



American Legion Post 201

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www.legion201.org

Thursday, Aug. 7, 2025

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### **Auxiliary Hosts Purple Heart Recognition, 6 p.m. Today Along Walk of Memories**

Today is National Purple Heart Day - - - a day observed annually on August 7 to honor and remember the brave men and women who have been wounded or killed in action while serving in the U.S. military.

Auxiliary Unit 201 will hold a 12-15 minute ceremony at 6 p.m. tonight at the Purple Heart Memorial plaza on the Walk of Memories to honor those Vets who have been awarded the Purple Heart. Ellen Terrell-Youngblood, president of the Auxiliary, will preside.

Light refreshments will be served in the Clubroom following the ceremony. All drinks at the bar will be reduced by \$1 for veterans who have been awarded the Purple Heart.

#### ***A Primer on the Purple Heart***

A service member can receive a Purple Heart if they are wounded, killed, or die after being wounded, while serving in the U.S. Armed Services under specific circumstances on or after April 5, 1917. These circumstances include actions against an enemy, actions with an opposing foreign force, serving with friendly foreign forces against an opposing force, or as a result of acts by such forces.

It can also be awarded for injuries sustained after March 28, 1973, from international terrorist attacks or military operations as part of a peacekeeping force. Injuries from friendly fire during armed conflict on or after December 7, 1941, may also qualify, unless caused by the member's misconduct.

On or after September 11, 2001, being killed or wounded by a foreign terrorist organization due to one's status as a

service member can also result in a Purple Heart, unless due to misconduct.

The wound must require treatment by a medical officer and be documented. Examples of qualifying injuries include those from enemy projectiles, mines, chemical/biological/nuclear agents, vehicle/aircraft accidents from enemy fire, and concussion injuries from enemy explosions. Mild traumatic brain injuries or concussions causing loss of consciousness or significant duty restriction can also qualify. However, injuries from training, non-combat situations, a member's negligence or willful misconduct, battle fatigue, or diseases not directly caused by enemy agents typically do not qualify.

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## **Old Soldiers Day Sees Small, But Appreciative Turn-Out**

The weather didn't look that good on Old Soldiers Day, Saturday, Aug. 2. But the rain held off for the 30-minute morning ceremony recognizing the importance of the day and the laying of a memorial brick along the Walk of Memories honoring World War II vet, Major Paul L. Lowry (Sept. 7, 1916 - Oct. 29, 1994). [Click Here](#).

Thanks to the members of the Legion, the SAL and the Auxiliary who helped with all the day's activities which included: the morning program; the noon bar-b-cue meal; staffing the membership renewal and volunteer sign-up tables; and the close-of-the-day video about the untold story of the Vietnam War.

Also a special "Thank You" and shout out must go to:

- The Alpharetta City Band's brass ensemble unit;
- Georgia Department of Veterans Services staff members Shelly-Ann Simpson and Tonjala Moton-Williams;
- Georgia National Cemetery staffers Chris Ra and David Williams;
- Scott Childress who served as master of ceremonies; and,
- Guest speaker-State Representative Chuck Martin

The brass ensemble's music added an element of elegance and style to the morning ceremony which only comes with live music. The four veterans affairs experts stayed relatively busy during the early afternoon providing thoughtful and responsive answers to vets who were seeking advice or counsel on various personal concerns. Martin's thoughtful comments on the reason for the day testified to his deep understanding and appreciation for the role members of the armed forces have played in the nation's history. And Childress' brief quiz on the background story associated with the words of the Star Spangled Banner enlightened many in the audience.

The Post's immediate Past Commander Tom Billings shot a 33 minute, un-edited video on the ceremony which is posted on YouTube ([click here to see](#)). The brick laying can be seen at 27:14 the tape; "Taps" to close the ceremony is at 27:50, and the brass ensemble's rendition of John Philip Sousa's beloved composition, *The Stars and Stripes Forever*, can be found at the 29:25 point on the video.

Also check out the Post's Facebook page ([click here](#)) to see some OSD photos.

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## **VA Terminates Union Contracts For Most Bargaining Unit Employees**

**Washington** — The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs announced yesterday the termination of collective bargaining agreements for most VA bargaining-unit employees, a move that will make it easier for VA leaders to promote high-performing employees, hold poor performers accountable, and improve benefits and services to America's Veterans.

“The move will ensure VA stays focused on Veterans instead of spending millions of taxpayer dollars and approximately 750,000 hours per year on union activities,” the VA news release said.

“Too often, unions that represent VA employees fight against the best interests of Veterans while protecting and rewarding bad workers,” said VA Secretary Doug Collins. “We’re making sure VA resources and employees are singularly focused on the job we were sent here to do: providing top-notch care and service to those who wore the uniform.”

[Click here to read the VA news release.](#)

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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, Aug. 7, 6 p.m. Purple Heart Day Ceremony at Walk of Memories.** Hosted by Auxiliary Unit 201.

**Thursday, Aug. 7, 6:30 p.m. Finance Committee Meeting.**

**Sunday, Aug. 10 and 24 at 2 p.m. BINGO in the Ballroom.**

**Tuesday, Aug. 12, 6 p.m. Executive Committee Meeting.**

**Tuesday, Aug. 19, 7 p.m. General Membership Meeting.** Complimentary dinner served starting in the 6 p.m. time frame.

**Saturday, Aug. 23, 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. SAL Spaghetti Dinner.** The SAL will be preparing and selling Spaghetti Dinner Boxes (at \$15 per box). The meal includes spaghetti, meat sauce, meatballs, salad, and garlic bread. No word from the SAL yet on whether a signup sheet will be posted in advance, or if they're just going to be ready to dish-it-out to all who show up and order it that evening.

**Friday, Aug. 29, 7:30 p.m. to 11:30 p.m. Club 201 Dance Retro Night.** [Click here](#) for more details.

**Wednesday, Oct. 15. 8th Annual Rick Gimpel Memorial Golf Tournament,** at the Golf Club at Bradshaw Farm, 3030 Bradshaw Drive, Woodstock. A flyer is posted in the Clubroom with more information. [Click here](#) to see the online version.

**Saturday, Nov. 8, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. 9th Annual Cruz-In.** [Click here to see](#) some of the cars on display last year. [Click here to read](#) about last year's event in the *Alpharetta-Roswell Herald*.

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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**