



American Legion Post 201

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### **15 Veterans Groups Oppose Proposed State Legislation Which Purports to Help Vets**

*Editor's Note: This publication appreciates the "heads up" about this issue from a VFW member whose Post meets at Post 201, and who is also a member of Post 201.*

Veterans representing 15 organizations, including the American Legion's Department of Georgia, gathered at the Georgia State Capital on Wednesday, Jan. 21, to signal their opposition to House Bill 108, titled "Safeguarding American Veteran Empowerment (SAVE) Act. [Click here to see Fox 5's news coverage of the event.](#)

The bill aims to regulate for-profit, unaccredited consultants assisting veterans with disability claims, setting requirements for fee structures and disclosure of non-affiliation with the VA.

"Under current law, these claims consultants can operate in the State of Georgia and essentially scam veterans," said Rep. Josh Bonner, R-Fayetteville, a bill sponsor. "What we're trying to do is to prevent that," he added. [Click here to see the bill's sponsors and to read the legislation itself.](#)

However the 15 veterans organization, whose letterhead identifies the coalition as Georgia Veterans on the Hill, said in a Nov. 4, 2025 letter addressed to the Governor, Lieutenant Governor and the members of the Georgia General Assembly that although the bill's intent is commendable, "the measure must include enforceable provisions to effectively deter predatory practices and ensure compliance with existing federal law.

The letter also said: "If House Bill 108 passes in its current form, both veterans and the State of Georgia could face significant risks. [Click here to read the entire Nov. 4 letter.](#)

Georgia boasts a significant military presence, consistently ranking as one of the top states in the nation for its veteran population. As of late 2024 and early 2025, estimates indicate there are approximately 600,000 to nearly 700,000 veterans residing in Georgia.

The state Department of Veterans Service notes that the broader military and veteran community, including family members, comprises over 1.4 million individuals. Within this population, Georgia hosts a robust community of military retirees. According to Department of Defense data from late 2022, more than 102,500 retired veterans live in Georgia

In addition to the American Legion's Department of Georgia, others in the coalition include the VFW's Department of Georgia; the VFW Auxiliary Department of Georgia; VETATLANTA; the Disabled American Veterans Department of Georgia; The Warrior Alliance; AMVETS Department of Georgia; Georgia Veterans Network; Military Order of the Purple Heart Department of Georgia; Georgia Veterans Day Association; Student Veterans of American; Georgia Military Women; HERO Agriculture; ATL vets; and the Cherokee County Homeless Veterans Program.

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**An Editorial Comment:** Although the Legion's Department of Georgia is a participant, and according to sources, the Department Commander spoke at the January 21 event, this publication finds it somewhat disconcerting that there was nothing posted about this legislation on the Department of Georgia website at close of business this past Tuesday.

Nor has there been any down stream flow of information to Post 201 asking that we advise our membership about the legislation. The major information sources we have found (in addition to those cited above) originate with the VFW, the State of Georgia's web site on current legislation and general online research. If interested, here are two additional VFW sources our readers might be interested in seeing.

[Click here to read Veterans Groups Unite Against Georgia HB 108](#)

[Click here to read Don't Legalize the Illegal - Stop Georgia House Bill 108](#)

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## **Mark Your Calendar For Upcoming Events At Post's Clubroom/Bar**

**Saturday, Jan. 31, 4:30 p.m. The Golden Ladle Soup Competition.** What's your favorite soup? Are you willing to share a tasting with others in the Post 201? If so, make a pot and bring it to the Post to share. The winning soup 'chef' gets bragging rights for the "Best Soup." And you might be asked to share your recipe - - - that's up to you!

**Sunday, Feb. 8, 5:30 p.m. Super Bowl Watch Party.** Or perhaps it could be called a tail-gate party in the Clubroom. Either way, although kick off time for Super Bowl LX is 6:30 p.m. Eastern time, plan to be at the Post an hour or so early and bring your favorite snack to share with others.

**Saturday, Feb. 21, 4:30 p.m. It's time for another Chili Cook Off.** Come early, bring your entry. Tasting will

get underway at 4:30 p.m.

**Saturday, Feb. 28, 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. SAL's "NY Roast Prime Rib Dinner."** The cost will be \$25 per dinner which includes a "good piece of meat and two sides." More details to follow.

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## **Georgia Department Fundraiser Goal: \$35K**

Here's a fun fundraiser. The Department of Georgia is trying to raise \$35,000 for the Georgia Veterans Fund. According to District 9 Adjutant Kathy Merritt, if the goal is reached, the Department Commander, Michael Schwartz, will shave his mustache in front of everyone at the Department Convention. [Click here for details.](#)

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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, Feb. 5, 6:30 p.m. Finance Committee Meeting.**

**Friday, Feb. 6. ALPHA JAZZ 'Big Band' is Back.** Dance the night away to your favorite sounds from yesteryear. Open dance 8 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. Lessons at 7:30 p.m. Admission: \$15 per person cash or credit. Open to those 18 years old and older.

**Sunday, Feb. 8, 2 p.m. BINGO in the Ballroom.**

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

**Friday, Feb. 13, 2:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m. 2nd Annual Golden Heart Gala.** A special celebration for the golden people of the community. [Click here for details.](#)

**Tuesday, Feb. 17, 7 p.m. General Membership Meeting.** Complimentary dinner will be served starting in the 6 p.m. time frame.

**Sunday, Feb. 22, 2 p.m. BINGO in the Ballroom.**

**Saturday, Mar. 14, 6:30 p.m. - 10:30 p.m. Lucky Paws and Patriots Casino Night.** Sponsored by the Alpharetta Lions Club, all proceeds from this fundraiser will go to Warrior Freedom Service Dogs. Tickets are \$75 per person. Visit [www.alpharettalions.com](http://www.alpharettalions.com) to purchase tickets. For more information call 410-708-6331 or email: [casino@alpharettalions.com](mailto:casino@alpharettalions.com).

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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**