



## American Legion Post 201

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Thursday, May 29, 2025

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### Memorial Day Sees 200-Plus Visit Post

Although no formal head count was done, best estimates suggest that the Post hosted slightly more than 200 adults, 20-or-so children and several four-legged guests at this past Monday's Memorial Day Open House.

The weather cooperated during the afternoon although an early morning rain storm caused some concern and there were some seriously black clouds in the east and northwest as the "official" activities of the day closed with a brief 5 p.m. remembrance ceremony at the Circle of Flags.

A total of 87 people viewed one of the two screenings of the Atlanta Vietnam Veterans Business Association Foundation's 47-minute documentary, "Truths and Myths about The Vietnam War." A shout out to Post member Jim Dickson who was involved in the video's production and made it available to the Post. And also thanks to Peter Fredlund who handled the technical piece of getting it on the big screen as well as the smaller TV's scattered around the ballroom.

The Clubroom/Bar was packed most of the afternoon, doing four times the business that it normally does on Monday. For those interested in the hard numbers, the bar generally averages somewhere between \$250 and \$300 in sales on a normal Monday. At the end of Memorial Day the till closed with \$1,270.50 in sales. Post Commander Bob Byrd won the 50/50 raffle walking away with \$310. The other half going to the SAL treasury.

Out on the grounds children (and one or two young people who wouldn't normally fit the 'children' definition) took advantage of the bounce house as well as the lawn games and coloring books available for the really young set. Thanks to the Auxiliary who coordinated and oversaw that part of the day. Patti Fredlund put the games package together and Ellen Youngblood chaperoned the coloring book table. Others who helped included Jan Bauer, Gina Dawson, Olga Harris, Dina Carrelli, and Tina Johnson.

Food service - - - as great as it was with hot dogs, hamburgers, wings, chicken strips and deli sandwiches - - - proved to be a 'learning lesson' for the future. Food service began 15 minutes earlier than planned and all the food was consumed (except for watermelon pieces) within 45 minutes, leaving a number of people un-served.

Apparently some members of the Post Family, many of whom were at the front of the food line - - - and as one observer noted were the 'usual suspects' - - - forgot that there were others behind them as they loaded their plates with a combination of two or more hot dogs or burgers. And one or two were even spotted in the kitchen serving themselves prior to the start of food service.

If not for the SAL's chicken wings and strips, as well as sandwiches, the food service would have come to a conclusion even quicker than it did. However, a big thank you to the SAL team who handled all the food preparation. According to Derek Garmon, the SAL team included, in addition to himself, John McSween, Rick Larose, Bob Anderson, Aaron Dunn, Chris Thompson, Stewart Croccher, Bob Hughes, Stephen Bogart, Tracy Gray, Tim Va, and Algie Allen.

As the clock reached 5 p.m., the bar was closed and some 50-plus members of the Post Family along with guests took the time to contemplate for a few minutes the **REAL** reason for the day.

Although the beginning of the remembrance ceremony was punctuated by someone who accidentally set off their car alarm, the Post Commander said Memorial Day is the day, "To remember and honor the brave men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice for our freedom. They gave their lives so that we might live in freedom and peace."

"Each name we remember, every story we share, helps keep alive the memory of those who paid the ultimate price. May their memories be a blessing - - - and their legacy a guiding light for generations to come," he said as he closed his comments. Those attending then heard the haunting and solemn notes of "Taps" which brought the ceremony to a quite, dignified end.

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## **~ In Memory ~**

*Thomas "Tom" Patrick Begley*

Tom Begley, a U.S. Army veteran, was a 12-year member of the American Legion. He died on Friday, May 9, 2025. A Celebration of Life Mass will be held at 11 a.m. Friday, July 11 at St. Brigid Catholic Church, 3400 Old Alabama Road, Johns Creek. Visitation will take place from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. in Corbett Hall at the church. Following the service, a reception is scheduled for 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. at Never Enough Thyme restaurant, Halcyon 6655 Town Square, Suite 1250, Alpharetta. [Click here](#) to read his complete 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**

**Tuesday, June 3, 6:30 p.m. Finance Committee Meeting.** This is a change from the normal Thursday night meeting to accommodate a member's travel schedule. Primary agenda item: the Post's FY 25-26 budget proposal.

**Saturday, June 7, 10 a.m. Women Veterans Day Ceremony** to recognize the strength, sacrifice, and service of women who have worn the uniform with pride. Women's Plaza, Veterans Memorial Walk, 3125 Old Alabama Rd., Johns Creek. Guest Speaker: Joanne Melear, U.S. Navy Nurse Corps (Vietnam Era). Presented by the Johns Creek Veterans Association.

**Sunday, June 8, 2 p.m. BINGO in the Ballroom.** Future games are the 2nd and 4th Sunday of each month.

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

**Tuesday, June 10, Life Line Health Screening in the Post's Ballroom.** Life Line is offering a special screening package for \$159 to Post members. The package includes: Carotid Artery Disease Screening; Atrial Fibrillation Screening; Peripheral Artery Disease Screening; Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm Screening; and a free Hypertension Screening. These screenings are designed to identify potential health problems early, before they become serious issues. For more information or to schedule an appointment call 888-814-0466 and use code: HSCA001. The company's website is [www.lifelinescreening.com](http://www.lifelinescreening.com).

**Tuesday, June 10, 6 p.m. Executive Committee Meeting.**

**Friday, June 13, 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. Bourbon & Cigar Night.** Cost is \$50 per person. Tickets may be purchased online by [clicking here](#). They may also be purchased at the bar. For more information [click here](#). Hors d'oeuvres prepared by DiAna Casale. The bourbons to be tasted and the cigars to be smoked are yet to be announced.

**Saturday, June 14. Flag Day and the U.S. Army's 250th Birthday.** To celebrate the day, the SAL will provide complimentary food service to members, starting at 4 p.m. Bedoe Bar and Grill will be serving wings, egg rolls, quesadillas, etc., according to the SAL. Flag Day marks the adoption of the U.S. flag by the Continental Congress in 1777. The U.S. Army's birthday traces back to 1775, when the Continental Congress authorized the formation of the Continental Army.

**Tuesday, June 17, General Membership Meeting.** Complimentary food service will start in the 6 p.m. time frame.

**Saturday, June 21, 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. SAL Food Sale.** Food will be available for sale to members and those attending the dance that evening. Menu includes Barbecue plates and sandwiches. More details to come.

**Sunday, June 22, 2 p.m. BINGO in the Ballroom.** Future games are the 2nd and 4th Sunday of each month.

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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

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## POST 201 - SERVING VETERANS SINCE 1947



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