



VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE UNITED STATES
Department of Pacific Areas
District V
Banchang Utapao Thailand Post 12146

Comrades,

May/June 2021

Hello Comrades, I hope all of you and your families are holding good during this ongoing pandemic known as COVID-19. For those in Thailand, we are looking forward to easing of restrictions hopefully in the next few months. I have read today that the Thai COVID vaccine registration program already has problems and is on hold again. Thanks to our liaisons at the Bangkok Hospital Pattaya (BHP), they have sent an email to us advising our members to go ahead and register with them directly, and then when the vaccines arrive, we will be contacted for appointments. For our Comrades located around the world, please check with your local health facilities as to availability to get the COVID vaccine. We have heard from the VA/FMP, the word from FMP is to get the vaccine with the Veteran paying up front and then send a claim for reimbursement. REMEMBER YOU MUST BE REGISTERED WITH FMP to get reimbursed. For those on TRICARE, it is the same. If you have problems, please get with SVO David Spurling.

I have noticed the number of attendees at the meeting our slowly returning back to pre-COVID, it is good to see everyone, and the Zoom meetings are also up and running. If you are attending via online Zoom, please check your email inbox, if not there check your Spam folder. The Zoom meeting invite will be sent out 7-10 days prior to the monthly meeting. When you join the meeting, please wait for acknowledgement so we can accept you joining. If you still have problems, please contact me via email. As I said last month our VFW Post achieved "All State" from the DPA once again, marking the 5th year in a row, an outstanding achievement. The DPA/Post incentive of a combined \$200 towards Life membership helped to net us 19 new members during the months of May and June so far. The incentive program will end on June 30 and we have put a cutoff of June 26 to allow for processing, let's find those Veterans and give them the opportunity to join our great organization. We do not know what the new VFW year starting in July will bring in incentives for joining, so do it now. I ask that everyone keep looking for those Veterans in Thailand that need help with VA claims, TRICARE and Social Security, those looking for camaraderie of other veterans, or those just needing to talk.

We still have Members that are recovering from various medical situations, our prayers and thoughts go out to Chuck Cooksley, Steve Gray and Barry Moshinsky, may all of you have a speedy recovery, our prayers and best wishes are with you. The Post Honor Guard provided honors to Navy Veteran (Les Harbour) during the month of June, we would like to thank the Comrades from Pattaya Post 9876 and American Legion TH02, Pattaya Thailand for the first combined Honor Guard in this District. Bottom line, we take care of ALL Veterans as a team. I ask all the Post Officers to continue with your Buddy Check's.

As I mentioned earlier our membership continues to grow as we currently are at 262 members and currently stand at 114.91%, we have only 11 days to help more Veterans and save them \$200.00.



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With this, the last Commander's newsletter for the 2020-2021 VFW year, I would like to thank all of you for the continuing hard work you have done throughout the year. The recruiting of new members (Comrade Meurett had 10 alone in the month of June 2021), the number of hours spent on community projects is unmatched by any Posts in the District, maybe the DPA and the camaraderie we have shared. Nobody can match what all of you do, and that my Comrades is what makes this the best Post in the Pacific. I would like to thank all of the Officer's past and present for their tutelage, guidance and helping me to carry on the legacy left by my predecessors. To the Officers of the 2021-2022 VFW year, I challenge each of you to learn your roles within the Post and the VFW, I know you will rise to the challenges ahead.

THE MORE YOU KNOW:

For our Comrades that are able to, the Post will hold an American Independence Day event at the Post Home on July 3, 2021, starting at 1300 hours with food catered for the event, please join us, remember that room has limited capacity and COVID restrictions will apply, so please keep it to members and family only.

Notification of the Monthly meeting will be sent out via email, yes, I know I already said it, sometimes reminders help.

Last but not most assuredly, please watch out for your Comrades and if something is wrong, tell us. It is hard for us to help if we don't know there is a problem. **WHEN IN DOUBT, CONTACT ONE OF THE OFFICERS, I can be reached at 086-0716109.**

Finally, please remember to mask up, clean your hands and be cautious in crowds, the Corona Virus is back and worse than it was before. Before travelling through out Thailand or any where else, check restrictions that may disrupt your plans.

Yours in Comradeship
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