



# Alpharetta Post 201

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Thursday, Dec. 22, 2022

## Christmas Poem

*(Editor's Note: Prior to Christmas 2021, Post Adjutant Tom Billings sent us a work titled "Christmas Poem." Accompanying the poem itself was a note which said: "This poem was written by a Marine. The following is his request. Would you do me the kind favor of sending this to as many people as you can? Christmas will be coming soon and some credit is due to our U.S. service men and women for our being able to celebrate these festivities. Let's try in this small way to pay a tiny bit of what we owe. Make people stop and think of our heroes, living and dead, who sacrificed themselves for us. Please, do your small part to plant this seed." We shared this poem with our readers last year and think it appropriate to share again this year. It has a message which should not be ignored. -- hdh)*

Twas the night before Christmas, he lived all alone,  
In a one bedroom house made of plaster and stone.

I had come down the chimney with presents to give,  
And to see just who in this home did live.

I looked all about, a strange sight I did see,  
No tinsel, no presents, not even a tree.

No stocking by the mantle, just boots filled with sand,  
On the wall hung pictures of far distant lands.

With medals and badges, awards of all kinds,  
A sober thought came through my mind.

For this house was different, it was dark and dreary,  
I found the home of a soldier, once I could see clearly.

The soldier lay sleeping, silent, alone,  
Curled up on the floor in this one bedroom home.

The face was so gentle, the room in such disorder,  
Not how I pictured a United States soldier.

Was this the hero of whom I'd just read?  
Curled up on a poncho, the floor for a bed?

I realized the families that I saw this night,  
Owed their lives to these soldiers who were willing to fight.

Soon round the world, the children would play,  
And grownups would celebrate a bright Christmas Day.

They all enjoyed freedom each month of the year,  
Because of the soldiers, like the one lying here.

I couldn't help wonder how many lay alone,  
On a cold Christmas Eve in a land far from home.

The very thought brought a tear to my eye,  
I dropped to my knees and started to cry.

The soldier awakened and I heard a rough voice,  
"Santa don't cry, this life is my choice;

I fight for freedom, I don't ask for more,  
My life is my God, my country, my corps."

The soldier rolled over and drifted to sleep,  
I couldn't control it, I continued to weep.

I wept for hours, so silent and still  
And we both shivered from the cold night's chill.

I didn't want to leave on that cold, dark, night,  
This guardian of honor so willing to fight.

Then the soldier rolled over, with a voice soft and pure,  
Whispered, "Carry on Santa, it's Christmas Day, all is secure."

One look at my watch...and I knew he was right.  
"Merry Christmas my friend. And to all a good night."

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## **'Pot Luck' Sign Up Sheet Posted For Christmas Eve Meal at Post; New Year's Eve Dance Sold Out**

Members of the Post planning to visit on Christmas Eve and participate in the pot dinner starting a 4 p.m. are asked to sign-up in advance (if possible) so organizers can have some idea of attendance for planning purposes.

The sign-up sheet is posted on the chalk board in the Clubroom. Earlier this week Post leadership reversed a prior decision and decided to open the Clubroom and provide bar service along with a pot luck dinner on Christmas Eve.

### **Christmas Eve Clubroom/Bar Schedule**

**Clubroom Open: 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.**

**Bar Service: 12 noon to 6 p.m.**

**Pot Luck Dinner: 4 p.m. to 6 p.m.**

(Or until all food is consumed - - whichever comes first.)

The Post will be closed Christmas Day. It will reopen Monday, Dec. 26 on its regular schedule.

### ***New Year's Dance Sold Out***

In other end-of-the-year news, the New Year's Eve Club 201 dance featuring the Gold Standard Band is SOLD OUT. The last of 228 tickets available for the event were purchased Monday.

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## **Johns Creek Vets, Police Join Forces To Support 'No Man Left Behind' Program**

Johns Creek Veterans Association (JCVA) and Johns Creek Police Department have been working together on the campaign "No Man Left Behind Initiative." A pamphlet has been created for veterans suffering from PTS and other mental health issues. The pamphlet also has resources for veterans who may need assistance with homelessness, clothing and hunger.

"Our partnership with the veterans association in support of those who sacrificed so much in service to our great country is invaluable. The "No Man Left Behind Initiative" is vital to the overall mental and physical health of our veterans in Johns Creek," said Police Chief Mark Mitchell.

"Our collective goal of this program is to help these warriors with the mental and physical scars they received abroad and here at home. Relationships and community resources like this go a long way toward the continued building of trust and legitimacy not only with our veterans but with the very supportive community we are blessed to serve," he

added.

Jerry Tiarsmith, 404-217-3521, [jerry\\_tiardsmith@hotmail.com](mailto:jerry_tiardsmith@hotmail.com), is the JCVA contact for the program, said JCVA President and Memorial Walk Chair Mike Mizell.

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## **Post 201 Cited in National Legion Article About U.S. Space Force**

In this week's "Monday Briefing" newsletter published by the American Legion's national office, Post 201 was listed as one of "10 things you didn't know about Space Force."

[Click here to read the story](#) and see the list of all 10 items (Post 201 is #9 on the list). Then click the link contained in the story to read the details about how Post 201 became a part of this Space Force story.

Or if you'd rather jump directly to the story written by, and photo shot by Marty Ferrell about Post 201 members Jim Killinen and Matt Cronley and how they relate to the Space Force story [click here](#).

The Monday Briefing is one of several weekly online updates produced by the national organization. [Click here](#) to see the complete issue of the Dec. 19 "Monday Briefing."

To see the complete list of American Legion newsletters and to subscribe to the ones that may interest you, [click here](#).

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## **Upcoming Post 201 & Other Veterans Related Activities**

**Christmas Eve, Saturday, Dec. 24. Post opens 11 a.m. - 7 p.m.** Bar Opens at 12 noon. Pot luck dinner served at 4 p.m.

**Christmas Day, Sunday, Dec. 25. Post closed all day.**

**Monday, Dec. 26, 7 p.m., VFW Post 12002.** Meets 4th Monday of every month. For more information contact Ron Cowan, 404-509-1700, [roncowan@bellsouth.net](mailto:roncowan@bellsouth.net) or Jim Davis, 770-235-4858, [jim.davis@comcast.net](mailto:jim.davis@comcast.net).

**Thursday, Jan. 5, 6:30 p.m. Finance Committee Meeting.**

**Saturday, Jan. 7, 10:30 a.m. House Committee Meeting.** The usual first Saturday 'pot luck' breakfast will precede the meeting. Cooking is scheduled to begin around 8 a.m., with breakfast being served in the 9 a.m. time frame.

**Tuesday, Jan. 10, 7 p.m. Executive Committee Meeting.**

**Saturday, Jan. 14, Start Time TBD. Second Home Depot Foundation Grant**  
work day. Contact Jeff Rahn at [jrahn@sheepdogia.org](mailto:jrahn@sheepdogia.org) for details and to volunteer.

**Tuesday, Jan. 17, 7 p.m. General Membership Meeting.**

**Thursday, Jan 19, 7 p.m. Order of the Purple Heart.** Meets 3rd Thursday of every month.

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### ***Club 201 Dance Activities***

Visit both [www.club201dance.com](http://www.club201dance.com)  
and the [Club 201 Dance FaceBook Page](#)  
for detailed information about  
all dance activities and schedules.

### **Celebrate New Year's Eve at Club 201 THIS EVENT IS SOLD OUT**

Fantastic evening of live music & dancing on the area's best dance floor,  
an amazing assortment of delectable hors d'oeuvres, party favors and more...

Doors open 7 p.m. Food served 7:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Gold Standard Band, with DJ Rich Kopels, 8:30 p.m. to 12:30 a.m.

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### ***Resource Links***

**Post 201Walk of Memories** - [Click here](#) for more information.

**Past Issues of Post 201 E-Newsletter** - Visit [www.legion201.org](http://www.legion201.org) and click on the  
"Weekly eNewsletters" box at the top right of the landing page.

**Post 201 Website** - [www.legion201.org](http://www.legion201.org).

**VA Telephone Hotline** - 1-877-222-8387

**Veterans Crisis Line** - 1-800-273-8255 Press 1

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***"It's not the price you pay to be a member,  
It's the price you paid to be eligible."***

**Post 201 - Serving Vets for 75 Years**  
*November 26, 1947 - November 26, 2022*

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