



THE AMERICAN LEGION AT UBON RATCHATHANI, THAILAND

BRIGADIER GENERAL ROBIN OLDS

POST NUMBER TH01

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

Post Location: PEPPERS RESTAURANT AND BAKERY



February 2025

POST EMAIL: COMMANDER@AMERICANLEGIONTHAILAND.COM

VOL. 8, ISSUE 2

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Calendar for February 2025

February 3	4 Chaplains Day
February 12	General Membership meeting
February 17	Presidents Day

2024/2025 POST TH01 OFFICERS

Commander – Rob Davis

<mailto:Commander@americanlegionthailand.com>

1st Vice Commander & Historian – Ted Potyrala

<mailto:1vice@americanlegionthailand.com>

2nd 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 – David Burns

<mailto:davidmburns804@gmail.com>

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>

Commanders Comments:

Can you believe it's already February. Happy Chinese New Year!

Hopefully all our stateside post members are keeping warm. We had a lot of cold weather hit the United States. It got cold here as well; I know one morning it was all the way down to 52 degrees. You all know for Thailand that's arctic weather.

America also just had an epic change of power as our country is split down the middle. There are a lot of emotions out there and people are a lot less tolerant of each other's opinions, no matter what side one of us takes we are all brothers in arms, and we can't let politics divide us.

As elections go, we need to remember we are coming up on our annual Post elections. If you want to nominate someone for a position, please do so. If you want to nominate yourself, please do so. Everybody nominate someone.

I was nominated for this position, and took it, because I wanted to help where I could. Did I give it all I could have, no. I was still working a full-time job and traveling all over Asia. Didn't really have the time needed for the position. The only saving grace was the fact that we have long time dedicated members that stepped up and handled things when I couldn't.

Thanks Jeff, Ted & John.

This Post only stays alive because of the members, so we need people to step up and volunteer for a position in the post. We have had the same brothers leading the post for many years, and we need to give them some relief.

Thank you all, for all you have done and for all we as a Post will do in the future.

For God and Country

Rob Davis

Commander



Membership Renewal Membership Chair - By Ted Potyrala

Fellow Members: Currently we are sitting at 83.3% with 75 paid members. We are within 15 members of reaching 100%. That is 9 current members and 6 new or transferred members. This is doable! Out of all our members, if 6 of us recruit just one member and the 9 members that haven't renewed do so we will be at 100%, 90 members.

I previously said that members are the lifeblood of the post. I hope the year-end review I sent shows you what the post has done over the past year. We're not just sitting around telling war stories. The money we get from renewing members is being put to good use. I know that renewing is not something that people wake up and think, Oh yea! I need to renew my membership. I just want to remind you about it.

I want to congratulate David Monniger as the winner of \$100 for the "Renew by December 15 drawing."

I also want to introduce Dominic Howard as our newest member. He is our first member living in Vietnam.

If you need help in renewing, all you have to do is ask.



Adjutants Corner

It is the start of a new year and what a better way than welcoming our newest member, Dominic Howard, to our Post. Dominic currently resides in Vietnam and is anxious to get involved helping veterans in Asia. He has volunteered to be an Assistant Service Officer servicing the veterans residing in Vietnam. We look forward to Dominic contribution to the Post and our veterans and their families.

To best help our veterans residing in Southeast Asia, it is important to know what programs are available both by the Veterans Affairs and the American Legion. A good way to learn about all the programs that the American Legion offers is by taking the American Legion Basic training course. It's a self-paced low-stress online course that offers insight into the American Legion. You will learn about its history, its organizational structure, its programs and its challenges. These will help you in providing service to our veterans and help the Post fulfill its obligation to the 4 Pillars of the American Legion. To take the course you must be a member of the American Legion and be registered in myLegion.org. Registration is simple just click this link [American Legion Login](#) and register, just remember to use the email that you provided when you joined. If your email changed get with the Post Adjutant who can go in to your record and update your email address. Once you are registered, just click on this link [Basic Training Course](#) to take the basic training course.

Once you have completed the Basic Training Course, review the 2024 **American Legion Officer's Guide and Manual of Ceremonies**. It contains a wealth of information on running a Post. It provides a list of the various officer positions and associated duties. It also provides guidance on conducting ceremonies including how to set up and run a Post general membership meeting.

Another great resource is the [National Training Tuesday](#). Once you have registered go to this website ([Training Tuesday](#)) to learn how to join and to watch previous training Tuesday videos. One session focuses on conducting Post meetings. Another session focuses on running a Post. The previous

training session videos are on file in the library for all to view. Some of the other videos in the library include: The "Be The One" Program, Membership Renewal and Retention, Post Administration, Welcoming New Members, Constitution and Bylaws, and host of others. I hope to see you all take advantage of these training sessions. Additionally, there are many of other American legion publications available to help you. Just click on this Link: [American Legion Publications](#) Also don't forget to review our Post Bylaws and Constitution to see those things unique to your Post. Finally check out the Post continuity guides for the various positions. Bottom line is the information is out there; you just need to take that step forward to get active in the Post. If our Post is to survive, we need members to become active in the Post. **WE NEED YOU!**



Elections:

The elections are just around the corner. The nominations are open. If you want to nominate someone, be sure to ask them if they will accept the nomination. We strongly encourage members to self-nominate. If you see a position you are interested in, nominate yourself. Step up to a fulfilling and rewarding challenge. Your Post is always in need of the fresh ideas and new perspectives you can bring to the table.

To help you decide I have listed the elected positions of the Post along with a short summary of duties.

Summary of Post Elected Officers Duties:

Source: The American Legion Post Officers Guide and Manual of Ceremonies 2024. This is not intended to be all-inclusive but to give a general idea of the duties of each elected position.

Commander

- Leads the Post in all affairs.
- Chairs the Executive Committee
- Interacts in Public Relations with the local community
- Oversee the duties of the Post officers
- Appoints Committee Chairman
- Chairs and conducts Monthly Post meetings

1st Vice Commander

- Charge of the Post membership campaign
- Familiar with the ceremonial protocol for regular meetings
- Conduct meetings in the Commanders absence
- Fill in for the Commander in the commanders absence

2nd Vice Commander

- Post Social director
- Create a fun atmosphere in the Post
- Develop the Social/Activities Calendar for the Post
- Ensure Patriotic holidays and observances are recognized and given the respect they deserve.
- The second vice commander should be looking for ways to involve members in post activities, operations, and programs to assist the first vice commander by providing improved member retention.

Finance Officer

- Should be honest and have experience in handling financial affairs.
- In charge of all receiving and disbursing of post funds
- Be prompt in remitting National and Department per dues fees
- Maintain the Accounting Program GNU Cash
- Work Closely with Adjutant
- Develop Post budget
- Chair Financial Committee
- Follow the Post Financial Management Standard Operating Procedures

Post Chaplain

- Chaplain need not necessarily be a clergyman
- Should attend all meetings of the post executive committee
- Chaplain is the moral leader.
- Work with the post historian on grave registration work and inspire the post to decorate veteran graves on Memorial Day.
- Officiate at post members' funerals when requested
- *The American Legion Chaplain's Handbook*, available online

Post Public Affairs Officer

- Maintain the Post Facebook page and other Post social media.
- Prepare articles for the department newsletter when requested
- Assist in preparation of the Post newsletter
- Publicize Post events and activities.

Post Sergeant at Arms

- Arranges the meeting hall and assists the Post Commander and Adjutant in preliminary arrangements for meetings
- Leads the color detail during presentation

- Plays a leading role in the post color guard, burial detail, and other pageantry
- He or she is the expert on flag etiquette and should know proper flag etiquette
- Welcome new members make sure they are introduced and made to feel they are important to the Post.
- Encourages members to attend meetings and advises the commander on who should be acknowledged

Post Judge Advocate

- Primary duty of the judge advocate is to supply professional advice in the conduct of post business.
- Procure proper counsel when requested.
- Guardian of the constitutional form of post government
- Supply valuable assistance to other post committees and officers
- Maintain contact with local government officials when needed
- Assist in auditing post financial accounts

Members at Large

- Represent the members at the Executive Committee meetings
- Conduct audit of local cash accounts quarterly.
- Elevate members concerns to the Post leadership.
- Act as liaison to the membership.
- Attend Post meetings



Post Finance Officer



I want to thank Doug Palzer for volunteering to conduct the Annual Post Financial Audit. We will brief members on the results of his audit at the February General Post Membership Meeting.



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

Hello and Happy New Year to all my fellow veterans!!!!

President Trump has nominated Doug Collins to be the next Secretary of Veterans Affairs. Mr. Collins is a US Air Force Reserve Chaplain and a former member of Congress. Upon House and Senate confirmation, Mr. Collins hopefully will begin to revamp and streamline VA operations.

Many aspects of the VA need to be reorganized and some totally changed to meet the needs of military veterans and their families. This especially true regarding VA Disability Claims and financial compensation for the spouses of deceased veterans.

I am encouraging all veterans to submit Disability Claims for medical conditions, especially if the veteran believes his or her medical issues may be service related. This can be very critical for Vietnam, Thailand or Gulf War veterans who may have PACT ACT related "Presumptive Conditions."

Please contact the Post Service Officer if you would like to file a disability claim, or you have questions concerning VA programs for veterans, spouses, or family members.

"We Serve Those Who Served"

Larry Haynie
Post Service Officer

Events:

General Membership Outreach Meeting in Mukdahan

In our continuing efforts to get out where our members are, this month we are held the meeting in Mukdahan. For those that don't know Mukdahan is on the border of Thailand and Laos. Mukdahan is approximately a 2^{1/2} hour drive from Ubon Ratchathani.

Social the Night Before: On January 7, 2025 the Post held a social gathering at the Mumsabia Restaurant in Mukdahan prior to holding the post meeting on the next day. There was a very good turnout to enjoy the camaraderie and good food. These socials are a great way to meet members face to face.



Left to Right: Doug & Joy Palzer & A & JT Boyd, Robin & Tik Barker, Plang Potyrala, John McPherson & Daughter Tess, Wayne Wright & Sathit (Not Visible), Kirby Raines, Don Badtram, Jan & Sal Salvatore.

Membership meeting: We held the membership meeting at Mook's café located in the heart of Mukdahan City. We had eight members present at the meeting with seven more online. Additionally, our Department Vice Commander at Large, (VCAL) Jim Brotherton joined us online. We thank our Host, Mook's Café for making us welcome and providing a great location. We will continue with the outreach membership meetings in hopes of reaching most of our members that cannot travel to the meetings in Ubon.



Featured Member: Doug Palzer

Annual Food Donation to the Needy:

On 15 January 2025 the Wat Nong Pah Pong temple in Warin Chamrap District of Ubon, Thailand held its' annual food give away to the hungry. This was an all-day event which provided food to approximately 20,000 individuals. Hundreds of private organizations, businesses, groups and families participated in the venue.

American Legion Post TH01 member Douglas Palzer and his family joined in this year's event. Mr. Palzer, his wife Rojana (Joy) her brother Ead, his wife Thick, their daughter Jenny, son Bond and Bond's fan Pear, and Joys nephew John also were involved.

Mr. Palzer's family personally purchased, made, delivered and distributed this food to the needy. They provided 500 cups of ice drinks of Chrysanthemum and Longan tea and 250 cups of "Kanom Pla Glem" a Thai dessert.

Mr. Palzers family has been participating in this event for the last 5 years.



Children's Day Wing 21 Open House

Wing 21 Royal Thai Air Base hosted its annual Children's Day Open House on January 11, 2025. The Wing graciously invited our Post TH01 to participate in this annual event. This was the seventh year the Post participated. Children's Day is a Nation-wide event where the military opens their bases to the public. Families come out to see air shows, demonstrations and games. Schools also participate in celebrating children. This year your Post displayed a large Post banner as well as the American flag and POW/MIA flag. The Post had a booth where we gave bags of cookies to mostly the children. The wing staff expressed their appreciation.



From left to right: Doug Palzer, Ted Potyrala, John Skabry, Wing 21 Wing Commander, Malcom Calhoun, Jeff Ludwig, Ann Ludwig







Safety Message: National Burn Awareness Month; This year's theme, "Burn Prevention Starts Where You Live,." According to the CDC 80 percent of burns occur in the home. Burn injuries continue to be a significant public health issue, with more than 398,000 people seeking medical care for burns in the United States in 2021, according to the CDC. Compared to the overall population, children under five were 2.0 times as likely to be seen for burn injuries at a hospital emergency department. Many of these injuries occur in the home and are preventable through awareness and education.

These are good reminders to review common workplace safety procedures that are related to burn prevention.



Tips for preventing burns in the home:

General

1. Keep cords out of reach
2. Do not leave candles unattended
3. Check smoke alarms monthly
4. Charge devices and store chemicals according to the manufacturer's instructions

Preventing Fire Hazards while Cooking

1. Turn pot handles inward
2. Keep a fire extinguisher nearby
3. Use oven mitts when handling hot items
4. Don't multitask when carrying hot food
5. Use stable, heat-resistant dishes
6. Keep hot liquids spill-proof
7. Use timers when cooking

Handling Hot Items Safely

1. Use oven mitts when handling hot items
2. Don't multitask when carrying hot food

Cooking & Eating Smarter

1. Use stable, heat-resistant dishes
2. Keep hot liquids spill-proof
3. Use timers when cooking

Storage Area or Small Spaces

1. Store flammable items away from heat
2. Clean lint from the dryer after each use
3. Ensure ventilation in small storage areas

Bathroom

1. Set water heater below 120°F
2. Check bathwater with a thermometer
3. Supervise children in the bath

Sleeping Areas

1. Extinguish candles before sleeping
2. Check heating devices for safety
3. Keep heat sources three feet away from fabrics
4. Avoid heating pads without an auto shut-off feature
5. Ensure cords are in good condition

Upcoming Events:

Four Chaplains February 3

Four Chaplains Day, observed on February 3rd each year, commemorates the heroic actions of four military chaplains during World War II. On February 3, 1943, the troop ship SS Dorchester was torpedoed by a German U-boat in the North Atlantic. As the ship sank, these four chaplains selflessly sacrificed their lives to save others, demonstrating extraordinary courage and unity in the face of adversity.



What is Four Chaplains Day?

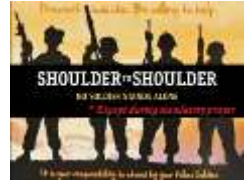
Four Chaplains Day is a day to honor the memory and legacy of four brave chaplains: George L. Fox, Alexander D. Goode, John P. Washington, and Clark V. Poling. These men, representing different faiths and backgrounds, came together in an act of unity and selflessness that serves as a symbol of courage and compassion.

History of Four Chaplains Day

The story of the four chaplains is one of courage and unity during a time of crisis. As the SS Dorchester sank, these chaplains distributed life jackets to soldiers and, when the supply ran out, gave up their own life jackets. They linked arms, prayed, and sang hymns as they went down with the ship, ensuring that others had a chance to survive.

Four Chaplains Day was established to honor their memory and the values they represented. In 1988, the U.S. Congress designated February 3rd as “Four Chaplains Day” to commemorate their selfless act and promote unity among all Americans.

Chaplain's Prayer:



Prayer For Peace In The Country

Dear Lord,

We pray for peace in this country. Let our shores be blessed with peace and harmony. Secure our future with tranquility. Resolve all festering conflicts that threaten to boil over. Let this country be a shining beacon of understanding. Let there be peace between tribes, religions, and families. Let your love be the cup we drink from every day and help us forgive each other for our trespasses.

Amen

THE GRACEFUL CHAPTER

February Birthdays:

- Stan Bielawski
- Tom Huges
- Marleen Madding
- Kirby Raines
- Jesus Zamarripa



Important links

CLICK THE FOLLOWING LINKS FOR POST TH01...

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 33.74 THB

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