American Legion Post 201

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Tonight's Fulton County District 1 Town Hall Meet Focuses on Vet Services

Veterans resources will be the primary focal point at Fulton County District 1 Commissioner Bridget Thorne's Town Hall Meeting scheduled for 6:30 p.m. tonight at the county's Health and Human Services North Facility, 4700 Northpoint Parkway, Alpharetta.

A veterans resource panel will discuss services available for the more than 40,000 veterans residing in the county. Meeting attendees will also receive an update on "Operation Greenlight," a nationwide initiative aimed at supporting military veterans and raising awareness about the unique challenges they face when transitioning back into civilian life.

Panel members scheduled for tonight's meeting include Dave Hofstetter and Jim Squire, both District 1 representatives on the Fulton County Veterans Empowerment Commission; Ken (Hawkeye) Sharpe, Vet Buds North Fulton; Roger Wise, Johns Creek Veterans Association, Jassen Pye, Director of Operation with Vision Warriors; and Matt Cronley, a member of Post 201. In addition to Cronley, Hofstetter, Squire and Wise are also members of the Post.

According to various resource documents the county delivers support to its veteran population through the county's **Veterans Resource Hub** and its advisory **Veterans Empowerment Commission.** The Board of Commissioners oversees a dedicated $1 million Veterans Services Program alongside a broader $5.3 million Community Services Program. Jointly these dollars help fuel non-profit agencies that provide resources including:

- Housing & Homelessness - - The county funds critical intervention initiatives, like the Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) program and partnerships with Hope Atlanta, which provide rent assistance, eviction

prevention, and case management. More than 4,700 veterans have been served through these housing initiatives.

- Healthcare & Mental Health - - The Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities offers free mental health counseling, crisis intervention, and substance abuse recovery, ensuring uninsured veterans receive care.
- Legal Support - - The Fulton County Superior Court's VETS Program acts as a specialized veterans court, prioritizing diversion and rehabilitative treatment over incarceration.
- Employment & Claims - - The county grants hiring preferences to qualified veterans applying for county jobs. Staff also help veterans secure essential VA claims, disability compensation, and pensions.

In addition to the veterans resources and "Operation Greenlight" discussions, updates on operations and programs at the Fulton County Animal Shelter and Fulton County's 2027 budget are also on the published agenda.

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Waffle House Poet Laureate Featured at Veterans in Arts Program at Post Tonight

Karen Head, the first and to-date only Waffle House poet laureate, is the featured speaker at tonight's 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. "From Service to Self-Expression: Veterans in the Arts" program at the in the Post's ballroom.

Hosted and supported by "The Art Section, an online Journal of Art and Culture," and the Post, tonight's program is one in a series of conversational presentations that explores the relationship between military service, creativity, and artistic expression.

The series brings together artists and veterans whose lives and creative practices have been shaped by military experience. Participants include artists currently serving in the military, artists from military families, and artists whose work has been influenced by or responds to military service and its broader cultural impact.

In addition to her Waffle House designation, Head was previously the inaugural Poet Laureate of Fulton County. She has published several books of poetry (*Lost on Purpose, Sassing, My Paris Year, On Occasion: Four Poets, One Year, and Shadow Boxes*). Her new book is a trilingual collection, *What We Missed: New and Selected Poems in English, German, and French* (Iris Press).

Tonight Head will read her poems that were influenced by her years as an "Army Brat" as well as show and discuss her video "Blast" which was created with Catherine Johnson, the Robert H. Quenon Associate Professor of Mining and Explosives Engineering at Missouri S&T.

"We began with a simple question: what might emerge from a collaboration between an explosives engineer and a poet? Catherine's research, paired with my experience growing up an Army Brat, led us to this project," Head said.

For tonight's program Head will be in conversation with Dr. Carol Senf, recently retired from the School of Literature, Media, and Communication at Georgia Tech. Senf has written for *The Art Section* about artists Tim Youd and Amy Sherald and most recently photographer Sheila Pree Bright. Senf's scholarly career has focused on nineteenth-century women writers, including the Brontë sisters, George Eliot, and New Woman writers.

From 2006 -2026, Head was a Visiting Scholar at Technische Universität-Dortmund, Germany, where she served as primary consultant for their academic tutoring center. Currently she is the Associate Provost for Faculty Affairs and Professor of English and World Languages at Augusta University in Georgia.

Head was named the Waffle House Poet Laureate in 2019, which included an official Waffle House nametag alongside the honorary title. She pitched her community outreach concept to the Waffle House Foundation earlier that year, launching a statewide poetry tour and outreach project for underserved rural high schools in Georgia in the fall of 2019.

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~ A Special Note ~

Auxiliary President Ellen Youngblood advised this publication earlier this week that James E. "Jim" Hemrich, Jr., a 29-year member of the Post who no longer lived in the metro Atlanta area, died earlier this year. **Click here** to read his obituary.

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Upcoming Post 201, Other Veteran Related Activities

Monday Madness in the Clubroom
Every Monday - - 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.
1st Drink - $1 Off the Regular Price for any Brand

9-Ball Pool Tournament, 2 p.m.
Every 3rd Sunday in the Clubroom/Bar

VIEW FEATURED POST EVENTS

Saturday, Oct. 24, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Driven Against Breast Cancer Car, Truck and Bike Show will take place on the Post's parking lot. Co-hosted by the nonprofit organization Beyond the Ribbon and the Driven Divas, this annual charity event serves as a community gathering to celebrate, honor, and remember individuals affected by cancer. **Visit this site** for more information.

Saturday, Oct. 24, 5 p.m. Golden Ladle Brews & Stews. Bring your best stew for consideration. A number of beers will be on sale for a "buck per beer."

Sunday, Oct. 25, 2 p.m. BINGO in the Ballroom. $1,000 Jackpot.

Monday, Oct. 26, 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, Oct. 27, 6:30 p.m. SAL Membership Meeting.

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*.** 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.

Sunday, Nov. 8, 4 p.m. - 5:30 p.m. U.S. Flag Retirement Ceremony. Post 201-sponsored Scout Troop 51 will hold its annual U.S. flag retirement ceremony on the grassy knoll in back of the Post. The event is open to the public. In addition to the flag retirement ceremony, the Scouts will also be collecting canned food donations for the North Fulton Charities Food Pantry.

Monday, Nov. 9, 7 a.m. to 10 a.m. The 9th Annual Veteran's Day Breakfast hosted by Realtor Melissa Morgan at Maple Street Biscuit Company, 50 Canton Street, downtown Alpharetta. To-go orders and curbside pickup are also available. No RSVP's are needed. Just show up and enjoy the morning with fellow veterans.

Wednesday, Nov.11. Veterans Day. First drink of the day in Post Clubroom/Bar will be free for all veterans. Watch this space for additional information about events in the Clubroom.

Wednesday, Nov. 11, 6:30 p.m. AboutFace-USA 2nd Annual Salute to Service. Click here for details.

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CLUB 201 DANCE - LEARN MORE

VETERANS RESOURCES

Visit the **Resource Page** at Post 201's website, 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

VA Telephone Hotline - 1-877-222-8387

Post 201 Service Officer Hotline for Vets-at-Risk - 631-720-6022

Post 201 - Serving Vets Since 1947

"It's not the price you pay to be a member,
It's the price you paid to be eligible."