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THE REPORTER

GRISWOLD TERRY GLOVER POST 803

JANUARY 2025

★ ★ COMMANDER'S REPORT ★ ★



Greetings fellow Legionnaires and Friends of the Legion,

Welcome to 2025 the 25th year in the 21st century, and the beginning of a New Year.

I hope everyone had a wonderful Christmas and enjoyable Holiday Season, with their families and friends.

As for last month's events, on December 9th Auxiliary Unit 803 held their 3rd Annual Snacks with Santa, an event cherished by all the children in attendance. They had snacks, crafts and listened to the story, "Twas the Night Before Christmas", read by Santa. Santa and Mrs. Santa were both there. A good time was had by all.

On December 12th members Joe St Pierre and Tom May represented our Legion Post 803 and were in attendance at the Annual Southold, Greenport, & Mattituck High School NJROTC Inspection and Parade held in the Southold High School Gymnasium. This inspection and parade is an extraordinary and impressive event.

On Friday, December 13th Post 803 held our annual Holiday Party and Pot Luck Dinner. It was very well attended and enjoyed by all in attendance. And delicious eats provided by all in attendance.

When I reflect on the past year of events and every day to day happenings at our Legion Hall, including fundraising and community involvement, a feeling of pride, accomplishment, and success fills my heart. We are very fortunate to have the support of all of our members, Auxiliary, Sons of the Legion, Legion Officers, those who Chair Events and our Community.

I am proud of everyone involved, their dedication and loyalty to serve Veterans and our involvement in our Community. Not to mention their time, work, and effort it takes to accomplish everything.

When I began drafting this month's Reporter, I had a rough draft praising and expressing gratitude to several individual members, who deserve recognition and thanks. However, I decided to save that for another time. There are so many members who deserve recognition for their work, time devoted, and financial support, that I do not want to slight anyone. I am, however, very thankful to all of our members, Auxiliary, Sons, Friends of the Legion, and Community for their contributions and continued support.

I look forward to another great year of leadership, comradery, and offering support to all Veterans. May this coming year be awesome.

David E. DeFriest,
Post 803 Commander
www.post803.com
gtgpost803@gmail.com



*Rick Horton, Bill Ryan
and Dave Steele*



*Commander Dave's three sons.
Garrett DeFriest, Brad Born
and Steven DeFriest*



*Annual Holiday Party
and Pot Luck Dinner*

Let's Make Some Noise

DANCE PARTY!

with DJ Phil spinning all the dance classics

Saturday, February 1, 2025

7 to 10 PM

Southold American Legion Hall

Cash Bar ♦ 21 and over ♦ 50/50 Raffle

No outside food or beverage permitted

Tickets \$20

**Advance purchase on-line at
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

On Jan. 23, 1968, North Korea seized the U.S. Navy intelligence ship USS Pueblo.

The USS Pueblo, first launched in 1945, is still commissioned as an active ship in the U.S. Navy. The only older ship, still afloat, is the Revolutionary War era USS Constitution.



★★ VETERANS BENEFITS “CORNER” ★★

CHECK YOUR VETERAN HEALTH IDENTIFICATION CARD

The Veteran Health Identification Card (VHIC) is not required to receive VA health care, but it is beneficial to quickly check in for your VA appointments.

The National Health Eligibility Center (HEC) is in the process of notifying 1.5 million Veterans nationwide that their VHIC has or will expire soon.

HOW TO RENEW ONLINE... THE PREFERRED METHOD

Renew your VHIC online. (<https://eauth.va.gov/accessva/>) Online or self-service requests are processed by our local team as soon as possible.

Make sure your camera is in photo mode when scanning the QR code. Go directly to the website noted on the postcard. If the QR code doesn't work, choose the VHIC option and submit the required information to renew your card.

Once your card request is submitted, you will receive a response that your request is “On Hold.” The card request will then be manually reviewed and approved for printing and shipping.

CARD PROCESSING PROCEDURES

Once your VHIC request (photo and ID) has been received, the facility will review your photo and ID to make sure it meets the requirements.

If your VHIC request didn't meet the guidelines, you will receive an email stating why and you will be asked to re-submit online or at your local VA facility.

PRESENTING IN PERSON WILL NOT RESULT IN RECEIVING YOUR RENEWED CARD ANY FASTER.

All cards are printed and mailed from a central off-site location regardless of renewal method. Normal processing time is 7 to 14 days for domestic and 21 to 30 days for foreign addresses, but could be longer during this mass renewal period. If it has been longer than 30 days, contact your local VA facility.

IF YOU RENEW ONLINE AND YOUR CARD REQUEST STATUS SAYS HOLD OR ON HOLD, YOUR CARD REQUEST WAS RECEIVED AND IS IN THE QUEUE FOR PROCESSING.

Travel pay is not authorized when visiting a VA location solely for the purpose of renewing a VHIC; however, you can renew your VHIC before or after your next VA appointment. Having a VHIC is not required to receive VA health care.

IN-PERSON RENEWALS

If renewing in person, bring a valid or non-expired state-issued driver's license, passport, or federal, state or local government-issued photo ID containing your name and date of birth. There may be a bit of a wait due to the high volume of walk-ins. The renewal process includes presenting a valid photo ID and taking a photo for your VHIC renewal.

David Chiaro – keyarrow@hotmail.com



★★ SONS OF THE LEGION ★★



The December Christmas potluck dinner was a big success. Special thanks to our Legion Auxiliary for putting it all together. A large turnout of folks full of Christmas cheer, and as always, the food was delicious! As we start the New Year, I would like to congratulate our new President and Commander-in-Chief and pray he will bring prosperity and peace to our great nation. As always, our thoughts and prayers are with the active-duty military stationed around the world. Stay warm, stay safe, and have a very Happy New Year.

Hope to see you all this year at our most important events: Memorial Day and Veterans Day.

I leave you with a quote from President Reagan:

"Above all, we must realize that no arsenal, or no weapon in the arsenals of the world, is so formidable as the will and moral courage of free men and women. It is a weapon our adversaries in today's world do not have."

SAL Commander

Gary Iorio

★★ HISTORIAN ★★

FIRST LIEUTENANT GEORGE SULLIVAN

Lt. George Sullivan was one of nearly 500 Marines wounded during the 1967 operation 'Prairie 2' in Vietnam. Lt. Sullivan envisioned a career in the military, but on a rescue mission to save a crew member of a downed helicopter, that path changed his life forever.

Lt. Sullivan was wounded during a long firefight. He was hit by enemy fire at least 7 times but managed to survive.

Lt. Sullivan moved to Southold in 1973. He transitioned from his military career to owning an accounting practice. He also served as the Southold Town Receiver of Taxes for more than 20 years.

He belonged to American Legion Griswold Terry Glover Post 803 for more than 40 years. In 2014 Lt. Sullivan was voted as Commander of the post. Lt. Sullivan was awarded the Navy Cross, the country's second highest military decoration.

In 1998, Congress approved the "American Veteran's Disabled for Life Memorial", in Washington DC. This memorial honors more than 4 million veterans' that are permanently disabled. Labeled the "Voices of Veteran's". Lt. Sullivan's accounts and experiences detailing his life, have been recorded and archived. One of his quotes reads: "Yes, I wish things would have worked out a little better for me, but I did come home alive and had a fairly successful life."

Lt. George Sullivan passed away on January 20, 2020. Currently outside our Town Hall hangs a banner with his picture. The Town of Southold is about to start the Southold Town Salutes Banner program to install these types of memorial flags honoring our local heroes. They will be erected on the street poles along main street of our township.

If you have a military hero that you would want to honor, the Auxiliary will be accepting sponsorships. There will be a fee of \$225 and at the end of the 1st season, the flag will be presented to the sponsors. Please see the link on the Post 803 website for information about this program. <https://post803.com/southold-salutes-banners>

If you know of a local Veteran or a relative that you would like to write up in our Reporter, please let us know.

If you know of any current active local Servicemen, please advise us of their names.

Updated details will be announced soon.

John Christina, Historian

★ ★ LEGION AUXILIARY POST 803 ★ ★

Happy New Year! Best wishes for good health and happiness in the coming year. We look forward to another year of helping our Veterans, active military and their families.

Santa's helpers decorated the Legion beautifully for the holidays - thanks go to all of you!

A big thank you goes to Santa and Mrs. Santa for making our Snacks with Santa Event such a wonderful afternoon. The Legion Hall was abuzz with children crafting ornaments, coloring, and writing letters to Santa. When Santa and Mrs. Santa arrived they were announced by Elf Bob, who also gave out candy canes. The children lined up to speak with Santa, then listened as he read "The Night Before Christmas". Thanks also to Linda, Tina, Marjorie, Vickie, and Patty for working on this project, as well as Commander Dave for his help and support for all the holiday activities.

The Christmas Potluck was a big hit! Everyone brought delicious dishes to share. A good time was had by all! Thank you to all who helped set up and clean up.

Thanks also to Donna and Joe, Marjorie and Louise for making the lovely evergreen centerpieces.

Our next meeting will be on Wednesday, January 8th, at 7:00PM.

Joan Cochran, President



★ ★ CHAPLAIN'S REPORT ★ ★

A MESSAGE OF PEACE. It is comforting to know that our departed are always with us. That whenever something beautiful and unexpected comes our way like a lovely sunset, a songbird landing on a nearby railing, a visit from a butterfly during a quiet moment or a soft rain on a warm evening could all be messages from our loved ones. Messages that they are at peace in the arms of The Lord, that they want our hearts to be filled with love, that we should enjoy the good memories, that we should live our lives in a way that honors their goodness and that we are here because we still have things to do. Peace be with you all.

PRAYER FOR THE SICK

"O God we lift up all those who are facing illness today. We ask that you bring healing, comfort and peace to their bodies. Calm their fears and let them feel the healing power of Your love." Amen.

In our thoughts and prayers are Henry Santacroce Sr.

Jeff Chagnon - Post Chaplain 631.456.3258

**CLOSED
FOR
REMODELING**



**Legion is CLOSED to Business:
March 13th to April 13th.**

**We are scheduling the replacement of the ceiling
in the main hall and construction of the new
handicapped bathroom during that time.**

★★ MEMBERSHIP ★★



Post Status: We currently have **136/182 (74.4%)** paid up members for 2025. The New Year is upon us, please send in your annual dues of **\$57** for the 2025 membership year. Forty six members to go for 100%. Spread the word to former members of Post 861 in Mattituck to join us. I hope everyone had a Merry Christmas. The best of health for the New Year.

Veterans, come join us we need new Members.

Members are welcome: To contact the Post, use P.O. Box 591, Attn. Membership
Legion 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 **\$57** for annual dues. All membership correspondence should be sent to Post 803, Attn. Membership, and P.O. Box 591, Southold, NY 11971.

Thanks for supporting Post 803.

Bob Cochran, *Membership Chairman*, 631.765.5828

★★ 2025 CALENDAR OF EVENTS ★★

| | | | |
|-------------------|---|--------------------|---|
| 01/08 Wed. | Auxiliary Meeting: 7PM | 07/04 Fri. | Southold Village Merchants July 4th Parade |
| 01/14 Tues. | Executive and Business Meeting: Bar 6:30 PM • Meeting 7:00 PM | 07/08 Tues. | Executive and Business Meeting: Bar 6:30 PM • Meeting 7:00 PM |
| 02/01 Sat. | DANCE Party with DJ Phil 7-10 PM, Doors and Bar Open at 6:30 PM | 07/09 Wed. | Auxiliary Meeting: 7 PM |
| 02/11 Tues. | Executive and Business Meeting: Bar 6:30PM Meeting 7:00 PM | 07/12 Wed. | Gardiner's Bay Association Meeting |
| 02/14 Fri. | Daytona 500 Party Set-Up 6 PM | 08/12 Tues. | Executive and Business Meeting: Bar 6:30PM Meeting 7 PM |
| 02/16 Sun. | Daytona 500 Party 1 PM - 6 PM | 08/13 Wed. | Auxiliary Meeting: 7 PM |
| 03/11 Tues. | Executive and Business Meeting: Bar 6:30PM • Meeting 7:00 PM | 08/22 Fri. | Car Show Setup 6 PM |
| 03/12 Wed. | Auxiliary Meeting: 7 PM | 08/24 Sun. | Annual Car Show: 9 AM to 3 PM |
| 03/13-4/13 | Legion is CLOSED from March 13TH - April 13th or Renovations and Remodeling | 09/09 Tues. | Executive and Business Meeting: Bar 6:30 PM • Meeting 7:00 PM |
| 04/08 Tues. | Executive and Business Meeting: To Be Determined | 09/10 Wed. | Auxiliary Meeting: 7 PM |
| 04/09 Wed. | Auxiliary Meeting: To Be Determined | 09/11 Thur. | Patriot's Day NEVER FORGET! |
| 04/26 or 04/27 | Eagle Scout Awards Ceremony, Possible Dates, Not Set Yet | 09/19 Sat. | Walk 4 Valor, Date To Be Determined |
| 05/08 Wed. | Auxiliary Meeting: 7 PM | 10/14 Tues. | Executive and Business Meeting: Bar 6:30 PM Meeting 7 PM |
| 05/13 Tues. | Executive and Business Meeting: Bar 6:30 PM • Meeting 7:00 PM Need to Vote on New Officers | 10/15 Wed. | Auxiliary Meeting: 7 PM |
| 05/14 Wed. | Auxiliary Meeting: 7 PM | 10/22 Wed. | Rotary Reverse Raffle |
| 05/23 Fri. | Poppy Drive Thru (Chair Auxiliary) | 10/31 Fri. | Craft Fair Setup 6 PM |
| 05/26 Mon. | Memorial Day Ceremonies and Parade Hosted by Post 803 | 11/02 Sun. | Holiday Craft Fair 10 AM - 3 PM (Chair Auxiliary) |
| 06/02 Mon. | SHS Athletic Association Awards | 11/04 Tues. | Election Day PLEASE VOTE! |
| 06/10 Tues. | Executive and Business Meeting: Bar 6:30 PM • Meeting 7:00 PM Need to Swear in New Officers | 11/11 Tues. | Veterans Day Ceremony |
| 06/11 Wed. | Auxiliary Meeting: 7 PM | 11/11 Tues. | Executive and Business Meeting: Bar 6:30 PM • Meeting 7 PM 2026 Planning Meeting |
| 06/16 Mon. | Golf Classic | 11/12 Wed. | Auxiliary Meeting: 7 PM |
| 06/30 Tues. | Legion Consolidated Reports Due to Suffolk County/State Legion | 11/16 Sun. | SFD Annual Raffle |
| | | 12/08 Mon. | Snacks with Santa |
| | | 12/09 Tues. | Executive and Business Meeting: Bar 6:30 PM • Meeting 7:00 PM |
| | | 12/19 Fri. | Possible Date for Legion Pot Luck Christmas Party 6:30 PM |

VOLUNTEER CORNER

Earl Brock is looking for volunteers to help start up
NIGHT BINGO on Thursdays, from 6pm – 9pm. Call Earl at 516.901.3228.

FROM YOUR COMMANDER

Suffolk County American Legion is looking for a candidate
to replace our 4th Division Commander, Rob Devito.

We need to clean out and organize the 2nd floor room that houses our Armory.
Need a small work detail for that.

I would like to get the inside stairs leading to the basement painted.
Clean the basement and organize same.

— 2024 GOALS —

- ~~1. Volunteer member to step up to fill the position of Adjutant vacated by Dave DeFried 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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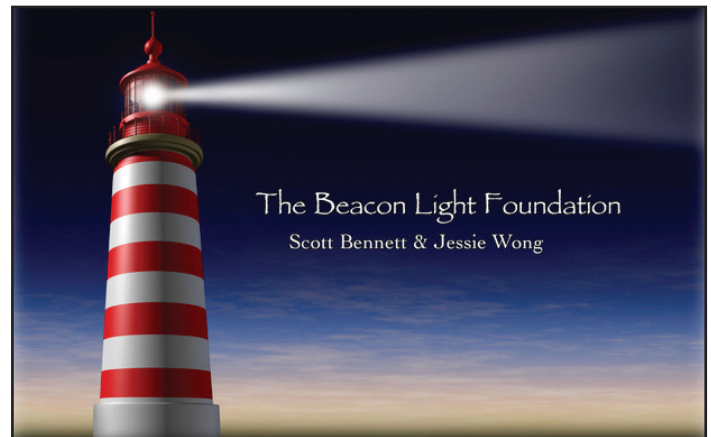
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Alice and Harold Culver are dedicating this ad for Honor Flight.
For more information on Honor Flight please visit their
website or call Virginia Bennett at 631-702-2423.



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ENPHASE

★★JANUARY & FEBRUARY 2025 EVENTS★★

| | |
|-------------------|--|
| 01/03 FRI. | BAR IS OPEN 6:30PM AND QUEEN OF HEARTS DRAWING 8PM |
| 01/08 WED. | AUXILIARY MEETING: 7PM |
| 01/10 FRI. | LEGION HOLIDAY UNDECORATING 6:30PM |
| 01/10 FRI. | BAR IS OPEN 6:30PM AND QUEEN OF HEARTS DRAWING 8PM |
| 01/14 TUES. | EXECUTIVE AND BUSINESS MEETING: BAR 6:00PM, DINNER 6:30PM, MEETING 7:00PM |
| 01/17 FRI. | BAR IS OPEN 6:30PM AND QUEEN OF HEARTS DRAWING 8PM |
| 01/24 FRI. | BAR IS OPEN 6:30PM AND QUEEN OF HEARTS DRAWING 8PM |
| 01/31 FRI. | BAR IS OPEN 6:30PM AND QUEEN OF HEARTS DRAWING 8PM |
| 02/01 SAT. | DANCE PARTY WITH DJ PHIL 7-10PM, BAR AND DOORS OPEN AT 6:30PM |
| 02/07 FRI. | BAR IS OPEN 6:30PM AND QUEEN OF HEARTS DRAWING 8PM |
| 02/11 TUES. | EXECUTIVE AND BUSINESS MEETING: BAR 6:00PM, DINNER 6:30PM, MEETING 7:00PM |
| 02/14 FRI. | BAR IS OPEN 6:30PM AND QUEEN OF HEARTS DRAWING 8PM |
| 02/14 FRI. | DAYTONA 500 PARTY SET UP 6 PM |
| 02/16 SUN. | DAYTONA 500 PARTY 1 PM - 6 PM |
| 02/21 FRI. | BAR IS OPEN 6:30PM AND QUEEN OF HEARTS DRAWING 8PM |
| 02/28 FRI. | BAR IS OPEN 6:30PM AND QUEEN OF HEARTS DRAWING 8PM |



MADE IN AMERICA

★★LEGION OFFICERS★★

Commander - Dave DeFriest
1st Vice Commander - Jeff Chagnon
2nd Vice Commander - David Wilburn
Past Commander - Charles Sanders
Adjutant - Bob Bittner
Finance Officer - Jim Cowan
1st Finance Assistant - Mort Kelly
2nd Finance Assistant - Brendan Kelly
Sergeant at Arms - Neil Rochford
Chaplain - Jeff Chagnon
Post Historian - John Christina
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 - John Christina

★★AUXILIARY OFFICERS★★

President - Joan Cochran
1st Vice Pres - Denise Thilberg Schlacter
2nd Vice Pres - Jeanette Cooper
Treasurer - Patricia Burns
Recording Sec. - Priscilla Devine

ELECTRONIC SERVICE REQUESTED

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