01 OCTOBER 2026





MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE AMERICAN LEGION POST 501 WOODBURY, MN

Post 501 Leadership

Commander: Bob Dolan
Vice Commander: JoAnne Kramer
Finance: Teresa Skinner
Service Officer: Paul Lindahl
Membership: Bruce Nettleton
Sergeant at Arms: Stacy Ferguson
Chaplain: Bob Wuggazer

Membership Update

As of today, 79 members have already renewed for the 2026 membership year — putting us at 65.3% of our goal of 121. We're slightly ahead of the October benchmark, and that's something to be proud of. But over the last few months, renewals have slowed, and this is our moment to pick the pace back up.

Membership is more than a number. It's the strength behind every program we run, every veteran we support, and every tradition we carry forward. When you renew, you help keep Post 501 active, visible, and ready to serve.

If you haven't renewed yet, take a minute today and visit www.legion.org. It's quick, it's easy, and it ensures our Post continues to thrive.

Let's finish strong. Let's push together. Let's keep Post 501 moving forward.

Commander's Corner

October brings together two of my favorite celebrations: Halloween and the Navy's Birthday. As a Navy veteran and retired Navy civil servant, I've spent most of my adult life carrying out the Navy's mission and helping shape its future. The Navy's Birthday always reminds me of the sailors, civilians, and families who keep that legacy alive.

Halloween, on the other hand, taps into a different part of me. I tend to go a little overboard — decorating the house, setting up spooky scenes, and handing out candy to the little ones. When I was a kid, I loved dressing up, roaming the neighborhood, and seeing which houses dared to go all-in on the fright factor. There was always one house that transformed its yard into a full-blown haunted landscape. I suppose I'm channeling that spirit now, trying to recreate that same sense of wonder and fun.

If you're in the neighborhood, stop by for a sweet treat or a spooky surprise. October is meant to be enjoyed — however you celebrate it.

Let me know how you mark the month.

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POPPY DAYS SEPT 2026 - RECAP

The three-day joint event was a tremendous success, and both the American Legion and VFW Posts are deeply grateful for the outpouring of support from our community. The windy weather may have tested us at times, but—as always—we stood our ground and carried through together.
This year brought a new storefront partner, **Texas Roadhouse**, and with it came new friends, great conversations, and a renewed sense of connection. Moments like these remind us why we serve: to strengthen bonds, welcome new faces, and keep our veteran community vibrant.

A heartfelt thank-you to the volunteers from American Legion Post 501, VFW Post 9024, and the dedicated cadets from AFJROTC. Your commitment, your energy, and your willingness to show up make all the difference.

Events like this are more than an opportunity to support our Posts—they're a chance to stand shoulder-to-shoulder with fellow veterans, build friendships, and carry forward the legacy of service that defines us.

Together, we continue to honor the past, serve the present, and strengthen the future.







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TOYS FOR TOTS

This marks the fourth year that the American Legion has proudly partnered with Talamore Senior Living and Valley Creek Mall to support the Marine Corps' Toys for Tots program. Each year, our community has stepped up with generosity and heart — and this year, we've taken that momentum even further.

By joining forces with the Woodbury Chamber of Commerce and launching a Christmas in July initiative, we collected toys from local businesses and ignited early excitement for this incredible mission. We are off to a great start, and the spirit of giving is already shining brightly.

As we look ahead, we encourage every member to bring a toy — or several — to our November Post meeting. Let's fill the bins, lift the mission, and show what Post 501 can do when we stand together.

This is our chance to spread joy, honor the Marines who lead this effort, and make Christmas morning brighter for children who need it most.

Let's bring the Christmas spirit in full force this year. Let's make 2026 unforgettable.





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WOODBURY NEWCOMERS EVENT

Post 501 is proud to participate in the City of Woodbury's Newcomer Event at the M Health Fairview Sports Center on 29 October from 4:30 to 7:00pm. This gathering is more than an introduction — it's a powerful statement of what Woodbury stands for: a community that welcomes, includes, and embraces every new resident who chooses to call this city home.

As part of Woodbury's commitment to building a warm and inclusive community, this event gives newcomers a chance to meet the people who shape the city, learn about the services and resources available to them, and discover the nonprofit organizations that make Woodbury stronger.

Come visit us at the Post 501 table. This is our opportunity to share who we are, what we stand for, and how veterans continue to serve with purpose long after our time in uniform. Every conversation is a chance to build connection, strengthen community, and welcome new neighbors into the Woodbury family.

Let's show them the spirit, pride, and unity that define Post 501.



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Upcoming Events

- **22 October - Woodbury Post 501 Monthly Meeting:** The Post's October meeting will be held at Jerry's Foods (second floor) conference room 1 at 6:30 pm.
- **29 October – Woodbury Newcomers Event:** Post 501 will be participating in the City of Woodbury's Newcomer event at M Health Fairview Sports Center (formerly HealthEast Sports Center), from 4:30 to 7:00pm. As part of the city's goal to foster an inclusive and welcoming community, they have created an opportunity for the city to welcome new residents into our community, share information about the services and resources available from the city, and allow them the chance to learn about what the non-profit organizations in the area have to offer as well. Come see us at our table.
- **11 Nov – Veteran Day Events**
- **18 November – Woodbury Post 501 Monthly Meeting:** The Post's November meeting will be held at Jerry's Foods (second floor) conference room 1 at 6:30 pm
- **17 December – Woodbury Post 501 Monthly Meeting:** The Post's December meeting will be held at Jerry's Foods (second floor) conference room 1 at 6:30 pm

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This Month in History – 251th Navy Birthday: 13 October 2026

In an effort to break British control of the seas, the Continental Congress established the Continental Navy — the force that would, on October 13, 1775, become the United States Navy. At its birth, our Navy consisted of only two armed vessels charged with disrupting British munition ships supplying forces in America. From that modest beginning, over nearly two and a half centuries, the United States Navy has grown into the largest, most advanced, and most formidable maritime fighting force the world has ever known.

In 1972, Chief of Naval Operations Admiral Elmo Zumwalt designated October 13 as the Navy's official birthday. He directed that it be commemorated in a way that would "enhance appreciation of our Navy heritage" and reinforce the "pride and professionalism in the Naval service." His intent was clear: the Navy's birthday should remind every sailor, veteran, and civilian of the legacy we inherit — and the responsibility we carry forward.

Today, we honor that heritage — a legacy written by generations of sailors who stood watch on distant seas, advanced our nation's interests, and upheld the values that define the Naval service. From the age of sail to the era of nuclear propulsion and unmanned systems, the Navy has continually adapted, innovated, and led. Its strength has never rested solely in ships or technology, but in the character, discipline, and resolve of the men and women who wear the uniform.

As we celebrate October 13, we honor a service that has safeguarded our shores, projected power across the globe, and upheld the ideals of liberty for 251 years. May this day renew our appreciation for the Navy's heritage and strengthen our pride in the institution that continues to stand as a symbol of American strength and resolve.

This activity supports the U.S. military and its veterans; however, it is not officially connected to or endorsed by the U.S. Department of Defense or any of its branches.