



## American Legion Post 201

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### **Weekend Post Events Feature Swustle Night, Magnolia Landscaping, Chili Cook Off Battle**

This weekend's going to be an interesting one at the Post. The three major events scheduled include Rich Kopel's 'Swustle' Night on Friday; Penny Kumpf's Magnolia landscaping Day on Saturday morning; and a Chili Cook Off battle which currently has six contestants signed up on Saturday afternoon. Some details on each:

DJ Rich Kopel's Ultimate 'Swustle' Dance Mix must begin with the question, what's a swustle? According to those in the dance world it's a crossover of West Coast Swing and Hustle! Commonly considered 'sister styles' these closely related dance styles blend beautifully together. There is a decade long tradition of hosting Swustle events which reaches across the US, bringing communities together in mutual celebration of two very fun and explosive styles of dance!

There you have it. Check it out. Dance lessons get underway Friday at 7:30 p.m. followed by open dance at 8:30 p.m. Admission for the evening is \$15 per person cash or credit.

If Friday night fills the 'fun' category, then Saturday morning's Magnolia Day offering calls up the opposite of fun - - - which would be 'work'. But keep in mind the proverb, "Many hands make light work." If enough volunteers show up for Penny Kumpf's 10 a.m. "party" Saturday morning, the tasks assigned will prove to be easier, faster, and less burdensome to complete than if only a few volunteers show up to share the workload.

And there is some good news associated with the Saturday work party: The local Young Men's Service League will

joining Post volunteers to help clean out the underbrush under the magnolia trees around the baseball field's outfield fence.

After the cleanup, don't forget the Saturday afternoon Chili Cook Off in the Clubroom from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. Six have signed up at publication deadline to bring their best pot of chili to the Clubroom by 4:30 p.m. with judging starting at 4:45 p.m. After that, everybody gets to taste.

But please keep in mind - - - this is a tasting; not a meal where the chow-hounds at the Post sometimes forget that others are waiting behind them to sample the offerings. So please don't look at the pots of chili as a free meal provided by the Post. It is a tasting with the winner of the cook off holding the honor for the year in the Golden Ladle Club.

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## **VA Undoes Decades-Old Wrong; Change Protects Vets' 2nd Amendment Rights**

WASHINGTON — The Department of Veterans Affairs announced on Tuesday afternoon a major new step to protect Veterans' Second Amendment rights. Effective immediately, VA will not report Veterans to the Federal Bureau of Investigation's National Instant Criminal Background Check System as "prohibited persons" only because they need help from a fiduciary in managing their VA benefits.

This corrects a three-decade-old wrong that deprived many thousands of Veterans in VA's Fiduciary Program of their constitutional right to own a firearm without a legal basis.

After a thorough review, VA recognized that many Veterans had been deprived of their Second Amendment rights without hearings or adequate determinations that they posed a sufficient risk of danger to themselves or others. In consultation with the Department of Justice, VA has determined this practice violates both the Gun Control Act and Veterans' Second Amendment rights. According to federal law, a decision by a judicial or quasi-judicial body is needed before someone can be reported to NICS.

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

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## **AVVBA Vietnam Documentary Generates Significant Attention**

The Atlanta Vietnam Veterans Business Association (AVVBA) Foundation's 47-minute documentary "*Truths and Myths About the Vietnam War*," has been in the media distribution marketplace for two years.

Recently Post 201 member Jim Dickson, who is also a AVVBA member actively involved in promoting the film, took time to report on the film's market penetration since it first appeared on YouTube on Feb. 16, 2024. Highlights of that report follow:

- Generated more than one million views on YouTube, gaining over 11,000 "likes" and 2,300 "comments."
- Shown at least 170 times on more than 85 television stations including PBS and Gray Media-owned stations.

- Information about and links to the film are posted on the Georgia PBS and South Carolina PBS websites.
- Featured on Fox News, including a live interview with now Secretary of War Pete Hegseth; and also featured in the “Searching For Heroes” podcast with Fox News correspondent Benjamin Hall.
  - Earned news coverage from by the Marietta Daily Journal’s syndicated columnist Dick Yarbrough whose column reaches more than 1.3 million readers.
  - Presented at the national conventions of both the American Legion and VFW along with supporting articles published in both organizations’ monthly magazines.
  - An article is scheduled to be published in the March 2026 issue of the Military Officers Association of America Magazine, and a story about the film has been published in the Bridgehead Sentinel Magazine for members of the Society of First Infantry Division.
  - It is viewed regularly by ROTC cadets at many prominent universities including University of North Georgia, Texas A & M, James Madison and Georgia Tech.
  - Was presented at the annual reunions of the 1st Infantry Division and the 25th Infantry Division; and the annual conventions of the Vietnam Helicopter Pilots Association and the Combat Helicopter Pilots Association. It was also shown at the National Infantry Museum on Vietnam Veterans Day.
  - Has received written endorsements from many prominent individuals including: former United States National Security Advisor H.R. McMaster; former U.S. Department of Defense Inspector General Claude M. Kicklighter; 7-plus year Hanoi Prisoner of War Porter M. Halyburton; 5-and-half year Hanoi Prisoner of War Lee Ellis; Vietnam War Veteran and World Golf Hall of Fame Member Larry Nelson; and , Medal of Honor recipients James R. Livingston and Patrick H. Brady.
  - Information about the film has also been published in the 1st Cavalry Division Association newsletter, the Special Forces Association newsletter, and is posted on the social media accounts of the Georgia Department of Veterans Services and is included with the AVVBA’s archives at the Atlanta History Center. It was also recently featured by the West Point Alumni Association and shared with Gold Star Mothers of America.

[Click here](#) to view or download the documentary on YouTube, or visit [www.avvba.org](http://www.avvba.org) and link to the documentary from their landing page.

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## **Various Scholarship Opportunities Offered By Groups at Post**

Applications are now available for the Legion’s annual awards to graduating high school seniors, both male and female. Forms are available in the Clubroom, or may be downloaded by [clicking here](#). April 15 is the deadline to apply. The value of each Legion scholarship to be awarded this year is \$1,500, with plans to award at least four. For more information about the Legion scholarships contact the Post’s Immediate Past Commander Tom Billings, Email: [tombill03@comcast.net](mailto:tombill03@comcast.net).

The Auxiliary Unit of the Post has two scholarships available for this year only. They are the Randall Porter scholarship which will be offered in the amount of \$2,000. This scholarship is available to a graduating senior in any of the greater metro area high schools, including the private schools. The second Auxiliary scholarship, which will be offered this year and the next two years, is the Coalson scholarship. This \$1,500 scholarship will be awarded only to a Milton High School senior.

[Click here](#) for a copy of the Auxiliary's application form for both scholarships. For more information email Ellen Youngblood at [eftot57@gmail.com](mailto:eftot57@gmail.com)

Information about [SAL scholarship applications](#) will be published here as soon as it is made available to this publication.

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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**

**Saturday, Feb. 21, 4:30 p.m. Chili Cook Off.** Come early, bring your entry. Tasting will get underway at 4:30 p.m.

**Sunday, Feb. 22, 2 p.m. BINGO in the Ballroom. \$1,000 Jackpot.**

**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." A signup sheet is posted in the Clubroom.

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

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

**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).

**Tuesday, Mar. 17, 5:30 p.m. House and Grounds Committee.**

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

**Tuesday, Mar. 24, 6:30 p.m. SAL Monthly 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**