



01 APRIL 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: Tim Crear  
Chaplain: Mike Zerr

### Membership Update

As of today, we have 116 renewals for the 2026 membership year. Based on this year's goal of 126 we are at 92.1 %.

Help us to continue our outstanding support to the Woodbury community & veterans by going to [www.legion.org](http://www.legion.org) to renew your membership today. Remember the membership year runs from 1 July to 30 June, with a 6-month grace period.

### Commander's Corner

Since the Joint Annual Banquet, there has been a lull in our activities. However, as we enter May, our events and activities will begin to pick up. In the upcoming months, we will host our first Poppy Days, celebrate Memorial Day, and honor cadets during the Woodbury AFJROTC Awards Ceremony.

Additionally, we are collaborating with Middleton Elementary School for a field trip to the Woodbury Veterans Memorial, where we will discuss the significance of Memorial Day with the students.

We hope you can join the Post for any or all of these events. It's a wonderful opportunity to connect with fellow veterans and the Woodbury community.



## Poppy Days 2026

Like last year, we'll be holding two poppy distributions on:

- May 15–17, organized by VFW Post 9024,
- and September 11–13, led by the American Legion.

I'll be sending out an email soon to gather volunteers for the May event, but in the meantime, please mark your calendars to support these major fundraisers. We need plenty of volunteers to make this annual event a success, as the proceeds are vital for continuing our support in the Woodbury community and for the many Legion programs we're involved in.



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**# Eagle Scout of the Year**

Post 501 is thrilled to announce that Michael Korf has been chosen as the American Legion Minnesota Department Eagle Scout of the Year. This prestigious award will be presented during the MN American Legion Department Convention in July.

Michael's application will be submitted to the American Legion Headquarters for consideration at the national level.



**Best of luck!**

**NEW POST 501 MEETING LOCATION**

Starting in April our Post meetings will be moving to Jerry's Foods, located at the corner of Radio Dr and Bailey Rd, for the next 18-24 months. This is due to the construction work on the Public Safety building and the staff moving to temporary spaces in the Woodbury City Hall.

During this time our meeting will be either in conference room 1 or 2. Both conference rooms are located on the second floor of Jerry's. Our meetings will start at the normal time of 6:30 pm. Due to Jerry's proximity to Third Act Brewery, we can adjourn there for a cold one.



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**AMERICAN LEGION NIGHT AT CHS FIELD**

Join the Minnesota American Legion Family on May 22 at CHS Field as we kick off Memorial Day weekend with a heartfelt celebration of baseball and tribute! Witness Commander Linda Dvorak throw the first pitch and enjoy the inspiring presentation of colors by the New Prague Veterans Honor Guard during the performance of the "Star-Spangled Banner."



The Legion has secured a large block of seats along the first base line. You can purchase tickets at [mnlegion.org](http://mnlegion.org); simply look for the St. Paul Saints Game under the Events tab. I hope to see you there!

**Upcoming Events**

- **22 April – Woodbury Post 501 Monthly Meeting:** The Post’s April meeting will be held at Jerry’s Foods (second floor) conference room 2 at 6:30 pm.
- 15-17 May – Poppy Days
- **27 May – Woodbury Post 501 Monthly Meeting:** The Post’s May meeting will be held at Jerry’s Foods (second floor) conference room 2 at 6:30 pm.
- **25 May – Memorial Day:** Join us for a Memorial Day program at the Woodbury Veterans Memorial. The event starts at 11 am.
- **25 June – 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.

## Did You Know – The Great Seabee Train Robbery

On September 15, 1950, American troops landed at Inchon and began fighting their way eastward toward the capital city of Seoul, Korea. From the air it was observed that 8 switcher locomotives were trapped behind enemy lines in a small town named Yong Dong Po, located a few miles away. Seabees from Amphibious Construction Battalion One volunteered to retrieve the locomotives and bring them behind the U.S. Marine lines. Chief Petty Officer E.A. Sidney, a Seabee veteran and former railroad man, volunteered to get the locomotives. Most reports say that Sidney took 8 others with him, and there are records of 3 men, Donald T. Bloomer, Walter Horn, and Gordon K. Barnett, receiving Navy Commendation Ribbons in 1951 for this action.



Upon reaching the trapped locomotives in Yong Dong Po, the men realized the trains were sitting at the switching yard for Kirin Brewery and proceeded to load 15 cases of beer and sake onto the trains. As they headed towards the safety of the U.S. Marine lines, several broken rails had to be repaired by the Seabees along the way. Shortly after starting the engines, the North Korean infantry noticed the movement and began to fire rifles and machine guns at the moving locomotives. Minutes later, North Korean mortars began dropping shells on the trains, and shrapnel fragments showered the locomotive cabs and boilers as they moved. The men ducked down and kept moving towards the area occupied by the U.S. Marines.

Marines of the First Division were unaware this was going on and upon seeing the locomotives approaching from behind enemy lines, the Marines set up a bazooka along the track to blow the trains up. Marines also began firing shells and bullets at the approaching trains. A young Marine private named Crestfallen noticed the men driving the trains were wearing green fatigues with a GI cut, and said “Hold your fire! Wait a second, these guys aren’t North Koreans!” He shook head and said to his WWII veteran platoon sergeant, “Imagine that, Sarge, there was a bunch of “doggies” out ahead of us.” “Naw,” the sergeant said, “it’s just them damned Seabees at it again!”



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.