



## Brig. Gen. Robin Olds American Legion Thailand Post TH01

Bruce Templeman, Commander      Jeff Ludwig, Adjutant



Post meetings held the 2nd<sup>d</sup> Wednesday 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](mailto:amerilegionth01@gmail.com)**

October 2021  
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### *Calendar of Events for October*

- **October 13-** Post Membership Meeting - via Skype Go Meet
- **October 13 –** US Navy Birthday.

#### **2020/2021 Post Officers:**

<u>Name</u>	<u>Office</u>	<u>Email</u>
Bruce Templeman	Commander	<a href="mailto:bruce.templeman@hotmail.com">bruce.templeman@hotmail.com</a>
John Skabry	1st Vice Commander	<a href="mailto:dive.safely@gmail.com">dive.safely@gmail.com</a>
Larry Edmonds	2nd Vice Commander	<a href="mailto:ldedmonds@aol.com">ldedmonds@aol.com</a>
Ted Potyrala	Historian	<a href="mailto:tpubon@gmail.com">tpubon@gmail.com</a>
Maurice (Rocky) Hatzke	Service Officer	<a href="mailto:mrhatzke3@gmail.com">mrhatzke3@gmail.com</a>
Hugh Mason	Chaplain	<a href="mailto:htmason@aol.com">htmason@aol.com</a>
Jeff Ludwig	Adjutant/Finance Officer	<a href="mailto:Jgludwig2@gmail.com">Jgludwig2@gmail.com</a>
Salvatore (Sal) Salzarulo	Sergeant at Arms	<a href="mailto:salzy48@hotmail.com">salzy48@hotmail.com</a>
Chris Lampert	Judge Advocate	<a href="mailto:dukeboxer@hotmail.com">dukeboxer@hotmail.com</a>
Joe Reedy	Public Affairs Officer	<a href="mailto:joereedy4@gmail.com">joereedy4@gmail.com</a>
Paul McDermott	Members at large	<a href="mailto:paulny54@hotmail.com">paulny54@hotmail.com</a>
Kirby (Cosmo) Raines	Members at large	<a href="mailto:csmotyson@yahoo.com">csmotyson@yahoo.com</a>
Wayne Wright	Members at large	<a href="mailto:waywright@outlook.com">waywright@outlook.com</a>

## **COMMANDER'S MESSAGE**

**Bruce Templeman**



**"The pessimist sees difficulty in every opportunity. The optimist sees the opportunity in every difficulty." -Winston Churchill**

First, let me apologize for the missing September issue of this newsletter. I had planned it to go out, but circumstances led to me to turn my attention elsewhere and I let the deadline pass. I hope that I can remedy this so that it doesn't happen again. With that in mind, I really need member involvement in the production of this valuable forum. I encourage each Post member to give input as to the content and improvement of our monthly newsletter.

Looking ahead, even in a pandemic there is always something positive that a person can be doing. This is a perfect time to call and check up on our compatriots and friends. Strike up a conversation to see if they have any concerns or need assistance. Ask if they have registered for vaccinations or need our help. Ask how the Covid situation is affecting them or their family. We are a small group and there is strength in numbers. We need to communicate.

Also, during our "down time" we should be looking into how we can make our Post lively and active when the pandemic restrictions are lifted. I have heard a couple of good suggestions, e.g., a golf tournament, a sponsored "POW Memorial Walk" from the Warin Chamrap train station to the location where the WW2 POWs were made to build an airstrip.

These are two good ideas that can be pursued to help the Post raise funds and gain local recognition. We need to brainstorm and get something in motion ahead of the inevitable end of the Covid restrictions. If you have ideas on events and fundraising, please let me or the Events/Activities Chair know.

## **1st Vice Commander and Membership Chair:**

**John Jay Skabry**



Greetings Comrades,

We don't often get to hear reports about positive events in the news lately. The global pandemic has impacted each of our communities to varying degrees. Ubon Ratchathani had been spared much of the hardship encountered by cities that depended economically on the tourist trade, due in no small part to the fact that we are not usually considered a top-tier tourist location to begin with.

In July, overcrowding in the capital led to the relocation of Covid-19 infected persons back to their home of records. A field hospital was established to receive and house those returning to this city who are infected. Not long after this, our province slipped from orange to a red zone and now to a dark red zone with nighttime curfews in effect. Our Posts' host city is filled with a spirit of self-reliance, perseverance, overwhelming generosity, and humility. It had been by chance that I learned about the suffering just below the surface of those less fortunate in our community.

With great pride, I am pleased to inform you that our Post, TH01, has heard the call for help and has risen to meet the challenge. Effective Monday, 16 August 2021, every item urgently requested by our local field hospital has been purchased and is enroute to those that need it. I will personally ensure the delivery and proper use of said items.

We accomplished this using only a portion of our Posts' disaster relief fund; all other funds were left untouched. Medical supplies are also on their way to Mukdahan as well. If you can identify a specific need in your local area, reach out to one of your post officers and let us know.

"There's nothing stronger than the heart of a volunteer." — Jimmy Doolittle

### **MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE MESSAGE**

Greetings American Legion Post TH01 members,

This letter is a "call to arms" to our esteemed members, and an update of what the membership committee feels is needed to move Thailand Post 01 forward. We are striving to do more on your behalf and will do our utmost to accomplish this.

Our first item to discuss is membership retention. There is no need to go further than to say we value your membership wholeheartedly and need each member to sign on and try their best to be an active participant. Things are changing and your voices will be heard. For example, your donated monies to the tune of 22000 baht of products were donated to a covid field hospital in Ubon Ratchathani and Mukdahan this past week. This is only the start, and we want to continue this charitable work and will hold our elected members' feet to the fire to accomplish this task. We can't do this without you! Your participation, donations, and whatever time you can donate will go such a long way in bringing the necessary help some people so sorely need.

New membership is the second topic to discuss and probably the most challenging task we have in front of us. If you hear of an American in your immediate area let's do our due diligence and inquire if they are eligible. The membership committee can take it from there. Also, we will be looking to expand into all the regions of Isaan in the immediate future. New members are vital for the continued growth and the spreading of Americanism which is needed more than ever with recent events.

I cannot emphasize enough how important it is to maintain our membership, reconnect with lost members who left for reasons we can correct, and establish a solid core of new members. Also, please remember as we stated before, your concerns will be acted upon, and your voices heard. That is a promise.

In closing, there is much more to go over, so feel free to contact us to discuss what is starting to happen and your concerns. We are determined to move forward and need each and every one of us to participate.

Yours in service,  
Post TH01 Membership Committee

## **2nd Vice Commander and Events/Activities Chair:**

### **Larry Edmonds**



#### **1. Donation to Pho Sai Emergency Clinic**

On August 28, the American Legion Post TH01 made a donation to Phosai Community Isolation Center to help with disasters related to the Covid-19 outbreak on small communities.

The donation was made at Phosai Wittaya School to the Phosai Community Isolation Center for 1,500 gloves, 1,000 masks, 5 thermometers, 4 hazmat suits and 20 cases of water. They were received from Post Member-at-Large Kirby Raines with open arms and smiles from the staff working at the center.



#### **2. Donation to Ubon Field Hospital**

Urgently requested supplies were donated on behalf of The American Legion, TH01 members to a local Covid-19 field hospital. The field hospital has been established on the campus of the



Pathumpittayakhom High School in Ubon Ratchathani. The purpose of the field hospital is to manage the quarantine of Covid-19 infected individuals returned to their home province from the capital, Bangkok, due to overcrowding. Commander Bruce Templeman and 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Commander John Skabry presented local dignitaries and community leaders; Pathum District Mayor(Nayok), Mr. Thong Charoen, Pathum Village

Chief (Gamnan), Mr. Songsak Thaloengram, School Assistant Director Nakonchai Wongjan, Director of Health Promotion Mrs. Bantheing Phonsawat, School Finance Chief Mrs. Sukrita Umiang, School Finance Assistant Chief Mrs. Phedcahad Skabry CDCU personnel, were on present and staff expressed deep appreciation for the gifts, which included: five weatherproof beds, 300 soups, two liters of Gel Alcohol, three pulse oximeters, three digital thermometers, twenty Tyvek PPE suits, five boxes of surgical masks, ten privacy curtain tarpaulins and six AAA batteries.

All the items were supplied quickly and cheerfully by the members of The American Legion, Post TH01, located in Ubon Ratchathani, Thailand.

**Our next event will be the Veterans Day Remembrance Ceremony at Thung Si Muang Park (Ubon Ratchathani) on 11 November 2021. We will be discussing our participation in detail at the October meeting.**

## **Post Adjutant Corner:**

### **Jeff Ludwig**

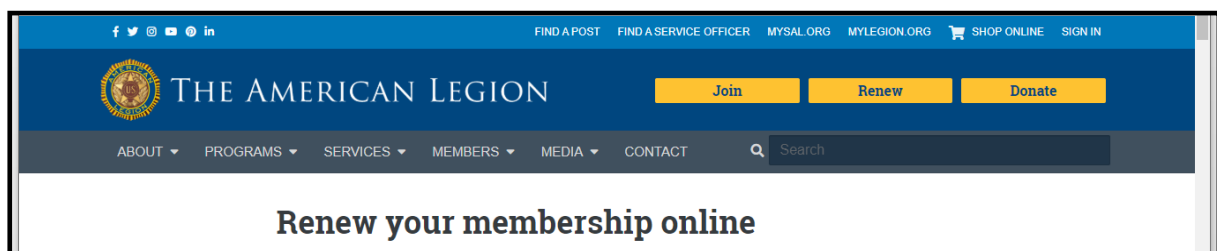


The worldwide COVID pandemic presented unprecedented challenges for our American Legion family. Our Post was. and is. no exception. We know that each one of you have experienced challenges during these trying times. Now more than ever we need you! First, we need you to renew your membership. Your membership is the foundation that our Post rest upon. Know that twenty dollars of your dues goes back to the Post. It may not sound like much, but twenty dollars goes a long way in Thailand. It allows us to help veterans and local communities in need. It's about what we do. What we do for veterans and their families as well as our local communities. Without you our members, we can do nothing. **We Need You!**

This year's annual dues are only \$45.00 if paid in US currency and 1,500 Baht if paid in Thai currency. We know there have been issues with the migration to the new Personify platform. We have tried to make it a simple as possible for you to renew your dues. Below we have listed the information you will need to renew your membership.

The easiest method is to renew online at <https://www.legion.org/renew>.

Once you go there, the online instructions are easy to follow. Just put in your last name and member ID number and follow the instructions. Some of you may find that this option does not work for you. No problem we can process your membership renewal for you.



[REDACTED]

If you prefer you can also mail us a check from an American banking institution to the address below. Unfortunately, we still cannot accept a check from a Thai Bank. However, you can send us a Thai money order in the name of the commander or myself. Finally, you can always pay us in cash at the Monthly membership meeting, but please do not mail cash to us.

**Post Mailing Address:**  
American Legion Post TH01  
P.O. Box 41 Wanarom Post Office  
Ubon Ratchathani 34003 Thailand

Whatever method you use, it is important that you let us know when you send your dues and the method you used so we can look for it. Just send us an email at [amerilegiontho1@gmail.com](mailto:amerilegiontho1@gmail.com). If you have any problems, just call me, Commander Bruce Templeman, or 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Commander John Skaby and we will work with you to get you renewed.

**FROM THE DESK OF THE POST SERVICE OFFICER.**

**Maurice "Rocky" Hatzke**



The following benefits are available through VA's [Pension and Fiduciary Service](#) for use in planning and preparing for the future.

- VA [pension](#) is payable to wartime Veterans who are permanently and totally disabled due to non-service-connected disability, or who are age 65 years old or older, and who meet certain income and net worth limits.
- [Special monthly pension](#) is an additional benefit for Veterans in receipt of pension who are housebound, require the aid and attendance of another person to help them with daily activities (such as eating, bathing, and dressing), have very limited eyesight or require nursing home care.
- For surviving spouses, there are two types of benefits P&F Service offers. [Survivors Pension](#) provides monthly payments to qualified surviving spouses and unmarried dependent children of wartime Veterans who meet certain income and net worth limits. Special monthly pension is also available to surviving spouses who are housebound or require the aid and attendance of another person.
- [Dependency and Indemnity Compensation](#) is available to dependents and parents and generally is not based on income and assets (except the income limits apply to parents). DIC is a

monthly monetary benefit paid to a surviving spouse, child or parent of a Veteran who died from a service-related injury or illness, or when an active-duty service member dies in the line of duty. Special monthly DIC is also available to surviving spouses who are housebound or require the aid and attendance of another person.

- A surviving spouse of a Veteran who served on a Blue Water Navy vessel offshore of the Republic of Vietnam, or on another U.S. Navy or Coast Guard ship operating in the coastal waterways of Vietnam between Jan. 9, 1962 and May 7, 1975, may be eligible for DIC benefits — [even if they were previously denied](#).
- VA's [funeral and burial benefits](#) are available for both service-related and non-service-related deaths. New regulations allow a flat-rate burial and plot or interment allowance with decreased paperwork and maximum payment permitted by law.
- For those interested in burial benefits such as a Presidential Memorial Certificate, burial flag, headstone, or marker, the [National Cemetery Administration](#) has information about pre-need eligibility.

## **FROM THE POST HISTORIAN** **Theodore "Ted" Potyrala**



### **The 13 Mercury Astronaut Women**

Back in the early 60's, there was a secret program to become America's first female astronauts. They passed all the same physiological screening tests required of the original Mercury Seven astronauts, but NASA shut the program down before any of them could go to space.

When NASA introduced its first astronaut corps in 1959, it was strictly a men's only club. Although women weren't explicitly barred from the "Mercury Seven," NASA's requirement that astronauts be experienced military jet test pilots, a job open only to men, effectively prevented their selection.



*Seven of the original women Astronauts  
NASA Photo*

There were good reasons for having women astronauts. Medicine experts believed that women, because they were lighter, shorter, ate less food, and consumed less oxygen than men. It was also found that women were more resistant to radiation and less prone to cardiovascular issues.

Air Force Brigadier General Donald Flickinger and Dr. Randy Lovelace was looking for candidates when they found Jerri Cobb, a licensed commercial pilot at the age of 18, Cobb was flying routes

from California to Paraguay. By 1960 she had logged 10,000 hours in the cockpit, twice that of astronaut John Glenn.



*Jerri Cobb*  
*NASA Photo*

Jerri was the first woman selected to participate in the secret program which was not sanctioned by NASA. She did the same tests that were given to the Mercury Seven. Not only did she pass all the tests, but she also surpassed the male astronauts on some tests.

To see if Cobb's results could be replicated, two more female pilots were recruited. Wally Funk, a 21-year-old flight instructor and Janey Hart, 39-year-old mother of eight and wife of Senator Phillip Hart. Jackie Cochran, the first woman to break the sound barrier, used her own money to finance the privately run program. The women outperformed the men on several medical and screening tests.

The Mercury 13 were ready to undergo space flight simulation at a navy facility in Florida. Days before leaving they learned that the program was cancelled once the navy learned the program was not sponsored by NASA. Credit to the History Channel.



*Two pilots, Jerri Cobb (left) and Jane Hart, are shown at the Capitol after warning Vice President Johnson that Russia will put the first woman astronaut into space unless the U.S. moves quickly. They sought a program which would enable the U.S. to launch a feminine astronaut that summer. (Credit: Bettmann/Getty Images)*



FROM THE MEDIA & COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

**Christopher Lampert**

***Post Judge Advocate***

***Post Media & Communications Committee Chair***



Hello Post members,

In conjunction with the Membership committee, the Media & Communications committee has been trying to drive awareness of our Post on Facebook. One way to accomplish this is to look for other ways to encourage organic engagement from vets (without asking) who might be interested in becoming a member of our post.

The American Legion Post THo1 needs your help growing our membership numbers. We can do this, free of charge, but we need all our members to help to increase organic engagement of our post's Facebook page. You can do this very easily: when you're on Facebook, if you see a post from the American Legion Thailand Post THo1, like & share the post. That's it!

Facebook will do the rest to make sure the post appears on individual news feeds, but it only works if we have lots of members doing it. Not, 2-4 members doing it...what we currently have, now. The more people that like & share, the more Facebook will make it appear in random newsfeeds.

With honor,

Post THo1 Media & Communications Committee

*Next month, update on the status of our website*



**TAPS:** None

**October Birthdays:**

- Don Ford
- Douglas Foster
- Jeff Ludwig
- John McPherson



- Ronald Monninger

A very happy birthday to all