots who participated in the first one day, dawn to dusk, transcontinental round trip jet flight from March Field to Washington, DC. Later that year, Olds placed second at the Cleveland Air Races.

In 1947, Olds went to England under the USAF/Royal AF exchange program. While there, he flew the Gloster Meteor jet.

From October 1948 to September 1949, he commanded the NO. 1 Squadron at Royal Station Tangmere. He was the first foreigner to command a RAF unit during peace time.



Olds returned to the United States to command the 71st Fighter Squadron at Pittsburg Airport. This assignment kept him from serving in the Korean War despite repeated requests for a combat assignment. Discouraged with the air force, he was in the process of resigning but was talked out of it by a former mentor, Maj. Gen. Frederic H. Smith, Jr. who took him to the

Eastern Air Defense Command Headquarters at Stewart AFB, New York.



Olds was promoted to Lt. Col. in 1951 and to full Colonel in 1953. He served in several staff positions generating papers on the need to upgrade conventional warfare. His section also worked on generating funding for the SR-71. After this assignment, he went to the War College and graduated in 1963.

Olds became commander of the 81st TFW at RAF Bentwaters, England, a F-101 Fighter-Bomber Wing. While there, Olds brought over Col. Daniel "Chappie" James, Jr. He met Col. James during his time spent in the Pentagon. They developed a strong professional and social relationship. Olds formed a F-101 demo team using pilots from his wing.



Unfortunately, he did not have command authorization. His superior at 3rd AF attempted to have Olds court martialled. The commander of USAFE, Gen. Gabriel P Disosway, instead authorized Olds removal from command of the 81st and canceled a

recommendation of Legion of Merit. He then had Olds transferred to 9th AF at Shaw AFB.

In 1966, Olds was tapped to become the commander of the 8th TFW at Ubon Royal Thai AFB, Thailand. Before leaving, he was sent to Davis-Monthan AFB, Arizona to get checked out in the F-4C Phantom. It just so happened that he met up With Col. James again who was the Deputy Commander of Operations.

Next month, Col. Olds arrives at Ubon.
Excerpts from Wikipedia



2ND VICE COMMANDER

...JOHN SKABRY

Comrades,

Many of you are familiar with the flood disaster which impacted Ubon Ratchathani, in 2019. Following that event, your Post leadership established our Disaster Relief Fund. The goal of this fund was to stand ready to rapidly respond to the needs of our Comrades and community when such a disaster happens again.

Two typhoons and several heavy rain events across Isaan during August and late September saw our Mun River begin to burst its banks. Soon, we began to see camps for the displaced crop up, and we knew it was time to act. By October 2, it was clear that this flood would significantly impact our city and community. The method, the means, and the manpower were established within the span of one emergency meeting of your Post Executive Committee.

The next day, Post Commander Templeman, our friends, volunteers, and I were in a Royal Thai Air Force boat passing out hot meals to hungry hands trapped on the roofs of houses. I read an article, on October 6, stating that, as of that day, more than 13,600 families were displaced in Ubon Ratchathani province alone. At that time, we were notified that the Ubonrat Dam, located upriver, in Khon Kaen province, was at maximum capacity.

The subsequent release of additional water into the Mun River changed the scope of the disaster from a district issue to a province-wide disaster. At the highest point, the Mun River had risen 37.72 feet! In response, your Post doubled down on the relief effort with donations from our partner, VFW Post 10217 in Korat, as well as the Farang and Thai communities started flowing in. The Royal Thai Air Force, Royal Thai Army, Royal Thai Police, and Royal Thai Tourist Police immediately provided all the logistical assistance we could require without question or reservation.



I want to thank Post Commander, Templeman, Post 1ST Vice Commander, Ted Potyrala, Post Adjutant & Finance Officer, Jeffrey Ludwig, and Post Veteran Service Officer, Rocky Hatzke, for donating their time and energy in helping my staff and I with distributing food and drinks. Food was provided to those in greatest need, which often required potential personal risks, which they braved willingly.

Most of all, I would like to thank our Comrades for your donations, and the trust you placed in your Post. Because of you, The American Legion at Ubon Ratchathani, Thailand, Brigadier-General Robin Olds, Post TH01 was able to lead the distribution of no less than 3,650 hot meals, 1,200 stuffed buns, and clean drinking water within the span of thirteen of the most critical days of the October Flood, 2022.

Thank you.

SERVICE OFFICER'S MESSAGE

Greetings Comrades,

If you wish to get your documents mailed to the USA quickly, be advised that USPS Priority Express Mail International guaranteed delivery has been suspended, so save your money and find another guaranteed delivery company to send your documents to the USA. Mail delivery during Covid-19 had been suspended for a time and although it has been resumed, it is not as efficient as before. Make sure that you allow at least 30 days for

delivery from Thailand to the USA. Plan ahead and avoid the stress.

Service Officer
American Legion Post TH01
Ubon Ratchathani, Thailand

[CLICK THE FOLLOWING LINKS FOR POST TH01...](#)

WEBSITE

<https://americanlegionthailand.com>

Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/americanlegionthailandposttho1>

Twitter

https://twitter.com/Post_TH01

Instagram

https://www.instagram.com/post_tho1/

YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC74pEhMUgz5KmGcs7RMEXyA>

ASEAN Now

<https://aseannow.com/profile/277159-american-legion-post-tho1/>