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# THE REPORTER

## GRISWOLD TERRY GLOVER POST 803

FEBRUARY 2024

### COMMANDER'S REPORT



Greetings fellow Legionnaires and Friends of the Legion,

February 2, 2024 is Groundhog day. On this day, people eagerly await the emergence of a groundhog from its burrow. According to folklore, if the groundhog sees its shadow, there will be six more weeks of winter, if not, spring will come early. Let's hope for an early Spring!



I would like to inform all the Post 803 members that we are now providing dinner prepared by Steve Ammirati of the Catered Fork at our monthly business meetings. He has catered our last three meetings and will continue to prepare delicious meals for our enjoyment continuing throughout this year. Please consider attending a monthly meeting. It is a time to socialize, be informed as to what is happening in our organization and enjoy a great meal. We meet on the 2nd Tuesday of each month. Attitude adjustment, 6 to 7 PM. Dinner at 6:30 PM and the meeting begins at 7 PM.

The American Legion Boys' State is a weeklong program that immerses high school youth (currently completing their junior year) in citizenship and leadership training. They learn the practical aspects of government as it exists in New York State and come to recognize that the individual is integral to the character and success of government. They also participate in physical fitness, teamwork and other activities under the guidance of American Legion Counselors and U. S. Marines. Boys' State takes place at Morrisville State College, usually the last week in June. Jeff Chagnon, our Boys' State Chairman, is in charge of organizing and undertaking all the responsibilities involved with reaching out to the local schools that will be approached so that we can hopefully sponsor one boy from each Southold, Greenport, and Mattituck Schools. This program is an important aspect of our four pillars of The American Legion.

February is a special month. Having only 28 days in common years. February is the only month of the year that can pass without a single full moon. Using Coordinating Universal Time as the basis for determining the date and time of a full moon, this last happened in 2018, and will next happen in 2037. Almost every fourth year is a leap year. Each leap year the month of February has 29 days instead of 28. During the month of February on the 14th we celebrate Valentine's Day. Over the years (and centuries) Valentine's Day has been a religious celebration, an ancient ritual day, and a commercial holiday. All that change means the meaning of Valentine's Day is truly whatever you want it to be: you can skip the celebrations completely, buy yourself some chocolate or flowers, or express your love and appreciation for the people in your life, whether they are co-workers, romantic partners, friends, or family members. Happy Valentine's Day!



Guess Who? Stupid Cupid!

We are planning on having a challenge coin produced for our American Legion Post 803 in the very near future. I have included a sketch of our challenge coin in this month's Reporter. There will be more information regarding the coin availability in a future issue of the Reporter.

Next month, as advertised in our Reporter, the Auxiliary Post 803 is having a Dance Party with DJ Phil spinning all the Dance Classics, Saturday March 2nd from 7 to 10 PM at the Legion Hall.

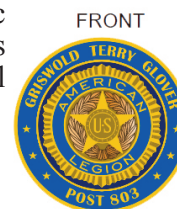
This year, our annual St. Patrick's Day Dinner will be a Dinner Dance. To be held on Saturday March 16th at the Legion Hall. Cocktail Hour, Cash Bar from 6 to 7 PM. Traditional Corned Beef and Cabbage Dinner catered by Steve Ammirati of the Catered Fork. Music will be supplied by Studio G, a fantastic dance band, playing music from the 60's through the 90's. Advanced ticket sales only, Tickets are \$60 per person. Contact Earl Brock 516-901-3228. I hope you all plan to attend and support this event.

For God and Country, God Bless

David E. DeFriest, Post 803 Commander

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Post phone number 631.765.2276



American Legion Post 803 Coin

## ★★ CHAPLAIN'S REPORT ★★

**REST IN PEACE** - Our dear friend and comrade **John Thomas King**, a US Army veteran, passed on January 13th at the age of 80 years. John was a man who dearly loved his family, his community and his country. In addition to his military service John was a New York City Police Officer for 21 years. At the Legion he was a long time member of our Color Guard and a Tuesday Bingo volunteer. I Marched with John in many of our parades and was very proud to do so. The American Legion Wake Service was held at the DeFriest-Grattan Funeral Home on January 19th. Special thanks to our funeral detail for an outstanding turnout on such a wet and icy day. John was a true American Hero may his soul rest in peace.

**SICK CALL** - **Henry Santacroce** is at home where he is being cared for by his family. Please remember him in your prayers.

Jeff Chagnon, *Post Chaplin* 631.456.3258

## ★★ VETERANS BENEFITS "CORNER" ★★

### VA Survivors and Burial Benefits Kit:

<https://www.benefits.va.gov/BENEFITS/docs/VASurvivorsKit.pdf>

If you haven't already taken advantage of pre-need planning, fill out and file:

**VA Form 40-10007: PRE-NEED BURIAL PLANNING** (to include supporting documentation e.g. DD Form 214), to determine and receive your letter confirming eligibility for burial in a VA national cemetery.

Also consider collecting and retaining important papers in one place to help your loved ones, when most needed. Below are some important forms that can be prepared and kept safe now:

- **DD Form 214:** CERTIFICATE OF RELEASE OR DISCHARGE FROM ACTIVE DUTY
- **VA Form 40-1330:** CLAIM FOR STANDARD GOVERNMENT HEADSTONE OR MARKER
- **VA Form 40-1330M:** CLAIM FOR GOVERNMENT MEDALLION FOR PLACEMENT IN PRIVATE CEMETERY
- **VA Form 40-0247:** PRESIDENTIAL MEMORIAL CERTIFICATE REQUEST FORM
- **VA Form 27-2008:** APPLICATION FOR UNITED STATES FLAG FOR BURIAL PURPOSES
- **VA Form 21P-530:** APPLICATION FOR BURIAL BENEFITS
- **VA Form 10-5345a:** INDIVIDUALS' REQUEST FOR A COPY OF THEIR OWN HEALTH INFORMATION\*
- **VA FORM 10-0137:** VA ADVANCE DIRECTIVE DURABLE POWER OF ATTORNEY FOR HEALTH CARE AND LIVING WILL

(\*Fax 631.754.7972 or Mail to Department of Veterans Affairs, 79 Middleville Rd, Northport, NY 11768)

David Chiaro – [keyarrow@hotmail.com](mailto:keyarrow@hotmail.com)

## ★★ HISTORIAN ★★

### 1898 February 1

USS Plunger (SS-2), the lead ship of the Plunger-class submarine, launches. She is commissioned Sept. 19, 1903, at the Holland Company yard at New Suffolk, Long Island, N.Y. Ensign Chester W. Nimitz is the submarines final commander when Plunger is decommissioned Nov. 6, 1909 at the Charleston Navy Shipyard.

### 1898 February 15

The battleship Maine explodes in Havana Harbor and nearly three-quarters of the battleship's crew die as a result of the blast. Popular opinion blames Spain, and the Spanish-American war starts soon after.

### 1962 February 20

Lt. Colonel John Glenn, USMC, becomes the first American to orbit the Earth. Recovery is by USS Noa (DD-841).  
Bob Bittner

★ ★ SONS OF THE LEGION ★ ★



SONS OF THE  
AMERICAN  
LEGION

"The Sons of The American Legion was created in 1932 as an organization within The American Legion. The SAL is made up of boys and men of all ages whose parents or grandparents served in the United States military and became eligible for membership in The American Legion. Together, members of The American Legion, The American Legion Auxiliary and the Sons of The American Legion make up what is known as the Legion Family. All three organizations place high importance on preserving our American traditions and values, improving the quality of life for our nation's children, caring for veterans and their families, and perhaps most importantly, teaching the fundamentals of good citizenship."

Hope to see you all at the Legion March events. Stay warm !

Gary Iorio, SAL Commander



# Daytona 500 Party

## FEBRUARY 18, 2024

### 1 PM - 6 PM

### \$15 ENTRY FEE

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## VOLUNTEER CORNER

THE GOLF OUTING is scheduled for Monday June 17, 2024... Save the Date. Details should be in the mail by April 1st But, I'm betwixt a rock and a hard place if volunteers for the Golf Outing are not forthcoming. Please volunteer some of your valuable time in support of this major fundraiser. Contact Bob Bittner navyjan70@gmail.com or 631.680.6244



# DANCE PARTY!

*DJ Phil will be spinning all the dance classics*

**Saturday, March 2, 2024 ♦ 7 to 10 PM**

**Southold American Legion Hall**

*Bar Opens at 6:30 pm*

*Cash Bar ♦ 21 and over ♦ 50/50 Raffle*

No outside food or beverage permitted  
Food will be available to purchase

**Advance purchase on-line at  
[BrownPaperTickets.com](http://BrownPaperTickets.com)**

*If tickets are still available, \$25 at the door.*



THIS DANCE PARTY IS A FUNDRAISER HOSTED BY THE SOUTHOLD AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY TO FUND PROGRAMS TO SUPPORT VETERANS



**SATURDAY, MARCH 16TH 2024**

**Bar Opens at 6 PM • Dinner at 7 PM**

**\$60 per person • RSVP by March 10th**

Traditional corned beef and cabbage dinner, catered by Stephen Ammirati of The Catered Fork, served buffet style. Music will be provided by Studio G, a fantastic dance band, playing music from the 60's through the 90's  
There will be no tickets sold at the door Contact Earl Brock at 516.901.3228.

***WE NEED VOLUNTEERS!***

*to help set up the event on Friday March 15th at 6 pm, meet at the bar.*

*We also need help with collecting admission, running the 50/50 and with the buffet line!*



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## ★ ★ MEMBERSHIP ★ ★



**Post Status:** We currently have **152/184 (82.6%)** paid up members for 2024. We still have about 32 members who need to pay their dues for 2024. We would like to welcome Frank DiGregorio, a new member to our Post who transferred from Post 86 in Connecticut. If you know of anyone who is interested in joining the American Legion please contact the Post.

**Young veterans are needed.**

**Members are welcome:** To contact the Post, use P.O. Box 591, Attn. Membership  
Ladies Auxiliary Attn: Donna St Pierre - Sons of Legion Attn: Gary Iorio

**Post 803 Legionnaire Membership Requirements:** To join Post 803, for Legionnaires you need to submit an American Legion Membership application, a copy of your DD-214 or discharge, and \$50 for annual dues. All membership correspondence should be sent to Post 803, Attn. Membership, P.O. Box 591, Southold, NY 11971.

Thanks for your support of Post 803.

Bob Cochran, *Membership Chairman*, 631.765.5828

## ★ ★ LEGION AUXILIARY POST 803 ★ ★

In February we celebrate Valentine's Day and President's Day. Just as we show our love appreciation to our loved ones, with all their imperfections, on Valentine's Day, let us also express our respect and appreciation for Washington and Lincoln on President's Day, who although were not perfect, accomplished great things for our country.

For all of us hearty souls who stay through the winter, we have some fun events scheduled! On Sunday, February 18th, join us for our Daytona Party! The Daytona 500 will be on our big screen TV in the Legion hall and food will be served. We have slightly increased the entry fee, to \$15 this year - still a bargain! Come down and enjoy getting together with friends between 1PM and 6PM.

March 2nd brings our "Dance Party" with DJ Phil. Twenty dollar tickets are available on BrownPaperTickets.com., and will be \$25 at the door. The fun starts at 6:30PM, with music from 7-10PM. Come on out and shake off those "winter blues"! And remember to purchase tickets ahead for the Legion St. Patrick's Day Dinner Dance on March 16th - see Earl Brock for those tickets.

We again donated 10 cases of Girl Scout Cookies to our deployed troops. It's a great cause! Contact your local Girl Scout troops to participate.

There will be no scheduled Auxiliary meeting in February. We look forward to our next meeting on Wednesday, March 13th.

Joan Cochran, President

## - 2024 GOALS -

- ~~1. Volunteer member to step up to fill the position of Adjutant vacated by Dave DeFries to record the minutes of our monthly business meetings.~~
- ~~2. Volunteer to take Department of Health Food Certificate Course~~
- ~~3. Bar Face Lift: Project Manager is Dave Chiaro~~
4. Look Into New Legion Hall Ceiling: Project Manager Joe St. Pierre
5. Look Into Fire Alarm System: Project Manager Joe St. Pierre
6. Gather List of Emails of all Members and Friends of the Legion: Project Manager is Jeff Chagnon
- ~~7. Create a handicap parking area for two automobiles next to the handicap ramp.~~

## - LONG-TERM GOALS -

1. 9/11 Memorial Tree Pavers
2. Renovation of 2nd Floor
3. ~~Bar Makeover~~
4. Bathrooms Renovation (Handicap Accessible)
5. Basement Walls Coating for Brick Deterioration Mitigation
6. Pavilion
7. Exterior of Post Painted/Stained
8. Renovation of Second Floor Bathroom and Rooms



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★★ FEBRUARY & MARCH 2024 EVENTS ★★

02/02 FRI.	BAR IS OPEN 6:30PM AND QUEEN OF HEARTS DRAWING 8PM
02/09 FRI.	BAR IS OPEN 6:30PM AND QUEEN OF HEARTS DRAWING 8PM
02/13 TUES.	EXECUTIVE AND BUSINESS MEETING: BAR 6:00PM • DINNER 6:30PM • MEETING 7:00PM
02/16 FRI.	DAYTONA 500 PARTY SET-UP 6PM
02/16 FRI.	BAR IS OPEN 6:30PM AND QUEEN OF HEARTS DRAWING 8PM
<b>02/18 SUN.</b>	<b>DAYTONA 500 PARTY 1PM-6PM</b>
02/23 FRI.	BAR IS OPEN 6:30PM AND QUEEN OF HEARTS DRAWING 8PM
03/01 FRI.	BAR IS OPEN 6:30PM AND QUEEN OF HEARTS DRAWING 8PM
<b>03/02 SAT.</b>	<b>DJ DANCE PARTY 7PM, BAR OPENS 6:30PM</b>
03/08 FRI.	BAR IS OPEN 6:30PM AND QUEEN OF HEARTS DRAWING 8PM
03/10 SUN.	RSVP DEADLINE FOR ST. PATTY'S DINNER - RSVP TO EARL BROCK
03/12 TUES.	EXECUTIVE AND BUSINESS MEETING: BAR 6PM • DINNER 6:30PM • MEETING 7PM
03/13 WED.	AUXILIARY MEETING: 7PM
03/15 FRI.	BAR IS OPEN 6:30PM AND QUEEN OF HEARTS DRAWING 8PM
03/15 FRI.	ST. PATRICK'S DINNER SET UP 6PM
<b>03/16 SAT.</b>	<b>ST. PATRICK'S DINNER BAR OPENS 6PM AND DINNER AT 7PM</b>
03/22 FRI.	BAR IS OPEN 6:30PM AND QUEEN OF HEARTS DRAWING 8PM
03/29 FRI.	BAR IS OPEN 6:30PM AND QUEEN OF HEARTS DRAWING 8PM



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★★ LEGION OFFICERS ★★

**Commander** - Dave DeFriest  
**1st Vice Commander** - Jeff Chagnon  
**2nd Vice Commander** - Vacant  
**Past Commander** - Charles Sanders  
**Adjutant** - Bob Bittner  
**Finance Officer** - Jim Cowan  
**1st Finance Assistant** - Mort Kelly  
**2nd Finance Assistant** - Raymond Terry  
**Sergeant at Arms** - Neil Rochford  
**Chaplain** - Jeff Chagnon  
**Post Historian** - TBD  
**Membership Chair** - Bob Cochran

★★ SAL OFFICERS ★★

**Commander** - Gary Iorio  
**1st Vice** - Rich Feely  
**2nd Vice** - Michael Anasagasti  
**Adjutant** - Brian Hughes  
**Treasurer** - Brian Hughes  
**Sergeant at Arms** - Jonathan Bittner  
**Chaplain** - Daniel Kaelin  
**Historian** - Douglas Kalvns

★★ AUXILIARY OFFICERS ★★

**President** - Joan Cochran  
**Vice Pres** - Denise Thilberg  
**Treasurer** - Margie Brock  
**Recording Sec.** - Priscilla Devine

ELECTRONIC SERVICE REQUESTED

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