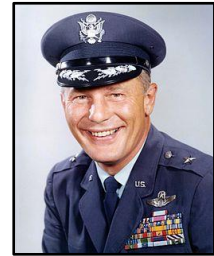




**Brig. Gen. Robin Olds**  
 American Legion Thailand Post TH01  
 Email: [amerilegionth01@gmail.com](mailto:amerilegionth01@gmail.com)



Larry Edmonds, Commander      Jeff Ludwig, Adjutant

Post meetings held the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday 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)**

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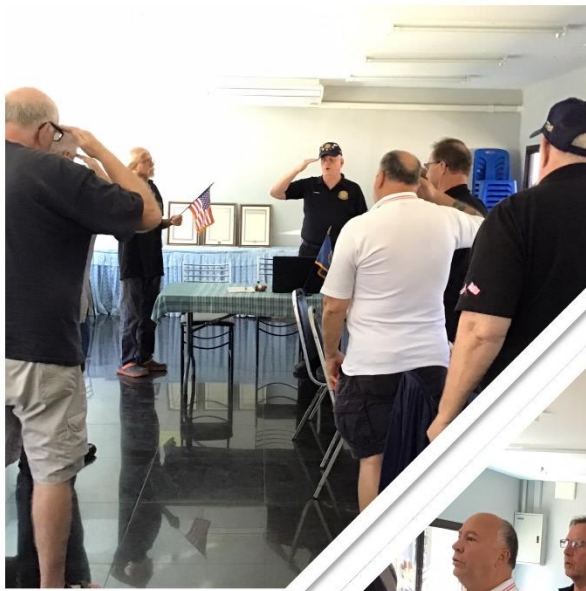
**CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

- January 1                      New Years
- January 11                  Children's Day Open House Wing 21
- January 13                  Post Meeting 10:00AM

**2019 Post Officers:**

<u>Name</u>	<u>Office</u>	<u>Email</u>
Larry Edmonds	Commander	<a href="mailto:ldedmonds@aol.com">ldedmonds@aol.com</a>
Bruce Templeman	1st Vice Commander	<a href="mailto:bruce.templeman@gmail.com">bruce.templeman@gmail.com</a>
Wayne Wright	2nd Vice Commander	<a href="mailto:waywright@outlook.com">waywright@outlook.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:htmmason@aol.com">htmmason@aol.com</a>
Jeff Ludwig	Adjutant/Finance Officer	<a href="mailto:Jgludwig2@gmail.com">Jgludwig2@gmail.com</a>
Neil Tufford	Sergeant at Arms	<a href="mailto:Neiltufford@gmail.com">Neiltufford@gmail.com</a>
Charles (Rusty) Wilson	Judge Advocate	<a href="mailto:charles.r.wilson1@gmail.com">charles.r.wilson1@gmail.com</a>
Joe Reedy	Public Affairs Officer	<a href="mailto:joereedy4@gmail.com">joereedy4@gmail.com</a>
Phil Colombey	IT Officer	<a href="mailto:pcolombe@gmail.com">pcolombe@gmail.com</a>
Salvatore (Sal) Salzarulo	Members at large	<a href="mailto:salzy48@hotmail.com">salzy48@hotmail.com</a>
Dave Bell	Members at large	<a href="mailto:davebell211@hotmail.com">davebell211@hotmail.com</a>
Kirby (Cosmo) Raines	Members at large	<a href="mailto:william_2017@icloud.com">william_2017@icloud.com</a>

## December, 2019 Post Membership Meeting



## **COMMANDER'S MESSAGE**



**By Larry Edmonds**

Yours truly with then Col Robin Olds



**Comrades,**

Happy New year to all! I hope the past year leaves you with many good memories and the coming year brings you all the happiness and joy you deserve. A new year is upon us with many hopes and new ideas. Our post is doing well but as always could be better. Our Children's Day activity is nearing and we are in preparation. The storyboards have been completed, the ice cream has been ordered, and the space has been donated. All we need is for the day to arrive and the crowds to come. I hope everyone will be able to attend. It's free and the base is open all day, no pass needed.

We need activities for the coming year. It doesn't have to be in Ubon. We would like to try to be active in many of the communities from the surrounding areas and provinces. If you have a town, school, orphanage, or organization that we could maybe help a little, please bring it up at the meetings. Membership is always on the agenda. Without membership, our post could not exist. Without new membership, our post will not survive. So please get out and beat the bushes. Find those veteran's and widows living in the villages and small town that don't know of us and get the word out. Elections will be coming up in a couple of months. Comrades start thinking about your nominations for officers and the possibilities of you possibly filling one of the officer positions.

## **1<sup>st</sup> Vice / Membership Chairman:**



**Bruce Templeman**

We're beginning a New Year and I hope that we all remain vigilant on the roads this holiday season. I offer my best wishes to all for a safe and prosperous New Year.

During this holiday season please stop and reflect on all that you have done for others and the Post this past year and set some new goals in service for the coming year. There is strength in numbers and together, the Post can accomplish much. Let's forge ahead with new goals, get out of our comfort zone, and try new challenges. Also, we cannot let up on our routine goals and duties.

To that end, it is incumbent on all members to help the Post in whatever way we can. Take an interest in how the Post runs its business and offer suggestions to improve. The Post is growing and needs all membership to participate in its growth. Not all duties are appealing, but must be done regardless. The reward is in knowing that you did the job well.

I'm suggesting that we have a short training session on various subjects each Post meeting. Your suggestions of subjects for training are welcome. I have envisioned having half-hour subjects like learning Post duties and positions, American Legion Pillars, how to navigate the American Legion training videos, etc...

The more we know of our organization, the better we will be at letting others know. This has a direct effect on our recruitment and retention.

Children's Day is Saturday, 11 January 2020 followed closely by the Post meeting on Monday, the 13<sup>th</sup>, and Martin Luther King, Jr. Day on the 15<sup>th</sup>. It would be great if the attendance at the Children's Day could match that of the Post meeting.

May we all find joy and meaning in our service to others, this year and those that follow.



## **Service Officer:**

**Maurice (Rocky) Hatske**

About VA DIC for spouses, dependents, and parents

If you're the surviving spouse, child, or parent of a service member who died in the line of duty, or the survivor of a Veteran who died from a service-related injury or illness, you may be able to get a tax-free monetary benefit called VA Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (VA DIC). Find out if you can get VA benefits or compensation.

First, see if you meet the eligibility requirements. You can find the detailed requirements at this website, <https://www.va.gov/disability/dependency-indemnity-compensation/>

### **How do I apply for compensation?**

First you'll need to fill out an application for benefits. The application you fill out will depend on your survivor status.

If you're the surviving spouse or child of a service member who died while on active duty, your military casualty assistance officer will help you to complete an Application for DIC, Death Pension, and/or Accrued Benefits by a Surviving Spouse or Child (VA Form 21P-534a). The officer will help you mail the form to the correct VA regional benefit office.

If you're the surviving spouse or child of a Veteran, fill out an Application for DIC, Death Pension, and/or Accrued Benefits (VA Form 21P-534EZ).

If you're a surviving parent, fill out an Application for Dependency and Indemnity Compensation by Parent(s) (VA Form 21P-535).

### **You can apply for this benefit in any of these ways:**

- Mail the form to the Pension Management Center (PMC) for your state.
- Work with an accredited representative. Get help filing your claim
- Go to a VA regional benefit office and get help from a VA employee. Find a VA regional benefit office near you

**Post Adjutant Corner:**



**Jeff Ludwig**

Thank you to our members and their families who have made this past year so successful. This past year saw our membership grow to 70 members. This year promises to be even better!

We are looking forward to the ideas and contributions from our new members. The best way to retain our new members is to get them active in the operation of the Post. With that being said, there many opportunities to help our Post. The Post elections are coming up. Members consider running for an officer position where you can make a direct impact in the success of the Post. In addition, the Post committees are looking for volunteers to serve on the committees. A Post is only a good as its members. With everyone's help, we can continue make this a great Post committed to helping our fellow members, veterans, and local community.

One way you can help local veterans is by spreading the word that the American Legion eligibility requirements have changed. The eligibility has greatly expanded allow most all veterans to join and enjoy the comradery of our great organization and Post.

One of the best ways to learn about the American Legion, its organization, its mission and goals, its history, and its programs is to take the American Legion online Basic Training course. It is free for any member and it only takes a few hours to complete. The knowledge gained far exceed your time spent. Additionally, at the end of the course, you get a certificate and pin recognizing that you successfully completed the course. I cannot stress enough how important this course is. It will teach you about all the programs that the American Legion has and how the post can use them to help our needy veterans and local community.

**Historian:** Ted Potyrala

Since we are in a close relationship with the Thai Air Force here at Ubon, I thought a little history of their air force would be appropriate.

### **Short History of the Thai Air Force**

In February 1911 Belgian pilot Charles Van Den Born was responsible for the first aircraft demonstration in Siam at Bangkok's Sapathum Horse Racing Course. King Rama VI was sufficiently impressed that on 28 February 1912 he sent three Army officers to France to learn to fly. After receiving their wings and qualification, the officers returned to Siam in November 1913, bringing with them eight aircraft: four Breguets and four Nieuport IVs). In March 1914, Thai aviation moved from Sapathum to Don Muang then north of Bangkok.

The Ministry of Defense placed the Siamese Flying Corps under the Army Engineer Inspector General Department. Prince Purachatra Jayakara, Commander of the Army Engineers, and his brother Prince Chakrabongse Bhuvanath, were instrumental in the development of the Royal Siamese Aeronautical Service as it was renamed in 1919. In 1937, it became an independent service known as the Royal Siamese Air Force. Two years later, when the kingdom's name was changed to Thailand, it became the Royal Thai Air Force. The Air Force during the years before the Second World War was a moderately-well equipped force with relatively modern aircraft; a mixture of several French, American, and Japanese types.

During the French-Thai War, the Thai Air Force achieved several air-to-air-victories in dogfights against the Vichy Armée de l'Air. During World War II, the Thai Air Force supported the Royal Thai Army in its occupation of the Shan States of Burma as somewhat reluctant allies of the Japanese and took part in the defense of Bangkok against allied air raids in the latter part of the war, achieving some successes against state-of-the-art aircraft like the P-51 Mustang and the B-29 Superfortress. During these times, the RTAF was actively supplied by the Japanese with Imperial Japanese Army Air Force aircraft such as the Ki-43 "Oscar," and the Ki-27 "Nate." Other RTAF personnel took an active part the anti-Japanese resistance movement. The Thai Air Force sent three C-47s to support the United Nations in the Korean War. The Wings Unit, operating the C-47, also joined the anti-communist forces in the Vietnam War. Following the end of the Vietnam War in April 1975, the Thai Air Force took possession of 117 aircraft of the former South Vietnamese, Cambodian and Laotian air forces that had evacuated to Thailand.<sup>[2]:469</sup> Along the border, the Thai Air Force launched many operations against communist forces, including the Ban Nam Ta Airfield Raid in Laos, and clashes between Thai and communist Vietnamese troops along the Thai-Cambodian border. When the Cold War ended, the Thai Air Force participated in Operation Border Post 9631 along the Thai-Burmese border in 1999, and launched the evacuation of foreigners during the 2003 Phnom Penh riots in Cambodia.

Credit: Wikipedia







## Safety Message:

The holiday season brings a number of unique driving risks. During this time of year, there can be difficult traffic conditions, limited daylight, and drivers in unfamiliar areas. Here are six ways you can drive safely and smartly this holiday season.

- 1. Plan Ahead.** Before you start your trip, make sure your vehicle is in good shape for travel. This is especially important for bad driving conditions. Check the weather before heading out to ensure the roads are safe to drive. Plan for delays!
- 2. Stay Fresh And Alert.** Make sure you're well rested before a long drive. A study carried out by The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) discovered that, from 2009 to 2013, 72,000 crashes, 44,000 injuries, and 800 deaths were attributed to driver fatigue. Plan the trip so you share the driving and take regular breaks to avoid drowsy driving. Thailand setups rest stops during the holidays to give travelers a brief rest. Take advantage of these stops especially if you're feeling fatigued.
- 3. Mind Your Speed.** Give yourself plenty of time and distance to react to the traffic around you. An Automotive Fleet Magazine article notes that for every one percent increase in speed, a driver's chance of an accident increases by two percent, the chance of serious injury increases by three percent, and the chance of a fatality increases by about four percent.
- 4. Drive Defensively.** Increased holiday traffic and bad road conditions can be frustrating. Put the safety of everyone in your car first by letting impatient and aggressive drivers pass you or go through the intersection ahead of you so that you control the situation. Constantly think ahead for escape routes in the event you encounter a dangerous situation. In Thailand, that is a constant on the roads. Try to anticipate what can happen in certain situation. Such as when you see a stop sign, don't assume the other vehicle is going to stop because chances are good they won't. In Thailand where you will routinely encounter motorcycles passing on the shoulder of the road, vehicles traveling the wrong direction, vehicle traveling without lights and many more unsafe situations.
- 5. Don't Drive Impaired.** If you plan to drink, don't plan to drive. NHTSA's "Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over" campaign has set out to end drunk driving through cutting-edge technology. The roads in Thailand are dangerous enough navigating sober. If you have a couple of holiday alcoholic refreshments, use a designated driver. Refrain from driving if not for yourself, then for the friends and loved ones with you.
- 6. Avoid Distractions.** According to [Distraction.gov](http://Distraction.gov), the "Official U.S. Government Website for *Distracted Driving*", sending or reading a text takes your eyes off the road for five seconds. At 55 mph, that's enough time to travel the distance of an entire football field. Driving requires your full attention. If you need to use the phone, pull off to the side of the road or find the nearest rest stop.

**Record High Travel This time of Year.** This time of year always sees congested roads as people travel to be with relatives and friends. The roads are just as congested right after the holidays as the people travel back to their homes. For many drivers it also means traveling on unfamiliar roads in unfamiliar areas. Be mindful of the other driver who may be distracted trying to find an address or street.



## Post Christmas Luncheon:

A good time was had by all





*Chaplain's Message:*

*Give Thy special blessing to all those who assume duties of leadership. Walk with each of us in heart and mind, day by day, so that we may continue to serve our God and our country. Amen. We pray that our present leaders will be blessed with grace and strength for the coming year.*

**TAPS:**

NONE



**January Birthdays:**

- Gary Christopherson
- Mark Faralli
- Paul McDermott
- JC Molette
- Lee Montgomery

A very happy birthday to all.