American Legion Post 201

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Tuesday, Nov. 10, 2026

SPECIAL EDITION

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What's the Difference?

(An Editorial Observation)

During the past few weeks leading up to tomorrow's Veterans Day, we 'bumped into' several situations (mostly in the non-veteran community) inquiring, or wondering about the difference between Memorial Day and Veterans Day. What follows is our attempt explain that difference. While this discussion may be more than most non-veterans are interested in knowing, we offer it 'for the record.'

The core difference between Memorial Day and Veterans Day lies in the distinction between service and ultimate sacrifice.

While both federal holidays honor those who have worn the uniform of the United States Armed Forces, they serve entirely different emotional and historical purposes.

Memorial Day is a solemn day of remembrance specifically dedicated to military personnel who died in the line of duty. In contrast, Veterans Day is a celebration designed to thank and honor all individuals who served honorably in the military—both living and deceased—during wartime or peace.

The History and Evolution of Memorial Day

The origins of Memorial Day are deeply rooted in the aftermath of the American Civil War. Originally known as "Decoration Day," the tradition began in the late 1860's as a localized practice where citizens decorated the graves of fallen soldiers with spring flowers.

In May 1868, General John A. Logan, commander of the Grand Army of the Republic, formalized this by declaring May 30 as a national day to decorate the graves of both Union and Confederate

soldiers buried at Arlington National Cemetery. Following the global catastrophic losses of World War I, the holiday expanded its scope to commemorate American military members who died in any conflict, not just the Civil War. Over the decades, the moniker gradually shifted from Decoration Day to Memorial Day.

The Roots of Veterans Day and Legislative Confusion

Veterans Day originated as Armistice Day, proclaimed by President Woodrow Wilson in November 1919 to mark the first anniversary of the WWI ceasefire. Following World War II and the Korean War, Congress and President Dwight D. Eisenhower updated the holiday in 1954 to honor all American veterans, renaming it Veterans Day.

A period of public confusion arose after Congress passed the Uniform Monday Holiday Act of 1968, which shifted Memorial Day to the last Monday in May and moved Veterans Day to the fourth Monday in October to create three-day weekends.

The change stripped Veterans Day of its historical tie to November 11 and blurred the lines between the two observances. To restore clarity and historical accuracy, President Gerald Ford signed Public Law 94-97 in 1975, returning Veterans Day to November 11 starting in 1978.

Today, Memorial Day remains anchored on the final Monday of May, preserving the solemn mourning of fallen service members, while Veterans Day celebrates living veterans each year on November 11.

So borrowing once again (as we often do) from Paul Harvey and his signature sign-off at the end of every radio broadcast, we'll say . . . "And now you know… the rest of the story." - - hdh

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Happening On Veterans Day

First and foremost at Post 201 - - The first drink of the day on Veterans Day in Post Clubroom/Bar will be free for all veterans. Cub Scouts will be in the Ballroom doing a Veteran-themed scavenger hunt. There is a need for veterans to volunteer to be interviewed by the scouts about their service. Hot dogs, toppings, sides and chips will be free in the Clubroom from 5 p.m. until the food runs out. Music in the clubroom from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. by crooner Keenan Blount who brings his audiences the musical phrasing of Frank Sinatra, blended with the velvet styling of Nat King Cole and the soulful passion of Tony Bennett.

Special Movie Preview - - *Man with the Bag* starring Arnold Schwarzenegger as Santa Claus at the Regal Avalon, Wednesday, Nov. 11. Doors open at 5 p.m. Movie starts at 6 p.m. It's a holiday heist adventure about second chances, unlikely friendships, and discovering that sometimes even Santa needs a little help delivering Christmas. Check out the trailer by clicking here:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Lyztl-xEeFM

This is an exclusive invitation for members of the Post 201 Family. For anyone who signs up please list **American Legion Post 201** as your organization. Passes are complimentary for the screening and can be procured at this link: **https://rsvp.zkipster.com/_5erj66** . They are available on a first-come first-served basis.

Other Deals and Dining Perks for Veterans On Veterans Day - - and in Some Cases Later

(Not Necessarily in Alphabetical Order)

Maple Street Biscuit Company (Alpharetta): Drop by the 50 Canton Street location during breakfast hours to get one free Classic Biscuit.

Texas Roadhouse (Cumming): Rather than a traditional dine-in rush, Texas Roadhouse will be distributing free meal vouchers from 11a.m. to 2 p.m. You just drive or walk in, show your military ID, and grab a voucher that is valid through May 31, 2027. When you choose to redeem it, the voucher covers one of 10 entrées (including a 6 oz sirloin steak), two made-from-scratch sides, and a non-alcoholic beverage.

Golden Corral (Cumming): Military Appreciation Night runs from 4:00 PM to closing, offering a free "thank you" buffet dinner and beverage to anyone who served.

Olive Garden (Alpharetta, Cumming): Veterans and active-duty members dining in can choose one free entrée from a special menu. The offer includes Olive Garden's signature unlimited freshly baked breadsticks and your choice of a homemade soup or house salad

The Melting Pot (Alpharetta): Get a complimentary Buy One, Get One Free 4-Course Meal specifically at the 1055 Mansell Road location.

Buffalo Wild Wings (Alpharetta, Cumming, Sandy Springs): Veterans receive 10 free boneless wings and a side of fries. Valid for dine-in or walk-in orders at GO locations with a $5 minimum purchase.

Freddy's Frozen Custard & Steakburgers (Cumming): Drop in to receive a free Freddy's Combo Meal card. No purchase is required, and the card can be redeemed anytime through November 25.

Red Robin (Alpharetta, Cumming): Complimentary Red's Big Tavern Burger served with bottomless steak fries for dine-in guests.

Sonny's BBQ (Alpharetta, Cumming): Enjoy a free "Pork Big Deal" combo, which includes a pulled or sliced pork sandwich, a side, and a drink.

Starbucks (All locations): Grab a free tall (12 oz) hot or iced brewed coffee. This perk also extends to military spouses.

Chili's (All locations): Choose a free entree from a dedicated select menu for dine-in guests.

Miller's Ale House (Alpharetta): Receive 50% off any single entrée on the menu for dine-in orders

Applebee's (Alpharetta, Roswell, Cumming): Receive a free full-size entrée from a select Veterans Day menu (selections include 6 oz. Top Sirloin, Classic Bacon Cheeseburger, and Chicken Tenders). You will also receive a $5 Bounce Back Card valid for a future visit over the next three weeks.

Another Broken Egg Café (Alpharetta, Johns Creek): Get a completely free Patriot French Toast Combo and custom coffee blend all morning.

California Pizza Kitchen (Alpharetta - North Point): Order a free entrée (select pizzas, pastas, or salads) and a free non-alcoholic beverage. You also get a BOGO "bounce-back" voucher to use on a follow-up visit starting the next day.

Chicken Salad Chick (Alpharetta, Johns Creek, Cumming): Veterans receive a free Chick Meal (a scoop or sandwich, plus a side, scoop of chicken salad, and a cookie) along with a large drink.

Cracker Barrel (Cumming): Get a free Sunrise Pancake Special breakfast all day long.
IHOP (Alpharetta, Roswell, Johns Creek, Cumming): Order a free Red, White, and Blueberry Pancake Combo from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Village Tavern (Alpharetta - Rainwater Drive): All veterans and active duty military will receive a 50% discount on their entree when they dine-in for lunch or dinner on Veterans Day.

J. Christopher's (Johns Creek): Veterans dining in receive a free breakfast or lunch entrée of their choice.

LongHorn Steakhouse (Alpharetta, Johns Creek, Roswell, Sandy Springs, Cumming): Get 10% off your entire table's check, plus a free appetizer or dessert specifically for the veteran.

Outback Steakhouse (Alpharetta, Roswell, Cumming): Enjoy a free Bloomin' Onion and a beverage. Outback is also offering a "Hero's Meal" voucher for your next visit.

Ruby Tuesday (Sandy Springs - Roswell Rd): Choose one of 13 select entrées completely free, which includes full access to the Garden Bar and a bottomless drink.

Chipotle (All locations): Get a free order of chips and choice of dip (guacamole, Queso Blanco, or fresh salsa) with any standard $5 in-restaurant purchase.

Wendy's (All locations): Grab a free small Breakfast Combo during breakfast hours, or a free single Hamburger during lunch/dinner hours. No purchase is required.

Hardee's (Cumming): Stop by to receive a free small Sausage Biscuit and small coffee during breakfast hours.

Zaxby's (Alpharetta, Roswell, Johns Creek, Milton, Sandy Springs, Cumming): Veterans and active-duty military personnel can receive a free Boneless Wings Meal all day long. The meal includes 5 boneless wings tossed in your choice of sauce, a side of Texas Toast, Crinkle Fries, and a small drink.

Second-Visit Voucher Activations

California Pizza Kitchen Return Voucher: The "Buy One, Get One" card you receive on Veterans Day becomes active starting Thursday, November 12 and remains valid through November 25.

Applebee's Bounce Back: Your $5 discount card becomes eligible for use beginning Thursday morning for any dine-in or To-Go order.

Grocery & Shopping Discounts

Great Clips (Alpharetta, Roswell, Johns Creek, Milton, Sandy Springs, Cumming): Veterans can get a free haircut on-site or pick up a free haircut coupon valid through December 4.

Jiffy Lube (All local branches): Get a 50% discount on any standard oil change service throughout the day without needing an appointment.

Tommy's Express Car Wash (Cumming): Drive through for a complimentary car wash open to all active duty personnel and veterans.

Publix (All locations): Save 10% off your entire grocery bill. Standard exclusions like alcohol and lottery tickets apply.

Food Lion (Cumming): Receive a 10% in-store discount on groceries when scanning your MVP card along with proof of service.

Tractor Supply Company (Cumming): Get a 10% retail discount storewide on designated Honoring Heroes days.

Kroger (All North Fulton & Cumming Locations): While most restaurants and other vendors stop their promotions on Wednesday night, Kroger extends its thanks through the weekend to Sunday, Nov. 15. Veterans, active duty, and their dependents receive a 10% discount on all store-brand groceries (including Kroger brand, Private Selection, and Simple Truth) by showing military ID at checkout.

Five Below (Alpharetta, Roswell, Cumming, Sandy Springs): A special 10% retail discount is open to veterans and military families through Sunday, November 15.

Freddy's Combo Meal Cards: If you picked up your free combo card on Wednesday, November 11, it remains fully redeemable at the Cumming location through November 25.

Editor's Note: The information above was drawn from a number of sources, all internet-based. We apologize in advance if any of the online information is said not to be accurate by the vendor or service provider. Please know we did our best. - - hdh

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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

Legion | SAL | Auxiliary | More Veterans Resources | Photo Gallery

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."

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