



# Alpharetta Post 201

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[www.legion201.org](http://www.legion201.org)

Thursday, Dec. 21, 2023

## Post's Family Pot Luck Christmas Dinner Set for 7 p.m. Tonight

Tonight is the Post's Family Pot Luck Christmas Party. Starting in the Clubroom/Bar at 7 p.m., planners say, "It will be a true pot luck." No advance signup sheet for this one. Just show up, bring a dish to share and plan to enjoy the evening.

Scott Hoehn will be providing music for karaoke, and the bartending team will be whipping up a "Special Christmas Eggnog Spirit" which will be priced at \$3 each.

Dave Gordon, who is leading the planning for this event says he could use some volunteers to help with setup and cleanup. It's not too late to drop him an email, [flashgordon49@msn.com](mailto:flashgordon49@msn.com), and let him know that you can help. Am sure he'll appreciate the help.

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### ~ News Notes ~

**Toys for Tots** - - More than 100 bicycles and nearly 500 toys collected at the Post for the Toys for Tots campaign were delivered to the program's distribution center this past weekend. Coordinator Tommy Youngblood said this year's collections of toys was among the best in his memory - - and was nearly double what he projected at the beginning of the campaign.

Last year the campaign supported 494,380 Atlanta children. This year's goal is 500,000. If collections at other locations were as strong as they were at the Post, then that goal is going to be surpassed.

Founded in 1947, Toys for Tots is run by the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve. It began as a Los Angeles charitable effort when the wife of reserve Major Bill Hendricks tried to donate a homemade Raggedy Ann doll to a needy child but could not find any organization to do so. At her suggestion, he gathered a group of local Marine reservists who coordinated and collected some 5,000 toys for local children that year from collection bins placed outside Warner Bros. movie theatres.

Last year the campaign delivered more than 24 million toys to children in all 50 states as well as the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, Guam and the Virgin Islands.

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**13,000 Boxes for the Troops** - - Steve Olesnevich (or SteveO as he is known around the Post), reports that he has crossed over the 13,000 mark in boxes shipped to the troops. The program got started some 20 years ago when he saw a newspaper story about boxes for the troops. Thinking it was a rather good idea he took it to then Post leadership Dennis Turner and his wife Barbara. As he tells the story, Barbara listened to his idea and then said, "handle it." So he did.

Two decades later, he's still going strong, although he has picked up some support from "Big" Mike Carroll who is often seen helping SteveO pack and ship. Each box, with goodies weighing between 10-11 pounds, now costs \$22 to ship. When he started doing it, boxes shipped to the to the troops at either an APO or FPO address could be shipped for about \$12.50.

On average SteveO says it takes about an hour to prepare each box - - - 20 minutes to gather the goodies, 20 minutes to pack it, and 20 minutes per box getting it in the mail at the Alpharetta post office!

If you have a moment, say thanks to SteveO for his work on behalf of the Post. And ask him to show you some of his "thank you" notes from the troops. They are truly a testimony to his efforts.

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

**Thursday, Dec. 21, 7 p.m. Post 201 Family Pot Luck Christmas Party.**

**Friday, Dec. 22. Christmas with a Latin flavor, "Xmas in Havana."** DJ Chris Stone will be playing the ultimate in Latin Fusion/Ballroom sounds for the evening. Beginner and intermediate Salsa dance lessons will be offered starting at 7:30 p.m. followed by open dance from 8:30 p.m. to 11:30 p.m. Admission for the evening is \$12 per person, cash or credit.

**Christmas Eve, Sunday, Dec. 24. Clubroom/Bar Open from 1 p.m. to 7 p.m.** The name of the Auxiliary Christmas Stocking Raffle winner will be drawn at 6 p.m. - - - and you don't have to be present to win. Stocking raffle tickets are available at the following pricing levels: 1 ticket for \$1, 6 tickets for \$5, 12 tickets for \$10 and 24 tickets for \$20. Tickets are available at the Clubroom/Bar.

**Christmas Day, Monday, Dec. 25. The Post will be closed, reopening on Tuesday, Dec. 26.**

**Sunday, Dec. 31, Club 201 New Year's Eve Gala.** Doors open at 7 p.m. Hors d'oeuvres served 7:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. Music and dancing 8:30 p.m. – 12:30 a.m. Gold Standard Band and DJ Rich Kopels. Reserved seating. Tickets \$45 per person. [Click here](#) to purchase online.

**Monday, Jan. 1, 2024. Clubroom/Bar Opens at 1 p.m.** instead of the normal 3 p.m. Monday opening time.

**Saturday, Jan. 6, 2024, 10 a.m. Post 201 Oratorical Contest.** This competition assists students with learning more about the nation's Constitution while earning scholarship money for college. Contact Dave Cunnold, Oratorical Chair, 770-853-5130, or email him at [yjdavedave99@gmail.com](mailto:yjdavedave99@gmail.com) for more information.

Contestants (high school students in grades 9 – 12) prepare and give a speech on some aspect of the Constitution with some emphasis on the duties and obligation of citizens. The top three winners at Post 201 will receive scholarship funding of: First Place - \$1,000; Second Place - \$750; and Third Place - \$500. Additional scholarship money may be earned at each level of competition with the winner at the national level earning more than \$25,000.

At publication deadline there are nine contestants scheduled to compete, representing three North Fulton high schools: Alpharetta, Chattahoochee and Innovation Academy.

**Tuesday, Jan. 9, 6 p.m. Post Executive Committee Meeting.**

**Tuesday, Jan. 16, 7 p.m. Post General Membership Meeting.** Dinner will be served starting in the 6 p.m. time frame.

**Monday, Jan. 22, 7 p.m., VFW Post 12002.** Meets the 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).

**Saturday, Feb. 10, 2024, 6 p.m. A “Valentine Martini Night.”** Tickets for the Auxiliary-hosted martini night will be available starting in January 2024. The evening's entry fee, which includes one regular martini will be \$20. Additional martinis can be purchased for \$10 each or you can try out the ‘flight’ of three mini-martinis of your choice from a menu of six alcoholic offerings and three non-alcoholic drinks for \$15.

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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.

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## ***Resource Links***

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

**VA Survivor's Pension & Eligibility for Veterans Pension** - [Click here](#) to read.

**Survivor Assistance Checklist** - [Click this link](#).

**Benefits for Georgia Veterans** - [Click this link](#).

**Past Issues of Post 201 E-Newsletter** - [Click here](#).

**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

**Post 201 Service Officer Hotline for Vets-at-Risk** - 631-720-6022

**Emory Healthcare Veterans Program** - [888-514-5345](tel:888-514-5345) or [click here](#) for more info.

**United Military Care** - [Click this link](#).

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**Post 201 - Serving Vets for 76 Years**  
*November 26, 1947 - November 26, 2024*

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

