



## American Legion Post 201

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**Thursday, Dec. 25, 2025**

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*Wishing All*

*a*

*Merry*  
*Christmas*

***Editor's Note:*** The following was written by Ed Holben and texted to several members of the Post 201 Family yesterday. He has been a Legion member of the Post for 14 years. With his permission, we share his text message with all our readers. - hdh

### **American Legion Christmas Greeting**

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to my American Legion Post brothers /sisters and friends.

May your holidays be filled with joy, peace, and at least one family member who doesn't ask if "you served."

May your Christmas be as calm as a ER waiting room on a Friday afternoon, and may the New Year bring fewer aches, fewer meetings, and more excuses to gather at the Post and pretend we're still 25.

Here's to another year of swapping the same stories, pretending we haven't heard them before, and acting shocked when someone suggests "maybe just one drink."

May your resolutions last longer than the leftover fruitcake and may your hangovers be merciful.

Cheers to 2026—may it treat us better than our service-connected disabilities do.

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## ~ Post 201 News Notes ~

**Post Closed Christmas Day** -- The Post is closed today. It will reopen for normal business operations tomorrow at 3 p.m.

**New Year's Eve Gala** -- Tickets are still available for next Wednesday night's New Year's Eve Gala, but they are going fast -- so don't wait too long to get your reserved seats. Enjoy a fantastic evening of live music and dancing on the area's best dance floor with the Gold Standard Band and DJ Rich Kopels during the breaks. Doors open at 7 p.m. An amazing assortment of delectable hors d'oeuvres will be served from 7:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. with music from 8:30 p.m. to 12:30 a.m. [Click here](#) for more details and to purchase your reserved seats online. Keep in mind that tickets are available only through an online purchase.

**Toys for Tots Update** -- This year's U.S. Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots campaign at the Post collected more than 20 boxes of toys, books and other gifts. This represents in excess of 500 individual gifts for less fortunate children whose parents could not afford to buy them gifts for Christmas. In addition to the gifts, 94 bicycles were donated by Gina Watson and Mike McElroy. Their donation continues a tradition they started five years ago.

Toys for Tots was founded in 1947 as the brain child of Marine Corps Reserve Major Bill Hendricks. Although, actually it was his wife, Diane, who was the real inspiration. She had a few handcrafted dolls and asked him to deliver them to an agency that supported children in need.

When he told her that he could not find such an organization she instructed him to "start one!". That year Maj Hendricks and the Marines in his reserve unit in Los Angeles collected and distributed 5,000 toys. Since those humble beginnings in 1947 (which is the same year Post 201 was organized), the Toys for Tots organization has distributed 708 million toys to 314 million children.

**Ugly Sweater & 12-Spirits Raffle** -- Thirty-plus members of the Post 201 Family dropped by the Post this past Sunday evening to enjoy the Ugly Sweater Contest, sample some tasty appetizers, and see who won the 12-Spirits raffle which raised \$460 for the Post.

SAL member Matt Gill took the Ugly Sweater honors for 2025, earning a trophy for efforts. Fellow SAL member Tom Davis won the 12-Spirits raffle, taking home a liquor basket containing 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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## 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**

**Wednesday, Dec. 31. New Year's Eve Gala.** [Click here](#) for more details and to purchase your reserved seats.

**Thursday, Jan. 1, 2026 - - New Year's Day.** The Post Clubroom/Bar will follow its regular weekday hours of operation and open at 3 p.m. Beginning on New Year's Day Clubroom staff will be asking to see 2026 membership cards. Members of the Post Family are reminded that those who do not have a current 2026 membership card will have a 30-day grace period to renew their membership.

**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.**

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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**