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### Walk of Memories

Do you know someone who has served this country? This summer, why not step into a by-gone era flanked with true Americana and celebrate the heritage that allows us the freedoms we experience each and every day. Remember that freedom is never free and gather the family for a visit to the Walk of Memories, located at American Legion Post 201 on Wills Road in Alpharetta, Georgia.

Founded in 1946, the American Legion Post 201 occupies 13 acres and exists to serve the country's war veterans. Here, you will find a memorial that pays tribute to U.S. veterans, family and friends through a walkway composed of 7,726 bricks inscribed with the names of those who served in the Army, Navy – including Construction Battalion, Marines, Air Force and Coast Guard.

Conflicts represented at this monument, the only of its kind in Georgia, include the Indian War, Civil War, WWI, WWII, Korean War, Vietnam War, Gulf War, Desert Storm, Iraq and Afghanistan. As you wander the pathway, you'll see the people represented by the bricks include those who were killed in action, those who died of wounds, prisoners of war, sons of the Legion, as well as friends and family – both dead and alive. The monuments are sure to evoke emotions that will serve as a starting point for conversations with your family about these historical events. Several large monuments along the walkway delineate various conflicts, including those who were killed in action in the Korean War and those killed in action in the Vietnam War.



Kids, especially, will enjoy the three pieces of equipment on display at the Walk of Memories, including a tank, helicopter and Navy gun. The tank, surrounded primarily by bricks bearing the names of over 700

Georgia soldiers killed in action in Korea (1950-1953), is an M60 acquired from the United States Department of Defense and weighing 93,000 pounds. The helicopter, surrounded mostly by bricks inscribed with the names of Vietnam veterans, is a UH-1 Huey that was flown during the 1968 Tet Offensive in the Republic of Viet Nam. It was piloted by CWO Fred Ferguson, who was awarded a Medal of Honor, and Co-pilot 1<sup>st</sup> Lieutenant William Anderson. A plaque near the helicopter tells the story of its mission. Bricks surrounding the helicopter include 17 Medal of Honor recipients. The gun on display is a 40 millimeter twin gun mount weighing approximately 15,000 pounds and surrounded mostly by bricks inscribed with the names of Navy veterans. The gun was mounted on Liberty Ship during WWII.

The Walk of Memories provides a perfect opportunity to share with your family the patriotism and citizenship of the American spirit. And, there is no better time to explore this unique attraction than during the 57<sup>th</sup> Annual Old Soldiers Day Parade and Race, August 1. A celebration of pure Americana, this Alpharetta tradition recognizes the living memory of all veterans of war through a 5 and 10K race, program and parade. You won't want to miss the floats, bands, entertainment, children's activities, prizes and free food and drinks. Activities begin with the race at 7 a.m. and continue throughout the morning, so mark your calendars today for a celebration that is sure to incite the American spirit!

If you would like to honor a loved one through the Walk of Memories, it's easy to add a brick to the path. There is room at the Walk of Memories for approximately 7,000 additional bricks and bricks can be purchased through the American Legion Post 201. The purchaser of the brick is able to decide where the brick is placed – whether it is alongside a family member, in the section of the walk that corresponds to the branch of service, etc. Contact J.R. Wages at 770-442-0423 or the American Legion Post 201 at 770-475-9023 for more information about purchasing a brick.

#### **Alpharetta Convention and Visitors Bureau**

The Alpharetta Convention and Visitors Bureau serves as the destination marketing arm for the City, promoting tourism to Alpharetta, Georgia, and attracting visitors to all 23 of Alpharetta's upscale and modern hotels. Visit [www.AwesomeAlpharetta.com](http://www.AwesomeAlpharetta.com) for more information.

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