



American Legion Post 201

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### **Veterans Town Hall at Post Draws 40+ Vets to Discuss Issues with Rep. McCormick**

“It was less political and more informative than I expected. The congressman took time to explain why some problems exist and how circumstances prevent what appear to be obvious easy solutions. It didn't feel like a dog-and-pony show that was being put on because the midterms are three months away.”

That observation from one American Legion member visiting Post 201 from another north metro Post perhaps best summarizes Congressman Rich McCormick's Town Hall meeting with more than 40 veterans yesterday morning.

The hour-and-a-half long meeting left those attending with two overarching take-aways:

First, McCormick and his congressional staff take a special interest in veterans and their needs, noting whether you're a veteran in his district or not, if you need help with any of the federal agencies, not just the VA, his office is open and prepared to help.

“When you feel like you are banging your head against the wall, and you are not getting a response from the federal agencies that you should get a response from, it's not just the VA by the way; it could be the IRS, the ATF, it could be any three-letter organization. You give us a call because that's what we're here for, and we will get a result. I promise you,” McCormick said.

Several of those attending the meeting were observed discussing their personal issues with some of the eight staff members who accompanied the Congressman.

Second, his conversations with his the audience took on the tone of one veteran talking to another rather than a politician trying to curry a favor. “You can ask me anything. It doesn’t really matter. I have no secrets and I’m prepared for any question, but that doesn’t mean I’m going to give you the answer you want,” McCormick said.

“His message was realistic regarding the current fiscal environment and issues facing veterans about their benefits and medical care,” observed one Post 201 member who happens to be a Marine. “He (McCormick) was leaning forward in the foxhole, taking on personal responsibilities to find common ground between all stakeholders and putting emphasis on the need to work together,” the Marine Vet added.

Expressing his personal frustrations with the discord among the various political factions in Washington, McCormick observed that, “We pit each other against each other, instead of working together to solve a problem. We create the problem so we can profit off of it, so we can be elected off of it. It’s disgusting,” he added.

During the meeting some audience members quietly expressed a level of dissatisfaction with those whose personally-oriented questions and stories chewed up time that could have been more well spent having the congressman respond more to broadly focused, veterans-related issues or concerns.

“He was very clear and was willing to politely respond to what he could answer. Sometimes he just had to say it’s not in my area of expertise,” one attendee noted.

Responding to several questions about the VA Hospital in Decatur and an ongoing discussion about additional VA services being sought for the North Georgia veteran population, McCormick said, “I don’t want to speak for him (VA Administrator Doug Collins). He has his own unique challenges. I am sure he’s trying to do the best he can.”

“He’s had two years to kind of learn a system, figure out what the bureaucracy is and what the opportunities are to fix things. . . . He’s got two-and-a-half more years to do some really important things. You can judge him on that,” McCormick added.

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## **Sr. Care Guest Speaker Scheduled For Tuesday Membership Meeting**

Members of the Post can look forward to a presentation by Kiu Smith, owner and executive director of Cumming-based Amada Senior Care at next Tuesday’s General Membership meeting.

His company, a credentialed VA provider, offers in-home care for veterans, VA benefits navigation, aid & attendance assistance, senior placement services, community care network coordination and long-term care insurance support.

In addition to his presentation, he has said he will be available to meet informally with members following the meeting.

Tuesday night's General Membership meeting gets underway at 7 p.m. It will be preceeded by a complimentary buffet dinner starting in the 6 p.m. time frame. Tuesday night’s dinner menu includes lemon garlic roasted chicken, green beans, roasted potatoes and blueberry cobbler. And for those who’d like a take-away for a second meal, a \$10 bill can get you a great take-away box for as long as extras are available.

There are no “burning matters” on Tuesday night’s agenda, however members can expect to be updated on plans for several upcoming events scheduled for the remainder of August and through mid September, as well as taking action on the routine business matters that normally come before the membership.

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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**

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

**Tuesday, Aug. 18, 7 p.m. General Membership Meeting.**

**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.**

**Wednesday, Aug. 26, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. LifeSouth Blood Donation Drive.** [Click here](#) to schedule an appointment, or call 404-329-1994, ext. 61021.

**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.**

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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**