



American Legion Post 201

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Thursday, May 8, 2025

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### **VA Announces Major Survivor Benefit Reforms**

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) announced earlier this week a three-pronged approach to eliminate barriers and streamline the process for how eligible survivors and dependents of deceased Veterans and service members apply for and receive VA benefits and services.

Specific improvements include:

The VA's Office of Survivors Assistance will be moved from the Veterans Benefits Administration to the Office of the VA Secretary, reversing a Biden-era decision that buried OSA under layers of bureaucracy.

A “white-glove” survivor outreach team will be created by the VA starting this month to guide and assist eligible survivors throughout their Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) claims process.

Starting immediately, VA will begin work to identify areas where automation can be used to make the DIC claims process easier to navigate for survivors.

“The last thing survivors need in their time of grief is frustrating red tape and bureaucracy. That’s why we are creating a better system to more quickly and effectively provide survivors the services, support and compassion they’ve earned,” said VA Secretary Doug Collins.

[Click here for more information](#) on the changes announced by the VA on Monday, May 5.

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## **Tony Lay Memorial Service Scheduled For 11 a.m. Monday**

A memorial service for Anthony "Tony" Lay is schedule for 11 a.m. Monday, May 12 at Mt. Bethel Church, [4385 Lower Roswell Road, Marietta 30068](#). A reception at the Post 201 Ballroom will follow that same afternoon. It is scheduled for 3:30 p.m. to 6. p.m.

At the time of his death he was a member both Post 201 and a long-time member of VFW Post 12002, both in Alpharetta. During the Vietnam War he was captured and held briefly before being freed by friendly forces.

He was an active member of the American Legion for 30 consecutive years and had served as a commander and past commander of American Legion Post 110 in Jackson, Miss. [Click here](#) to read his obituary.

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## **Rolling Thunder Founder, POW/MIA Accountability Advocate Dead at 80**

The POW/MIA community lost one of its best known leaders with the recent death of Artie Muller, the founder and executive director of Rolling Thunder, Inc. Muller died on Saturday, April 26, a few days after his 80th birthday.

Like many veterans returning home after the Vietnam War he was haunted by reports of men left behind— both accounted and unaccounted for. But uniquely, he channeled those feelings into advocating for Prisoners of War & Missing in Action, and turned that concern into a national movement. In 1994, he formed Rolling Thunder Inc, a veteran's organization that has expanded over the years to 90 chapters throughout the U.S. and overseas.

For more than 25 years he and his organization hosted the annual Rolling Thunder First Amendment Demonstration Run or “Ride for Freedom” during the Memorial Day weekend in Washington, D.C.

Entertainer Nancy Sinatra wrote on her FaceBook page that he was, “one of the most important men in my life. I rode behind him on his bike and I felt like a princess. Year after year we traveled together for Rolling Thunder. He was the heart and soul of that tremendous effort and I will never forget him and his dedication to all veterans. He taught me so much about giving.”

According to the Military Times, “The event was one of the largest annual veterans events in America, routinely drawing tens of thousands of riders to the National Mall each Memorial Day

weekend. But organizers ended the tradition in 2019, citing the growing costs of crowd control and a lack of consistent cooperation from leaders at the Pentagon, whose parking lot was used as a pre-parade staging area.”

Sources: *Rolling Thunder* ([click here](#)), *Military Times* ([click here](#) & [click here](#)) and *Countryside Funeral Home, Three Bridges, N.J.* ([Click here](#) to read Muller’s obituary).

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## Upcoming Post 201, Other Veteran Related Activities

***Every Sunday at 7 p.m. - - Karaoke in the Clubroom/Bar.***

*Lots of Laughs, Good Times, and even Greater People.*

*Libations at a much better price than downtown!*

***9-Ball Pool Tournament, 2 p.m.  
Every 3rd Sunday in the Clubroom/Bar***

[VIEW FEATURED POST EVENTS](#)

**Thursday, May 8, 6:30 p.m. Finance Committee Meeting.** The Post's FY 25-26 proposed budget will be the primary item on the agenda.

**Sunday May 11 and May 25, 2 p.m. Bingo in the Ballroom.**

**Tuesday, May 13, 6 p.m., Executive Committee Meeting.**

**Friday, May 16, 8 p.m. Last Call Band.** Open dance starts at 8 p.m. Beginning and intermediate East Coast Swing dance lessons at 7:30 p.m. Admission: \$12 per person cash or credit.

**Saturday, May 17. Armed Forces Day in the Clubroom/Bar.** Every drink of any variety sold at the at the Clubroom/Bar and purchased by a veteran for his or her consumption (or active duty member) on May 17 will be reduced by \$1 off the regular price. Veterans need to be prepared to verify they are veterans (if asked by the bartender) and the same procedure will be in place for members of the Armed Forces on active duty. A military ID card will be acceptable for those on active duty.

**Saturday, May 17, 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. SAL Saturday Night Dinner.** The SAL will be cooking and selling dinners to members of the Post 201 Family and dancers. The menu includes: Porterhouse T-Bone dinner - \$25 per meal; regular T-Bone dinner - \$20 per meal; and chicken and pork chop dinners - \$15 each. A sign-up sheet to order your meal will be posted in the Clubroom two weeks prior to the event.

**Saturday, May 17, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Rally Point Grille Veteran Block Party** and Business Expo. [10009 Hwy 92, Woodstock.](#) [Click here](#) for details.

**Saturday, May 17, Atlanta World War II Roundtable.** Joint meeting with 8th Air Force Historical Society. Doors open at 10:30 a.m. for social time. Meeting starts at 11 a.m. Location:

Dunwoody United Methodist Church, [1548 Mount Vernon Rd., Dunwoody](#). Admission \$23 for all attendees. WW II vets are free. Reservations are required no later than the end of the day, Sunday, May 11. Please call Bill LeCount at 404-886-7383 to make reservations.

**Saturday, May 17, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Post 307 Cumming Annual BBQ Fundraiser** hosted by Beaver Toyota with food provided by Socks' Love Barbecue. Tickets: \$10 per person. [Click here](#) for more information.

**Tuesday, May 20, 7 p.m. General Membership Meeting.** Complimentary dinner served at 6 p.m. FY 25-26 Leadership will be elected at this meeting.

**Saturday May 24, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Free CPR/AED/Choking Training.** There will be two training sessions, each lasting one-and-a-half hours. The first will be from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and the second from 12:30 p.m. to 2 p.m. Space is limited to 30 per session so early sign-up is recommended. [Click here to signup](#). The North Fulton Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Post 12002, which meets at Post 201, is sponsoring the event.

**Monday, May 26, Memorial Day. Clubroom Bar opens at 1 p.m.** instead of the normal 3 p.m. opening time on Mondays.

**Monday, June 9, 11 a.m. America 250 Commemorative Marker Dedication.** Lou Sobh Amphitheater, [450 Vision Drive, Cumming](#). [Click here for details](#).

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[CLUB 201 DANCE - LEARN MORE](#)

## VETERANS RESOURCES

Visit the [Resource Page](#) at Post 201's website, [www.legion201.org](http://www.legion201.org) for a significant amount of information concerning various resources available for veterans. You'll find a Survivor Assistance Checklist, Benefits for Georgia Veterans, Burial at Sea Information, Veteran's License Plates Information, Emergency Housing Information Guide and many other resources.

Past Issues of the Post's E-newsletter - [Click here](#).

**Veterans Crisis Line**  
Call 988 and Press 1 or Text 838255  
Visit [www.veteranscrisisline.net](http://www.veteranscrisisline.net)  
VA Telephone Hotline - 1-877-222-8387

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

Legion      SAL      Auxiliary      **More Veterans Resources**      Photo Gallery

# POST 201 - SERVING VETERANS SINCE 1947



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