



01 FEBRUARY 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 112 renewals for the 2026 membership year. Based on this year's goal of 126 we are at 88.9 %.

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**

At the start of each of our Legion monthly meetings we recite the American Legion Preamble, Preamble to the Constitution | The American Legion.

Have you ever sat down to think about what these words mean? The preamble is how we hail The American Legion as an unparalleled force in these United States for social betterment and devotion to mutual helpfulness.

Today, America is extending its helpful hands all over the world through our assistance programs of foreign aid. It all came about because the veterans of World War I came home enriched with wonderful ties of friendship and gave those ties a meaning by consecrating them to the ideal of mutual helpfulness.

The American Legion Preamble has been the beacon light of The American Legion for more than 100 years. Remember this as we go about our lives and Legion business.



### **Boys State 2026**

The Woodbury American Legion Post 501 is looking for candidates from local Woodbury high schools for the 75th Annual American Legion Boys State, taking place June 14–20, 2026, at St. John's University in Collegeville, Minnesota.

Boys State offers a hands-on learning experience in local and state government, where participants use their school knowledge and guidance from instructors to create and run their own city, county, and state governments. The week focuses on civic leadership, pride in citizenship, understanding our government, and democratic ideals, with activities like political speakers, mock trials, campaigning, elections, and announcing the Boys State Governor and State Constitution Officers.



Applicants must be high school juniors, rank in the upper part of their class, and live in Woodbury, though Woodbury residents attending school elsewhere may also apply through Post 501. Interested junior boys should contact their school guidance counselors, with applications due to Post 501 by April 1, 2026. Selected candidates will be notified by May 1, 2026.

For more information on Boys State, you can go to their web site at:  
<http://www.mnboysstate.org/>

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**ANNUAL AWARDS BANQUET**

The American Legion Post 501 & VFW Post 9024 will be having our annual Joint Awards Banquet at the Green Mill Restaurant on 19 Feb 2026. As a Legion Post we will be presenting a Veterans Memorial paver certificate to a military veteran in the Woodbury Public Safety Department and announcing our Eagle Scout of the Year award recipient. The banquet starts at 5pm with a social hour, dinner at 6:15 pm (free to you) and the awards presentation at 7pm.

If you have not RSVP'ed please do so by **10 February** so we can get an accurate head count.



**AARP TAX AIDE PROGRAM**

It's that time of the year again. Doing taxes can be a challenging task with all of the changes to the tax law each year. AARP Foundation Tax-Aide volunteers provide free tax assistance with several preparation options Feb. 1 through April 15. Take advantage of this free service and locate the nearest Tax Aide site in your area by going to: <https://www.aarp.org/money/taxes/aarp-taxaide/locations/>

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LEGIONVILLE 2026

Registration for Legionville is now open!

Like last year the Woodbury American Legion is sponsoring 2 students to attend the Legionville Summer Camp in Brainerd, MN. It is a camp for 9-13 yr olds and is focused on safety training, camping, swimming, and first aid. This is the third year that we are being part of this wonderful summer program. The 2 young men that we sent last year had a ball.

If you have any children or grandchildren that reside in Woodbury, please take advantage of this summer camp offered by your Legion Post. The 1st session starts on 1 June and the last session ends on 31 July.

If you think that you have anyone who might be interested let me know.



Upcoming Events

- **19 Feb - Joint Awards Banquet:** The annual Joint Awards Banquet will be held on 19 Feb at the Green Mill restaurant. More information will be passed as we get closer to this event.
- **26 February – Woodbury Post 501 Monthly Meeting:** The Post's February meeting will be held at the Woodbury City Hall in the Ash North (main floor) conference room at 6:30 pm.
- **26 March – Woodbury Post 501 Monthly Meeting:** The Posts March meeting will be held at the Woodbury City Hall in the Ash North (main floor) conference room at 6:30 PM.



**DID YOU KNOW**

Charles Schulz, the creator of the Peanuts comic strip, served in the United States Army during World War II from 1943 to 1946. He was a decorated combat veteran who reached the rank of Staff Sergeant and served as a light machine gun squad leader in the 20th Armored Division in Europe.

Mr. Schulz was drafted in early 1943, shortly after his mother passed away from cancer. He completed basic training at Camp Campbell, Kentucky, where he was assigned to the 8th Armored Infantry Battalion, 20th Armored Division. He was shipped to Europe in February 1945, arriving in Le Havre, France, just before the end of the war. His unit trekked 1,400 miles through France, Belgium, and Germany, and participated in the liberation of the Dachau concentration camp.



As a machine gun squad leader, Schulz saw action in the final months of the war. He was awarded the Combat Infantryman Badge (CIB) for actively fighting under fire, a distinction he considered his proudest possession. He later recalled a moment where he had a chance to fire his machine gun at German soldiers but realized he had forgotten to load it; the soldiers surrendered anyway. Charles Schulz was honorably discharged in January 1946.

Mr. Schulz frequently stated that his time in the army taught him "all I needed to know about loneliness". He channeled these experiences into the character of Charlie Brown. His wartime experience influenced the creation of Snoopy's persona as the "World War I Flying Ace," which allowed him to explore the themes of war and combat.

Throughout his life, Charles Schulz honored his military service and fellow veterans, specifically with D-Day and Veterans Day-themed strips, and he donated \$1 million to the construction of the National D-Day Memorial in Virginia.



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.