



01 JANUARY 2026

Happy
New Year



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:

We have 105 renewals for the 2026 membership year. Based on this year's goal of 126 we are at 83.3%. We are slightly ahead of the monthly renewal rate set by MN Department.

As a reminder your annual dues helps us fund the various activities and local charities that we support such as the local High School Legion baseball, Boys State participation, Christian Cupboard, Big Marine Veteran Camp, AF JROTC scholarships and many more activities within the Woodbury Area.

Let's continue to support all of these great activities by renewing your membership. It's fast & easy by going to www.legion.org. Do not wait until the last minute to do it.

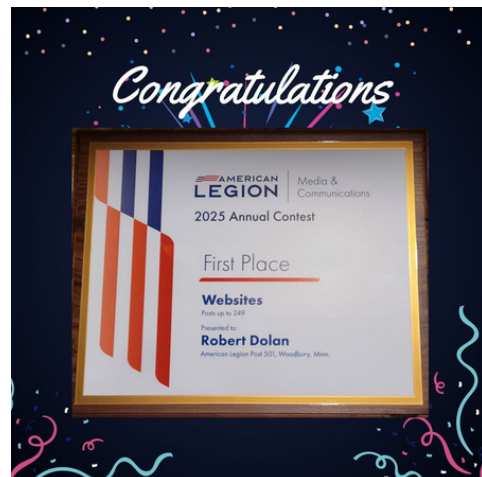
COMMANDER'S CORNER

2025 was another tremendous year for our Post. We started the New Year accepting the Non-Profit of the Year award from the Woodbury Chamber of Commerce, partnered with Talamore Senior Living and Valley Creek Mall for a very successful Toys for Tots drive.

We also got out into the community with involvement in the Woodbury Newcomers event, Northern Tap Room, Woodbury Days parade and fair booth, sponsored an Eagle Scout project at Talamore Senior Living and participated in numerous Memorial & Veterans Day activities in Woodbury. Our Post also won first place in the American Legion for our web site and capped off our year with another successful Wall of Thanks.

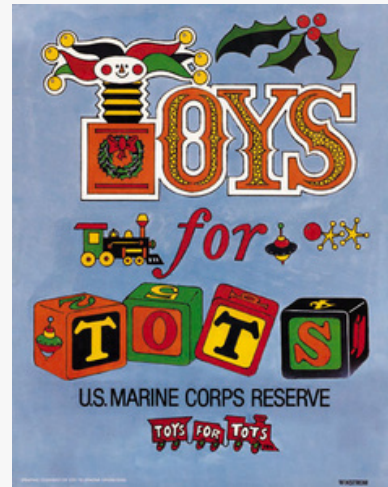
Check out the 2025 recap video on our Post Facebook page or the link that I provided in the email.

None of this would be possible without the participation from our Post members. Here's to all that we can accomplish in 2026.



Toys for Tots

Talamore Senior Living Woodbury and the American Legion Woodbury Post 501 Toys for Tots collection drive was extremely successful. Santa's sleigh made numerous trips to the KARE 11 Toys for Tots drop-off point. Thanks to our partners at Talamore Senior Living - Woodbury & the Valley Creek Mall for making this an outstanding event. It is wonderful to make so many children's Christmas bright.



ANNUAL AWARDS BANQUET

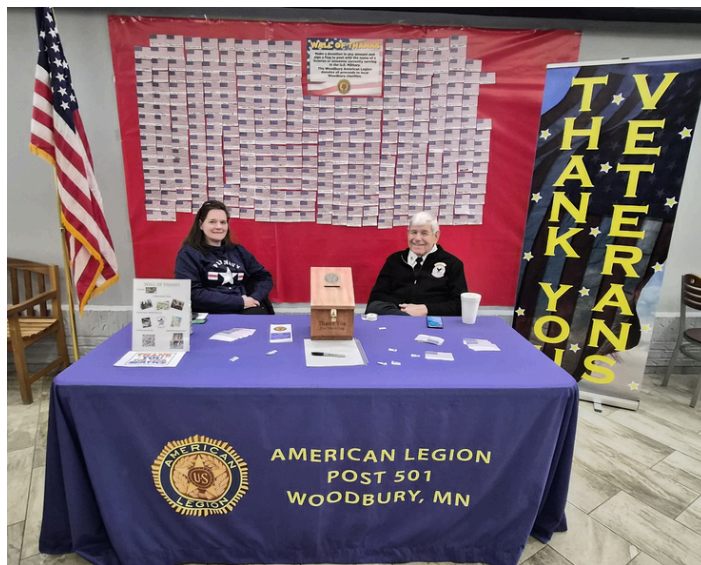
The American Legion Post 501 & VFW Post 9024 will be having our annual Joint Awards Banquet at the Green Mill Restaurant on 19 Feb 2026. As a Legion Post we will be presenting a Veterans Memorial paver certificate to a Woodbury Public Safety military veteran and our Eagle Scout of the Year award. The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

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WALL OF THANKS

Another successful Wall of Thanks has come to a close. We raised enough money for our charities to have a very merry Christmas and had over 300 veterans posted on the Wall. Thanks to Legion member Tim Crear for organizing this event for the Post. This is a great outreach event to the local community to let them know what our Post does within Woodbury.



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POST OFFICERS NEEDED

The life blood of any Post is its members, but it takes a group of dedicated members, as Post officers, to make things run smoothly and keep the lights on. A few of our members are currently performing in multiple Post officer positions and this cannot be maintained long term for the Post to remain as a viable activity. I am asking if you can find the time, I am looking for people for the following position:

Adjutant:

- Is the primary administrative officer for the Post
- Central point of contact for the Post
- Maintains Post records
- Post meeting set up to include meeting agenda, meeting minutes, & annual conference room scheduling
- Pick up & distribution of Post mail
- Assembles & submits annual Post reports

We can start you as an assistant and work up into the full position duties over time. If you interested in becoming more involved in the Post, give me a call at (703) 851-5416.

Upcoming Events

- **22 January – Woodbury Post 501 Monthly Meeting:** The Posts January meeting will be held at the Woodbury City Hall in the Ash North (main floor) conference room at 6:30 PM.
- **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.

THIS MONTH IN HISTORY – FAMOUS NEW DAYS BATTLES

Several famous battles occurred on New Year's Day, notably the bloody Battle of Stones River (1863) in the American Civil War, a costly Union victory; the Confederate success at the Battle of Galveston (1863); and in Vietnam, a significant engagement known as the Battle of FSB Burt (1968), part of the larger Tet Offensive, which began around that time and featured attacks on New Year (Lunar New Year).

American Civil War

- Battle of Stones River (Dec 31, 1862 - Jan 2, 1863): A brutal, high-casualty battle near Murfreesboro, Tennessee, where Union forces under Rosecrans held off a Confederate attack by Bragg, a crucial Union win.
- Battle of Galveston (Jan 1, 1863): Confederate forces under General Magruder recaptured Galveston, Texas, from Union troops, a significant morale boost for the South.

Vietnam War

- Battle of FSB Burt (Jan 1, 1968): A heavy engagement in Tây Ninh province where U.S. forces defended against a large attack by the People's Army of Vietnam (PAVN).
- Tet Offensive (Jan 30-31, 1968): While not on New Year's Day (Gregorian), the massive North Vietnamese and Viet Cong offensive began during the Vietnamese Lunar New Year (Tết), striking U.S. and South Vietnamese targets, fundamentally shifting public opinion.

These battles highlight how holidays, often seen as times of truce, sometimes became strategic opportunities for surprise attacks or bloody clashes, like those seen at Stones River.



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.