

01 DECEMBER 2023



## MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE AMERICAN LEGION POST 501 WOODBURY, MN

### COMMANDER'S CORNER

#### **Post 501 Leadership**

Commander: Bob Dolan  
Vice Commander: JoAnne Kramer  
Finance: Bob Wuggazer  
Membership: Bruce Nettleton  
Sergeant at Arms: Tim Crear  
Chaplain: Mike Zerr

#### **Membership Update:**

As of today, we have 104 renewals for the 2024 membership year. Based on this year's goal of 133 we are at 78.2%, which is fabulous.

As a heads up National will be raising their portion of the dues to \$5 along with the MN Department and Third District with a \$3 and \$2 increase respectively starting in the 2025 membership year. As you renew your 2024 membership you have the option to renew for multiple years. This will allow you to lock in the current dues of \$39 for a few years.

This is a special month of the year when we gather with family members and friends to celebrate Christmas, Hanukkah, or another religious holiday. In another month, we will ring in a new year filled with joy, optimism and perhaps even inspiration to make good on our resolutions.

The special gatherings, delicious food and warm company will fill our hearts. Just as important as it is to remember these special moments, let us not forget the individuals who go above and beyond. Let us remember our brothers and sisters who made the ultimate sacrifice in serving our nation those that are serving today protecting our freedoms.

Thank you from the bottom of my heart for your selfless service that improves the lives of veterans, children, their families and the communities in which they live. I wish you and your loved one's good health, a very Merry Holiday Season and a Happy New Year.



American Legion Post 501 at the Newcomer event

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**Thanksgiving Day Meals**

Partnering with Basic Needs, Post 501 members delivered Thanksgiving Day meals to needy families in Woodbury. This is the second year that we participated in this great event. The meals were prepared by Tinucci's restaurant in Newport.



**Veterans Day**

We had a busy few days attending the Woodbury High School, East Ridge High School, a flag raising at the Talamore & New Perspective Senior Living facilities and a short Veterans Day program at the Woodbury Veterans Memorial. Enjoy the collage of pictures from the various events.



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**Post 501 Blood Drive**



**American  
Red Cross**

Posts have held blood drives and Legion members given blood since community service became an American value. It's only natural that The American Legion - with community services one of its pillars - be heavily involved in blood donation efforts.

Legionnaires can participate by individually giving blood and reporting it to their posts, which mark the donation on their annual Consolidated Posts Reports. Similarly, Posts can host blood drives and mark their participation on their Consolidated Post Reports, listing number of drives held and total pints donated (for Legionnaires and non-Legionnaires).

I have been in contact with the local American Red Cross to hold a blood drive, hosted by Post 501, in early Spring 2024 at the Woodbury City Hall. The biggest step that needs to be taken is to get commitment from 30 potential donors to start the planning process. I have been talking with the Woodbury Lions Club to be part of this blood drive to assist in getting to the needed donor commitment level.

If you would like to participate or family member in donating blood contact me directly through email or call at 703-651-5416.

**AMERICAN LEGION SCHOLARSHIP**

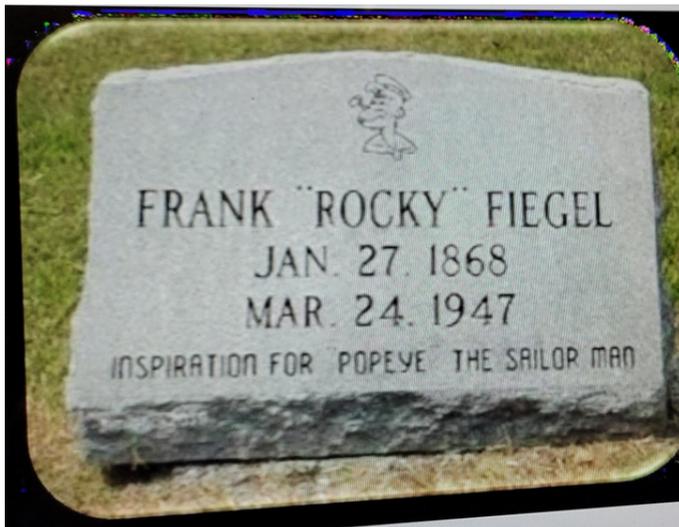


It is not too soon to talk about college scholarships. Being a member of the American Legion gives you access to the American Legion Scholarship. The purpose of this scholarship, sponsored by The Minnesota American Legion Foundation, is to provide financial assistance to students to further their education in any Minnesota University, College, Vocational school, or other accredited institutions of higher education, or in states with a Minnesota reciprocity agreement. The main qualification for this scholarship is to be a legal descendent of a member of the American Legion or American Legion Auxiliary. The application deadline is 1 April 2024. For more information/application on the American Legion Scholarship go to [mnlegion.org/scholarships](http://mnlegion.org/scholarships). Take advantage of your Legion benefits.

### Did You Know – Popeye the Sailor Man

His real name was Frank "Rocky" Fiegel. He was born in 1868 in Poland and, as a child, immigrated to the United States with his parents, who settled down in a small town in Illinois. As a young man, Rocky went to sea. After a 20-year career as a sailor in the Merchant Marines, Fiegel retired. He was later hired by Wiebusch's Tavern in the city of Chester, Illinois as a 'Bouncer' to maintain order in the rowdy bar. Rocky quickly developed a reputation for always being involved in fighting (and usually winning). As a result, he had a deformed eye ("Pop-eye"). He also 'always' smoked his pipe, so he always spoke out of one side of his mouth. In his spare time as a Bouncer, Rocky would entertain the customers by regaling them with exciting stories of adventures he claimed to have had over his career as a sailor crossing the 'Seven Seas.'

The creator of Popeye, Elzie Crisler Segar, grew up in Chester and, as a young man, met Rocky at the tavern and would sit for hours listening to the old sailor's amazing 'sea stories.' Years later, Segar became a cartoonist and developed a comic strip called 'Thimble Theater.' He honored Fiegel by asking if he could model his new comic strip character, 'Popeye the Sailor Man,' after him. Naturally Fiegel was flattered and agreed. Segar claimed that 'Olive Oyl,' along with other characters, was also loosely based on an actual person. She was Dora Paskel, owner of a small grocery store in Chester. She apparently actually looked much like the Olive Oyl character in his comics. He claimed she even dressed much the same way. Through the years, Segar kept in touch with Rocky and always helped him with money; giving him a small percentage of what he earned from his 'Popeye' illustrations. Who knew he was a real man??



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### Upcoming Events

- **21 December – Woodbury Post 501 Monthly Meeting:** The Posts December meeting will be held at the Woodbury City Hall in the Ash North (main floor) conference room at 6:30pm. Come join us for some Christmas cheer after the meeting.
- **25 January – Woodbury Post 501 Monthly Meeting:** The Posts January meeting will be held at Birdie Golf, located in the Valley Creek Mall, conference room at 6:30pm.
- **22 Feb - Joint Awards Banquet:** The annual Joint Awards Banquet will be held on 22 Feb at the Green Mill restaurant. More information will be passed as we get closer to this event.



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.

**Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays**