



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

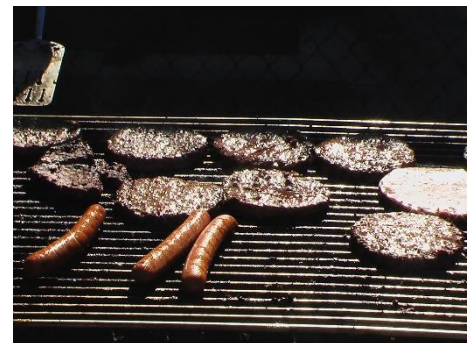
July 2020
Volume 4, Issue 7

CALENDAR OF EVENTS















- July 13 - Post Membership Meeting
- June 13 - Independence Day picnic

The July Post Membership meeting will be at the Wing 21 Driving Range this month. We will have to adhere to the COVID requirements such as social distancing and wearing of masks. For those who cannot attend you can join the meeting on Skype Group chat. We will send a link prior to the meeting.

Immediately following the meeting, we will have a good ole fashion barbecue of hamburgers and hot dogs to celebrated the Nations independence Day, 4th of July.



2020 Post Officers:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Office</u>	<u>Email</u>	
Bruce Templeman	Commander	<i>bruce.templeman@gmail.com</i>	
Wayne Wright	1st Vice Commander	<i>waywright@outlook.com</i>	
Billy Holland	2nd Vice Commander	<i>billybholland@gmail.com</i>	
Ted Potyrala	Historian	<i>tpubon@gmail.com</i>	
Maurice(Rocky) Hatzke	Service Officer	<i>mrhatzke3@gmail.com</i>	
Hugh Mason	Chaplain	<i>hmmason@aol.com</i>	
Jeff Ludwig	Adjutant/Finance Officer	<i>Jgludwig2@gmail.com</i>	
Salvatore (Sal) Salzarulo	Sergeant at Arms	<i>salzy48@hotmail.com</i>	
Larry Edmonds	Judge Advocate	<i>ldedmonds@aol.com</i>	
Joe Reedy	Public Affairs Officer	<i>joereedy4@gmail.com</i>	
Phil Colombey	IT Officer	<i>pcolombe@gmail.com</i>	
Paul McDermott	Members at large	<i>paulny54@hotmail.com</i>	
Dave Bell	Members at large	<i>davebell211@hotmail.com</i>	
Kirby (Cosmo) Raines	Members at large	<i>cosmotyson@yahoo.com</i>	

COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

Bruce Templeman



In the spirit of comradeship, I will try to put out as much information in the newsletter as possible without boring our membership. It's a fine line to walk and I would appreciate any feedback that you can give me concerning our Post. I can only learn if you give me your comments on what you expect to see, or if you see something that should be corrected. I am available by phone (092-605-9661), personal email (bruce.templeman@gmail.com), Post email (Amerilegionth01@gmail.com) or by Facebook Messenger, Skype (DCGuardian), Twitter (BuBuud), and Line. Contacting me should not be too difficult. Please communicate, even if you are not in Thailand. Your ideas and suggestions are invaluable.

One of our charter members commented that the photos of our elected officers in our last newsletter were extremely helpful for him to put a face to the names. It made me realize that we have so many members in places other than Ubon, thus it's not easy for us to get to know each other as well as we could. This, and the fact that we will soon have a 2nd American Legion Post in Thailand, leads me to ask a small thing of all of our Post members. I ask that each of you send a digital portrait photo of yourself to our Post historian so he can assemble a Post historical document of TH01. This will be for a permanent historical record of the first American Legion Post in Thailand. The more formal, the better. Put your best foot forward. When the rolls are called at the next Centennial, we will have made a place for ourselves and future Legionnaires can put a face to the name.

The expected opening of Thailand for domestic travel is 1 July 2020. With that being the official date, we have planned to assemble again at the Ubon Base Driving Range; however, we must still comply with the social distancing rules as specified by the Thai government. If you are still uncomfortable with joining the meeting in person, by all means, please join in on Skype. For those that will attend, we plan to have an Independence Day barbecue at the Base Driving Range immediately following the July 13th Post business meeting. Please bring a dish to share or donate some baht for the cause.

The Post is formally starting a new committee, **Graves Registration and Memorials**. This committee records, marks and decorates graves of deceased veterans, renders service and comfort to bereaved families, and provides American Legion military funeral honors when requested. First Past Commander Larry Edmonds will be the committee chair with the able assistance of committee members 2nd Vice Commander Billy Holland and Comrade John Skabry. I look forward to this committee setting the standard for all service groups in Thailand in how we memorialize our Post Everlasting members and assist their survivors. For the survivors, remembering them, as well as honoring the loved one that they have lost, is the mark of a truly caring service organization. That's our goal... to serve our fellow veterans and their families.

Communication and participation are the keystones to the success of our organization. I am proud to serve with you and for you

Service Officer:

Rocky Hatzke



Changes Coming Soon for Some TRICARE Select Retired Beneficiaries

6/22/2020

Starting on Jan. 1, 2021, TRICARE Select Group A retired beneficiaries must pay monthly enrollment fees in order to maintain their TRICARE health coverage. This is a change, and the first time this beneficiary group will pay enrollment fees.

“In 2021, some TRICARE beneficiaries will pay enrollment fees for the first time, a change mandated by Congress,” said Dr. Danita Hunter, director of the TRICARE Health Plan at the Defense Health Agency. “We’re communicating this well before the change is implemented so beneficiaries can be informed about the change, as well as their TRICARE plan and cost options.”

Here are the key points you need to know.

What’s happening?

Retired TRICARE Select beneficiaries will have to pay enrollment fees. This change was mandated by Congress in the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year October 1 - September 30 2017. Congress granted the Defense Health Agency a delay in implementation to calendar year 2021.

Who’s impacted?

This change only affects Group A. If you or your sponsor’s initial enlistment or appointment occurred before January 1, 2018, you are in Group A. retirees and their family members enrolled in TRICARE Select. You’re in Group A if your initial enlistment or appointment or that of your uniformed services sponsor began before Jan. 1, 2018. Active duty family members enrolled in TRICARE Select will experience no change, and won’t pay enrollment fees.

This applies to me. When do I need to take action?

You must set up a monthly allotment through your Department of Defense (DoD) pay center, where feasible, for your monthly payments to start on Jan. 1, 2021. For sponsors who don’t receive funds through a DoD pay center, you can establish payments via electronic funds transfer, credit card, or debit card. Your regional contractor will soon issue instructions to set up payment.

What are the 2021 enrollment fees for TRICARE Select Group A retirees?

The enrollment fees will be collected via monthly installments from the sponsor’s military pay system where retired pay is disbursed.

- Individual plan: \$12.50 per month
- Family plan: \$25 per month

How can I stay informed and prepare for this change?

Visit the TRICARE Select Enrollment Fees page on the TRICARE website for updates and sign up for email alerts. TRICARE will inform you of specific actions you need to take in the coming months. Take command of your health and your health care benefits in 2020.

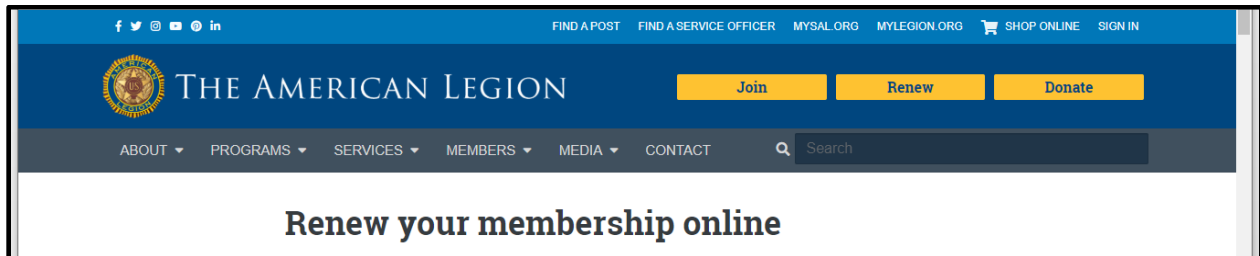
Note: TRICARE for Life (TFL) is not affected by this and there are no enrollment fees

Article courtesy of TRICARE web site.

Post Adjutant Corner:
Jeff Ludwig



July is the start of the 2021 membership drive. Membership and Post Activities Committee Chairman Rev. Daniel Seehafer of Wisconsin to members of the National Executive Committee during his remarks May 8 stated it best when he said, "**Membership is the foundation the American Legion's four pillars rest upon.** We must engage our current members as well as all veterans, along with their families and our local community." He went on to say, "Membership isn't just about the numbers. It's about what we do (American Legion) programs to drive membership. The more active we are in our communities, working these worthwhile Legion programs, the more visible we are to potential members. Thus, answering that familiar question, 'What is the American Legion?' It's about what we do. What we do for veterans and their families as well as for this culture." Without you are members, we can do nothing. We Need You!



This year's annual dues are only \$45.00 if paid in US currency and 1,500 Baht if paid in Thai currency. We have tried to make it as simple as possible for you to renew your dues.

Below we have listed the information you will need to renew your membership. Here are a multitude of methods to pay and renew your membership.

The easiest and quickest method is to renew online, <https://www.legion.org/renew>. Once you go there, the online instructions are easy to follow.

Good news! The Legion has resolved the issue of renewing online with an overseas credit card and/or an overseas address. If you are uncomfortable with the online renewal, you can always simply call the American Legion customer service, phone number **(800) 433-3318**. Just give them your name, American Legion membership ID number, credit card number, and the Post TH01. They will gladly process your renewal over the phone.

The next preferred method is to do an electronic transfer directly to our Bank of America account using the account number and routing number below. If you have a Bank of America account, you can transfer by either direct account transfer or an email transfer from your account to our Bank of America account. If you are in the USA, you can also simply visit a Bank of America branch and deposit the \$45.00 in our Post account.

If for whatever reason you prefer not to use one of the above options, you can also mail us a check from an American banking institution to the address below. Unfortunately, we still cannot accept a check from a Thai Bank. However, you can send us a Thai money order in the name of the commander or myself.

Finally, you can always bring your dues to the monthly Post meeting or give it to one of the members coming to the meeting. **It's important that you let me know when you send your dues and the method you use so we can look for it.** If you have any problems, just call me, Commander Bruce Templeman, or 1st Vice Commander Wayne Wright and we will work with you to get you renewed. We are counting on you!

Bank of America:

Account Number - 8980 7550 4316

Account Title - American Legion Post TH01

Routing Number - 063100277

Post Mailing Address:

American Legion Post TH01

P.O. Box 41 Wanarom Post Office

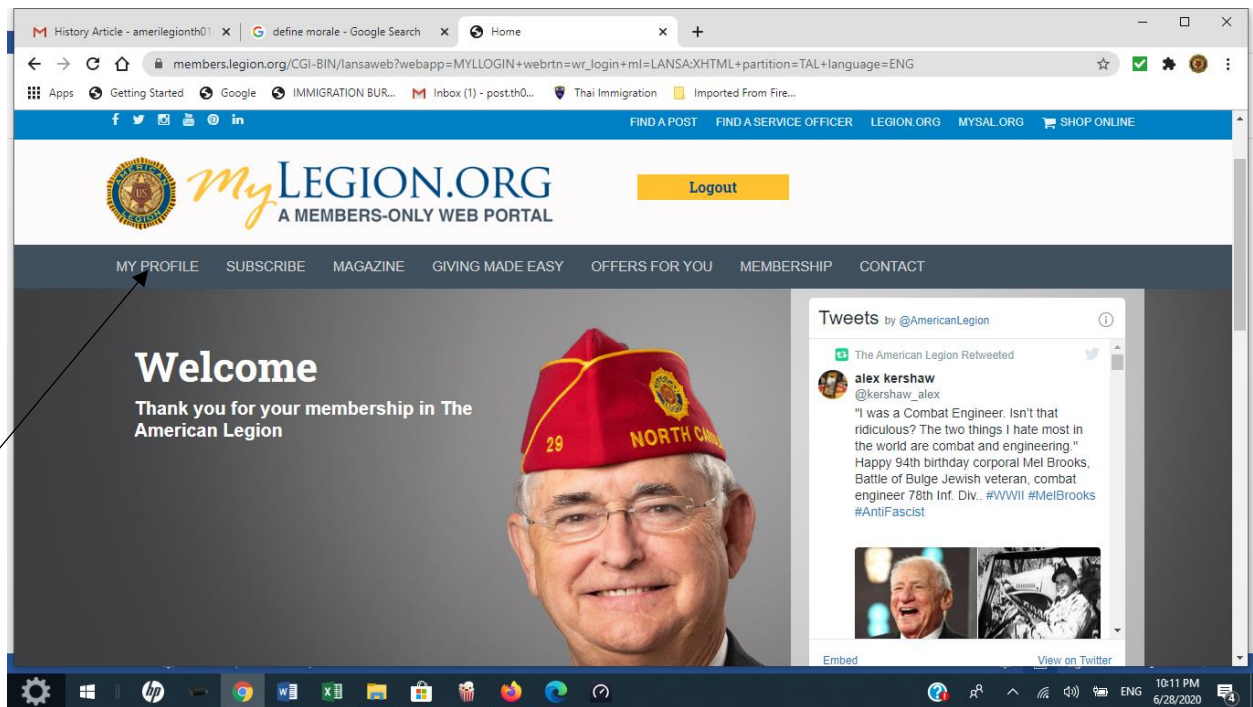
Ubun Ratchathani, 34003, Thailand

Email: AmerilegionTH01@gmail.com

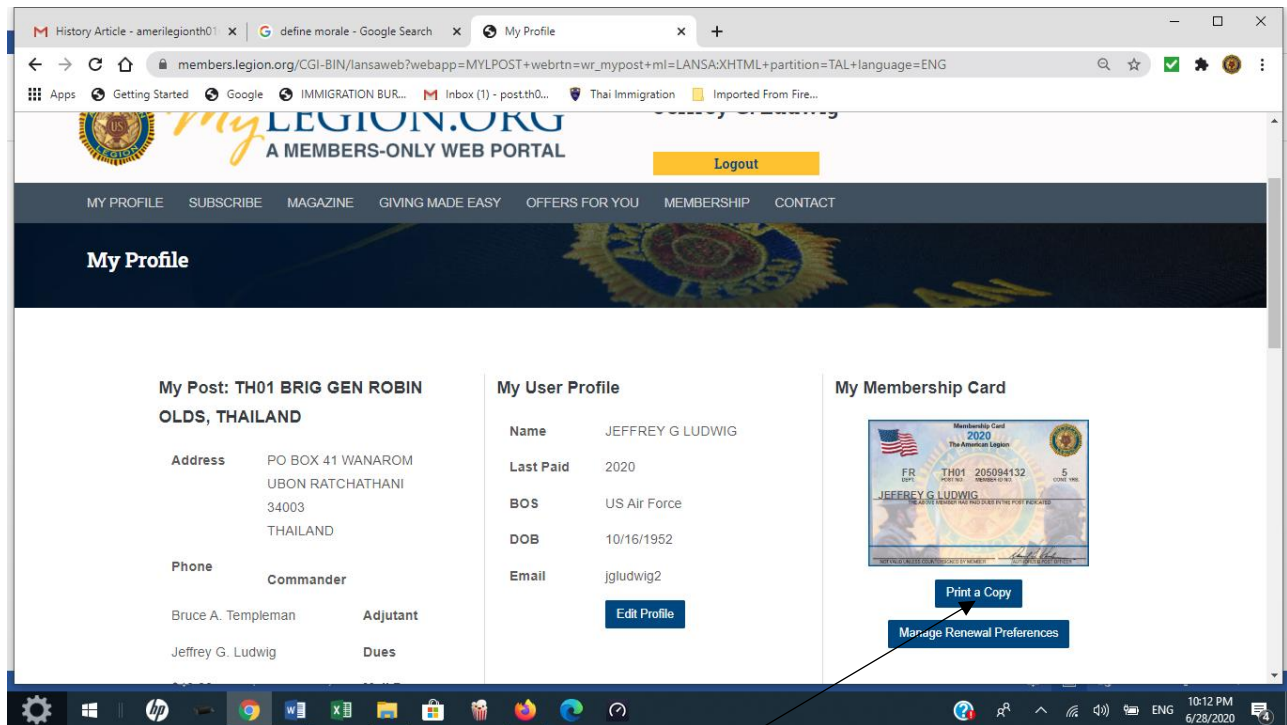
Once you your renewal is complete you can go into the members portal and print your members Id card for 2021. It is very simple and straight forward. You just go to the Member Portal and login (https://www.members.legion.org/CGI-BIN/lansaweb?webapp=MYLMAIN+webtrn=wr_logout+ml=LANSAXHTML+partition=TAL+language=ENG#). If you have not register, there will be an option to create after you click on the **Join** button an account.



Once you have logged in, click on the **Profile** option.



Go to the members profile page and click on Print card





Historian
Ted Potyrala

HISTORY OF THE AMERICAN LEGION

PART ONE

There was an American Legion that preceded the present-day American Legion. Arthur Sullivan Hoffman and Stephen Allan Reynolds founded an organization also known as The American Legion in February 1915. They were concerned about the status of the armed services of the United States. They lobbied the government to strengthen the military, held a preparedness parade in New York City, and they also made a film, America Prepare. In 1917 when war was declared, they had 23,000 members. The Legion was incorporated in 1917.

Following WW I in November 1918, some American Officers who participated in the war began to think about forming a similar organization for the two million men that had been on European duty. After the war, there were hundreds of thousands of draftees waiting to get back home. They were looking at weeks or months before their return was logistically possible. Morale was bad. There were even concerns that there could be a correlation between the troops and the Bolshevik uprisings taking place in Russia, Finland, Germany, and Hungary.

Lt. Col. Theodore Roosevelt Jr, the eldest son of the president was very concerned. In January 1919, he had discussions at General Headquarters with National Guard officer George A. White. After a long discussion, it was suggested that a new servicemen's organization be established at once to include all members of the AEF, as well as those soldiers who remained stateside during the war. After much lobbying at headquarters, it was decided to move forward with the plan. General John J. Pershing issued orders to 20 non-career officers to report to the YMCA in Paris on February 15, 1919.

The reserve and regular officers were instructed to provide a set of laws to curb the problem of declining morale. They came up with several proposals including eliminating restrictive regulations, organizing athletic and recreational events, expanding leave time and entertainment programs. After the first day of the three-day meeting, the officers went to the Inter-Allied Officers Club located across the street from the YMCA. It was there that Lt. Col. Roosevelt proposed a new veterans society. They made all their actions provisional until an elected convention of delegates could be convened and did not predetermine a program for the unnamed organization. Instead, they chose to expand their numbers which would consist of an equal number of elected delegates to represent both enlisted men and officers.

Out of the February 15th meeting, four people emerged as an executive committee. They were: Roosevelt, who was to return to the United States and promote the new organization; George White who would travel France touring the camps and explaining the idea in person; Eric Fisher Wood and Ohio Congressman Ralph D. Cole who were to establish a central office and maintain contact by mail and telegram with the various combat divisions and headquarters staff as well as to publicize activities to the press. Next month, the convention

For those interested, I received an email from Ray Withnall. His book is out on Amazon. If you recall he is writing a book on the POWs interned here in Ubon Ratchathani during WWII.

Safety Topic

Jeff Ludwig



NATIONAL FIRE PROTECTION ASSOCIATION

The leading information and knowledge resource on fire, electrical and related hazards

Know what to do during a fire

1. Do not panic. Stay calm!
2. Test any closed doors with the back of your hand for heat. Do not open the door if you feel heat or see smoke. Close all doors as you leave each room to keep the fire from spreading.
3. Crawl low under smoke. Cleaner air is always near the floor.
4. Don't delay. Choose the safest and closest exit. Once you are out, do not go back. Stop, drop, and roll!

Top 10 Fire Safety Tips

- **Watch Your Cooking** Stay in the kitchen when you are frying, grilling, or broiling food. If you must leave, even for a short time, turn off the stove. If you are simmering, baking, roasting, or boiling food, check it regularly, remain in the home while food is cooking, and use a timer.
- **Give Space Heaters Space** Keep fixed and portable space heaters at least three feet from anything that can burn. Turn off heaters when you leave the room or go to sleep.
- **Smoke Outside** Ask smokers to smoke outside. Have sturdy, deep ashtrays for smokers. **Keep Matches and Lighters Out Of Reach** Keep matches and lighters up high, out of the reach of children, preferably in a cabinet with a child lock.
- **Inspect Electrical Cords** Replace cords that are cracked, damaged, have broken plugs, or loose connections. **Be Careful When Using Candles** Keep candles at least one foot from anything that can burn. Blow out candles when you leave the room or go to sleep.
- **Have A Home fire Escape Plan** Make a home fire escape plan and practice it at least twice a year.
- **Install Smoke Alarms** Install smoke alarms on every level of your home. including inside bedrooms and outside sleeping areas. Interconnect smoke alarms throughout the home. When one sounds, they all sound. For the best protection, both ionization and photoelectric alarms or combination ionization and photoelectric alarms (also known as dual sensor alarms) are recommended.
- **Test Smoke Alarms** Test smoke alarms at least once a month and replace conventional batteries once a year or when the alarm “chirps” to tell you the battery is low. Replace any smoke alarm that is more than 10 years old.

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Chaplain's Message:

Independence Day Prayer

Dear Lord,

There is no greater feeling of liberty than to experience freedom from sin and death that provided for me through Jesus Christ. Today my heart and my soul are free to praise you. For this, I am very thankful.



you

On this Independence Day, I am reminded of all those who have sacrificed for my freedom, following the example of your Son, Jesus Christ. Let me not take my freedom, both physical and spiritual, for granted. May I always remember that a very high price was paid for my freedom. My freedom cost others their very lives.

Lord, today, bless those who have served and continue to give their lives for my freedom. With favor and bounty, meet their needs and watch over their families.

Dear Father, I am so thankful for this nation. For all the sacrifices others have made to build and defend this country, I am grateful. Thank you for the opportunities and freedoms we have in the United States of America. Help me never to take these blessings for granted.

Help me to live my life in a way that glorifies you, Lord. Give me the strength to be a blessing in someone's life today, and grant me the opportunity to lead others into the freedom that can be found in knowing Jesus Christ.

In your name, I pray.

Amen.

TAPS:

NONE



July Birthdays:

- Bob Beckner
- Hal Cohen
- Philip Jones
- Daniel Kelley
- Bobby Kane
- Byron Petrides
- Robert Rositer



A very happy birthday to all