



01 JULY 2026



MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE AMERICAN LEGION POST 501 WOODBURY, MN

Commander's Corner

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 we end the 2026 membership year our Post had 120 renewed members. We came close to making our membership goal this year, but it was a standout year for signing up new members and transfers into our Post. If you know a veteran that is looking at giving back to the community Post 501 is the place to make that happen. Our Post continues to support the local High School Legion baseball, Boys State participation, Christian Cupboard, Big Marine Veteran Camp, AFJROTC scholarships, and many other activities in the Woodbury community.

Let's get a jump on the year by going to www.legion.org and renew your membership. We need to strive for a 100% renewal rate for the 2025/26 membership year.

Do not wait until the last minute to do it.

The Fourth of July is more than a celebration — it is a reminder of the courage, hope, and determination that shaped our nation.

On this day, Americans claimed the freedom they had long dreamed of, and the promise of liberty began to take root in the hearts of generations to come.

As we gather with family and friends, it is also a moment to honor the men and women who have worn our nation's uniform — past and present. Their service has protected the freedoms first declared in 1776, and their sacrifices have kept the spirit of independence alive.

This Independence Day, take a moment to reach out to the veterans and servicemembers you know. A simple message of gratitude can mean more than you realize. Let them know that their courage, their dedication, and their sacrifices continue to inspire us all.



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Post Elections

At our 25th June meeting we elected new Post officers for the 2026/27 season. Below is the complete roster of Post 501 Officers that were confirmed:

- Commander: Bob Dolan
- Vice Commander: JoAnne Kramer
- Sergeant at Arms: Stacy Ferguson
- Finance Officer: Teresa Skinner
- Chaplin: Bob Wuggazer
- Service Officer: Paul Lindahl

Being a Post officer is a great way to contribute not only to the Legion, but veterans and the Woodbury community. We have an opening for Adjutant. If interested let me know.

**JOINT VFW/AMERICAN
LEGION ANNUAL PICNIC**

In giving back to our members the Woodbury Legion and VFW Posts will be jointly hosting the Annual Veterans Picnic on 18 August, 3:00 to 09:00 pm, at Carver Lake Park. The picnic is free and open to all Legion & VFW members and their families. If you can bring an appetizer, salad, or dessert to share that would be greatly appreciated.

If you plan on attending, I need to know how many people from your household will be at the picnic by 31 July. The picnic organizer needs to get an accurate head count to order enough meat. Hope to see you there.



CHRISTMAS IN JULY

As I mentioned at our last Post meeting the Woodbury Chamber of Commerce will be assisting us in our Toys for Tots drive this year, by promoting a Christmas in July toy drive. The Chamber is asking all of its members that attend the Good Morning Woodbury & After-Hours events in July, and August to bring a toy.

I would like for our Post to be present at these events to talk about our Post activities and collect the toys. Our Vice Commander JoAnne Kramer attended the Good Morning Woodbury and myself and our Membership Officer Bruce Nettleton attended the After Hours events in June. We collected a couple bags of toys, and promoted Boys State to New Life Academy.

If you have time to volunteer for one of the below events, please let me know:

- 9 July - 8-10am - Good Morning Woodbury - LifeLine Chiropractic
- 21 July - 4-6pm - After Hours - The Wick
- 6 Aug - 8-10am - Good Morning Woodbury - Neyens Law
- 18 Aug - 4-6pm - After Hours - The ParT Barn

I plan to attend as many as possible, but would be grateful for some backup.



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POPPY DAYS SEPTEMBER 2026

Our second distribution of poppies will be on 11-13 Sept, led by Legion Post 501. Shortly I will be sending an email to Post volunteers for the Sept dates. Poppy distribution is a major source of revenue for both Posts and is used to support veterans, active-duty military personnel and their families with medical and financial needs, local scholarships, Boys State, and Woodbury charities that promote veterans' care.

Volunteers play a crucial role in ensuring the success of this event. In recent Poppy Days, we have faced a shortage of volunteers to man our sites. Closing sites due to insufficient volunteers would hinder the revenue our Posts generate from this fund raising initiative. I sincerely hope I can count on your support for September's Poppy Day event.



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VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY: MILITARY VETERANS IN HOSPICE -
WOODBURY/LAKE ELMO

Are you a good listener? Do you appreciate reminiscing with older folks and hearing stories from their past? Or helping them with household tasks, playing cribbage or listening to music?

As a Veteran Volunteer, you share important life experiences that may help you bring comfort and joy to our military veterans in hospice. And while you're lifting their spirits, you fill your own heart as well.

Volunteers are trained and supported to make the most of the experience! Opportunities for sharing, processing and collaboration offered.

Time Commitment: A few hours per month

Participation Requirements: Background check. Attend orientation and complete initial training, plus annual training requirement. Good listener. Non-judgmental. Self-awareness around issues of death and dying and willingness to reflect, learn and grow.

Katie Uphus, Lifespark Hospice Volunteer Manager will be a speaker at our July Post meeting for more information on this volunteer opportunity. You can also contact her at Kuphus@lifespark.com or 952-737-4338 if you cannot attend.



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WOUNDED WARRIOR SOLDIER RIDE

The 9th Annual Wounded Warrior Project Soldier Ride to start the day 2 ride at the Woodbury City Hall/Veterans Memorial at 9:00 am Saturday July 25th 2026! Come out and cheer on 40 of Minnesota's Wounded Warriors as they ride an 18-mile route, with Woodbury Police/Fire escorts, through the streets of Woodbury! Line the route and cheer on our Wounded Warriors as they ride bikes (adapted to their injuries as needed).



WOODBURY POST 501 LEGION BASEBALL

Post 501 supports the Woodbury & East Ridge Legion baseball teams through a donation to their organizations. This year we will be cheering on the teams on 1 July at 5 pm at East Ridge High School & 11 July at 3:30 pm at Woodbury High School. Join us in supporting our Legion teams.



Upcoming Events

- 23 July (Thursday) – Woodbury Post 501 Monthly Meeting: The Post’s July meeting will be held at Jerry’s Foods (second floor) conference room 1 at 6:30 pm.
- 10 Aug (Monday) – Woodbury Lions Golf Tournament: The Woodbury Lions Golf Tournament in Memory of Dick Stafford will be held on August 11, at Eagle Valley Golf Course.
- 18 Aug (Tuesday) – Joint VFW/American Legion Annual Picnic – The Woodbury Legion and VFW Posts will be jointly hosting our Joint Veterans Picnic on 18 August, 3:00 to 09:00 pm, at Carver Lake Park. The picnic is free and open to all Legion & VFW members and their families. If you plan on attending let me know as we are trying to get an accurate head count. Hope to see you there.
- 28-30 Aug – Woodbury Days & Parade: Everyone loves a parade and your American Legion Post 501 and VFW Post 9024 will be in this year’s Woodbury Days parade. If you would like to be part of our float let me know. Like last year the Post will be having a booth at Woodbury Days. Come by to see your fellow Post members or volunteer to man the booth. It’s a lot of fun.
- 27 August (Thursday) – Woodbury Post 501 Monthly Meeting: The Post’s June meeting will be held at Jerry’s Foods (second floor) conference room 1 at 6:30 pm.
- 11-13 September – Poppy Days



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This Month in History – 4 July – Independence Day

Independence Day is more than a date on the calendar — it is the anniversary of a bold and world-changing declaration. On July 4, 1776, the delegates of the Second Continental Congress affirmed that the Thirteen Colonies would no longer bow to the rule of King George III. With courage that still echoes through the centuries, they proclaimed that we are — and forever shall be — **a free and independent nation.**

That moment did not simply create a new government. It ignited a spirit. A spirit of liberty. A spirit of possibility. A spirit that reminds every generation that freedom must be cherished, protected, and passed forward.

From that first Fourth of July to today, Americans have celebrated this birth of independence with fireworks, parades, music, and gatherings of family and friends. These traditions are more than festivities — they are a reminder of the extraordinary gift we were given and the responsibility we share to keep its flame burning bright.

As we celebrate our Country's 250th birthday, let's take a moment to reflect on the courage of those who signed their names to the Declaration, knowing the risks but believing in the promise of a better future. Their bravery laid the foundation for the nation we call home.

Join us for the Woodbury fireworks display at the M Health Fairview Sports Center around 10 PM. Bring your family, your friends, and your sense of wonder — and let's watch the sky light up in honor of the nation that continues to inspire the world.



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.

<https://americanlegionpost501.org/>