



American Legion Post 201

Telephone: 770-475-9023

americanlegionalpharetta@gmail.com

www.legion201.org

Thursday, Aug. 6, 2026

~~~~~

### **Post's Old Soldiers Day Program, Auxiliary Purple Heart Event Generate News Media Coverage**

Both this past Saturday morning's Old Soldiers Day (OSD) Ceremony at the Walk of Memories honoring recently identified World War II U.S. Army Air Forces Sergeant William A. Jones of Rome, Ga. Jones; and Tuesday evening's Purple Heart ceremony and dinner to recognize medal recipients drew "appreciative comments" from those attending as well as generating news media coverage.

More than 40 members of the Post 201 Family and friends watched as Sr. Vice Commander Ralph Jordan planted a brick in the World War II section of the Walk of Members honoring Jones. He was declared missing in action (MIA) on June 30, 1944 and accounted for on June 10, 2026 - - - more than 80 years later.

While the audience of mostly veterans, and in some cases their spouses, immediately rendered the proper respect during the playing of "Taps" at the conclusion of the ceremony, what surprised many was what happened on the baseball field located some 40 or so yards from the brick planting site.

Approximately 50 or so players, along with their coaches, and 20-30 parents and friends watching the practice, stopped playing ball at the first strains of "Taps," turned toward sound, removed their baseball caps and stood motionless until the final note of the 24 notes in the bugle call wafted away in the morning breeze.

Several attending the ceremony commented how rare it is for that to happen when the field is active and the Post is holding an event nearby during which the National Anthem or Taps is being played, or the Pledge of Allegiance to the U.S. flag is being said.

Thanks to Marty Farrell, one of the Post's former commanders who was a journalist during his younger days, reporter Baylen Parker of the *Rome News-Tribune* picked up on the Post's plans to honor Jones. Parker tracked down relatives of Jones still living in the Rome area, and wrote a major story on Jones. He included a reference in his story to the Post's recognition of Jones on OSD.

Parker's story appeared in the Aug. 3 edition of the paper. Readers may be able to access the story by [clicking here](#) although it is behind a pay wall. Some of Marty's photography accompanied the story. Also former Post Commander Tom Billings filmed the ceremony and posted it on YouTube. That can be viewed by [clicking here](#).

### ***Tuesday's Purple Heart Ceremony***

The Auxiliary's Purple Heart ceremony, which was attended by 30+ people according to Auxiliary President Ellen Youngblood, also picked up some local news coverage on WSB-TV. [Click here](#) to see the story published on the station's web page.

Four Purple Heart recipients and one widow of a Purple Heart recipient attended the evening ceremony. They were Charles Turner, Walter Swenson, Dave Raper, Charles Pesta and Del McDonough (widow of Jack McDonough). Another Purple Heart recipient, David Hambrick, attended the reception.

The quilt which was raffled off on Old Soldiers Day was won by Carol Smith-wife of Legion member Ray Smith. She wanted to gift the quilt to a deserving veteran or family, so during our service the Purple Hearts plus Del were given a number. Del's number was drawn and she is now the proud owner of the handmade pioneer quilt!

Comments by Post Commander Tom Richardson concluded the ceremony, after which the Purple Heart group was hosted to a dinner by the Auxiliary in the Clubroom.

###

*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-fromworld-war-ii-jones-w/>  
<https://www.449bg.org/jones-william-j5703-449bg.cfm>

~ ~ ~

### **Post Hosts Veterans Town Hall at 9 a.m. Wednesday, Aug. 12**

Congressman Rich McCormick will lead a Veterans Town Hall meeting in the Post's Ballroom on Wednesday, Aug. 12 from 9 a.m. to 10 30 a.m.

The meeting announcement ([click here to read](#)) invites veterans "for coffee, light refreshments, and a conversation about the issues that matter most to our veterans."

Veterans interested in attending need to RSVP to Elizabeth Orr at [elizabeth.orr@mail.house.gov](mailto:elizabeth.orr@mail.house.gov)

~ ~ ~

### **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, Aug. 6, 6:30 p.m. Finance Committee Meeting.** Tom Billings has been named the Interim Finance Committee Chairperson as the search for a permanent committee chairperson continues.

**Friday, Aug. 7. National Purple Heart Day.**

**Sunday, August 9, 2 p.m. BINGO at the Post. \$1,000 Jackpot.** A news note of interest: The Sunday, July 26 Bingo game set at new attendance record with 173 individuals playing that afternoon.

**Tuesday, Aug. 11, 6 p.m. Executive Committee Meeting.**

**Tuesday, Aug. 18, 5:30 p.m. House & Grounds Committee Meeting.**

**Tuesday, Aug. 18, 7 p.m. General Membership Meeting.** Complimentary dinner served in the 6 p.m. time frame. Guest speaker will be Kiu Smith, owner and executive director of Amada Senior Care. His company, which specializes in non-medical in-home care and senior placement, is credentialed with the Veterans Administration.

**Sunday, August 23, 2 p.m. BINGO at the Post. \$1,000 Jackpot.**

**Monday, Aug. 24, 7 p.m. VFW Post 12002 Month-End Meeting.** The VFW's month-end meeting at Post 201 is scheduled for 7 p.m. on the 4th Monday of every month. The mid-month meeting is scheduled for 11:30 a.m. on the 2nd Wednesday of every month at Brimstone Restaurant & Tavern, 10595 Old Alabama Connector Road, Alpharetta.

**Tuesday, Aug. 25, 6:30 p.m. SAL Membership Meeting.**

**Wednesday, Aug. 26. Kabul 13 Remembrance Day.**

**Monday, Sept. 7. Labor Day.**

**Friday, Sept. 11. Patriot Day** (*Informally known as 9/11 Remembrance Day*).

**Friday, Sept. 18. U.S. Air Force Birthday.**

**Saturday, Sept. 19. POW/MIA Recognition Day.**

**Wednesday, Oct. 14. 9th Annual Rick Gimpel Memorial Golf Tournament.** The Golf Club at Bradshaw

Farm, 3030 Bradshaw Drive, Woodstock. Registration opens at 8 a.m. Shotgun start at 9:30 a.m. Contact Derek Garmon, 770-549-5669, [derekgarmon@yahoo.com](mailto:derekgarmon@yahoo.com), or Bruce Hay, 309-657-8528, [hayville@att.net](mailto:hayville@att.net) for details. Tournament meeting planning dates between now and tournament day are Wednesday, Aug. 19, Sept. 2, 9, 16, 23 & 30, and Oct. 7. All meetings are scheduled to start at 6:30 p.m.

**Saturday, Nov. 7, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. 10th Annual Cruz-In “car show”.** Free for members of the general public who want to visit the Post and look at the cars on display. The registration fee for those showing cars: \$10 pre-show; \$20 day of show. To register [click here](#) , or if you need more details or have questions email [al201carshow@gmail.com](mailto:al201carshow@gmail.com). Food and drinks will be available for sale, and children can take advantage of a jump house and other planned activities during the 4-hour event. Also, a “Stars & Stripes” baseball game pitting the Aviator Nation against the Georgia Jackets, is scheduled for 11 a.m.

**Saturday, Nov. 7, 12 noon. 2nd Annual Georgia American Legion Veterans Raffle Drawing.** [Click this link](#) for details. Tickets are now available at the Post. 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.

**Wednesday, Nov.11. Veterans Day.**

~ ~ ~

**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**