



Brig. Gen. Robin Olds
 American Legion Thailand Post TH01
 Email: amerilegionth01@gmail.com



Bruce Templeman, Commander Jeff Ludwig, Adjutant

Post meetings held the 2nd 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

May 2020
 Volume 4, Issue 5

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- **May 10 - Mothers Day**
- **May 11 - Post Membership meeting via Skypes**
- **May 25 - Memorial Day**

2020 Post Officers:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Office</u>	<u>Email</u>
Bruce Templeman	Commander	bruce.templeman@gmail.com
Wayne Wright	1st Vice Commander	waywright@outlook.com
Billy Holland	2nd Vice Commander	billybholland@gmail.com
Ted Potyrala	Historian	tpubon@gmail.com
Maurice(Rocky) Hatzke	Service Officer	mrhatzke3@gmail.com
Hugh Mason	Chaplain	htmmason@aol.com
Jeff Ludwig	Adjutant/Finance Officer	jgludwig2@gmail.com
Salvatore (Sal) Salzarulo	Sergeant at Arms	salzy48@hotmail.com
Larry Edmonds	Judge Advocate	ldedmonds@aol.com
Joe Reedy	Public Affairs Officer	joereedy4@gmail.com
Phil Colombey	IT Officer	pcolombe@gmail.com
Paul McDermott	Members at large	paulny54@hotmail.com
Dave Bell	Members at large	davebell211@hotmail.com
Kirby (Cosmo) Raines	Members at large	cosmotyson@yahoo.com

Your 2020/21 Post Officers:

Commander



Bruce Templeman

1st Vice Commander



Wayne Wright

2nd Vice Commander



Billy Holland

Chaplain



Charlie Mason

Adjutant/Finance
Officer



Jeff Ludwig

Historian



Ted Potyrala

Service Officer



Rocky Hatzke

Sergeant at Arms



Sal Salzarulo

Judge Advocate



Larry Edmonds

IT Director



Phil Colombey

Publicity Officer



Joe Reedy

Member at Large



David Bell

Member at Large



Kirby Raines

Member at Large



Paul McDermott

COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

Bruce Templeman



I thank Commander Larry Edmonds for his devotion and sacrifice in getting the BGN Robin Olds American Legion Post TH01 chartered and running forward since 20 October 2015. His selfless performance has given the surrounding community and all of us much pleasure and satisfaction. I am lucky to have him looking over my shoulder and mentoring me as I step into the breach and carry forward the ideals and traditions of the Post.

I will begin by recognizing that we have a wonderful group of people, many of whom I have not met. This poses a minor inconvenience, as I would like to be able to solicit ideas for the upcoming year and beyond. I ask that everyone challenge himself or herself to participate in our meetings and email the Post whenever you have an idea that will help us fulfill our commitment to the 4 Pillars of the American Legion: Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation, National Security, Americanism, Youth & Children. I will be reaching out via email and telephone to each of our members asking for ideas to increase membership, participation, and suggestions to help the community.

Many of our members are highly involved in community service. This they are doing so as private individuals and not overtly as a collective function of the American Legion. Performing a collective community service event here in Thailand is difficult, as our members are spread out over an area the size of Texas. In order to highlight our service to the community, I ask that our members send in a photo with a brief explanation of themselves performing service to others. It's not "virtue signaling" as some would opine. It's letting people know that the American Legion Post TH01 is proud to showcase the qualities of what it takes to be a member... the qualities that each service member takes to heart and embodies -- the spirit of selfless service. Service to others is not a spectator sport. It takes action, and we are people of action.

I look forward to seeing and speaking with each and every one of you in the next few months. Until travel restrictions in Thailand are lifted, we will be meeting via Skype session. If you are unfamiliar with Skype, please send an email to the Post and we will provide the training.. ***Together, we can make a difference.***

Post Adjutant Corner:
Jeff Ludwig



First, I hope you are all well and are safe from the virus and are not enduring unusual hardships. Please let us know if you need help.

Election: Join me in congratulating and welcoming this year's Post Officers. Despite the restrictions placed on all of us by the pandemic, we successfully completed our elections and voted in the Post Officers for the coming year. When we can finally have a monthly Post membership meeting, we will convene a team of members to conduct an audit the election results to ensure transparency.

To my fellow Post Officers, you are taking over during unusually troubling and trying times. I am confident that we have the right people to overcome the challenges facing us.

May Post Membership meeting: The Thai Government has extended travel restrictions till to May 31st. Therefore, we will have the May membership meeting via Skype chat. I will send a link out a week before the meeting. If you are not sure how to join the chat, email me and I will step you through the process. Hope to see as many of you as can make it.

Annual Audit: Comrade Peter Ritzel completed the annual Post Audit and filed his report. In his report, which will be sent out for all to see, He stated that the Post is financially sound and is using standard acceptable accounting practices. The audit report will also be available for review at the next membership Post meeting.

Membership goals for FY 2020: April will see the close of this year's membership drive. While we fell a little short of our goals, we still had a very successful year. We were able to attain 99 percent of Department's goals. Know that we could not have done it without each of you. We look forward to next year's challenges.

Membership dues for the next year: Just a note to remind you that next year's membership drive starts July 1, 2020. The annual dues for 2021 will be \$45.00 or 1500 baht.

Service Officer
Rocky Hatzke



Do you need to find the status on your VA claim(s)? Is the current pandemic blocking you from finding out? Well it needn't be. There are a couple of ways to get information on your claim(s). First off, you need to know how the claim was filed: online, by mail, or through a VA Claim agent.

If you filed it on line or through an accredited agent or organization, then you will have a VA account and you can get information on-line. You need to have registered for and have a login ID and password to get to the online system and your information. Once you establish an account, you can check the status of your claim.

In my opinion, information or status obtained through your online account and updates are sometimes slow to be processed and updated. It takes about 30 days to get new information loaded so don't try and get an update after a week. If you had an authorized agent file your claim, its best to contact them for updates.

Once your claim has been filed, you will receive notification that the VA has it. If they need additional information, they will request it. You need to reply to their request promptly.

If the VA needs to get medical exams done, they will have them scheduled. **IMPORTANT!** Do not miss these appointments. If you just cannot make the appointment, make sure to reschedule the appointment with plenty of lead-time and provide a good justification.

If you are still having issues with your VA Claim, your Post Service Officer and Department Service officer are here to help. Just contact us and we will do what we can. We are here to help.

Safety Topic

Jeff Ludwig



May is electrical Safety Month

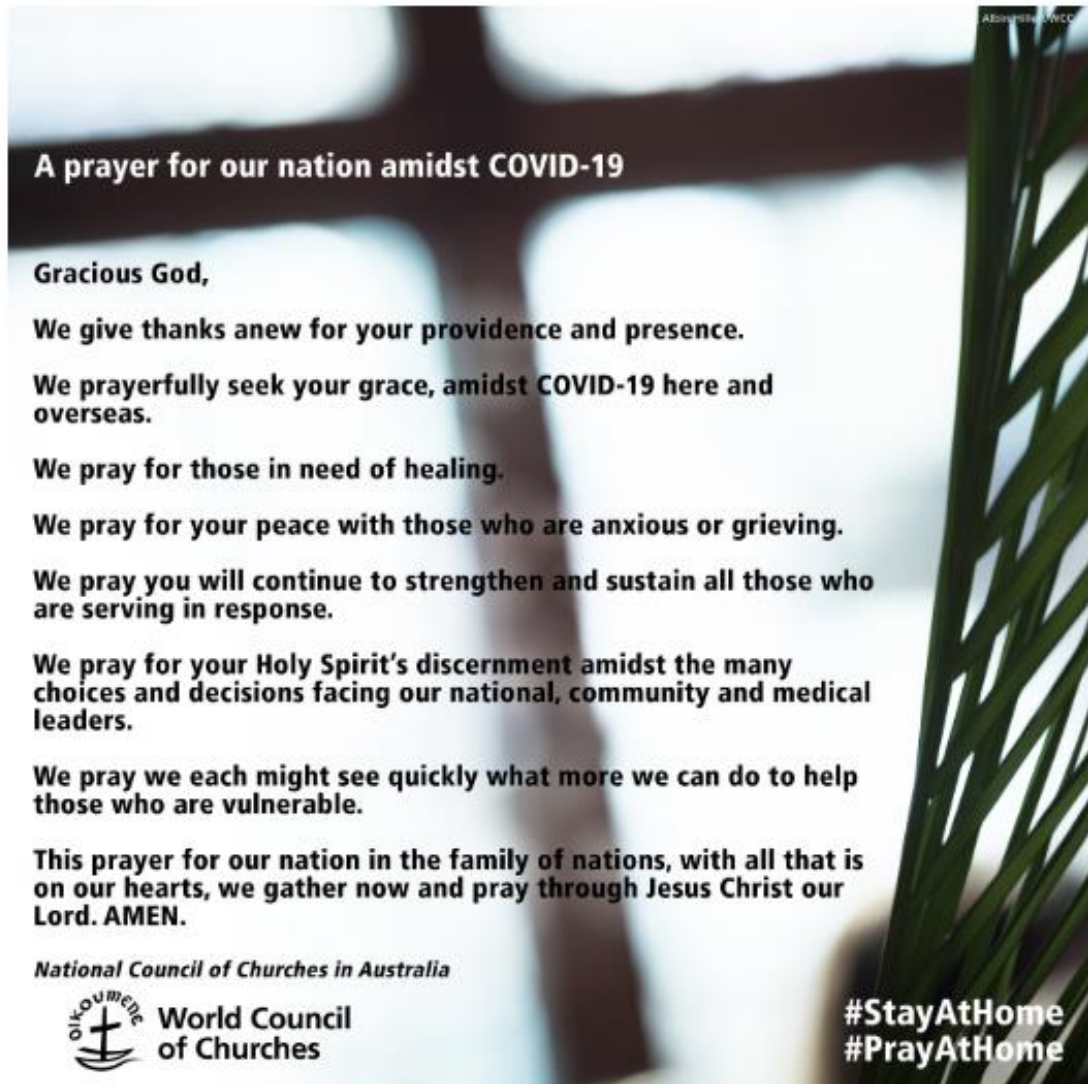
Since their introduction in to the National Electrical Code in the 1970s, ground fault circuit interrupters have saved thousands of lives. The Consumer Product Safety Commission estimates that 50% of home electrocutions have been prevented by the introduction of GFCIs. The Electrical Safety Foundation International wants you to make sure your home is properly protected against ground faults with the correct installation of GFCIs. GFCI protection is required for outlets installed in:

- Bathrooms
- Garages
- Outdoors
- Balconies, decks, and porches
- Kitchen countertops
- Within 6 feet of a sink
- Laundry areas
- Within 6 feet of a bathtub or shower.

How to test a GFCI:

1. Push the RESET button
2. Plug in a nightlight or similar device
3. The nightlight should be ON
4. Press the TEST button on the GFCI
5. The nightlight should turn OFF
6. Push the RESET button again
7. The nightlight should turn ON
8. If the device does not turn on, contact a qualified electrician to inspect the outlet

Chaplain's Message: A Prayer for COVID-19



A prayer for our nation amidst COVID-19

Gracious God,

We give thanks anew for your providence and presence.

We prayerfully seek your grace, amidst COVID-19 here and overseas.

We pray for those in need of healing.

We pray for your peace with those who are anxious or grieving.


We pray you will continue to strengthen and sustain all those who are serving in response.

We pray for your Holy Spirit's discernment amidst the many choices and decisions facing our national, community and medical leaders.

We pray we each might see quickly what more we can do to help those who are vulnerable.

This prayer for our nation in the family of nations, with all that is on our hearts, we gather now and pray through Jesus Christ our Lord. AMEN.

National Council of Churches in Australia

 **World Council of Churches**

#StayAtHome
#PrayAtHome

Prayer by Rev. Dr Manhong Melissa Lin, associate general secretary, China Christian

TAPS:

NONE



May Birthdays:

- Don Badtram
- Joe Cardeiro
- David Monninger
- Richard Rees
- Dale Ridgeway
- Henry Witmer
- Wayne Wright



A very happy birthday to all.