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**I PLEDGE ALLEGIANCE TO  
THE FLAG OF THE UNITED  
STATES OF AMERICA, AND  
TO THE REPUBLIC FOR  
WHICH IT STANDS, ONE  
NATION UNDER GOD,  
INDIVISIBLE, WITH LIBERTY  
AND JUSTICE FOR ALL!**



**"This country will not be a good place for any of us to live in unless we make it a good place for all of us to live in." Theodore Roosevelt**

### **Auxiliary Corner**

I am honored to serve as your Auxiliary President for 2009 – 2010. I have been a member of this unit for 36 years and in my heart I feel, that Unit 201 has been and always will be very special.

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### **Commander's Column**

I want to thank you all for electing me as your Commander for the upcoming year. I will do my very best to justify your faith in me. This is an organization in which I take great pride, just as each of do.

However, I can't do it alone. We have a great group of veterans on the Executive Board, Committee Chairman, and Committee Members, but we still will need help from others.

The American Legion is a volunteer organization, and as such, we need your help at our various fundraisers, attending our comrades, participating in activities with our Youth programs, joining committees and generally helping out with our goals that involve Americans helping Americans. There is plenty of opportunity for service.

I am proud to be part of such a fine group of veterans. This organization is about veterans, it is about our comradeship, our service to the community, and most important, it is about helping veterans, our Brothers in Arms, wherever and where ever they may be.

We must be united in our organization, both as comrades and organizations, working together towards the success of each other's goals and purpose.

For God and Country,  
Bob Byrd, Commander

On July 11<sup>th</sup> at our post home we held our installation along with the Post, Legion Riders and Squadron. Our Legion Family welcomed Department of Georgia and Ninth District guests as well as members of Post 201 family.

Our 57<sup>th</sup> Old Soldiers Day festivities were enjoyed by thousands of people. Our Memorial Service in front of city hall and immediately following a parade down Main Street and ended at our post was led by the American Legion with 124 units. Everyone enjoyed Varsity hot dogs and soft drinks.

The Auxiliary's calendar is getting busy this time of the year. We will be attending the Fall Conference, Marietta Marriott, October 24-25. Our children's Halloween Party will be held at the Post Home on Saturday, October 31<sup>st</sup> at noon. The Ladies will be distributing poppies in remembrance of Veterans Day. We will also assist the Legionnaires on a Thanksgiving Dinner for Veterans and their families. We haven't yet, scheduled our annual Children's Christmas Party.

Butch Adams, Department Commander's theme for this year is, "No Veteran Left Behind" and Bettye Williams, Department President's theme is, "Red Bird in Flight, Helping Veterans". Let's come up with ways and if any of you know any Veteran or Veteran's family who needs help, please don't hesitate to let our post family know so we can do as much as possible to help those in need.

I would like to thank you for electing me President for the 2009 – 2010 year and with your help we will make Unit 201 Shine.

For God and Country,

Lee Harrison  
President



### **Meet Your New Officers**

Alpharetta American Legion Post 201 installed its new officers for 2009 – 2010 program year at a ceremony at the legion hall. Also taking oath of office were officers for the Ladies Auxiliary, Sons of the American Legion, and Legion Riders. Chief offers of the four organizations are from left, Auxiliary President Lee Harrison, Sons Commander Derek Garmon, Legion Commander Bob Byrd, and Legion Riders Director Mike Powell.

By Marty Farrell

**We need a new Chairperson for the Post's Boys State Program.** Our many thanks to Billy Secrest for the outstanding job he has done. If you or anyone you know would be willing to take this position, please contact Commander Byrd.

### **National Emergency Fund**

September 22, 2009 - The Governor of the State of Georgia has issued a state of

Emergency for seventeen (17) counties in the state.

One of our Legionnaire programs, The American Legion National Emergency Fund could be of assistance to Legionnaires that have been displaced because of the recent storms passing through these counties. Only one grant per household will be approved. Legionnaires are eligible for a maximum amount of \$1,500.

Grant requests should be submitted through the Department and must reach National Headquarters within 90 days of the date of the disaster.

Your Department has the application forms and will assist anyone in need of disaster relief. The application must be filled out completely and accurately. District Commanders; please get this information to your Posts as quickly as possible to benefit our Legionnaires.

For God and Country,  
Ken Roberts

### **Declining numbers of American Veterans**

The number of living veterans in America has been dropping over the last several decades because the military has never produced as many veterans as it did in the 1940s.

There were more than 12 million people in uniform at the peak strength of the armed forces in 1945 - a draft military that fought World War II. When the war ended, the size of the military dropped to 2.5 million by the next year, according to Pentagon data.

There were some increases in the force during the Korean conflict, when the military peaked at 3.6 million in 1952, and for the Vietnam War when it hit 3.5 million in 1968. But the size of the armed services has remained pretty much around the million to 1.4 million ever since the

post-Cold War drawdown of the 1990s. There are 1.4 million people in the active duty all-volunteer Army, Navy, Marine Corps and Air Force today.

Meanwhile, as the active forces have gotten smaller, aging veterans have been dying at a rate of well over 630,000 a year since the start of this decade. The Defense Department says it's highly unlikely that the U.S. will ever have a military as big as it did for World War II, largely due to technological advances that have made combat less manpower-intensive.

Pauline Jelinek - Associated Press Writer

### **National Commander Incentive Pin Award**

Our National Commander will award his National Commander pin to any Legion family member who signs up at least five (5) new members into the American Legion.

### **PAID UP FOR LIFE**

The American Legion Paid-Up-for-Life membership program will change effective 1-Oct-2009; highlights follow:

- Time payment plan has been extended to 36 months
- Minimum deposit has been reduced to the first month's payment, balance paid in 35 equal payments
- Legionnaires may still pay the full amount
- Beginning 1-Oct-2009 all applications must include DD-214 or similar, or active duty identification
- Application may be downloaded from [www.legion.org](http://www.legion.org)
- You may also see The Commander, Bob Byrd, or Sr. Vice Commander Bob Votta.

### **AMERICAN LEGION DAY SEPTEMBER 16TH**

A resolution has been passed that honors the American Legion's 90 years of service to America by recognizing September 16th as American Legion Day, a national day of observance of the American Legion's goals and ideals in which the country may celebrate, with appropriate programs and activities, the long history of The American Legion and its steadfast and patriotic service to the community, state and nation.

House Resolution 679 was introduced by Congresswoman Debbie Halvorson (Illinois) and co-sponsored by 20 members of Congress.

By Ken Roberts

### **VA's Follow-up to Pharmacy Fraud Alert**

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has reported that the "Patient Care Group" is conducting a scam operation against veterans who receive VA prescriptions. Callers claiming to be representatives of this group tell veterans that their prescriptions are being administered by the company. They then ask for credit card information so that the veterans can continue to receive their medications. The VA Secretary stated VA has made no change to its prescription system, and that veterans should not provide any information to callers from this group. It is not VA's practice to call veterans requesting disclosure of personal financial information over the phone.

### **A Special Fund Raiser Event for the Post's Packages to the Troops**

The Award Winning Milton Theatre Department is putting on a production of "A Piece of My Heart" (plot summary below) on October 28th and October 29th @ 7:00 p.m. in the Main Auditorium at the High School. We are taking this production to Region Competition and hopefully State Competition later this year. The Theatre Department will be donating \$1.00 per ticket sold to American

Legion Post 201 to be used by Steve O' to mail packages to the troops. The students will also be collecting items in October to be sent to the troops, we have received a list of items needed from Steve.

We would like to offer your legion members a discounted ticket rate of \$7.00 per seat for "premium center seating" which normally costs \$10.00 per seat. Please have them contact Ellie Menk 770-752-0988 directly for tickets and to mention that they are a Legion Member.

### **A Piece of My Heart by Shirley Lauro**

This is a powerful, true drama of six women who went to Vietnam, five nurses and a country western singer booked by an unscrupulous agent to entertain the troops. The play portrays each young woman before, during, and after her tour in the war torn jungle and ends as each leaves a personal token at The Wall in Washington.

Thank you!

Ellie Menk, Milton Theatre Dept. Board Member

### **SCHEDULE of EVENTS:**

American Legion Post 201 meetings: 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday each month. Dinner served at 19:00 hrs meeting starts at 20:00 hrs.

Oct 6, we will be honoring Carl Black as the Legion's Business Man of the year. Carl Black has supported the American Legion and the community above and beyond the call of duty. Department Commander, Butch Adams, plans to be in attendance for the presentation. Let's all come out to support Carl Black and our post.

Military Order of the Purple Heart:

Meetings the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of each month at 19:00 hrs. The MOPH is a national organization comprised of Combat Wounded Veterans whose main objective is to help Veterans of our great nation. Doug Middleton is the current Commander of Chapter 576. For more information, contact Charles Turner 404-218-8825.

24 -25 October  
Fall Conference, Marietta, Georgia  
Atlanta Marriott Northwest Hotel  
See Kelly Shertenlieb if you plan to attend.

Halloween Party for the children  
31-Oct at noon.

Halloween for the Adults  
Friday and Saturday night Dance Party  
30 – 31 Oct 8:00 pm.

District Meeting Schedule  
6-Dec-2009 Duluth Post 251  
7-Feb-2010 Ellijay Post 82  
2-May-2010 Alpharetta Post 201

Sons of the American Legion  
Meeting every 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of the month  
7:30 pm dinner at 6:30 pm.

Legion Riders  
<http://alr201.freehomepage.com>

### **Notice:**

Future news letters will be sent via member's email and posted on the Post's web site [www.legion201.org](http://www.legion201.org)

This is being done to reduce the cost of printing and mailing the newsletter. All other post required correspondence will continue to be by postal mail.

Be sure your email is correct in the Post's data base. To update your email address send an email to [bob@catawbaga.com](mailto:bob@catawbaga.com) and I will update your email.

### Post 201 Officers and Affiliates for 2009 - 2010

<b>Post Officers</b>		<b>Auxiliary Officers</b>	
Commander	Bob Byrd	President	Lee Harrison
Sr. Vice Commander	Bob Votta	1 <sup>st</sup> Vice President	Ruth Gibbs
Jr. Vice Commander	Ken Roberts	2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice President	Judy Lively
Judge Advocate	Charles Turner	Secretary	Roxanne Werner
Finance Officer	Dennis Turner	Treasurer	Susan Shertenlieb
Sgt. At Arms	Bob Vale	Historian	Shannon Pirro
Adjutant	Mike Ross	Chaplain	Nini Lynch
Executive Committee	Martha Conway	Corresponding Secretary	Jane Turner
	Herb Roderick	Sgt. At Arms	Margaret Caudill
Chaplain	Kelly Shertenlieb	Executive Committee	Leila Young
	Martha Conway		Angela Rheault
			Carolyn Perry
			Kathe Harn
<b>Legion Riders</b>			
Director	Mike Powell		
Asst. Director	Bill Pankey		
Secretary / Treasurer	Jim Satory		
Sgt. At Arms	Ma Werner		
<b>Sons of The Legion</b>			
Commander	Derek Garmon		
Sr. Vice Commander	Bob Votta		
Jr. Vice Commander	Jason Roberts		
Finance Officer	Rick Gimple		
Sgt. At Arms	Brandon Roberts		
Chaplains	Dan Philpot		
	Jason Roberts		
Adjutant	Bruce Kaufman		

**Advertisements:**

*Judge Jim Matoney*  
*American Legion Post 201*

American Legion Post 201  
201 Wills Rd.  
Alpharetta, GA 30004