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THE REPORTER

GRISWOLD TERRY GLOVER POST 803

JANUARY 2026 ★ 631.765.2276

★ ★ COMMANDER'S REPORT ★ ★



Goodness, Gracious, Great Balls of Fire! WELCOME TO 2026
HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ONE AND ALL!

Looking back to last month, I realized I inadvertently overlooked mentioning Pearl Harbor Day. Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day, is observed annually on December 7th to commemorate the surprise Japanese attack on the U.S. naval base in Hawaii on December 7th 1941, which brought the United States into World War II. It's a solemn day for honoring the over 2400 Americans killed and for remembering the heroism of survivors.



On December 12th the Post held it's annual Christmas Pot Luck Dinner. It was well attended and the food was plentiful and delicious. Thank you to everyone who attended and prepared a dish for this event.

As we reflect on 2025, I am proud to acknowledge several significant accomplishments achieved by Post 803 and our American Legion Family. Inside our post home, we improved and modernized our facility with a new ceiling and fresh paint in the main hall, creating a more welcoming space for members and guests. We also constructed a handicap accessible restroom, made possible through generous support of the late William Ruland Family, ensuring our building remains accessible to all.

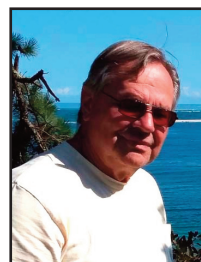
In partnership with Lowe's of Riverhead, we are successfully in the process of relocating the dumpster and storage area, with materials and labor graciously donated to enhance the appearance and efficiency of our grounds.

Equally important, we continued our service to the public by hosting our annual Memorial Day Ceremonies and Parade, proudly participating in the July 4th Parade, and launching Thursday-night Bingo Program that has already become a valued weekly activity for our members and neighbors.

I would like to give a Shout Out to and Recognize, Joe St Pierre. He is retiring from his position as our building and grounds chairman. He has been our building and grounds chairman for the past 14 years! He has done an outstanding job ! We greatly appreciate all he has done over the years, his time invested, work performed, talent, and devotion to his duties. Thank you, Joe.

John Christina will be accepting the position of Chairman of House and Grounds as of January 1st, 2026. Thank you, John for stepping up. I'm sure you will do a great job.

Coming events to look forward to are our annual Daytona 500 Party which will take place in the Legion Hall on Sunday February 15th from 1 to 6 PM. Also, in February the Auxiliary Unit 803 will be sponsoring a D J Dance Party with D J Phil on Saturday, February 28th from 7 to 10 PM, doors and bar open at 6:30 PM.



Joe St Pierre

In closing, I want to extend my sincere appreciation to every member of Post 803 for your commitment, time, and generosity throughout this past year. Your dedication to serving veterans, supporting our programs, and strengthening our community is the foundation of our success. As we look ahead, I want to offer my heartfelt thanks to our Legion Family and our community partners who stand with us. The support of our members, combined with the generosity of the community, allows Post 803 to fulfill its mission with honor. I am truly proud of what we have accomplished together.



For God and Country

David E. DeFriest,

Commander, American Legion Post 803

www.post803.com ★ gtgpost803@gmail.com

MADE IN AMERICA



TRIBUTE BANNERS

We are now taking applications from sponsors to honor Veterans, Active-Duty personnel, and members of the Reserve and National Guard, by purchasing a tribute banner to be hung on lamp posts in the Hamlet of Southold.

Information on the program, can be found on the Post's website www.post803.com/southold-salutes-banners



Daytona 500 Party

FEBRUARY 15, 2026

1 PM - 6 PM

\$15 ENTRY FEE

Includes Food
& Big Screen TV's

CASH BAR



Let's Make Some Noise

DANCE PARTY!

with DJ Phil spinning all the dance classics

Saturday, February 28, 2026

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 [Humantix.com](https://humantix.com)**

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



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

★ ★ 2026 CALENDAR OF EVENTS ★ ★

| | |
|---|---|
| 01/10 Sat. Auxiliary Meeting: 10AM | 07/04 Sat. Southold Village Merchants July 4th Parade |
| 01/13 Tues. Executive and Business Meeting: Bar 6:30PM Meeting 7PM | 07/08 Wed. Auxiliary Meeting: 7PM |
| 02/10 Tues. Executive and Business Meeting: Bar 6:30PM Meeting 7PM | 07/14 Tues. Executive and Business Meeting: Bar 6:30PM Meeting 7PM |
| 02/13 Fri. Daytona 500 Party Set-up 6PM | 08/11 Tues. Executive & Business Meeting: Bar 6:30PM Meeting 7PM |
| 02/15 Sun. Daytona 500 Party 1PM-6PM | 08/12 Wed. Auxiliary Meeting: 7PM |
| 02/28 Sat. DANCE Party with DJ Phil 7-10PM, Doors & Bar Open at 6:30PM | 08/22 Fri. Car Show Setup 6PM |
| 03/10 Tues. Executive and Business Meeting: Bar 6:30PM Meeting 7PM | 08/23 Sun Annual Car Show: 9AM to 3PM |
| 03/11 Wed. Auxiliary Meeting: 7PM | 09/08 Tues. Executive and Business Meeting: Bar 6:30PM Meeting 7PM |
| 04/08 Wed. Auxiliary Meeting: 7PM | 09/09 Wed. Auxiliary Meeting: 7PM |
| 04/14 Tues. Executive and Business Meeting: Bar 6:30PM Meeting 7PM | 09/11 Fri. Patriot's Day NEVER FORGET! |
| 04/17 Fri. DANCE Party with DJ Phil 7-10PM, doors & bar open at 6:30 | 10/13 Tues. Executive and Business Meeting: Bar 6:30PM Meeting 7PM |
| 05/02 Sat. North Fork Veteran Resource Fair | 10/14 Wed. Auxiliary Meeting: 7PM |
| 05/02 Sat. Walk 4 Valor – might get rescheduled | 10/?? Wed. Rotary Reverse Raffle – they will confirm which Wednesday |
| 05/12 Tues. Executive and Business Meeting: Bar 6:30PM Meeting 7PM Need to Vote on New Officers | 10/30 Fri. Craft Fair Setup 6PM |
| 05/13 Wed. Auxiliary Meeting: 7PM | 11/01 Sun. Holiday Craft Fair 10AM to 3PM (Chair Auxiliary) |
| 05/22 Fri. Poppy Drive Thru (Chair Auxiliary) | 11/03 Tues. Election Day PLEASE VOTE! |
| 05/25 Mon. Memorial Day Ceremonies & Parade hosted by Post 803 | 11/10 Tues. Executive and Business Meeting: Bar 6:30PM Meeting 7PM 2026 Planning |
| 06/01 Mon. SHS Athletic Association Awards | 11/11 Wed. Veterans Day Ceremony |
| 06/09 Tues. Executive and Business Meeting: Bar 6:30PM Meeting 7PM | 11/22 Sun. SFD Annual Raffle |
| Need to Swear in New Officers | 11/18 Wed. Auxiliary Meeting: 7PM |
| 06/10 Wed. Auxiliary Installation Ceremony | 12/04 Fri. Decorate for Christmas |
| 06/15 Mon. Golf Classic | 12/07 Mon. Snacks with Santa 4PM-6-PM |
| 06/30 Tues. Legion Consolidated Reports Due to Suffolk County/State Legion | 12/08 Tues. Executive and Business Meeting: Bar 6:30PM Meeting 7PM |
| | 12/11 Fri. Possible date for Legion Pot Luck Christmas Party 6:30PM |



Dear Members,

*“Your time in the service
doesn't leave you. Your
pride in that service
shouldn't either”*

*Your membership in the
Legion reflects that Honor.*

*Stop in at the Post and
reacquaint yourself
with that Pride.*

★★ MEMBERSHIP ★★



Post Status: We currently have (146/185 = 78.9%) paid up members for the 2026 membership year. We have 30 plus members who need to pay their 2026 dues. I'm starting to get double payments from some of you who are still getting notifications from Indianapolis. Check your ID Membership card and if it says 2026 don't send your dues. We welcome Rich Troche USAF (Ret), as a new member to Post 803.

Veterans, come join us we could use the help.

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

VETERANS BENEFITS “CORNER”

HERE'S WHAT DISABLED VETERANS & RETIREES NEED TO KNOW ABOUT THE 2026 COLA INCREASE

The Social Security Administration has announced the 2026 Cost of Living Allowance (COLA) increase, and it brings good news for Veterans, military retirees, and their families. Beginning in 2026, most federal beneficiaries—including VA disability recipients, military retirees, and Social Security beneficiaries—will see a 2.8% pay raise. This is slightly higher than the 2.5% COLA increase implemented in 2025, reflecting ongoing inflation and rising consumer costs.



For the military community, understanding how the COLA works—and how it affects different retirement and disability programs—is essential.

Scan the QR code for a breakdown of what to expect in 2026.

David Chiaro – keyarrow@hotmail.com

KILROY WAS HERE, ITS ORIGINS AND SIGNIFICANCE



Few symbols have captured the imagination and curiosity of people around the world like Kilroy Was Here. This simple doodle, often accompanied by a quirky phrase, became a symbol of presence and connection during a turbulent time in history. Understanding where it started and what it means today reveals a fascinating story of culture, humor, and human nature.

How Kilroy Was Here Began

The phrase "Kilroy Was Here" first appeared during World War II. It was a form of graffiti that American soldiers used to mark their presence in various locations across Europe and the Pacific. The drawing usually featured a bald man with a prominent nose peeking over a wall, accompanied by the words "Kilroy Was Here." The origin of Kilroy is often credited to James J. Kilroy, a shipyard inspector in Quincy, Massachusetts. Kilroy marked inspected parts with the phrase to prevent disputes over completed work. Soldiers later adopted the phrase and doodle, spreading it widely as they moved through war zones. It became a kind of inside joke and a morale booster, symbolizing that someone had been there before.

What Kilroy Meant During the War

During the war, Kilroy served several purposes:

- **Connection:** Soldiers far from home found comfort in seeing the familiar tag, knowing others had passed through the same places.
- **Humor:** The playful image and phrase lightened the mood amid the hardships of war.
- **Mystery:** The tag appeared in unexpected and hard-to-reach places, sparking curiosity and stories among troops. According to one story, German intelligence found the phrase on captured American equipment, leading Adolf Hitler to suspect "Kilroy" was a high-level Allied spy. Furthermore, during the Potsdam Conference in 1945, rumor had it that Stalin saw "Kilroy was here" in the VIP bathroom and asked his aides who Kilroy was!

Kilroy became so widespread that it was reported to have appeared on the noses of statues, inside enemy bunkers, and even on the moon during later space missions. This widespread presence made Kilroy a symbol of American troops' reach and spirit.

Why Kilroy Still Matters

Kilroy Was Here reminds us of the human need to connect and leave a trace. It shows how humor and creativity can thrive even in difficult times. The tag's endurance highlights the power of simple symbols to carry meaning across generations. For those interested in history, Kilroy offers a glimpse into the daily lives of soldiers and the culture they created. For others, it serves as a reminder that even small marks can tell big stories.

John Christina, Historian

★★ SONS OF THE LEGION ★★



Our thoughts and prayers are with the families of the two U.S. service members and an American civilian interpreter were killed in an ambush by a suspected Islamic State (ISIS) gunman in Palmyra, Syria, on Saturday, December 13, 2025 also on November 26, 2025, two members of the National Guard who were participating in the deployment of federal law enforcement and National Guard forces were shot two blocks away from the White House. One of the service members died later from her injuries. Please keep them and your families in your prayers.

I leave you with a quote from President Kennedy - "The cost of freedom is always high, but Americans have always paid it. And one path we shall never choose, and that is the path of surrender, or submission." -John F. Kennedy
Gary Iorio, SAL Commander



★ WHAT'S HAPPENING ★

Hello "Reporter" Members.

Remember from typing class 101:
*Now is the time for all good men to
come to the aid of their country!*

Well, now is that time!

It's time for us all to focus on keeping our Post active and preparing for the next generation of veteran service members. **This must be our mission!** The "Reporter" newsletter you receive is sent to 750 members and sponsors.

**4th of July "2026"
Our Nation's 250th Anniversary!**

We are truly fortunate to witness this historic event! We are collaborating with the Town of Southold to coordinate the upcoming events.

It's never too early to start planning. This is also an ideal opportunity for our Post to address the necessary renovation updates, which will be crucial for future Post military veterans.

Would you like to be part of this 4th of July event? We will need committees. The most important role right now is assistance with computers and office coordination. This could be a great project to work on from home. **Please share any ideas that could benefit our Post.**



**We extend our
Warmest
Birthday Wishes
to all our
Fellow Legionnaires
Celebrating in January!**

| | |
|---------------------|------|
| Richard Cusack | 1/2 |
| Thomas May Jr | 1/4 |
| Frank Digregorio Jr | 1/5 |
| Shawn Fitzgerald | 1/7 |
| Ford Kimmel | 1/9 |
| Thomas Tynan Jr | 1/11 |
| Vincent Scandole | 1/12 |
| Kenneth Stock | 1/24 |
| John Pitman | 1/20 |
| Bruce Goldsmith | 1/21 |
| Allan Goldsmith | 1/21 |
| Earl Brock | 1/28 |
| Charles Glowacki | 1/29 |
| Joseph Gibbons | 1/29 |

If you are not listed please add your Birthday when you send in your membership dues.

Welcome to the New Year! We decided to change things for our January meeting. It is scheduled for Saturday morning, January 10th, at 10 AM. We will fight the winter chill with bagels and coffee.

We were saddened to lose our good friend and member Barbara Koch, who passed away in late November. Barbara was a great supporter of our causes, and was always willing to help at our events. She will be greatly missed. We also thank the community for their many donations in her name.

Snacks with Santa in December was a heartwarming success. It is so uplifting to see the little ones at Christmas! Thanks go to Denise, Greg, Bob, and Linda, Tina, Rose, Vickie, and Patty Hopkins for making this event work so well!

Mark your calendars for our winter dance with DJ Phil on Saturday, February 28th. Our dance last year was very popular, so get your tickets soon by going online to <https://events.humanitix.com/let-s-make-some-noise-dance-party-with-dj-phil>

Splash Splash donated two admission tickets for the Auxiliary to raffle, the proceeds going for youth programs. The raffle tickets will be available at the Daytona Party on Sunday February 15th, and at the DJ dance on February 28th. The raffle will be held at our dance on April 17th.

The Southold Town Salutes banner program will take place again this year. It is a great tribute to our men and women who serve currently in the military or are a veteran, while also being a fundraiser for the Legion.

As we begin the New Year we look forward to serving our veterans, active military, and their families. Remember the time change for our January meeting, Saturday January 10th at 10:00AM.

Joan Cochran, President



EINSTEIN

When Einstein took the train from Princeton University, a conductor boarded to check passengers' tickets. When he reached Einstein, he began searching his jacket pockets for his ticket but couldn't find it. He then looked in his trouser pockets, then in his small carry-on suitcase, without success. Finally, he started looking on the seat next to him... Seeing this, the controller said to him:

— Dr. Einstein, I know who you are, everyone here knows you, and I'm sure you bought a ticket. Don't worry.

Einstein nodded in gratitude. The conductor continued punching the tickets of the other passengers, but as he was about to move into the next carriage, he saw Einstein on his knees, searching under his seat for his ticket.

Intrigued, the controller returned to the great physicist and said to him:

— As I told you, we all know who you are, it's not a problem, so please drop this ticket!

Einstein then looked up at him and replied:

— Thank you, young man, I too know who I am. But what I don't know is where I'm going! That's why I keep looking for my ticket!



MODERNIZATION OF THE NAVY RECRUIT TRAINING CENTER



The main modernization of the Navy Recruit Training Center (RTC) in Great Lakes, which replaced the facilities used in the 1970s, began in the late 1990s, with the primary construction project running from 1998 to 2010. The facilities that were in use during the 1970s had been constructed largely in the late 1950s and early 1960s. These buildings served the Navy for nearly half a century before the comprehensive "recapitalization" program started.

The decision to rebuild the center came after the Base Realignment and Closure

(BRAC) Commission decided in 1993 to consolidate all U.S. Navy enlisted basic training at Great Lakes, closing the centers in Orlando and San Diego.

JAN 23, 1968 USS PUEBLO SENT OUT AN UNANSWERED SOS

The seizure of the U.S. Navy ship and her 83 crew members, one of whom was killed in the attack, came less than a week after President Lyndon B. Johnson's State of the Union address to the United States Congress, a week before the start of the Tet Offensive in South Vietnam during the Vietnam War and three days after 31 men of North Korea's KPA Unit 124 had crossed the Korean Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) and killed 26 South Koreans and 4 Americans in an attempt to attack the South Korean Blue House (executive mansion) in the capital Seoul. The taking of Pueblo and the abuse and torture of her crew during the next eleven months became a major Cold War incident, raising tensions between western and eastern powers.



Released crewmen of the USS Pueblo are escorted by MPs upon their arrival at the U.S. Army 121st Evacuation Hospital at Ascom City, 10 miles west of Seoul, Dec. 23, 1968. | AP Photo

★ ★ CHAPLAIN'S REPORT ★ ★

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.*

May you enjoy a blessed new year with peace, purity, love, labor and faith in your hearts and homes.

Jeff Chagnon - Post Chaplain 631.456.3258

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★★JANUARY & FEBRUARY EVENTS★★

| | |
|-------------------|--|
| 01/01 Thu. | New Years Day |
| 01/06 Tues. | Tuesday Day BINGO - Doors Open at 12 noon and Games start at 12:30pm |
| 01/08 Thu. | Night BINGO - Doors Open at 6:00pm and Games start at 7pm |
| 01/09 Fri. | Bar is Open 6:30pm and Queen of Hearts Drawing 8pm |
| 01/09 Fri. | Holiday Undecorating of the Legion 6:30pm |
| 01/10 Sat. | Auxiliary Meeting 10am (Note the new time/date for January) |
| 01/13 Tue. | Executive and Business Meeting: Bar 6:00pm, Dinner 6:30pm, Meeting 7:00pm |
| 01/13 Tues. | Tuesday Day BINGO - Doors Open at 12 noon and Games start at 12:30pm |
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| 02/15 Sun. | Daytona 500 Party 1PM-6PM |
| 02/17 Tues. | Tuesday Day BINGO - Doors Open at 12 noon and Games start at 12:30pm |
| 02/19 Thu. | Night BINGO - Doors Open at 6:00pm and Games start at 7pm |
| 02/24 Tues. | Tuesday Day BINGO - Doors Open at 12 noon and Games start at 12:30pm |
| 02/26 Thu. | Night BINGO - Doors Open at 6:00pm and Games start at 7pm |
| 02/27 Fri. | Dance Party Set-up 6pm |
| 02/28 Sat. | DANCE Party with DJ Phil 7-10pm, Doors & Bar Open at 6:30pm |

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 - Don Jayamaha
2nd Finance Assistant - Vacant
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 - Jerry Murtha
Treasurer - Brian Hughes
Sergeant at Arms - Jonathan Bittner
Chaplain - Daniel Kaelin

★★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

Griswold Terry Glover
 Post 803
 The American Legion
 P.O. Box 591
 Southold, NY 11971



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