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Sgt Thomas Oliver Ahlberg



## From the Commander



As Thanksgiving Day approaches, I wanted to take this opportunity to express what I am thankful for. I am thankful for the honor of being the Commander of The Thomas

Oliver Ahlberg Memorial Post TH02. Over my years I have had the privilege of serving and working with some of the finest American Veterans. I am extremely grateful to the members of our new post here in Pattaya. This Post is a realization of a dream I have had for a very long time. As the Commander I now have the opportunity to work with and honor our US Military Veterans here in Thailand and around the world. In a short time our Post has assembled a unique collection of dedicated Veterans all with a common goal to provide any and all assistance to our American Veterans. In a relatively short time we have participated in several ceremonies that honor all our fallen comrades. We are also uniquely positioned with the added benefit of Veterans from all over the world. It has been truly humbling to form additional alliances with these organizations sharing a common goal.

Veterans Serving Veterans

For this, I am truly thankful to all of you.

William Martin Ahlberg

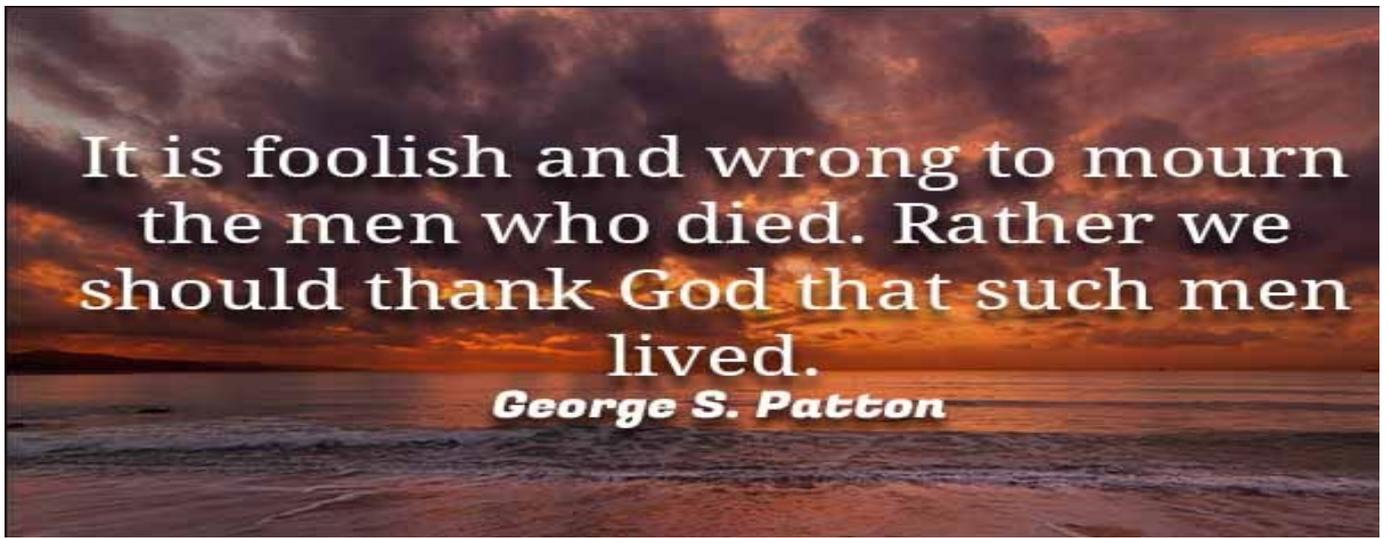
Commander, TH02



## From the First Vice Commander

November 10, 2020 commemorates the US Marine Corps 245th birthday. As a retired member of the United States Navy I have had the privilege of participating in this truly remarkable event. Formal commemoration of the birthday of the Marine Corps began on 10 November 1921. That particular date was chosen because on that day the Second Continental Congress resolved in 1775 to raise two battalions of Continental Marines. On 1 November 1921, Major General Lejeune issued Marine Corps Order No. 47, Series 1921. The order summarized the history, mission, and tradition of the Corps, and directed that it be read to every command on 10 November each subsequent year in honor of the birthday of the Marine Corps. This order has been duly carried out. Historically, marines serve as a navy's ground troops. In fact, the word "marine" is the French word for sea, which may be why the French military historically called English troops — who all had to arrive by sea — "Marines". There wasn't much difference between a sailor and a soldier on a ship. After all, most sea battles ended with the ships tangled together and the crews fighting each other hand to hand. So, if you were on a ship, you had to be able to fight. But you also had to be able to fight once your ship got where it was going. Today, there are more than 200,000 active-duty and reserve Marines, divided into four divisions stationed at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina; Camp Pendleton, California; New Orleans, Louisiana; and Okinawa, Japan. Each division has one or more expeditionary units, ready to launch major operations anywhere in the world on two weeks' notice. Marines expeditionary units are self-sufficient, with their own tanks, artillery, and air forces. The motto of the service is Semper Fidelis, meaning "Always Faithful" in Latin. On behalf of myself and the TH02 Post I want to extend our birthday greetings to our US Marine Veterans. Our post will be hosting the celebration at the Red Bar starting at 1830. Please join us in this truly special day to our Marine Corps Veterans. Take part and witness the cake cutting ceremony which has been performed since 1956. Traditionally, the first slice of cake is handed to the oldest Marine present, who passes it to the youngest Marine present.

Thank you,  
Joe Thomas



## From the Second Vice Commander

Comrades,

Veterans Day originated as “Armistice Day” on Nov. 11, 1919, the first anniversary of the end of World War I. Congress passed a resolution in 1926 for an annual observance, and Nov. 11 became a national holiday beginning in 1938. Unlike Memorial Day, Veterans Day pays tribute to all American veterans—living or dead—but especially gives thanks to living veterans who served their country honorably during war or peacetime.

Veterans Day occurs on November 11 every year in the United States in honor of the “eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month” of 1918 that signaled the end of World War I, known as Armistice Day.

In 1954, President Dwight D. Eisenhower officially changed the name of the holiday from Armistice Day to Veterans Day. In 1968, the Uniform Holidays Bill was passed by Congress, which moved the celebration of Veterans Day to the fourth Monday in October. The law went into effect in 1971, but in 1975 President Gerald Ford returned Veterans Day to November 11, due to the important historical significance of the date.

Veterans Day commemorates veterans of all wars.

Great Britain, France, Australia and Canada also commemorate the veterans of World War I and World War II on or near November 11th: Canada has Remembrance Day, while Britain has Remembrance Sunday (the second Sunday of November). In Europe, Great Britain and the Commonwealth countries it is common to observe two minutes of silence at 11 a.m. every November 11. Every Veterans Day and Memorial Day, Arlington National Cemetery holds an annual memorial service. The cemetery is home to the graves of over 400,000 people, most of whom served in the military.

The military men and women who serve and protect the U.S. come from all walks of life; they are parents, children, grandparents, friends, neighbors and coworkers, and are an important part of their communities.

Shane Curtis

**VETERANS ARE OUR BUSINESS**

## From the Adjutant/Finance



Michael J Chitwood

Adjutant/Finance Officer

I have the task of relaying some unfortunate news regarding the day to day operations of the Post.

After finalizing the financials for the month of October an emergency meeting of the Officers and House committee was called. After a sometimes heated debate a difficult decision was agreed upon. This decision was the result of several different factors that led to the realization that we could no longer have posted open hours of operation at the Post. Unfortunately, this resulted in having to let go of our office assistant. Financially we were unable to continue operating as we were. The Post will still be available for use by our members, but for those needing access it will have to be pre-arranged. We are in discussion on how to improve our finances and we are soliciting any and all suggestions. We feel we need to explore sponsorship and furthering donations to the Post. At our next executive committee meeting we hope to have a better explanation on exactly where we are financially and what are needs anticipated will be. I hope to be able to present a realistic budget outlining our needs. It is difficult to formulate an exacting budget based on the brief period we have been operating. As each month passes the data increases and a better assessment can be formulated. We have the added advantage of having some very knowledgeable members and we will be looking to solicit input. I tried to be optimistic on our financial situation but unfortunately reality was unavoidable. I have taken legal steps to incorporate our post as a registered non-profit which will be beneficial in possible corporate sponsorships. Again, we hope to explore any and all options to strengthen the Post and become stronger financially and able to get the Post to a point we all want. So to our members your ideas, assistance and suggestions are extremely important for our future.

Michael J Chitwood

Adjutant/Finance Officer TH02

# From the Service Officer



Shane Curtis  
VETERANS ARE OUR BUSINESS

Although we have had to discontinue having the doors to post open on a daily basis, we will continue to provide any and all assistance to our members. We will make sure that the services the post offers will be minimally impacted. It is our intention to make some small adjustments and work to towards make improvements in

the way we conduct our business. It is a small set back that is by no means permanent. If you have any question and/or suggestions I will include our contact information.

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Shane Curtis  
VETERANS ARE OUR BUSINESS



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](mailto:michael.j.chitwood@gmail.com) and I will forward these to our webmaster Shane Bentley.

Take a look at the page and comment.