



American Legion Post 201

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Thursday, Dec. 18, 2025

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### **Chili Cook-Off Watch Party Draws 40-plus; Upcoming Ugly Sweater Contest, 12-Spirits Fundraiser Set Start Time for 5 p.m. Sunday**

Although no hard 'head-count' was taken, some 40-plus members of the Post 201 Family enjoyed last Saturday's chili cook-off and pot-luck appetizer according to Ed Holben who was one of the "idea-generators" for the afternoon's event which was held in conjunction with the Army-Navy football game watch party.

He was also one of four who entered the cook-off competition. His chili recipe took a second place finish, being bested by John McSween's entry which drew top honors according to organizer DiAna Casale.

Last week's chili cook-off might be considered a warm-up for this Sunday's Ugly-Sweater competition and the 12-Spirits fundraiser raffle. In addition to the sweater contest and raffle, event planners are also encouraging attendees to bring a pot-lock snack to share. The 'pot-lucks' will be supplemented by snacks purchased by the Post. A donation box will also be available for those who'd like to support the afternoon's activities that way.

The "official" start time for Sunday's activities is posted for 5 p.m. However, at publication deadline the times of the draw for the winner of the 12-Spirits raffle, and the sweater competition winner announcement time had not be set.

However, you do not have to be present to win the 12-Spirits raffle. As far as the prize for the ugliest sweater winner - - that continues to be a "close-hold" secret among the party planners.

Tickets for the 12-Spirits basket may be purchased at the bar. They are priced at 1 ticket for \$5, 3 tickets for \$10, and 10 tickets for \$20. The liquors in the basket include Bombay Gin, Captain Morgan, Glenlivet, Evan Williams, Cuervo Devil's Reserve, Terlato Pinot Grigio, Crown Royal, Jack Daniels Tennessee Fire, Heaven Hill, Mozart Chocolate Cream, Robert Mondavi Cabernet, and Romana Sambuca.

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**~ News Notes ~**

**Toys for Tots Pick-Up Deadline** - - Earlier this week the Post was notified by Toys for Tots that the last pick up of toys at the Post will take place sometime today. However, campaign coordinator Ralph Jordan said the Post can continue to accept toys for this year's campaign until Dec. 21, at which time they will be delivered to a central collection point.

**Auxiliary Activity Highlights** - - Auxiliary VA liaison Judy Lively said 10 baskets of donated goods were assembled for the Women's Clinic prior to the Auxiliary's November meeting. This past September the Auxiliary said they were looking for donations for the clinic. The "need list" included Diapers/Wipes, Onesies/pajamas, Baby wash cloths, Bibs, Baby thermometers, Bulb syringes, Orajel, Baby books/toys, Antibiotic ointment, Baby shampoo/body wash, Baby socks, Baby spoons, Knitted caps, Blankets, Desitin, Pacifiers, Baby Tylenol/Advil and Band aids for the Women's Clinic.

- The Auxiliary donated \$1,000 to the Christmas Shop at the VA hospital. and five members volunteered, along with members from other Auxiliary units, to fill the 150 gift bags.
- Five meals provided by Valor Christian Academy are delivered twice-a-month by Auxiliary members to veterans.
- This past Sunday's BINGO at the Post set a new record with a count of 149 players that afternoon.

**Post 201 Member Steps Down from Marine Corps Association Board** - - Jay Holmes, a member of Post 201 who lives in Knoxville, Tenn., is stepping down from his position as vice-chairman of the Marine Corps Association (MCA) according to the January 2026 issue of *Leatherneck* magazine.

Since 2012 when he joined the MCA Board he has served as vice chairman and chairman of the Audit and Investment Committee (now Finance Committee), according the article written by Kipp Hanley, *Leatherneck's* deputy editor.

Holmes was described by a fellow board member as "a tour de force regardless of what official capacity he was serving at the time." According to the publication, in addition to MCA, Holmes also holds life memberships in the Marine Corps League, Military Order of the Purple Heart, Disabled American Veterans, National Rifle Association, American Legion and the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

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**Upcoming Post 201, Other  
Veteran Related Activities**

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

**VIEW FEATURED  
POST EVENTS**

**Thursday, Dec. 18, 8;30 a.m. - 5 p.m. LifeLine Screening at Post.** [Click here for details.](#)

**Sunday, Dec. 21, 5 p.m. Ugly Sweater & 12-Spirit Raffle Party.** Attendees are asked to bring a pot-luck snack

to share which will be supplemented by snacks purchased by the Post. A donation box will also be available for those who'd like to help with expenses.

**Wednesday, Dec. 24, 7 p.m. Post Clubroom/Bar will close for Christmas.**

**Thursday, Dec. 25. Post is closed for Christmas Day.**

**Wednesday, Dec. 31. New Year's Eve Gala.** Reserved seat tickets for the Post's annual New Year's Eve Gala are on sale, online now. [Click here](#) for more details and to purchase your reserved seats. And keep in mind - - - tickets are available only through an online purchase.

**Thursday, Jan. 8, 2026, 6:30 p.m. Finance Committee Meeting.**

**Sunday, Jan. 11, 2026, 2 p.m. BINGO in the Ballroom.**

**Tuesday, Jan, 13, 2026, 6 p.m. Executive Committee Meeting.**

**Tuesday, Jan. 20, 2026, 7 p.m. General Membership Meeting.** Complimentary dinner will be served starting in the 6 p.m. time frame.

**Saturday, Jan. 24, 10 a.m. Post 201 Oratorical Contest.** Students in grades 9 - 12 may compete. 1st Place earns \$1,000; 2nd place - \$750; 3rd place - \$500. [Click here for more details](#) about the competition and to register to compete. Currently three students are registered to compete. The competition will take place in the Post's Ballroom

**Sunday, Jan. 25, 2026, 2 p.m. BINGO in the Ballroom.**

**Tuesday, Jan. 27, 2025, 6:30 p.m. SAL Membership Meeting.** *Special Note: There will be no SAL membership meetings in December according to SAL Commander Derek Garmon.*

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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**