

History of American Legion Post TH-02

Sergeant Thomas Oliver Ahlberg Memorial Post No. TH02

Pattaya City, Chon Buri, Kingdom of Thailand
Calendar Year 2025



Introduction

Building upon the foundations of institutional stabilization and community service established in its early years, the Sergeant Thomas Oliver Ahlberg Memorial Post No. TH02 entered 2025 as a deeply integrated fixture of the expatriate veteran infrastructure on Thailand's Eastern Seaboard. Operating under the overseas jurisdiction of the Department of France, the Post successfully expanded its local philanthropy, reinforced its regional veteran coalitions, and achieved historic highs in active enrollment while continuing to honor the memory of its fallen comrades.

1. Post Identity & Regional Alignment

Throughout 2025, Post TH02 continued to cultivate robust cross-organizational collaborations and diplomatic ties to serve the local expatriate community.

- **Cross-Organizational Veteran Coalitions:** Post TH02 consistently joined forces with neighboring veterans' organizations, including VFW Post 9876, VFW Post 12146, and the Royal British Legion. These joint formations were frequently mobilized to execute solemn funeral services and "Buddy Check" welfare initiatives across the region.
- **National and Diplomatic Engagement:** The Post preserved its vital communication channels with international bodies and higher echelons of veteran leadership. This included coordinating with the Dutch Embassy for World War II memorial recognitions, partnering with multiple Thailand posts for U.S. Embassy-hosted functions in Bangkok, and hosting a high-level coordination visit from the Department of France Commander.
- **Local Philanthropy & Athletics:** Expanding its footprint into regional community outreach, the Post sponsored local athletes competing in international parasports and maintained structural charitable support for orphaned children in the Pattaya area.

2. Executive Leadership & Officer Rotations

The 2025 calendar year saw the continuation of stable leadership alongside vital officer assignments to manage the Post's expanding operations. Annual officer elections were formally conducted during the general membership meeting on April 26, 2025.

Key transitions during the year included the active mobilization of Service Officers Claude "Skip" Storno and Roger Knorr for institutional charity missions, and the appointment of Ron Walton as Post Chaplain, who spearheaded seasonal local outreach campaigns. Second Vice Commander Richard Garcia, alongside the service officers, maintained an active front-line presence in conducting hospital and nursing home welfare operations.

2025 Officer Roster (As elected and updated during the year)

- **Post Commander:** William M. Ahlberg
- **Second Vice Commander:** Richard Garcia
- **Service Officers:** Claude "Skip" Storno,
- **Post Chaplain:** Ron Walton
- **Executive Committee Member:** Roger Knorr

3. Financial Milestones & Post Home Preservation

From its early fiscal trials and razor-thin margins in 2020 and 2021, Post TH02 achieved notable financial maturity and structural permanence by late 2025.

- **Structural Infrastructure Enhancements:** On September 14, 2025, major physical renovations were finalized on the Post Home's patio area. The structural upgrades introduced a new cover and an extendable awning, modernizing the physical infrastructure to better accommodate member gatherings and daily fellowship.
- **Catering and Event Support:** The Post recognized the vital volunteer contributions that sustained its physical operations, presenting a formal certificate of appreciation to Mrs. Somjit Knorr for her dedicated post event catering services.
- **Philanthropic Cash Disbursements:** Demonstrating robust financial health and community goodwill, the Post closed out the year by presenting a substantial 24,000 Baht cash donation to a local children's orphanage foundation during a holiday event hosted at the end of December.

4. Operational Adjustments & International Logistics

In contrast to the pandemic-driven lockdowns that necessitated digital workflows in 2021, 2025 presented distinct administrative and international logistical challenges that required prompt Post intervention.

The Social Security Form 7162 Crisis: During the monthly meeting on August 25, 2025, Post leadership mobilized to address a critical international mail and package suspension affecting shipments from Thailand to the United States. This suspension directly threatened the livelihoods of local expatriate veterans by blocking the delivery of vital Social Security Form 7162 filings. The Post actively worked to disseminate information and coordinate alternative pathways to protect its members' federal benefits.

Concurrently, the Post sustained its vital "Buddy Check" network. Officers and members regularly executed welfare visits to isolated or hospitalized veterans at local facilities—including Jomtien Hospital, the Homerly Senior Living Center, and the Pattaya Nursing Home—ensuring that aging or ailing comrades received adequate care, fellowship, and administrative support.

5. Major Events & Institutional Initiatives

The 2025 calendar was marked by significant milestones, diplomatic visits, and traditional military observances:

- **USS Carl Vinson Port Call Tour:** On January 28, 2025, the Post organized a short-notice tour for members to visit the U.S. Navy aircraft carrier USS Carl Vinson during its scheduled port call at the Laem Chabang international port.
- **Joint Organizational Resolutions:** On September 3, 2025, Post TH02 hosted Eryck Stamper, a guest visitor from American Legion Blue Sky Lakeside Post 426 (Montana/Virtual), to discuss and draft a joint organizational resolution.
- **POW/MIA Recognition Ceremony:** On September 19, 2025, Post TH02 joined forces with American Legion Post TH01, VFW 9876, and VFW 12074 to attend the official 2025 POW/MIA Recognition Ceremony hosted by the U.S. Embassy in Bangkok.
- **Department of France Commander's Visit:** On November 26, 2025, the Post received a high-level institutional visit from Department of France Commander Dennis Owens. Commander Owens coordinated closely with TH02 officers during local welfare visits to the Pattaya Nursing Home and sat down with local VFW leadership to address systemic veteran issues.
- **Holiday Outreach Operations:** In mid-December, Post Chaplain Ron Walton coordinated a dedicated Christmas Outreach event for local children at the Jomtien Baptist Church. This was paired with a year-end holiday event on December 28 for the Take Care Kids Thailand Foundation orphanage, where veterans handed out school supply backpacks, treated the children to pizza and burgers, and delivered the Post's financial donation.

6. Financial Condition and Membership Growth

Membership metrics for Post TH02 demonstrated explosive, record-setting growth throughout 2025. Moving far beyond its initial 50 members in 2020 and 72 members in 2021, the Post officially wrapped up the 2025 calendar year boasting a robust roster of **160 active members**. The Post continued to attract a diverse generational cohort of veterans, ranging from seasoned retirees to young, newly separated service members.

2025 New Member Roll Highlights

- **January:** Welcomed a new member to kick off the new calendar year.
- **August:** Formalized the recruitment of its youngest active member, Seth Buzzell, alongside new members Jerry Caporelli and Ron Walton.
- **October:** Commander Ahlberg officially welcomed three new members to the post roster: Trevor Olson (USAF), Darby Mullis (US Army), and John "Pat" Clark (USAF, visiting from Texas).
- **December:** Formally accepted 4 new additions to the roster during the final year-end meeting.

7. Taps and Memorial Tributes

The sacred obligation of rendering final honors to fallen comrades remained a central pillar of Post TH02's mission during 2025. The year was marked by the heartbreaking loss of several foundational figures who had shaped the Post since its inception.

Honor Roll of Departed Veterans (Post Everlasting / Taps)

- **Don Delomba (Charter Member):** Passed away suddenly following an emergency in-flight medical diversion to San Francisco. His passing was announced to a mourning membership on March 31, 2025.
- **Anthony “Tony” Ginyard (U.S. Army):** The TH02 Honor Guard participated in a solemn funeral service on April 9, 2025, rendering final honors at Wat Photi Sampan in Naklua.
- **David “Joe” Zertuche:** Passed away at his residence. The Post expressed formal condolences to his family and friends on April 24, 2025.
- **Shane P. Curtis (Founding & Charter Member):** The Post suffered a profound loss with the passing of Shane Curtis on May 2, 2025. Curtis had served as an original steering committee officer, holding the positions of Adjutant, Finance Officer, Service Officer, and Chaplain across the Post's history. On May 8, 2025, a massive combined veteran honor guard consisting of TH02, VFW Post 12146, and the VFW Post 9876 Auxiliary provided final military honors at Wat Suttawas.
- **Frank Paul Giusto:** On August 2, 2025, a grand local veteran coalition—including TH02, VFW 9876, VFW 12146, and the Royal British Legion—gathered to pay final respects and full honors.
- **Jerry Wayne Bowman (U.S. Navy, 30-Year Veteran):** The local veteran community assembled to render final honors at the Jomtien Beach Temple on August 30, 2025.
- **Larry Ball (USMC):** Multi-post Honor Guard teams assembled at Wat Hua Yai on September 13, 2025, to render a final salute.
- **Glen B. Ahlberg (Founding & Charter Member):** On September 25, 2025, the Post mourned the loss of Glen Ahlberg, brother of Post Commander Bill Ahlberg and namesake relation to the post. He passed away at the age of 78 while in hospice care in Montrose, Colorado.

To honor these and all departed comrades, the Post meticulously performed the traditional draping of the charter during its general membership proceedings, ensuring their names remain permanently etched into the lineage of the organization.

In Memoriam

Members of TH-02



Don Delomba
15 Mar 1973 - 30 Mar 2025
USN



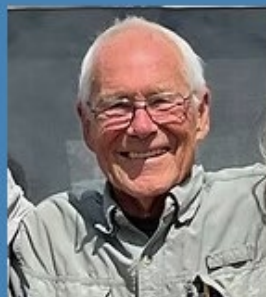
David (Joe) Zertuche
08 Mar 1963 - 22 Apr 2025
USAF



Shane Curtis
22 Sep 1963 - 02 May 2025
USAF



Frank Giusto
29 Dec 1951 - 08 Jul 2025
USAF



Glen B Ahlberg
17 Sep 1947 - 24 Sept 2025
USA

Conclusion

Calendar Year 2025 represented a milestone era of institutional maturity, record-breaking expansion, and deep community impact for American Legion Post TH02. Successfully navigating complex international logistical issues, executing extensive infrastructure upgrades, and growing its active roster to an unprecedented 160 members, the Post soundly defended its mission on Thailand's Eastern Seaboard. Through meaningful children's philanthropy, dedicated hospital outreach, and unbreakable inter-post veteran alliances, Post TH02 solidified its legacy as a permanent, indispensable sanctuary of comradeship and service.

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