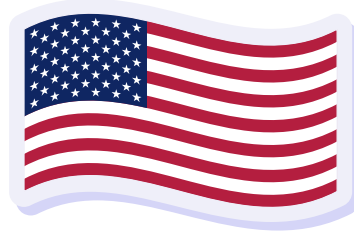




01 JUNE 2026



## 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 119 renewals for the 2026 membership year. Based on this year's goal of 126 we are at 94.4 %. We need 7 more renewals or new members to get to goal.

Let's get this over the finish line. Go 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

May has been an extraordinary month for Post 501. From the AFJROTC Medal Award Ceremony, our first of the year Poppy Days, the Woodbury High School Senior Awards, two wonderful events with the Middleton Elementary students, flag placement at three Woodbury cemeteries, and finally culminating in the Memorial Day ceremony at the Woodbury Veterans Memorial – every moment carried purpose.

None of it would have been possible without the dedication of our Post volunteers. **Your time, your heart, and your willingness to show up are what make these events come alive.** You are the steady hands behind every flag placed, every medal presented, every student inspired, and every veteran honored.

Thank you for giving so much of yourselves to our community and to one another.



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**Poppy Days 2026**

Thanks to the Woodbury community, the Woodbury AFJROTC cadets and all of the volunteers from American Legion Post 501 & Woodbury VFW Post 9024 for making this a great Poppy Days. Enjoy some of the pictures from this year's event.



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**MIDDLETON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

Post 501 Commander Bob Dolan and Vice Commander JoAnne Kramer were invited to speak with the 5th-grade students at Woodbury's Middleton Elementary School, offering an overview of Memorial Day and the traditions of our military services.

The students were attentive, engaged, and asked thoughtful questions throughout the presentation.

The program concluded with a field trip to the Veterans Memorial, where students had the opportunity to tour the site and speak directly with several of our Woodbury American Legion veterans. It was a meaningful experience for the students and our veterans and a valuable opportunity to connect them with the legacy of service honored in our community.



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**AFJROTC AWARDS & STAFFORD SCHOLARSHIP**

Master Sargent Kathy Cotto presided over the 2026 Air Force Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (AFJROTC) award program on 12 May at the Woodbury High School. American Legion Post 501 Commander Bob Dolan proudly presented the Legion’s ROTC General Military Excellence Medal to Cadet Joshua Crislip – a well-earned recognition of leadership, discipline, and commitment.

The Scholastic Achievement Medal was awarded to Cadet Olivia Olson, whose outstanding academic performance set a high standard for the entire corps. Although she was unable to attend the ceremony, her achievement was celebrated with enthusiasm.

Commander Dolan also had the honor of presenting the Richard Stafford Scholarship to Cadets Alexandra Sadowski & Joshua Crislip, recognizing their dedication, character, and exceptional promise.

Congratulations to all of our AFJROTC cadets. Your hard work, your drive, and your example make us proud. Truly well deserved.



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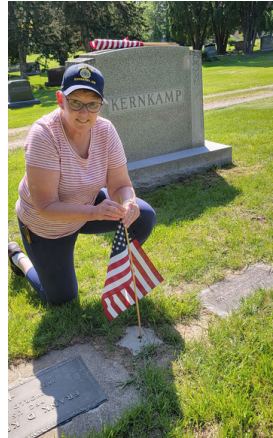
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**FLAG PLANTING AT WOODBURY  
CEMETERIES**

The decade-long annual tradition of placing flags at the headstone of fallen veterans was conducted by Woodbury Post Vice Commander JoAnne Kramer, Post 501 member Bert Christenson and Legion Auxiliary member Patricia Dolan at Salem Lutheran, St. John's Lutheran and United Methodist cemeteries in Woodbury. Flags are planted at veteran marked headstones to remember them and honor their service and sacrifice.



**Memorial Day Event 2026**

The Woodbury Memorial Day ceremony was another fabulous event. It would not be a Memorial Day event without the participation of the Woodbury AFJROTC unit, Patriotic Heritage Allegiant Honor Guard, and Boys Scout Troop 559. Dwight Dorau, Col USAF gave the main address with welcoming comments from Woodbury Mayor Pro-Tem Jennifer Santini.



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

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**JOINT VFW/AMERICAN LEGION ANNUAL PICNIC**

In giving back to our members 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.



**JOINT ANNUAL PICNIC**

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Woodbury Legion and VFW Posts will be jointly hosting our annual Veterans Picnic from 4:00 to 09:00 pm, at Carver Lake Park on 18 August.

The picnic is free and open to all Legion & VFW members and their families. Contact Bob Fritsche at seabee.67.70@gmail.com by 31 July if you plan on attending.

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

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### ELECTION OF POST OFFICERS

At our June Post meeting we will be electing Post officers for the coming year. 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 positions:

- **Sargent at Arms: (1 hr. per month)**

- o Setting up the meeting room
- o Welcoming new members
- o Laying of the POW/MIA flag at Post meetings

- **Adjutant: (3-5 hrs. per month)**

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

- **Chaplin: (2-3 hrs. per month)**

- o Conduct opening & closing prayers at Post meetings
- o Coordinate Buddy Checks
- o Send condolence & sympathy cards to Post members

- **Historian: (1-2 hrs. per month)**

- o Maintains the Post historical documents
- o Maintains copies of news articles that highlight Post activities during the year

If you interested in becoming more involved in the Post, give me a call at (703) 851-5416 and we can discuss.



### Upcoming Events

- **13 Jun (Saturday) – Flag Burning Ceremony:** The American Legion adopted a resolution in 1937 for the ritual of destruction of unserviceable American Flags in a dignified manner. The flags that are collected at the Woodbury City Hall and other collection sites are disposed of at an annual ceremony at the Veterans Rest Camp at Big Marine Lake, Marine on St. Croix. The event includes the Posting of Colors, Presentation of Flags for Disposal, Inspection of Flags, Certification that the flags are unserviceable and finally with the burning of several thousand of flags collected across Washington County. This is a very a moving and dignified tribute to our proud American Flag. Please join us at this year’s ceremony, which starts at 12pm. After the event there will be a potluck picnic. Please bring a shareable dish for the potluck.
- **25 June (Thursday) – 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.
- **23 July (Thursday) – Woodbury Post 501 Monthly Meeting:** The Post’s July meeting will be held at Jerry’s Foods (second floor) conference room 1 at 6:30 pm.
- **10 Aug (Monday) – Woodbury Lions Golf Tournament:** The Woodbury Lions Golf Tournament in Memory of Dick Stafford will be held on August 10, at Eagle Valley Golf Course. Registration opens at 10 am.
- **18 Aug (Tuesday) – Joint VFW/American Legion Annual Picnic:** In giving back to our members 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.
- **30 Aug (Sunday) – 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.
- **27 August (Thursday) – 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.

**This Month in History – 14 June – Flag Day**

Flag Day stands as a powerful reminder of the moment our young nation chose a symbol worthy of its ideals. On June 14, 1777, the Second Continental Congress adopted a flag that would come to represent courage, unity, and the enduring promise of freedom. Thirteen stars, thirteen stripes – a bold declaration that a new nation had taken its place in the world.

As America grew, so did the constellation on our flag. New states joined the Union, new stars were added, and the banner evolved into the emblem we know today. Yet the original thirteen stripes remain, honoring the foundation on which this country was built.

The movement to formally recognize Flag Day began with Bernard Cigrand in 1886, whose unwavering advocacy sparked a national call to honor the birth of our flag. His efforts reached a turning point in 1916 when President Woodrow Wilson proclaimed June 14 as a day of nationwide observance.

It wasn't until 1949 that Flag Day became an official national holiday, when President Harry Truman signed it into law – affirming that the flag's story is inseparable from the American story itself. In 1966, Congress further strengthened this tradition by designating the week of June 14 as National Flag Week.

Flag Day is more than a date on the calendar. It is a tribute to the generations who have defended the ideals stitched into every star and stripe. It is a reminder that our flag is not just a symbol – it is a legacy.



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.