

# THE AMERICAN LEGION AT UBON RATCHATHANI, THAILAND



BRIGADIER GENERAL ROBIN OLDS

POST NUMBER TH01

Post Meeting: 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of Every Month, At 10:00 A.M.

Post Location: PEPPERS RESTAURANT AND BAKERY



November 2024

POST EMAIL: [COMMANDER@AMERICANLEGIONTHAILAND.COM](mailto:COMMANDER@AMERICANLEGIONTHAILAND.COM)

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## Calendar for November 2024

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|-------------|--|
| November 11 | Post General Membership Meeting at Peppers Restaurant and Bakery |
| November 11 | Remembrance Day Ceremony Ubon                                    |
| November 28 | Thanksgiving   |



## 2024 POST TH01 OFFICERS

Commander – Rob Davis

<mailto:Commander@americanlegionthailand.com>

1<sup>st</sup> Vice Commander & Historian – Ted Potyrala

<mailto:1vice@americanlegionthailand.com>

2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Commander – John Skabry

<mailto:2vice@americanlegionthailand.com>

Adjutant & Finance Officer – Jeff Ludwig

<mailto:adjutant@americanlegionthailand.com>

Service Officer – Larry Haynie

<mailto:larryjoedog@yahoo.com>

Sergeant-At-Arms – Sal Salzarulo

<mailto:salzy48@hotmail.com>

Judge Advocate – Paul Ben-Yehuda

<mailto:renegademarine@icloud.com>

Chaplain – Vacant

Public Affairs Officer & IT Dir.– Chris Lampert

<mailto:comms@americanlegionthailand.com>

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Member-at-Large – Wayne Wright

<mailto:waywright@outlook.com>

Member-at-Large – Ernest(William) Knowlton

<mailto:ewilliamknowlton65@gmail.com>

Member-at-Large – Douglas Palzer

<mailto:dpalzer@rojana.org>

## Veterans Day

It's a celebration to honor America's veterans for their patriotism, love of country, and willingness to serve and sacrifice for the common good. In fact, Veterans Day is largely intended to thank LIVING veterans for their service, to acknowledge that their contributions to our national security are



appreciated, and to underscore the fact that all those who served – not only those who died – have sacrificed and done their duty. Veterans Day is on November 11th to honor those who have served in the American military. Unlike Memorial Day (which is a somber day to remember those who died in service), a happy Veterans Day can be wished to those who served without seeming insensitive or ignorant of the holiday's purpose. On Memorial Day you can honor the fallen by attending memorial services within your community or laying flowers and planting flags on graves at your local Veterans cemetery. Veterans Day is an opportunity to do the same. It is also an appropriate time to show your appreciation to Veteran. Don't forget it is just not the veterans that had to make sacrifices but, the family members as well. So when you meet a fellow veteran on the street wish them a "Happy Veteran Day and thank them for their service! Thank them for their sacrifices, for their valor, for protecting us, and for defending our rights.

This Veterans day we have \$200 from the American Legion National Graves Decorating Fund to decorate the grave of veterans here in Thailand. Jesus Zamarripa graciously donated a dozen small USA Flags for decorating the graves and we can purchase flowers from the \$200 we received National. What we need is volunteers to decorate the graves. We will have a list out this coming week of the members who have died and where they are buried here in Thailand. If you would like to volunteer or you know of a veteran's grave in your area, you can provide that information to 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Commander John Skabry at his email. <mailto:2vice@americanlegionthailand.com>.



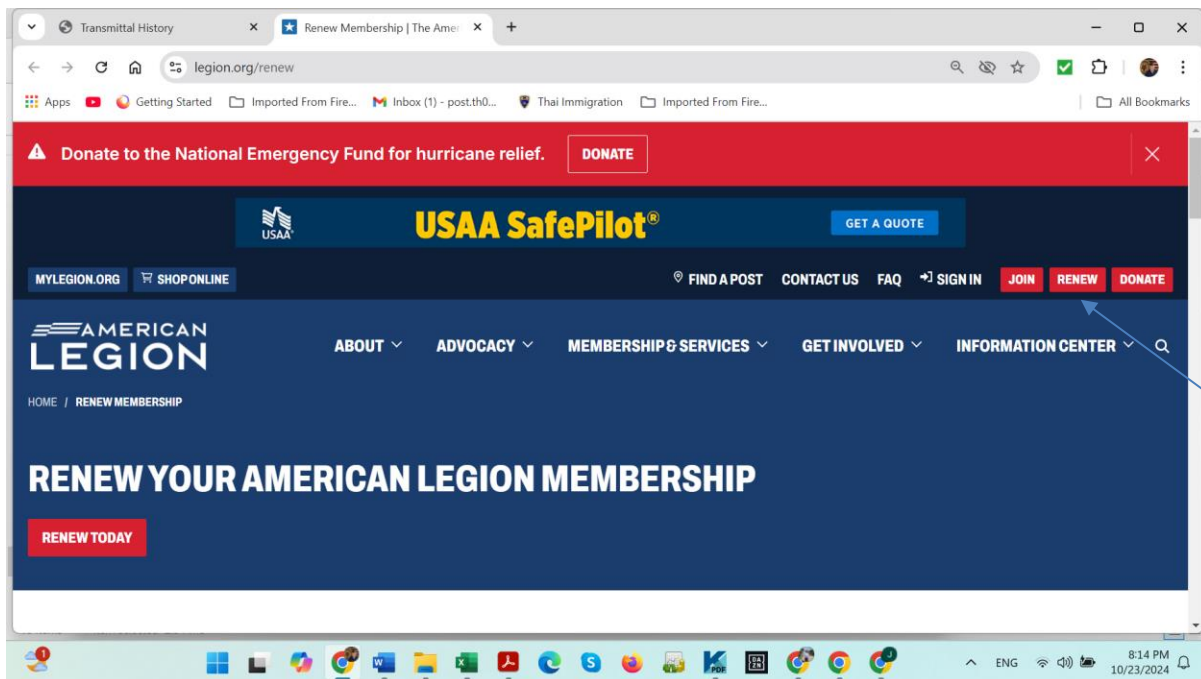
## Membership Renewal Membership Chair - By Ted Potyrala

Congratulations to the Post for meeting and exceeding the Department's membership renewal target goal for September and October. The goal for September 1st was 50% renewal and October's was 55%. Currently the Post is sitting at 64% membership renewal. If you have not renewed your membership, know that your early renewal will help the Post achieve monetary awards that the Post can use to help our veterans and local community. The easiest way to renew is to go online and renew. All you need is your member ID number, last name and a credit card. Your member ID number is on the face of your membership card. If by chance you do not have your membership ID card, contact Adjutant Ludwig and he will provide you your number. Below is the step-by-step process for renewing your membership online. If you are not comfortable doing it online, no problem you can simply call the American Legion Customer Service phone number **(800) 433-3318 or (833)253-9995**. Just provide the customer service representative with your member ID number, last name, our Post **TH01** and your credit card information. They will gladly process your renewal over the phone. The American Legion will accept a variety of cards including Visa, Master Card, Discover Card and American Express. Renewal is just that easy.

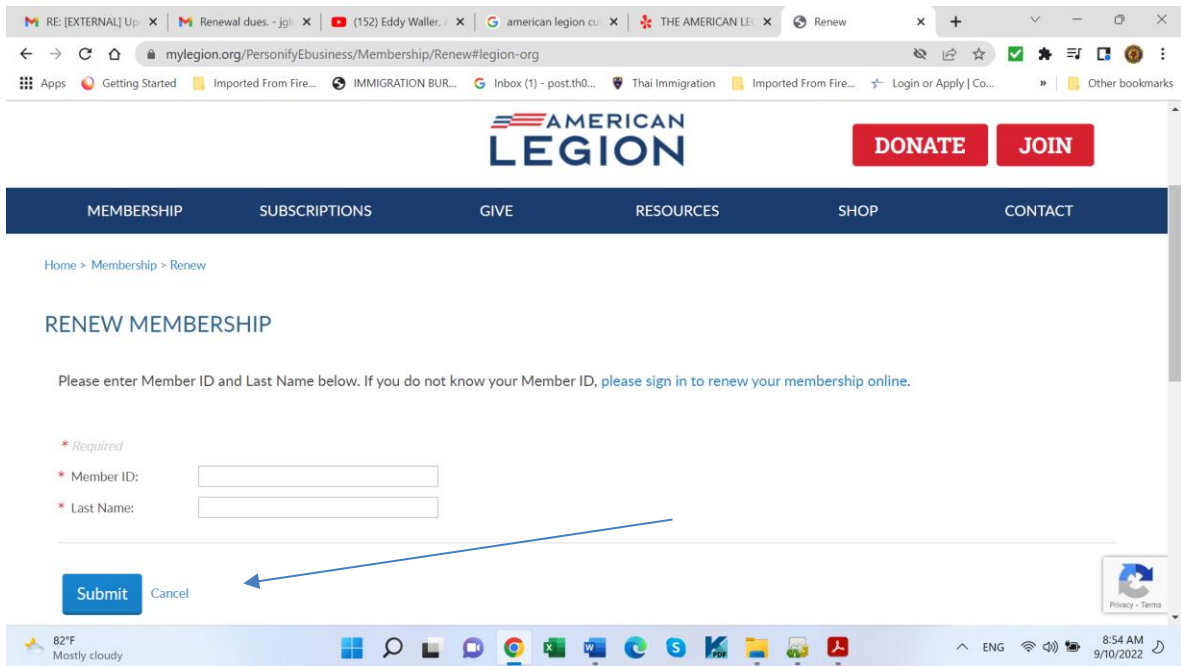
### Step by Step online renewal instructions.

The first step to renewing online is to have your member ID number and Credit card readily available

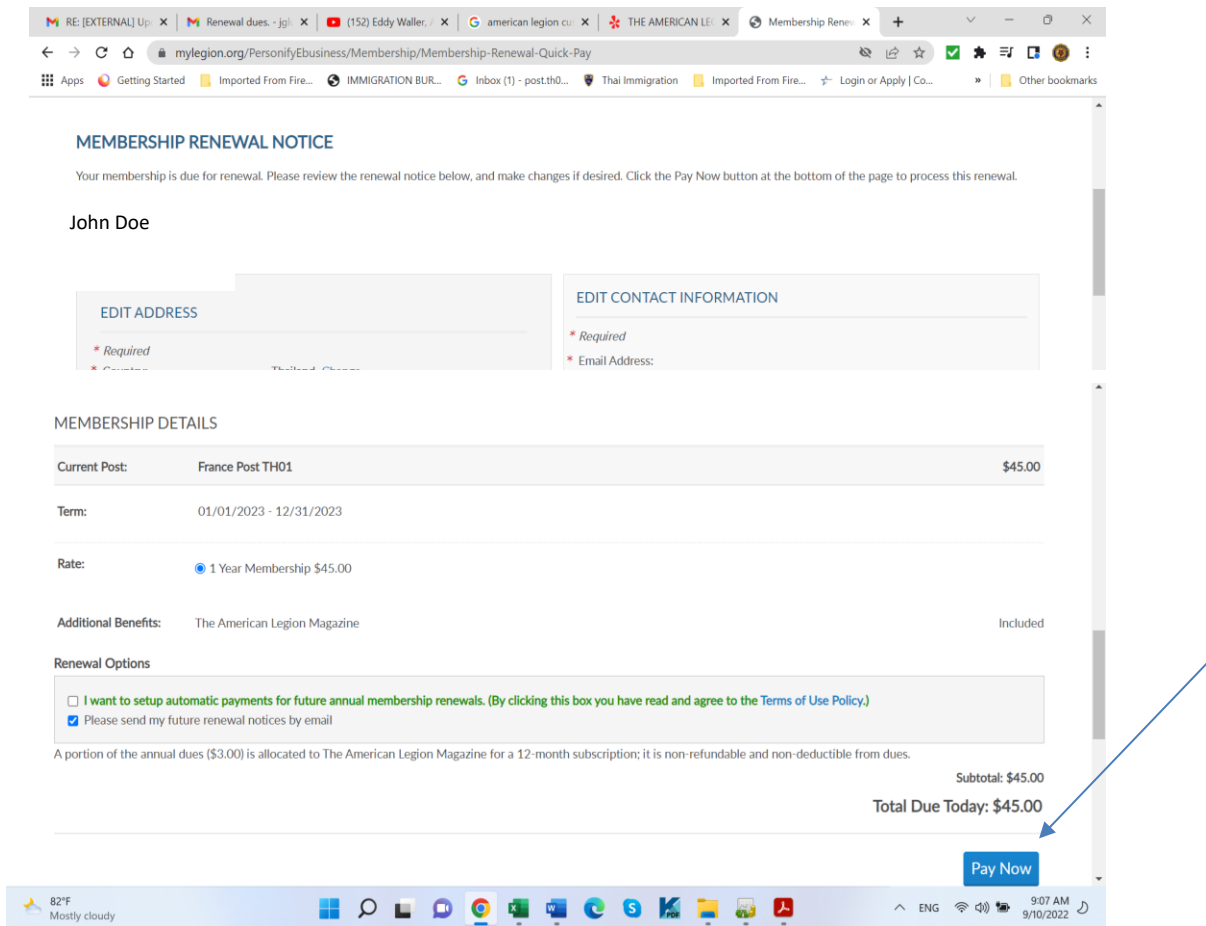
Next click on this link: <https://www.legion.org/renew>. That will take you to the website as displayed below. Just click on the **Renew** button at the top



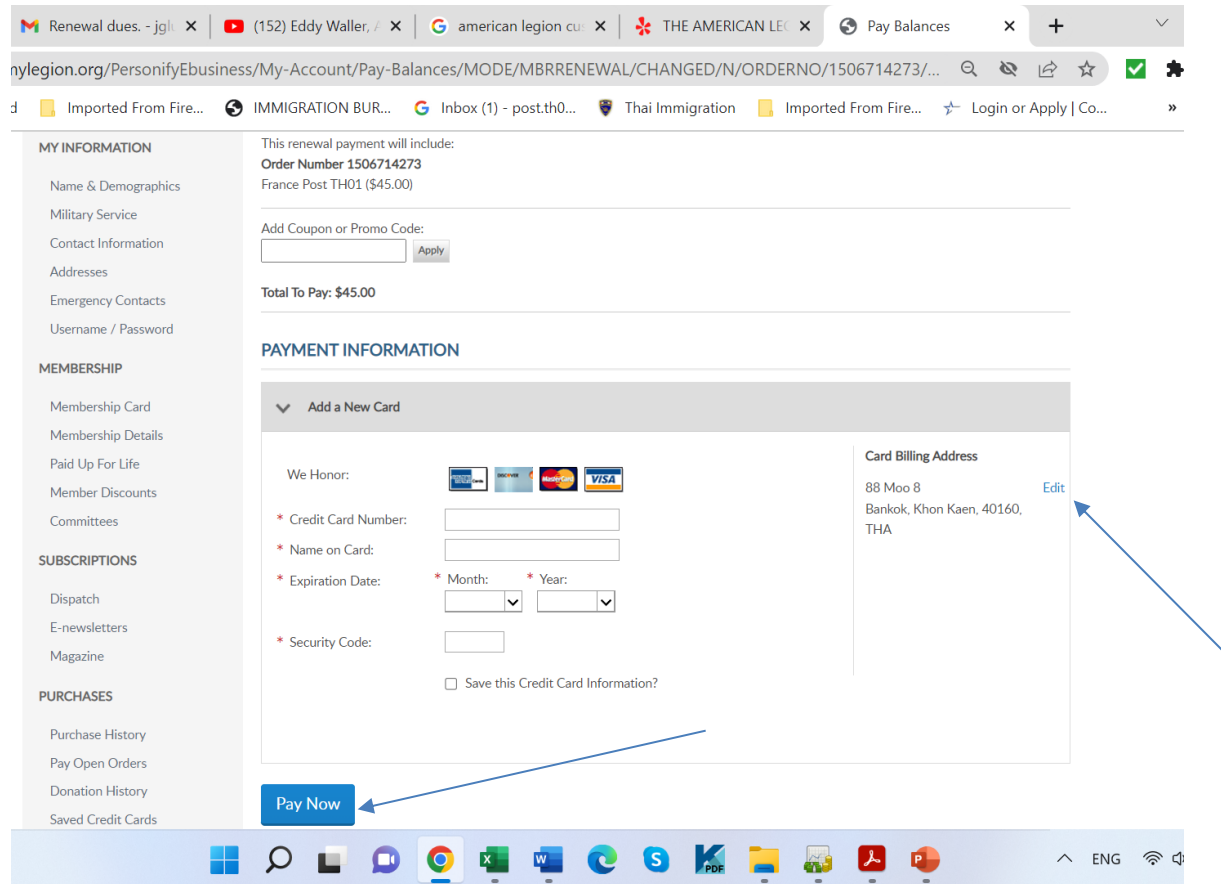
Clicking on the red **Renew** button will take you the Renewal webpage below. Just enter your member ID number and your last name then click on the **Submit** button.



Once you click on the **Submit** button it will take you to the webpage below. This page will show all your contact information. Review it for correctness, make changes if it needed and then click the **Save** button. If you scroll further down the page you will see the Membership Details. This area gives you the option to set up automatic payments. Once you complete your entries click the **Pay Now** button at the bottom and it will take you to the payment screen.



The payment screen allows you to enter your Credit card information. Review the card billing address block. If it is incorrect, you can correct it by clicking on the small **Edit** button next to the address. This will allow you to change the address. It will not affect your address on record with myLegion.org. Once you have entered the data just click the **Pay Now** button at the bottom of the page. The system will process your information and display a confirmation page that you can print out and keep for your records.



It is just that simple and usually only takes 5 minutes to complete. If you have any problems, call me and I can step you through the whole process. Remember your membership **does** make a difference. We need you!



## Adjutants Corner

Hello my Fellow Post members. Over the past several years we have been very successful growing our Post membership. Thanks in part to the leadership of our Membership chair and his dedicated committee members. In the past we have stated that *"Whether you decide to take an active part in your Post TH01 or simply show your support through your membership, know that you are helping us to continue to support our veterans and their families here in Thailand and back home. Your membership helps us to fulfill our commitment to Four Pillars of the American Legion which are Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation, National Security, Americanism, and Children & Youth. Each of these pillars encompasses a variety of programs that benefit our nation's veterans, its service members, their families, the youth of America and ordinary citizens. These programs make a difference in hundreds of thousands of lives each year. Take pride in knowing that you are part of making that happen."*

If we are to continue to effectively support the four pillars of the American Legion, we need to modify the above statement somewhat. While membership is important so is active involvement. We cannot hope to fulfill any of the 4 Pillars without active involvement from **you** - our members. We need members to step-up and take leadership roles like serving in one of the officer positions. We also need members in supporting roles like serving on one of the Post committees.

November 11 is Veterans Day, It is largely intended to thank LIVING veterans for their service, to acknowledge that their contributions to our national security are appreciated, and to underscore the fact that all those who served – not only those who died – have sacrificed and done their duty. What better way to honor our fellow veterans then by getting actively involved in your Post.

Getting involved does not mean you have to be close to Ubon. Most of our meetings are conducted online so you can be anywhere and participate. Events and activities do **not** need to be center around Ubon. On the contrary; just like our Post, US veterans are sprinkled throughout Thailand and the US. We can conduct events and activities in your area. We now have 89 members --- **We can and need to do more.**



**POST SERVICE OFFICER...**LARRY HAYNIE, POST TH01-Ubon, Thailand

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My Fellow Veterans;

We are first and foremost American Citizens who chose to reside in Thailand with our Thai spouses and families. Yet, we are also veterans of military service to our country. Living in Thailand does present challenges to us not only as Americans, but also as veterans.

The United States government maintains an American Embassy in Bangkok, and a US Consulate in Chiang Mai. Both provide services for Americans through their "American Citizen Services" operations. The services are limited in their ability to assist American citizens with certain functions such as passports, Notary Services. Additionally, they provide information and assistance concerning Social Security and Tax Preparation. All services provided by the Embassy in Bangkok and the Consulate in Chiang Mai, can only be done on an appointment basis only. Walk-ins **are not permitted**.

There is assistance available for American citizens who live in Thailand, at the Provincial level. Citizen Liaison Volunteers (CLV) are Americans who live throughout Thailand, and are available to assist Americans with issues or problems they may experience. However, both Embassy and Consulate offices do not have a listing on their website, as to who the CLV's are and how to contact them.

The Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) and American Legion (AL) posts in Thailand all have post websites, which provides contact information for their Post Officers and Post Service Officers as well. The VFW and American Legion posts in Thailand also provide vital services to veterans, spouses, and their families. Additionally they can give assistance to any American citizen who requests help.

I firmly believe the VFW and American Legion Posts in Thailand provide greater support and assistance. The US Embassy and Consulate can only provide assistance and services on a limited basis and which also requires a service fee payment. VFW and American Legion services are provided **FREE OF CHARGE** for anyone who seek guidance, support, information, or assistance. No appointment is necessary.

As a matter of reference, I will assist anyone of any nationality, who seeks help with problems or issues that may arise while living or traveling in Thailand. It's a matter of people helping people.

**"WE SERVE THOSE WHO SERVED"**



## From the Finance Desk:

### Direct Deposit to Thailand

So, you just retired and moved to Thailand to enjoy your retirement years. You don't like the hassle each month of having to transfer your money to Thailand. Good news is The United States Department of the Treasury now offers direct deposit of federal benefit payments, including Social Security Administration (SSA), Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), and Office of Personnel Management (OPM), to banks in Thailand. US Social Security is tax exempt under the USA-Thailand DTA as are most US Federal Pensions.

This link will show you a list of the countries that Social Security will offer direct deposit - [Countries with Direct Deposit](#). Each Country has a form tailored to that specific country.

In Thailand the Social Security Administration (SSA) form for enrolling in International Direct Deposit (IDD) to send federal benefits to a bank account overseas is [SSA-1199-OP107 \(Thailand\).pdf](#), DIRECT DEPOSIT SIGN-UP FORM.

To set up direct deposit, you must:

- Be a Title II beneficiary
- Live outside the U.S.
- Keep the SSA informed of your residence address
- Choose a direct deposit account in a foreign financial institution that meets the requirements

Here are the steps to set up direct deposit:

1. Complete the SSA-1199 (Thailand) form
2. Select and print the form
3. Fill out sections 1 and 2
4. Have your bank fill out section 3
5. Mail the completed form to the Federal Benefits Unit indicated on the form (Federal Benefits Unit U.S. Embassy 1201 Roxas Boulevard Ermita, Manila 0930 Philippines)

You can change your direct deposit information by:

- Signing in to your account
- Calling +1 800-772-1213



- Saying "direct deposit" when prompted
- Providing your current direct deposit routing number and account number

Remember this is not just for social security benefits, but VA benefits and OPM benefits.

**For military pensions** International Direct Deposit (IDD) is available to U.S. military retirees living in eligible locations overseas. As of today, the DFAS website still does not list Thailand as an eligible country for international direct deposits see the link [DFAS International Direct Deposit](#). However, DFAS will direct deposit to Bangkok Bank New York Branch since is considered domestic bank. You will need to make sure the direct deposit is in the IAT format. The Bangkok branch website provides more information on this [Bangkok Bank New York Branch](#).

If you are planning to live in one of the eligible countries listed, and are Enrolling in IDD. Complete the form for [International Direct Deposit Enrollment](#) (SF 1199-I) and mail it to:

<b>For Retirees:</b>	<b>For annuitants, beneficiaries and survivors:</b>
Defense Finance and Accounting Service U.S. Military Retired Pay 8899 E 56th Street Indianapolis IN 46249-1200 Fax: 800-469-6559	Defense Finance and Accounting Service U.S. Military Annuitant Pay 8899 E 56th Street Indianapolis IN 46249-1300 Fax: 800-982-8459

Any questions on Military direct deposits should be directed to DFAS.

Special thanks to Wayne Wright for providing insight on requirements for recipient of Direct Deposit on most Thailand Banks. The Banks will not usually allow you to have an ATM on that account. Only the Recipient can access the funds. The recipient must physically come into the bank to withdraw the funds. That being said, check with your local Bank for their local policies.

Bottom line direct deposit is a safe, convenient, and reliable way to receive your benefits.



## Safety Message: Dengue Fever



As of October 2024, the accumulated number of people infected with dengue in Thailand this year amounted to approximately 84,000 people. The highest number of dengue-infected patients and the majority of people who passed away due to the disease in Thailand belong to the five to 14-year-old. Last year at this time, three dengue deaths were reported in Thailand.

### What are the symptoms of Dengue?

The principal symptoms of Dengue fever, also known as "break-bone fever," are:

- high fever (above 104 degrees);
- severe headache;
- severe pain behind the eyes;
- joint pain;
- muscle and bone pain;
- nausea and vomiting; and
- rash.

The symptoms last for two to seven days, and usually occur about four days to a week after being bitten by an infected mosquito. Severe Dengue can be deadly. It is characterized by a drop in temperature after three to seven days accompanied by severe abdominal pain, persistent vomiting, vomiting blood and bleeding gums

### How is Dengue spread?

The Dengue virus is passed to humans through the bite of a species female mosquito. Female mosquitoes get infected when they feed on the blood of an infected person. The *Aedes aegypti* mosquito is the primary transmitter of Dengue fever. Dengue isn't generally transmitted person-to-person. Exceptions include pregnant women passing the virus to their babies and, in rare cases, through blood transfusions or organ transplants.

### How can I keep my family safe?

The best way to prevent Dengue fever is to prevent mosquito bites.

**Use a repellent:** The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention advises using an EPA-registered insect repellent with the one of these ingredients: DEET, Picaridin (known as KBR 3023 and icaridin outside the US); IR3535; oil of lemon eucalyptus (OLE); Para-menthane-diol (PMD); 2-undecanone. Be careful and follow instructions when using these on children. The

effectiveness of other repellants, including some natural repellants, is unknown

**Wear long-sleeve shirts and long pants:** Treat clothing and gear with permethrin, (which should not be used directly on skin).

**Keep mosquitoes out of your home:** Use screens on windows and doors. Repair holes in screens to keep mosquitoes outdoors. Use air conditioning if possible.

### **How can you control mosquitoes at home?**

- Properly cover or dispose all containers that collect rainwater or water, such as flower pots, garbage cans, recycling containers, wheelbarrows, aluminum cans, boat tarps, old tires, and buckets.
- Flush birdbaths and wading pools weekly.
- Flush ornamental bromeliads with water, or treat with BTI, a biological larvicide available at most home stores.
- Clean roof gutters, which can become clogged and hold water.
- Change the water in outdoor pet dishes regularly.
- Keep pools and spas chlorinated and filtered.
- Stock ornamental ponds with mosquito-eating fish.
- Cover rain barrels with screening.
- Check for standing water under houses, near plumbing drains, under air conditioner drip areas, around septic tanks, and water pumps.
- Take steps to eliminate standing water, improve drainage, and prevent future puddling.

## Events:



### Membership Drive at the US Embassy Outreach at Nakhon Phanom by Ted Potyrala



Wayne Wright, John Skarby, Ted Potyrala

On 18 October 2024, the post held a recruitment drive at the Mekong Heritage Hotel in Nakhon Phanom in conjunction with a Meet and Greet with US Ambassador Robert F. Godec.

Throughout the year, the US Embassy travels to different locations in Thailand where US citizens can have certain services such as passport renewal without having to go to the embassy in Bangkok.

Ambassador Godec began by making a statement, followed by a general discussion. Everyone there was encouraged to ask questions. Some of the subjects discussed were about Medicare not being available in Thailand, Visa's, on the process used in obtaining one and why when someone is denied they are not told why. Military equipment sales to Thailand and tariffs on American goods sold in Thailand.

I didn't think the turn out was that good but was assured by an embassy staff that they were pleased. There was only one veteran which John and Wayne discussed our post. It turns out that our past commander, Bruce Templeman had previously talked with him. He said he would consider joining.

Wayne, Ted, Ambassador Godec, John



This event was held on one of the most popular holidays in Thailand. It is the end of lent and also the celebration of the Naga which was started in Nakhon Phanom. It was impossible to book a room. This could be why the turn out was light. I asked about the scheduling and was told the Ambassador schedule is pretty much filled months ahead and he tries to attend places where there is something going on.

He remembers our post, especially John, attending other Meet & Greet sessions. This gives us recognition. John tries to attend all of the meetings held in North East Thailand. I encourage you to attend when one is held near you. Even if you do not have embassy business, you can ask questions directly to the ambassador.

### Chaplain's Prayer:

*Dear Lord, we honor our veterans, worthy men and women who gave their best when they were called upon to serve and protect their country. We pray that you will bless them for their unselfish service in the continual struggle to preserve our freedoms, our safety, and our country's heritage, for all of us.*



### Presidential Election Prayer:

*God of mercy, our nation is in a time of great transition. With all of the injustice and fear in our world today, we ask you to inspire us and guide us as we participate in the upcoming presidential elections. We seek a government that upholds and protects human rights and justice for all its citizens, regardless of race, class, gender, or religion. Move and inspire us by your presence among us in the most vulnerable in our society. For their tears are your tears, their pain is your pain, their suffering is your suffering . In gratitude for the right to vote, we pray. - Anna Misleh*

### November Birthdays:

- Malcom Calhoun,
- Thomas Heimler
- Ron Kaylor
- Chris Lampert
- KC Marshment
- David Racioppi
- Doug Steuart



**CLICK THE FOLLOWING LINKS FOR POST TH01...**

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**WEBSITE**

**<https://americanlegionthailand.com>**

**Facebook**

**<https://www.facebook.com/americanlegionthailandpostth01>**

**YouTube**

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

**LINKS CONCERNING ISSUES OF GENERAL EXPAT INTEREST IN THAILAND**

**US DOLLAR TO THAI BAHT EXCHANGE RATE**

**\$1.00 USD to \_\_\_\_ THB**

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