



American Legion Post 201

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Thursday, March 26, 2026

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### **Vietnam Veterans Day Recognition at Post Includes Evening Meal**

The Post will officially recognize Vietnam Veterans Day this Sunday with a brief 5 p.m. ceremony at the Circle of Flags. Post Commander Bob Byrd will lead the ceremony, assisted by Judge Advocate Jim Davis.

Starting when the Clubroom opens at 1 p.m., Vietnam Vets are encouraged to join their comrades and share memories about their in-country experiences. Vets who bring a piece of memorabilia from in-country to share or show to others will be given one drink chip (\$3.50 value) as a thank you for their effort. *(FYI: Uniform service ribbons don't qualify.)*

Following the 5 p.m. remembrance service, the SAL will host an evening buffet-style meal for all at the Post. The menu was not available at publication deadline.

The Clubroom/Bar will be closed for the duration of the ceremony. In addition, music played in the Clubroom on Sunday will be from the Vietnam Era. Here's a list of some of the most popular which were played on Armed Forces Radio, and Top 40 stations in the U.S. Nancy Sinatra's *These Boots are Made for Walkin'*, *We Gotta Get Out of This Place* by The Animals, *Fortunate Son* by Creedence Clearwater Revival, *The Ballad of the Green Berets* by Sgt. Barry Sadler, *Leaving on a Jet Plane* by Peter, Paul and Mary, *The Letter* by The Box Tops, *(Sittin' On) The Dock of the Bay* by Otis Redding, *I Feel Like I'm Fixin' to Die Rag* by Country Joe & The Fish, *War* by Edwin Starr, *Green Green Grass of Home* by Porter Wagoner/Tom Jones, *For What It's Worth* by Buffalo Springfield, *Purple Haze* by Jimi Hendrix, and *What's Going On* by Marvin Gaye.

The question is: how many will we hear that day? Or perhaps one of the Post's Vietnam vets who has the technical knowledge might produce a playlist for the Post's sound system which has all of them plus a few more.

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## **Post 26-27 Leadership Nominations Now Open; Will Close Tuesday, Apr. 21**

Nominations are now open for all 26-27 Post leadership positions except a one-year and a two-year position on the Executive Committee. A nominations signup sheet is posted on the bulletin board in the Clubroom.

Positions open include the Post Commander which is a two-year term; Senior Vice Commander, Junior Vice Commander, Finance Officer, and Judge Advocate (all one-year terms); and a three-year term on the Executive Committee. Penny Kumpf has one year remaining on her three-year term as an Executive Committee member, and Harry Hollingsworth has two years remaining on his 3-year term.

Leadership nominations will remain open until the Tuesday, April 21 General Membership Meeting. At that time any last minute nominations may be made, after which nominations will be closed. Elections will take place at the Tuesday, May 19 General Membership meetings. The period between the two meetings provide campaign time for any contested positions.

Following the May 19 elections, the Post's new leadership team will begin their terms on Monday, June 1.

As of late yesterday, the only nomination posted was Tom Richardson for Post Commander. Currently he is the Post's Senior Vice Commander.

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### ***~ An Editorial Observation ~***

The passing of the Vietnam War veteran generation marks the fading of a profoundly resilient, yet often overlooked, cohort of American history. With a median age now exceeding 70, these veterans are passing away at an alarming rate—estimated between 300 and 500 daily. Of the nearly 2.7 million who served in country, fewer than 850,000 are estimated to be alive today, closing the door on a unique chapter of military service.

Unlike the heroes of World War II, Vietnam veterans returned to a deeply divided America that often met them with silence, indifference, or outright hostility. Instead of ticker-tape parades, many were greeted with insults, with some reporting being called "baby killers" or spat upon in airports. This hostile homecoming, spanning from 1964 to 1973, left a generation of returning servicemen isolated and profoundly misunderstood.

The lack of a proper welcome was driven by a nation trying to forget a painful, unpopular, and lost war. Protesters often misdirected their anger toward the troops rather than policymakers, placing a heavy emotional burden on men who were often drafted into service. Consequently, many veterans hid their military service and abandoned their uniforms immediately upon arrival to avoid confrontation.

Beyond the social snubbing, Vietnam vets faced an institutional lack of support. The Veterans Administration was initially slow to recognize the psychological toll of the war, specifically PTSD. Furthermore, local posts of existing veteran organizations like the VFW and American Legion sometimes rejected Vietnam veterans because they hadn't

"won" their war. Many struggled to obtain job benefits or adequate care for injuries, including exposure to Agent Orange.

This collective neglect forced many to struggle with their experiences in silence for decades. It took more than 30 years for a more grateful nation to begin correcting this wrong, with organizations and communities now offering long-overdue "Welcome Home" ceremonies and pinning ceremonies.

Today, the phrase "Welcome Home" has become a vital, healing message for these veterans, acknowledging a debt and a duty that was ignored for far too long.

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## Update on Georgia House Bill 108

*Editor's Note: In the Thursday, Jan. 29, 2026 issue of this newsletter we reported on a piece of legislation moving through the Georgia General Assembly which purported to help vets, but which was opposed by 15 veteran-serving organizations in the state. [Click here to read the article.](#)*

*At 6:40 p.m. this past Tuesday evening Department of Georgia Commander Michael Schwartz texted a message to Legion leadership throughout the state reporting on success in getting changes made to the legislation. The contents of that text follows:*

"Success at the Capital today! The first step towards HB108 being good for veterans has passed out of committee. With the combined forces of the Legion, the VFW, the DAV and 14 other veteran's organization standing together as one loud voice, HB108 passed out of committee with the following amendments: All lawyers must be accredited, there will be a \$10,000 fine for misconduct by lawyers, and a billing ceiling of \$12,500.

"We fought for these amendments and we won. The battle is not over. It must still pass a vote on the floor in full session. Please call your Georgia state representative and demand they vote yes on HB108. This is why our membership numbers mean so much. The more members, the louder our voice! Thank you for fighting with us on this issue. Keep up the Fire!"

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## ~ Post News Notes ~

**Auxiliary Updates** - - Nominations for Auxiliary officers will take place at the April meeting. Also, the Auxiliary will have a booth at the Moonlight Farmers Market on Friday, May 22 from 5 p.m. to 10 p.m. in downtown Alpharetta. The booth is being headed up by members of the Auxiliary's Poppy Committee and is supporting National Poppy Day which is also May 22. [Click here](#) to read more about the American Legion Auxiliary and National Poppy Day.

**Saturday Golden Ladle Competition** - - This month's Golden Ladle competition takes place this Saturday. The competition features potato dishes, but with one small stipulation - - contestants may enter any potato dish except baked potatoes. Please sign up in advance if you plan to compete. The sheet is in the Clubroom. Judging/voting begins at 5 p.m. For more details, [click here to see the flyer](#) on the Post website's events page. For more information, or questions, drop Ariel an email at [amoreleyevents@gmail.com](mailto:amoreleyevents@gmail.com).

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## ~ Scholarship Information ~

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)

[Click here](#) for the **SAL scholarship application form**. Questions about the SAL scholarship program should be directed to SAL Commander Derek Garmon at [derekgarmon@yahoo.com](mailto:derekgarmon@yahoo.com), with a copy addressed to Bruce Hay, the SAL's Sr. Vice Commander at [hayville@att.net](mailto:hayville@att.net).

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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**

**Sunday, Mar. 29, Honoring Vietnam Veterans, Holly Theater, Dahlonega.** 5½- year Hanoi Hilton POW Colonel Lee Ellis book signing at 4 p.m.; *We Were Soldiers* movie at 6 p.m. [Click here for details](#).

**Monday, Mar. 30, 10 a.m. JCVA Vietnam Veterans Ceremony** at the "Wall that Heals." Newtown Park, 3125 Old Alabama Road, Johns Creek. Vietnam Nurse Ginny Dornheggen will be the keynote speaker.

**Tuesday, Mar. 31, 6:30 p.m. SAL Monthly Meeting.** This meeting was rescheduled from Mar. 24 due to the filming of a scene of the Will Trent show at the Post. Sr. Vice Commander Tom Richardson will meet with SAL members to discuss July 4th and 250th Anniversary of the nation event planning at the Post.

**Thursday, April 2, 6:30 p.m. Finance Committee Meeting.**

**Sunday, April 5, Easter Sunday. The Post is Closed.** Also, no dance activity is scheduled Sunday evening.

**Sunday, April 12, 2 p.m. BINGO in the Ballroom. \$1,000 Jackpot.**

**Sunday, April 12, 4 p.m. Georgia Swarm Heroes Night.** A special day when the team highlights the valor and

commitment that local heroes provide to the community. Local heroes from the military to police officers, healthcare workers, linemen, firefighters, teachers, and many more are recognized. Veterans and other “heroes” may claim up to four complimentary tickets for the game. [Click here for details.](#)

**Tuesday, April 14, 10, 6 p.m. Executive Committee Meeting.**

**Thursday, April 16, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Veterans Brain Health Summit.** This event is free and especially relevant for many Korean and Vietnam era veterans, but it is open to veterans of all service eras, family members, and professionals. It will be held at Dunwoody United Methodist Church. Expert speakers, including specialists from Emory’s Veterans Program, will be sharing practical strategies, education, and local resources focused on brain health and dementia risk reduction. [Click here to see flyer](#) with more information.

**Tuesday, April 21, 5:30 p.m. House & Grounds Committee Meeting.**

**Tuesday, April 21, 7 p.m. General Membership Meeting.** Complimentary dinner will be served starting in the 6 p.m. time frame.

**Friday, April 24, 7 p.m. Club 201 Dance Spring Showcase Performance** and Ballroom Dance Party. Come watch and cheer on the Club 201 dance community as they showcase their skills and artistry.

Visit [www.club201dance.com](http://www.club201dance.com) for more details. If you are interested in performing, contact Dance Director Elizabeth Williams at (404) 579-9676.

**Saturday, April 25, Community Day of Service.** Details still being discussed. Watch this space for more.

**Saturday May 2, 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. Basset Hound Rescue of Georgia "Paws of Honor"** fundraiser at Post 201. [Click here](#) to for event details.

**Saturday, May 16, 7 p.m. "Song Writers for Vets, Atlanta 2026"** at The Hotel at Avalon. Help VetBuds help Vets as songwriters join together for an unforgettable night performing their #1 hits and sharing the stories behind the songs. Sign up at [www.sw4vets.com](http://www.sw4vets.com) to be the first to know who the performers will be and when tickets are available.

**Friday, June 26 - Sunday, June 28. Department of Georgia Convention.** The meeting will be held at the Sonesta Gwinnett Place Hotel, 1775 Pleasant Hill Rd., Duluth.

**Saturday, Nov. 7, 12 noon. 2nd Annual Georgia American Legion Veterans Raffle Drawing.** [Click this link](#) for details. Tickets will be available at the Post 201 in late March or early April. Winning tickets will be drawn Saturday, Nov. 7, 2026. You do not have to be present to win. For every \$20 ticket sold by Post 201, the Post gets to keep \$12 for its treasury.

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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**