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Happy New Year to all of our troops and veterans, and all of the Americans out there that support them!!



From the Commander



I would like to begin by wishing all of you a Happy New Year for 2022. Unbelievably it seems that 2021 was 2020 part 2. I went back and looked at the January 2021 newsletter and basically I could have just cut and pasted my comments from then and they would have been applicable today. Seems like we were on a pause. As I look back, I realize that despite everything that was thrown at us, we as a Post continued to do what we do best. “Veterans helping Veterans”

I think one of the most difficult things of this whole situation is the effect it has had on our ability to conduct in-person meetings. We took such a hit during 2020 and 2021 with this ability. We were able to hold several in-person meetings and started to rebuild the comradery this offers. However, as we begin the 2022 year once again the situation here is evolving. We will be monitoring this and will keep all of you informed the best we can.

We as a Post rose above and beyond as we dealt with the Pandemic and the affects overall. We rallied as a group to provide assistance to our neighbors with the generosity of our members and friends to work through all of this. We did our buddy checks, participated in food drives and giveaways. We worked with other organizations to provide a united front to face all the difficulties head-on. That is what Veterans do and what we will continue to do. We have the strength, knowledge and benefit of the group to make this happen. We will charge into 2022 with the resolve as Veterans to overcome all challenges ahead. Oddly, I am looking forward to this. It makes one extremely confident when you have the full support of this organization and all other Veteran organizations. This alliance is truly remarkable.

William Martin Ahlberg
Commander, TH02



From the First Vice Commander



The birth of a new year is traditionally a time for lists, reflections, and goals. For our Post, this past year was a time of tremendous uncertainty. Several challenges awaited us at the starting blocks of 2021: The country was shut down; tourists and expats were staying home and ever present was the threat of Covid which could be the last virus any of contracted.

As the year progressed things got worse: a third Covid wave hit our Thai homeland causing greater illness, death, and social isolation. The vaccines which promised to keep covid's potential victims alive were out of our reach. No one knew when or if they would be available to us. We were playing "frogger" with the virus.

Collectively as a Post we improvised, adapted, and overcame. Government restrictions barred us from meeting in person, so we went online and broadcast our meetings thereby maintaining our communication and friendships with each other. When it was evident that our Thai and American governing officials may not have had time to plan virus relief by way of vaccination for our community, we contacted American legislators and embassy officials letting them know the issues facing expats. And when vaccines began to their appearance here, members of our Post, and other VFW Posts, readily, and frequently, shared information to ensure that anyone who wanted a vaccination would receive one.

Other notable efforts by Post members resulted in an exceptional number of past members being retained. And despite the lockdowns, social isolation, and lack of returning or visiting expats, we significantly expanded our membership. As our membership has grown so has the atmosphere of our Post, welcoming new members and other American non-veterans who want to hang out and meet quality expats. Our Post is truly a home away from home.

The generosity of our members extended to contributing to the financial health of our Post: despite not being able to host any fundraisers aside from the 50/50s, we ended the year with a surplus almost exclusively made possible through member donations and individual fundraising efforts.

Other members should be credited for digging deep to provide funds for food relief efforts generally, and in support of those spearheaded by some of our VFW brothers specifically.

We have moved decisively forward in a year that had to potential to shut us down. And the reason for this you ask? Simple, it is you. It is the collective effort of all that made our gains possible. We all should be proud of what we have achieved as a team over this past year.

Thank You,
Howard Gundy

From the Second Vice Commander



Dear comrades, as we begin this New Year of 2022 let us unite together for the purposes of continually growing our membership. We are fortunate to be a part of the American Legion Post TH02. The commander and charter members have worked hard to establish a very welcoming veterans' group. We owe them a debt of gratitude for their service to our fellow veterans of the Eastern Seaboard. The history of this TH02 post has been to set an example of fellowship and community. They've accomplished this through determination and fortitude during a global pandemic. None of us know how long these strict control measures will continue, this new variant is coming up on our six as we speak. However, I feel very confident in the future of TH02 simply because, we've got great brothers in our midst. Individually we will do our part and, collectively we will succeed in greater works. ALL THE WAY gentlemen, all the way!

2nd Vice Commander
Thomas South.

From the Service Officer



The same situation has affected our Service Officer. The Service Officer position is an appointed position and does not require a vote. This is a critical position in the Post. Veterans are going to look first to the local post in their community for assistance with their benefits rather than search out the Legion's national or department headquarters. Having a fully informed post service officer to direct them to the best resources to address their concerns is an essential component of most active posts. The post service officer (PSO) may serve as the initial contact between The American Legion and the veteran, providing basic information and assistance, including referrals to the department service officer (DSO). The PSO doesn't need to be an expert in veterans' law or benefits. What is important is for the PSO to have a strong desire to serve veterans. It is important for the PSO to establish a working relationship with DSO and local accredited veteran service representatives. Knowing how to acquire needed documentation prior to meeting with an accredited veteran service representative can help a veteran or veteran's family expedite a benefits claim. If you are interested in this opportunity, please let it be known.

From the Finance Officer/Adjutant



Once again I have the difficult tasks of following the words expressed by the Commander's. It really is a hard act to follow. Fortunately Post TH02 provides a lot of material to work with. As we transitioned to the New Year we find ourselves once again facing some of the same challenges we have had to face for the last two years. Fortunately, we have the members of TH02 to face these challenges. And face them we have. We grew our membership from 48 members at the end of 2020 to finish 2021 with 73. We have added new members and had members transfer in. Overall, the Post has faired well.

End of 2020 -48 Members

Added 24 members in 2021 with 1 additional pending

Current roster is 73 members-69 in good standing

1 member transferred out

2 members transferred in

4 in limbo

2 definitively not renewing

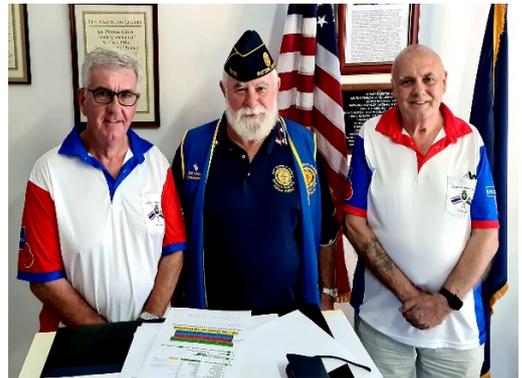
1 cannot contact

1 trying to either renew or transfer-moved back to the states

Two years ago when this process of forming a new Post here in Thailand started it would have been hard to predict the result. However, now it is extremely apparent. We are a formidable Post. We have members located throughout the world each of whom contribute to the overall successes. So much of what we do is under the radar. We work behind the scenes and make our presence known. We have the advantage of some of the most talented individuals any organization would be fortunate to have. There really is no greater power than the power of our Veterans.

Michael J Chitwood

Adjutant, TH02





If you wore of of these
You belong here



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Our page is located at- <https://americanlegionpost02.wixsite.com/home>

Any and all suggestion are welcome. Please provide suggestions to:
michael.j.chitwood@gmail.com and I will forward these to our webmaster Shane Bentley.
Take a look at the page and comment.