

## **Post 201 to Celebrate Old Soldiers Day Saturday, Aug. 1 with 10 a.m. Ceremony**

The 2026 annual Old Soldiers Day at American Legion Post 201 will be celebrated with a 10 a.m. ceremony on Saturday, Aug. 1 on the Walk of Memories grounds. This year's guest speaker will be decorated veteran and Georgia 7th District Congressman Rich McCormick, M.D.

As part of the ceremony the Post will plant a brick in the WW II section of the Walk of Memories honoring U.S. Army Air Forces Sergeant William A. Jones from Rome, Ga. On Jan. 30, 1944 he was serving as the assistant radio operator aboard a B-24 Liberator bomber on a mission to Udine, Italy. The plane was shot down while returning from its mission and was last sighted north of the Isle of Mergo off the Italian coast near the town of Grado.

Three crew members made it out of the plane before the crash, but only one survived. The other seven members, including Jones, were believed to have still been in the aircraft when it crashed. He was declared MIA and he remained missing in action for decades before being officially accounted for on June 10, 2026.

*Editor's note: See the following two sources for more information on Sergeant Jones:*

<https://www.dpaa.mil/News-Stories/ID-Announcements/Article/4547729/airman-accounted-for-from-world-war-ii-jones-w/>

<https://www.449bg.org/jones-william-j5703-449bg.cfm>

Post 201 has celebrated Old Soldiers Day on the first Saturday in August since 1952. Music for the morning ceremony will be provided by the Alpha Brass, a component of the Alpharetta City Band. Well known local attorney Scott Childress will be the program's master of ceremonies.

The general public is welcome to attend the morning ceremony and brief reception following the event. Also, all the Post's facilities, including the Clubroom/Bar, will be open to the general public all day, Saturday, Aug. 1 starting at 10 a.m.

During his two decades of service, Congressman McCormick deployed to combat zones in Africa, the Persian Gulf, and Afghanistan. As a Marine, he flew helicopters, was Airborne and attached to Army and foreign forces, and taught at Georgia Tech and Morehouse College as the Marine Officer Instructor. In the Navy, he earned the rank of Commander and served as Department Head for the Emergency Medicine Department in Kandahar, Afghanistan.

Between deployments, he earned his Master of Business Administration from National University and a medical degree from Atlanta's Morehouse School of Medicine where he was honored to serve as student body president. He completed residency in Emergency Medicine through Emory while training at Grady Hospital in Atlanta. Most recently, he served as an Emergency Room physician at Northside Hospital.

In Congress he serves on the House Armed Services, House Oversight, and Science, Space, and Technology Committees.

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