

# 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 For September: Comrade Faralli's House Khon Kaen



September 2024

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

VOL. 7, ISSUE 09

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## Calendar for September 2024

Sep 11 Patriots Day and General Membership Meeting

## 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>

## **Post Commander Rob Davis -- A word from the Commander...**

Fellow Legionnaires, Goodbye to August and Welcome September 2024! Being part of a small, but amazing Post takes help from every member we have. It's each of you – doing what you can whether it's 5 minutes, 5 hours or 5 days – to help the Post with what we do best: taking care of veterans, their widows, and their families. As you all know we are limited here in Thailand with our membership. Now we do great as a Post with recruiting and making our membership goals, but we need help from all of you to make great things happen here in Thailand.

We could be doing more in our local communities, and we could be hosting more events like a 4<sup>th</sup> of July BBQ, Christmas Party, and Thanksgiving, etc... Putting on these events though, as I said earlier takes active involvement from all of you. So please contact one of the officers of the post and let us know how you can personally help the post.

We can use people on one of the committees (Membership, Activities, etc..). We are not asking you to run the committees, it's just nice to have more people sharing ideas, and helping us to make things happen.

Remember this is your post, and I'm sure we all remember the saying "You get out of it, what you put into it". Let's have some fun!

Speaking of getting involved in the Post, we are still in need of someone to step up to take the Chaplain position. I know you are probably thinking well I am not a minister or maybe you don't feel you are religious enough. Well here is what the Officers Guide has this to say about the position," *The chaplain need not necessarily be a clergyman, but must be a person capable of moral and intellectual leadership and one who gives dignity and respect to the office. The chaplain should be in close touch with the commander and other post officers, and should attend all meetings of the post executive committee. The leadership in many post activities belongs by right to the chaplain, and when this office is filled by the right person, the post's usefulness to the community greatly increases... The chaplain should work with the post historian on grave registration work and inspire the post to decorate veteran graves, especially on Memorial Day. Besides officiating at post members' funerals when requested, the chaplain can serve their bereaved families. The American Legion Chaplain's Handbook, is available online and through department headquarters and offers guidance for the post chaplain and religious emphasis committee."*

On another note, we have our Meeting in Khon Kaen this month, my wife and I are really looking forward to seeing you all there. Mark Faralli has put a lot into making this happen and I am excited for us to all be together again. So please do all you can to make it, and let John Skabry know your details so he can plan for it. John's email is <mailto:2vice@americanlegionthailand.com>.

For God and Country

Rob Davis  
Commander

**On a sad note:**  
**Comrade David Borchers has reported to**  
**Post Everlasting.**

It is with great sorrow we announce the passing of comrade David Borchers. David lost his struggle with stage 4 lung cancer on August 28 2024. He was being treated in Sirachai Hospital Chonburi. David was veteran who believed and lived the saying, "Veteran still serving veterans." David was active in both the VFW and the American Legion. He worked many roles in the VFW including commander of **Karl Wendell Richter** VFW Post 10217. While his actions with the VFW kept him busy, he always had time for our American Legion Post TH01. Dave was a regular at the general membership meeting. Often offering advice and insight in various issues. Knowing David, we are sure he has already stepped up to help in Post Everlasting. That is just who he is.



David is survived by his wife, Thunyarat (Lucky) Borchers. If you wish to express your condolences she can be reached through her email address. [lucky.korat@yahoo.com](mailto:lucky.korat@yahoo.com). She can also be reached through her mailing address Below:

Mail: Thunyarat Borchers  
Post Office Box 4  
Nakhon Ratchasima Mail Center  
Korat, Thailand 30010

If you wish to make a donation for funeral expenses as is a Thai custom, contact Adjutant Ludwig and he can give you her Banking information.



## Membership Chair - By Ted Potyrala

The new target dates have arrived. The Department sets a goal for us. Having a goal gives an incentive to try to reach it. Each year the Department raises the number of members they would like us to have. The Department goal for us went from 86 members to 90 members renewed or new members. The first target goal is 50% renewals by 6 September. I am happy to say we have reached and exceed the first target. We are sitting at 51%.

The next goal is 55% by 11 October. As soon as you are finished reading this newsletter and haven't already done so, click on this link [Renew Your Membership](#) and renew your membership. It's simple and easy, you just need a credit card. Just remember to make sure the billing address for your payment matches the credit card billing address. It is easy to change by clicking on edit. It will not change your address in your membership. It is only for using your credit card. You can also send a check or transfer money to:

### **First Command Bank:**

Account Name American Legion Thailand Post TH01

Routing Number 111993695

Account Number 5579818

Swift Code None

Just be sure to let Jeff know.

Cash is always welcome at the post meeting.

You could send a check from an **American Bank** to our post mailing address:

### **Post Mailing Address:**

American Legion Post TH01

P.O. Box 41 Wanarom Post Office

Ubon Ratchathani, 34003, Thailand

I highly recommend **not sending a check** since it takes forever to process.

The absolute easiest way is to click on this link [Renew Your Membership](#) if you do not have your membership number, Adjutant Ludwig or I can provide it to you.

If you renew no later than 15 December 2024, your name will be entered in a drawing for \$100 to be drawn at the January meeting. This money is coming from an anonymous donor. It is his way of thanking members for renewing. Let us not disappoint him and renew as soon as you can.

The three-year renewal option is still available for those who would like to pay three years in advance. Also, you have the option for automatic renewal.

If you run into any problems, don't hesitate to let Adjutant Jeff Ludwig or myself know. We will step you through the process.

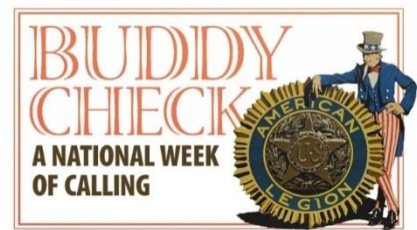


## Adjutants Corner

September 11 is Patriot Day however we all remember it as 9/11 - the day "Some People did Something". The greatest terrorist attack in the history of our country. I still recall clearly my emotions on that fateful day. I was working the Logistics Readiness Control Center on Patrick AFB Base. We like many others watched in horror and anger as the terrorists attack the Twin Towers and the Pentagon. I remember how angry I was when we learned that the terrorist trained just down the road from us at Emory Riddle University and right under our nose at the air academy in Melbourne Florida. It's hard to believe that that was 23 years ago.

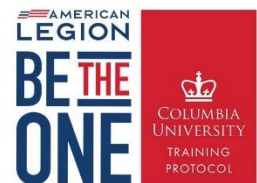
Today with the turmoil in the world and our open borders we must be ever vigilant for those who would do us harm. We must be observant of our surroundings. One of the 4 pillars of the American Legion is **National Security**. Let us not let it happen again on our watch.

With all that is going on in the world like the natural disasters, and the unrest in various areas across our Nation and the world, let's not forget to check on our fellow veterans here in Thailand. Let's also not forget our comrades who are currently back in the States. We must look out for each other.



### **Reminder:**

As part of The American Legion's "**Be the One**" mission to end veteran suicide, they have joined forces with Columbia University to develop training for those who want to learn more about interacting and responding with veterans who may be in crisis. You can "Be the One" by taking the training.



### **UPCOMING ONLINE SESSIONS**

**September 5, 2024**

5:30pm - 7:00pm Eastern time

[\*\*CLICK HERE TO REGISTER\*\*](#)



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

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Sawadee Fellow Veterans;

When a veteran sends the Veterans Administration a claim for disability or benefits, the process is usually a routine procedure. An "Intent to File" form is the first form to submit, to notify the VA a new disability claim is forthcoming.

The second process is to file the actual Disability Claim form, which is more in depth and details information concerning the nature of the disability the veteran wishes to claim.

The Post Service Officer can provide assistance and advice to veterans before they send the VA their claim forms. If a veteran is unable to complete the claim forms due to being handicapped or is incapable of completing the form on their own, the Post Service Officer can transcribe the claim form for the veteran.

It is when the widow of a deceased veteran must file a claim form for compensation or benefits, that the process becomes more difficult and complicated, especially when a veteran has a Thai spouse who has limited or no English language skills.

The Post Service Officer (PSO) can assist and provide guidance to Thai spouses in the claims process. The Thai spouse does have the responsibility to provide the PSO with all the necessary documents, in order to provide the VA critical information to process claims.

Therefore, it is incumbent upon the veteran to ensure their spouse can readily access all the important documents the veteran has concerning their military service, and their medical documentation as well. The veteran should also maintain documents the VA has provided to the veteran, that pertains to any prior disability ratings the VA has awarded the veteran.

The PSO then develops a claims package. All required documents will then be submitted to an Accredited Service Officer, who submits the documents directly to the Veterans Administration. This can be a lengthy process and may take up to a year before a spouse may be awarded financial compensation or benefits.

Veterans should maintain all their military and medical documents. Please keep these documents in a safe and secure place where your spouse can easily access the records. I am seeing an increase in the number of cases where a veteran suddenly passes away, and his spouse can not locate her husband's vital records. The most important form a spouse needs to have access to quickly is the veteran's DD Form 214.

**"WE SERVE THOSE WHO SERVED"!!!!**



## Safety Message: Emergency numbers in Thailand.

By Jeff Ludwig

So, you are living in Thailand or you are visiting Thailand. What will you do if you have an emergency; who will you call? In the USA it is simple, you would simply call 911. But who do you call here in Thailand? In Thailand there is no one-number to call. It depends on the type of emergency. Being in the middle of an emergency is not the time to find out. The table below gives a list of numbers you need to have handy in case of an emergency. I recommend you keep this handy and have the numbers loaded in your cell phone. I have a copy on the wall in my house as well as loaded in my phone.

Icon	Number	Service
Highway Police	1193	Highway Police
Tourist Police	1155	Tourist Police
Car Lost	1192	Car Lost
Bus Ticket	1490	Bus Ticket
The Department of Highways	1586	The Department of Highways
State Railway of Thailand	1690	State Railway of Thailand
Traffic Information	1197	Traffic Information
Highways Information	1543	Highways Information
Thailand Transport Portal	1356	Thailand Transport Portal
Emergency Hotline	191	Emergency Hotline
Erawan Emergency Medical Services	1646	Erawan Emergency Medical Services
Emergency Medical Services	1554	Emergency Medical Services
Water Accident	1196	Water Accident
Motorway Hotline	1586 press 7	Motorway Hotline
Emergency Medical	1669	Emergency Medical

Thai PBS B

# National Preparedness Month

National Preparedness Month (NPM), is recognized each September to promote family and community disaster and emergency planning now and throughout the year.

Our Post membership is scattered throughout Thailand and the USA. That being said, our members are exposed to just

about a every natural disaster including hurricanes, typhoons, tornadoes, monsoon floods, strong winds, and earthquakes to name the most common natural disasters.



## Get Prepared

**Emergency Plan:** The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) encourages you to plan ahead for a disaster. You can do this by establishing a meeting place and evacuation route with your family. According to FEMA, the family meeting place should be familiar and easy to find. The FEMA website lists helpful tips on how to start an emergency plan at – <https://www.ready.gov/plan>. You can download and fill out emergency plans for families, pets, property, and more at this website.

**Disaster Preparedness Kit:** Everyone should have a disaster preparedness kit ready should a disaster strike. Each member's disaster preparedness kit will be based on the threats in their area.

- **Keep key important documents and medical information safe and easy to find.** Before a disaster, safeguard critical documents. This includes medical records, prescription information, and your uniformed services ID card. It's also a good idea to make a list of illnesses, allergies, and prescription bottles for all family members.

Being prepared for events like wildfires, floods, and hurricanes can help keep you and your family safe. You can't predict what and when a disaster will occur but you can predict what you should do before, during, and after an emergency.





## History by Ted Potyrala

Speaking of history in Thailand, Comrade David Burns provide a bit of history on his unit, 16<sup>th</sup> Special Operations Squadron (**Spectre**). David served 4 tours with the unit at Ubon Thailand. The AC-130 gunships, equipped with side firing, trainable 25 mm, 40 mm, and 105 mm guns, had a storied history during the Vietnam Conflict. The Gunships destroyed more than 10,000 trucks and were credited with many life-saving close air support missions. It is fitting the song **Ghost Riders in the Sky** was the theme song for the “**Spectre**” gunships in Thailand during the Vietnam war. The song still has special meaning to many who served.



### **Some History of the 16th. SOS at Ubon Thailand**

By David M. Burns

16<sup>th</sup> Special Operations Squadron (Spectre) Combat losses during the Vietnam war.

The 16<sup>th</sup> SOS was activated at Ubon RTAFB on 31 October 1968 and began flying combat missions on what was called the Ho Chi Minh Trail, (which in actuality was almost all of South East Asia. Laos, Cambodia, North and South Vietnam. There were a total of six aircraft losses during the war.

The first loss was aircraft number 629 on 24 May 1969. The Aircraft was hit by 37MM anti-aircraft fire over the Trail killing the illuminator. The aircraft lost most of its control capability. The Aircraft commander managed to get it back to Thai Air Space where he directed most of his crew to bail out. The remaining four crew members tried to bring the aircraft back to Ubon. When the aircraft landed it went out of control and crashed and burned on the runway killing the flight engineer.

Second loss was aircraft 625 hit by 37MM anti-aircraft fire over the A Shau Valley, South Vietnam on 22 April, 1970. Out of a crew of 11, only one managed to bail out. Ten were killed in action (KIA).

Third loss, Aircraft 044 hit by a SAM-2 Missile on 29 March 1972 over the Trail. There were no survivors, 14 crew were KIA.

Fourth Loss Aircraft 571 hit by 57MM anti-aircraft fire on 30 March, 1972, again over the Trail. This time all 15 crew members bailed out and were rescued. It was called, “the great easter egg hunt” as so many men were down in Laos at one time!

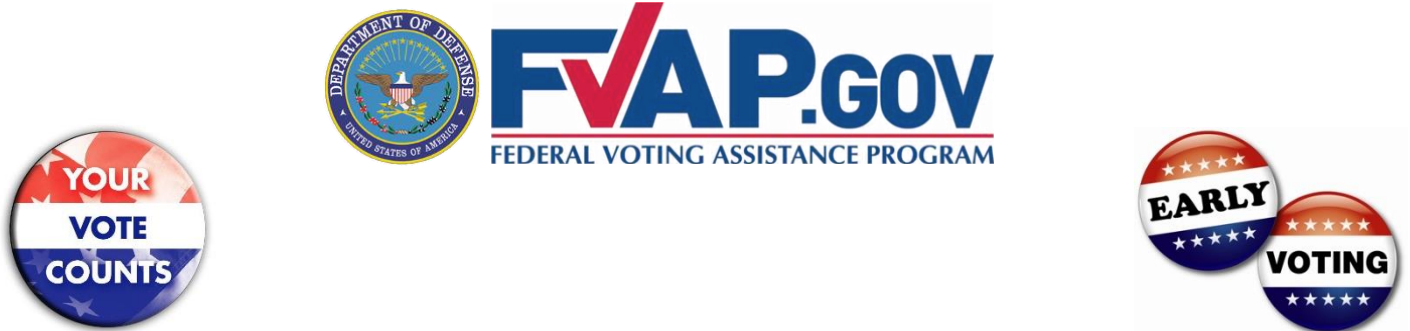
Fifth loss, Aircraft 043 hit by SAM-7 missile on 18 June, 1972 over the Trail, out of a crew of 12, no survivors.

Sixth loss, Aircraft 490 hit by 57MM anti-aircraft fire on 21 December 1972 over the Trail. Out of a crew of a crew of 17 only three survived.

\*Compiled by MSgt retired David M Burns, Aerial Gunner, 16<sup>th</sup> SOS four tours 1969-1975.

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Remember to vote in the primaries!



**Absentee ballots will be on their way in less than a month, but it's not too late for voters to register and request theirs.**

Remind voters that the deadline to get registered and request a ballot for November 3 using the Federal Post Card Application (FPCA) depends on their state of residency. Here are a few resources to share with voters to assist them with requesting their ballot:

- Check their [state's specific deadlines](#).
- Add [election dates and reminders](#) to their calendars.
- Offer to speak with voters to discuss any questions or concerns directly.
- [Download](#) and share the map below to see if their state allows them to send in their FPCA electronically to avoid mail delays.

## How to Vote Absentee from Abroad

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As a U.S. citizen living outside the country, you can vote absentee while living away from your voting residence.

Here's [how](#):

1. Register to vote and request your ballot in one easy step.

[Fill out the Federal Post Card Application \(FPCA\)](#) and send it to your election office.

[Check your voter registration deadline](#) for the next election based on your state. For the General Election, it's best to send in the FPCA by August 1.

Your voting residence (the U.S. state or territory where you are registering to vote) is likely your legal residence. [Here's how to determine your voting residence](#).

Using the FPCA ensures that your state will send your ballot to you at least 45 days before the election — a protection not guaranteed when using other forms. It's a good idea to send in a new FPCA every January and each time you move.

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## Move the September Post Membership meeting to Khon Kaen.

Fellow members,

A reminder that the September 11 General Membership meeting will be held at Comrade Mark Faralli's house in Khon Kaen. The meeting will still be online for those who cannot attend in person. This move is part of an initiative to get out to all our members to interact personally.

We thank those who sent in their RSVP and look forward to seeing you. The Activity Committee is planning on a meet and greet social the night before at the King Kong restaurant. It will start at 6:00 p.m. The coordinates to the restaurant are - [https://maps.app.goo.gl/1KnDjiLVZGkFMFzg8?g\\_st=im](https://maps.app.goo.gl/1KnDjiLVZGkFMFzg8?g_st=im) Some of the members will be staying at the Kosa Hotel which is where we stayed for the Tawanchai foundation.

Mark Faralli's house is approximately 15 minutes North of Khon Kaen. Here are the coordinates: <https://maps.app.goo.gl/XKWWZ4pu4raXEjy87> Here also is a picture of Mark's front entrance .



Also, it's not too late to decide to come. Just let John or Jeff know so that they can pass it on to Mark Faralli. Come out and let's have some fun! The meeting is on September 11, 2024 and will start at 10:00 a.m.

On a somber note, this is Patriots Day a time to reflect on the tragedy of 9/11 and commit to our vigilance on never letting it happen again. We will be having a ceremony paying homage to those who sacrificed their life on 9/11 and everyday since fighting the global War on Terrorism.



Contact John Skabry if you have any questions about lodging, transportation or events. John's email is <mailto:2vice@americanlegionthailand.com>.

## *Chaplain's Prayer*

Dear Lord 23 years ago, this date—September the 11th—was seared into America's memory. Nineteen men attacked us with a barbarity unequalled in our nation's history. They murdered people of all colors, creeds, and nationalities — and made war upon the entire free world. Sadly, 9-11 has become the modern generation's Pearl Harbor! Lord, on that awful day, we also witnessed something distinctly American:

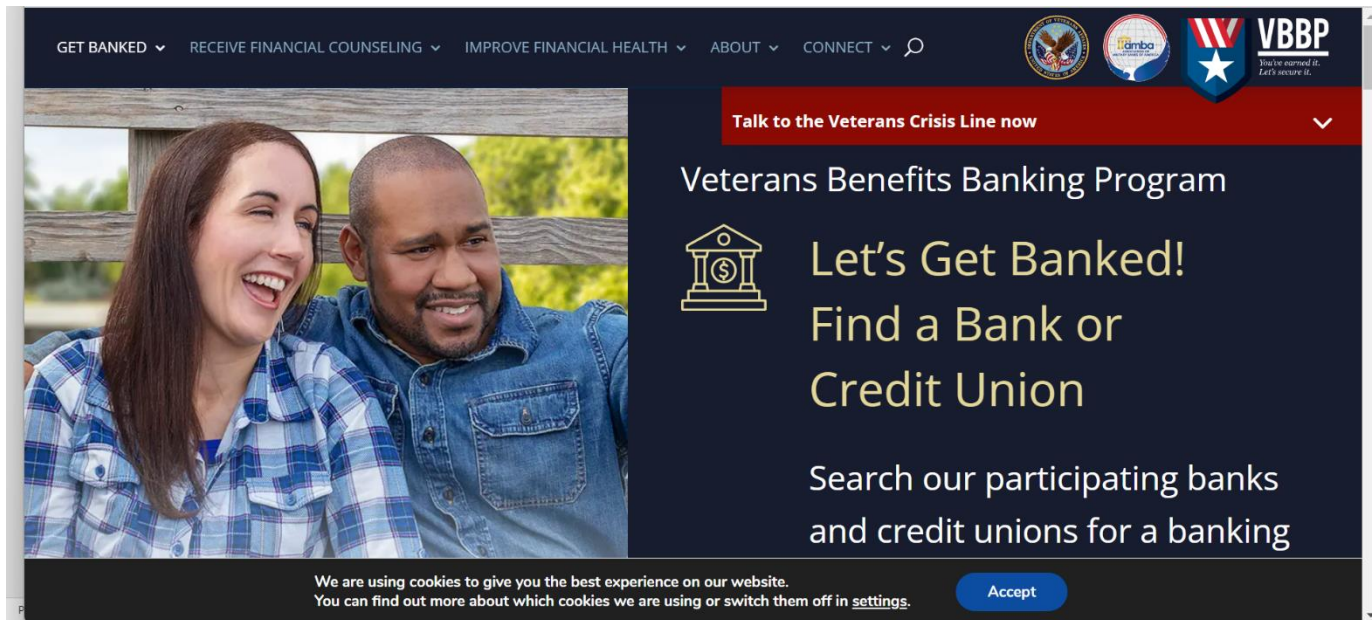


- Ordinary citizens rising to the occasion, and responding with extraordinary acts of heroism.
- Courage in office workers trapped on the high floors of burning skyscrapers who called home so that their last words to their families would be of comfort and love.
- Bravery of the Pentagon staff who made it out of the flames and smoke — and then ran back inside to answer cries for help.
- And we saw courage in passengers aboard Flight 93, who recited the 23rd Psalm—and then charged the cockpit, saving an untold number of lives on the ground.
- Our Father, On this day, we remember the innocent who lost their lives— and we pay tribute to those who gave their lives so that others might live. For many of our citizens, the wounds of that morning remain fresh. firefighters and police officers still choke up at the memory of fallen comrades. Young children and teenagers still long for the parents who will never share the joys of their youth nor guide them to adulthood. Fellow Americans take bittersweet pride in loved ones who refused to be victims — and gave America our first victory in the war on terror. We also remember the sacrifices made by our nation's armed forces to keep us safe. Every one of our troops is a volunteer, and since the attacks of September 11th, more than two million Americans have stepped forward to put on our nation's uniform. Over 50,000 soldiers, sailors, airmen, and guardsmen have suffered terrible injuries—and over 6,000 have given the ultimate sacrifice in the defense of freedom! America cherishes their memory and we pray for their families. We will never forget! Lord, Out of this suffering, we resolve to honor every man and woman lost. And we seek their lasting memorial in a safer and more hopeful world. In your name we pray....AMEN.



Mike Cook came across this American Legion Website on a veteran benefits banking program. This website will help you when searching for banks and credit unions for banking overseas, Here is the link to the site:

<https://veteransbenefitsbanking.org/find-bank-credit-union/>



GET BANKED ▾ RECEIVE FINANCIAL COUNSELING ▾ IMPROVE FINANCIAL HEALTH ▾ ABOUT ▾ CONNECT ▾ 🔍

Talk to the Veterans Crisis Line now ▾

Veterans Benefits Banking Program

Let's Get Banked!  
Find a Bank or  
Credit Union

Search our participating banks  
and credit unions for a banking

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Accept

## September Birthdays:

- Fred Berg
- Bill (Chappie) Chapman
- Bob Engborg
- Fred Gilbert
- Billy Holand
- Bill Moxham
- Ted Potyrala



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**[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 34.57 THB**

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