



01 AUGUST 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

A new membership year has begun. As of today, we have 62 renewals, marking an excellent beginning. We anticipate learning our renewal target for 2026/2027 soon. With your continued support, we're confident we'll surpass it.

As usual, the most efficient renewal method is via www.legion.org. The earlier you renew, the more time you'll have to enjoy the full range of benefits that come with a Legion membership.

Do not wait until the last minute to do it.

Commander's Corner

Our goal at the Post is to create a meaningful impact on Woodbury's veterans, our members, and the broader community. This year, we are collaborating with the Woodbury Chamber of Commerce to promote and gather toys for our annual Toys for Tots drive. The local business community has shown remarkable support for this initiative.

If you are aware of any worthy causes that our Post should engage with or have ideas for enjoyable activities, please bring them to our next meeting for discussion.

Our Legion programs, events, and community involvement rely heavily on increased participation from our Post members. **We truly need your support!**



Kowalski's Non-Profit Donation Program

Did you know that Kowalski's has contributed over \$2 million to local charities through their Groceries for Good Causes (GFGC) initiative? The purpose of GFGC is to directly support the community surrounding each store by aiding nonprofit organizations such as schools, churches, food shelves, youth support groups, and Animal Humane Societies, among others. These local organizations then utilize the funds to assist those in need.

This year, American Legion Post 501 has become one of the beneficiaries of Kowalski's GFGC program. To contribute, simply keep your receipt when checking out and deposit it into the American Legion Woodbury Post 501 box. This is another fantastic way to support your Post and the various projects and activities we are engaged in.



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 as soon as possible. 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, and I was at the After Hours gathering in July. 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:

- 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 poppy distribution is scheduled for September 11-13, organized by Legion Post 501. I will soon be reaching out via email to Post volunteers regarding these September dates. The distribution of poppies is a significant revenue source for both Posts, which helps support veterans, active-duty military personnel, and their families with medical and financial assistance, local scholarships, Boys State, and Woodbury charities dedicated to veterans' care.

Volunteers are essential to the success of this event. In previous Poppy Days, we encountered a shortage of volunteers to staff our sites. Closing locations due to insufficient volunteers could negatively impact the revenue generated from this fundraising initiative.

I hope I can rely on your support for the upcoming Poppy Day event in September.



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WOODBURY DAYS

Join us at Woodbury Days from August 28 to 30, 2026. Woodbury Days is a three-day celebration full of family-friendly fun, designed to unite and honor our wonderful Woodbury community. The event features fantastic entertainment, scrumptious food, and a host of other delightful activities! Along with participating in the parade on the 30th, Post 501 will once again host a booth at the business fair from 28 to 30 Aug. Stop by to converse with fellow members and encourage a veteran to join our esteemed organization.

If you're interested in being a part of our booth and enjoying the festivities, please let me know. More information on this year's Woodbury Days can be seen on <https://www.woodburydays.org>.



WOODBURY POST 501 LEGION BASEBALL

Post 501 supports the Woodbury & East Ridge Legion baseball teams through a donation to their organizations. This year our Post was cheering on the two teams at East Ridge and the one team at Woodbury High School. Next year join in the fun and cheer on the Legion teams and show your support.



Upcoming Events

- 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 meeting will be held at Jerry's Foods (second floor) conference room 1 at 6:30 pm.
- 11-13 September – Poppy Days

This Month in History – 7 Aug – Purple Heart Day

Purple Heart Day is observed on Aug. 7 each year and is a time for Americans to remember and honor the brave men and women who were either wounded on the battlefield, or paid the ultimate sacrifice with their lives. Purple Heart Day is also known as National Purple Heart Day, Purple Heart Recognition Day and Purple Heart Appreciation Day.

In general, the Purple Heart is awarded for injuries sustained because of enemy attack. Injuries sustained for other reasons not related to things “not caused by enemy agents” are generally not acceptable as grounds for receiving the Purple Heart, though friendly fire injuries do qualify as long as the friendly fire was intended for the enemy. The Purple Heart is now given to persons who are injured, wounded or died while a prisoner of war (POW).

Purple Heart Recipients can join The Military Order of the Purple Heart (MOPH) which was formed in 1932. It is composed exclusively of men and women who have received the Purple Heart and is the only veterans service organization with only “combat” veterans as members. It’s estimated that more than a million Purple Hearts have been awarded and there are about 45,000 MOPH members today.

The Purple Heart took many years to evolve into what it is known as today. When General Douglas MacArthur signed General Order #3 establishing the modern Purple Heart, it was not authorized to be awarded to anyone except to those serving in the Army or the Army Air Corps. A presidential order signed in 1942 opened the Purple Heart to all branches of the military including the U.S. Coast Guard.



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.