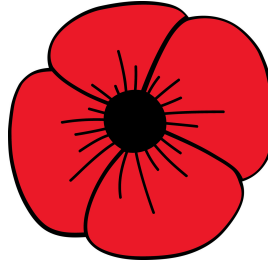




01 MAY 2026



MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE AMERICAN LEGION POST 501 WOODBURY, MN

Commander's Corner

From the American Revolution to the Global War on Terrorism, American veterans have answered the call with unwavering courage. Many made the Supreme Sacrifice, giving their lives so that our Nation could endure. They fell so that we might continue to cherish the pillars that shape us — God, Country, and family.

On Memorial Day, we gather not out of habit, but out of duty. We come together to honor the memory of these fallen warriors — men and women who stood watch so that freedom would never falter. They are, in every sense, the guardians of our liberty.

This year, I hope you will take a moment to honor these extraordinary veterans by visiting Woodbury's cemeteries and seeing the flags placed by American Legion Post 501. Each flag marks a life given in service — a quiet reminder of the price paid for the freedoms we hold dear.

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 118 renewals for the 2026 membership year. Based on this year's goal of 126 we are at 93.6 %. We need 8 more renewals or new members to get to goal.

Let's get this over the finish line. Go to 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.



01 MAY 2026

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE AMERICAN LEGION POST 501 WOODBURY, MN

Poppy Days 2026

We are in full swing with our May Poppy Days (15-17 May) distribution with VFW Post 9024. The sites that we will be at this year are Cub Food, Jerry's, Walmart, Sam's Club, Total Wine, and Hy-Vee in Oakdale.

It is important that we have enough volunteers to cover all of these sites and time slots. If you have not contacted me for a volunteer slot, give me a call at 703-851-5416 or reply to this email.



01 MAY 2026

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE AMERICAN LEGION POST 501 WOODBURY, MN

Boys State 2026

This year's Boys State representatives are Parker Rowley and Andrew Christensen. Boys State offers a hands-on learning experience in local and state government, held on the campus of St. John's University in Collegeville, Minnesota. Past sessions have featured political speakers, mock trials, campaigning, elections, and the announcement of the Boys State Governor and State Constitutional Officers.



It will be exciting to hear their thoughts on their time at Boys State.

MIDDLETON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

In preparation for Memorial Day, the 5th graders at Middleton Elementary School will be taking a field trip to the Woodbury Veterans Memorial on May 20 at 10:00 a.m. The students are eager to learn about the significance of the memorial and the veterans it honors.

I'm looking for Post members to join the greeting party for the students. If you're interested in participating and willing to share your military service experiences, please let me know as soon as possible.



01 MAY 2026

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE AMERICAN LEGION POST 501 WOODBURY, MN

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; simply look for the St. Paul Saints Game under the Events tab. I hope to see you there!

Memorial Day Event 2026

You are invited to honor service men and women, who have paid the ultimate sacrifice for our Country, at the Memorial Day Ceremony Monday, 25 May. This special service will begin at 11:00 am at the Woodbury Veterans Memorial on the City Hall campus. This event is being hosted by the Woodbury V.F.W. Post 9024 & American Legion Post 501.



01 MAY 2026

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE AMERICAN LEGION POST 501 WOODBURY, MN

Upcoming Events

- **12 May – AFJROTC Awards Ceremony** – We will be presenting the American Legion Scholastic Excellence & Military Excellence medals at Woodbury High School in the Auditorium, 2665 Woodlane Dr, Woodbury, beginning at 6:00 p.m.
- **15-17 May – Poppy Days**
- **18 May – Woodbury High School Awards Ceremony** – We will be awarding the Stafford Scholarships to 2 worthy AFJROTC cadets at the WHS Awards Ceremony. Woodbury High School in the Auditorium, 2665 Woodlane Dr, Woodbury, beginning at 6:00 p.m.
- **20 May – Middleton Elementary School** - The 5th graders at the Middleton Elementary school will be having a field trip to the Woodbury Veterans Memorial on 22 May at 10:00 am.
- **25 May – Memorial Day**: Join us for a Memorial Day program at the Woodbury Veterans Memorial. The event starts at 11 am.
- **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 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.

01 MAY 2026

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE AMERICAN LEGION POST 501 WOODBURY, MN

This Month in History – The Poppy Story

After the guns fell silent in World War I, something unexpected rose from the shattered earth of Europe. In the churned soil of France and Belgium – soil brightened by lime from the rubble of war – a small red flower pushed its way toward the sun. From devastation came the poppy, a symbol of resilience born from sacrifice.

Its crimson petals soon came to represent the blood shed on foreign fields, carried into the hearts of millions through Lieutenant Colonel John McCrae’s powerful poem “In Flanders Fields.” Written on the front lines, his words transformed a simple wildflower into a lasting emblem of remembrance.

On September 27, 1920, The American Legion adopted the poppy as its official flower, honoring those who fought and fell in service to our nation. Just four years later, the poppy became part of a national program – a living tribute carried forward by the hands of volunteers.

Each year, members of The American Legion Family share these red poppies with the public, asking only that those who receive them offer a donation to support veterans, active-duty service members, and their families. Every poppy given, every dollar donated, becomes a promise: that we will care for those who have borne the battle.

Poppy Day is now observed around the world, and in the United States it is recognized on the Friday before Memorial Day – a moment to pause, reflect, and honor the cost of freedom.

On May 28, wear a red poppy. Wear it for the fallen. Wear it for the living. Wear it as a reminder that from sacrifice grows hope – and that it is our duty to carry that hope forward.



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/>