



Commander Ken James
USAF Colonel (Retired)

COMMANDER'S CORNER

With summer almost over and kids back in school, we've started planning for what is shaping up to be a very busy fourth quarter. It begins with our quarterly social at Finnegan's Grill and Irish Pub in Ashburn following our September 10th meeting. This will be followed later in the month by the Adopt-a-Highway Litter Patrol quarterly event. For October, our annual meeting will be at Ashby Ponds where we hope to have our district officers address the Post. Also in October, we will conduct a Flag Retirement Ceremony with VFW Post 1177 and conduct our semi-annual Range Firing Event at XCAL. November's meeting will be held at Venture X in Brambleton, where we will formally dedicate the office. November is also our Veterans Day weekend Poppy Distribution, so please be sure and sign up to support this major fundraising event. Finally, we'll close out 2026 with the Holiday Gala, which will be held at the Ashburn Volunteer Fire and Rescue Department's Founder's Hall in place of our regular December meeting. That's a lot on the plate but with everyone's help it will be a great ending to 2026!

VA NEWS & RESOURCES

Department of Veterans Affairs national cemeteries will host a day of service and remembrance to honor victims of the terrorist attacks on Sept. 11, 2001. Public Law 107-89 established Sept. 11 as Patriot Day, and the law encourages Americans to honor victims of the 9/11 attacks.

This year's events take place on Saturday, Sept. 12 at 10:00 am (local time) at more than 140 VA and state Veteran cemeteries and will include opportunities for community volunteers to clean headstones and participate in other cemetery beautification activities.

Forty-seven Veterans and dependents who died because of the terrorist attacks on 9/11 are buried or memorialized in VA national cemeteries, mostly at the Calverton and Long Island National Cemeteries in New York. More than 16,000 Global War on Terror Veterans have been interred in VA national cemeteries nationwide.

For more info:

<https://news.va.gov/press-room/va-cemeteries-to-host-national-day-of-service-and-remembrance-marking-the-25th-anniversary-of-9-11/>

UPCOMING EVENTS

9/2 – Veterans Coffee Social
(1st Wednesday of every month)

9/6 – Wall Wash, Korean War Veterans Memorial

9/10 – Post Monthly Meeting

9/12 – 9th Annual Warrior Ride

9/26 – Veteran Career Fair at Martinsburg VAMC

Event details can be found on our website, ashburnlegion.org

**To our men
and women
in uniform,
past,
present, and
future, God
bless you
and thank
you.**



POST 2001 HIGHLIGHTS

August was a busy month for Post 2001. Here are some of the highlights:

- Poppy Distribution is confirmed for Veterans Day week (Sat, Mon-Wed)
- Scouts are getting back into full swing after a summer break
- Color Guard rifles have been purchased
- Post won all available membership awards for 2026
- Post Social at Finnegans to follow September Meeting

Buddy Checks

We encourage members to reach out to veterans in our community. A simple phone call can make all the difference to a fellow veteran.

Veteran suicide rates remain alarmingly high, serving as a distressing reminder of the urgent need for intervention. In the United States, it is estimated that an average of 17-24 Veterans die by suicide each day.

VETERANS SERVICES & SUPPORT

Post 2001's Veteran Services Officer helps Post members and Loudoun County veterans with no-cost assistance for VA disability benefits applications and guidance on other VA resources.

Program Spotlight

Looking for a career change? Freedom Haulers is a program to help streamline the CDL licensing pathways for veterans. <https://freedomhaulers.dot.gov/>

Last month, Post 2001 helped:

15 Veterans aided with claims
5 Veterans provided financial aid
\$9,350 of financial aid provided to Veterans and their families (includes contributions from other VSOs).

For more information on Veterans Services, visit our website. <https://ashburnlegion.org/veterans-services/>



MEMBERSHIP MILESTONES

Membership Goals:

Post met the September 50% Membership Renewal Goal. Next goal is to hit 55% in October.

Birthdays:

Ed Donofrio, Leonard Perry, Bruce Biggs, Scott Morse, Tony Gallardo, Clem Clement, Hugh Smith, Jack Wert, Luis Lawrence, Jason Mello, Fredrick Ferguson



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

The Post is looking for volunteers to help on several of the Post Committees and Programs, including:

- Looking for Volunteers to join the Post Color Guard Team