



www.post803.com

THE REPORTER

GRISWOLD TERRY GLOVER POST 803

MARCH 2025 ★ 631.765.2276

★ ★ COMMANDER'S REPORT ★ ★



Greetings Comrades & Friends of the Legion,

As we bid farewell to February, we look forward to March, a month of renewal and anticipation. The saying "In like a lion, out like a lamb.", seems to perfectly capture the essence of this transition as we approach the first signs of spring.



Looking back, February recap: February 1st Our Auxiliary Unit 803 held their annual Dance Party with DJ Phil spinning the vinyl. It was a huge success and a sold-out event! A heartfelt thank you to Rose Anasagasti and all those who helped make this evening unforgettable. Your dedication made this event truly special.

February 16th, the Auxiliary Unit hosted the annual Daytona 500 Party. While the weather forced a lengthy rain delay of the race that impacted attendance, those who braved the elements had a great time. A big thank you to all who came out and supported the event despite the circumstances. A special thank you goes out to Denise, Joan, Vickie, Sherry, and Jeanette of the Auxiliary. Also, gratitude to Ty, Dave Steele, Bill Ryan, Greg Schlachter, and Dave. Special thanks to Rob and Janique Nine who worked tirelessly in the kitchen preparing and cooking delicious food for everyone. I hope I did not overlook anyone who helped, if so, I sincerely apologize.

March is a month packed with special days. To start, we have the big March celebrations: Mardi Gras (March 4th this year) and St Patrick's Day (March 17th), both great occasions to let your inner party lion roar. The month also brings the first day of spring, marked by the vernal equinox on March 20th. Even if it's still chilly, those early blooming spring bulbs don't lie-spring is on its way!

Stay tuned for upcoming events and opportunities to get involved with Post 803, including the Walk 4 Valor, this year to be held on May 3rd and the Memorial Day ceremonies held at five war monuments located throughout the hamlet of Southold and the Memorial Day Parade, which will be hosted and take place in Southold on May 26th. The Parade will take place at 10 AM on Memorial Day, beginning with a starting point of Boisseau Avenue and traveling West on Main Street ending at Griswold Terry Glover American Legion Post 803. More details will be shared in next month's report! Your participation and support keep our organization strong. Thank you all for your dedication!

As a reminder, the Legion Hall will be closed to business from March 13th to April 13th. There will be no meetings held, the bar will not be open, and no one can rent the hall during this time. During this time, we will be installing a new ceiling in the main hall, constructing a handicap accessible bathroom, and installing sound reducing ceiling panels in the bar area.

I apologize for the inconvenience and thank you for your cooperation and continued support.

For God and Country
God Bless the USA

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



"How about if I just follow you
on Twitter instead?"

MADE IN AMERICA

★ ★ SONS OF THE 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.

SAL Commander, Gary Iorio



★ ★ ★ VETERANS BENEFITS "CORNER"

2025 VETERANS BENEFITS GUIDE NOW AVAILABLE

Don't miss out on what you've earned, check out the "2025 VA Federal Benefits Guide for Veterans, Dependents, Survivors, and Caregivers" handbook to learn more.

For your FREE 120 page guide:



David Chiaro –
keyarrow@hotmail.com

March 6, 1836

Fort Alamo fell to Mexican troops led by General Santa Anna. The Mexicans had begun the siege of the Texas fort on February 23rd, ending it with the killing of the last defender. "Remember the Alamo" became a rallying cry for Texans who went on to defeat Santa Anna in the Battle of San Jacinto in April 1836.





THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
**VIETNAM WAR
COMMEMORATION**

50th

National Vietnam War Veterans Day March 29



PATRICK J TREMPER • JAMES WITT • DAVID
GREGORY K • JAMES BARR • F
CHARLES • HOFF • MICHAEL D C
DARYL • RUM • C
LUKE • ROY L ESTRADA
LARRY • EDDIE DEAN GAN
JOI • ELVIN W • WILLIAM R GOUDELOCK •
ARTHUR L HAWKINS JR • EUGENE C JOHNSON • WALTER A

HONOR THEIR LEGACY

Always



"Join the Nation ... thank a Vietnam veteran!"

vietnamwar50th.com

HONORING HUMANITY IN WAR: A TALE OF COMPASSION AND COURAGE

During World War II, amid tales of bravery, one story stands out for its extraordinary act of compassion: the encounter between Charlie Brown, a B-17 bomber pilot, and Franz Stigler, a Luftwaffe fighter pilot. In December 1943, these men, on opposing sides, experienced a moment of genuine humanity that illustrating empathy and the lasting impact of individual choices in the chaos of war.

Charlie Brown piloted a B-17 Flying Fortress named "Ye Olde Pub" on a bombing mission over Bremen, Germany, Brown's crew encountered intense opposition from German fighters. The B-17, heavily damaged with one engine out and critical systems failing, struggled to maintain altitude. Despite expectations for a German pilot to finish off a disabled enemy, Franz Stigler's reaction defied this norm.

Franz Stigler, an experienced Luftwaffe pilot, spotted a damaged B-17 while patrolling.

Rather than destroy the vulnerable aircraft, Stigler, guided by empathy and honor, chose to escort the B-17 safely home, marking a defining moment in their lives.

Stigler's bold decision to fly alongside Brown's aircraft showed respect for the bomber crew's bravery, stemming from his understanding that these airmen were human beings caught in a destructive situation. Stigler risked severe penalties from his superiors by flying close to the B-17, but his sense of honor prioritized humanity over duty.

Charlie Brown noticed a German fighter trailing him, anticipating an attack. However, Stigler did not fire; instead, he signaled Brown to follow him to a safer route, avoiding enemy aircraft and anti-aircraft fire. For Brown, this encounter shattered preconceived notions about enemies, revealing Stigler as a protector and highlighting the capacity for kindness despite the brutality of war.

The End of a Mission and the Start of a Friendship

After safely navigating enemy territory, the two pilots parted ways. Stigler returned to base, while Brown and his crew landed home. This chance meeting would pave the way for a lasting friendship.

After the war, despite living on opposite sides of the Atlantic, both men felt compelled to reconnect, leading to a heartwarming reunion and lifelong friendship.

The journey of Charlie Brown and Franz Stigler highlights the potential for compassion during war, illustrating how humanity can emerge in the darkest times. Their story shows that empathy can flourish even amid conflict.

John Christina, Historian



Franz Stigler



Charlie Brown

★★ CHAPLAIN'S REPORT ★★

REST IN PEACE I am very sad to report that our dear friend and comrade, **Antone F. "Tony" Surozenski**, a six year US Navy veteran who served in Vietnam, passed on February 13th at the age of 74. Tony was a man who dedicated his life to his beautiful family, his country and his community as a Father, a Pop Pop, a Police Officer, a Firefighter and a Legionnaire. Loved and adored by all of us. A true American Hero. His goodness and the love which he shared with everyone will forever be an inspiration for us to be the best that we can be. May his soul rest in peace.



The American Legion Wake Service was offered at the DeFriest Grattan Funeral Home on February 19th. Special thanks to Post Commander Dave DeFriest for a heartfelt eulogy and the rest of our funeral detail for an outstanding turnout.

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."

In our thoughts and prayers is Henry Santacroce Sr.

Jeff Chagnon - Post Chaplain 631.456.3258

★★ MEMBERSHIP ★★



Post Status: We currently have **174/188 (92.5%)** paid members for 2025. I still have 27 membership ID cards for the year 2025, please check your current ID and see if it says 2025 on the top. If your ID card has 2024 or less for the membership year please send in your annual dues of **\$57** and I will send you your ID card for 2025. Post 803 would like to have the former members of Post 861 in Mattituck join us in Southold. The spring equinox is coming, a few more weeks.

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

**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.**

Due to the renovations at the Legion Hall, March will be a quiet month. February, on the other hand, was very busy! Our Dance Party on February 1st was a great success! We had a full house dancing to the tunes of DJ Phil. Rose dedicated a lot of time and effort to bringing us this event. A big thank you goes to Rose and her committee for a job well done! And, as always, thanks go to the community for their unfailing support.

The Auxiliary held interviews for seven Empire Girls State candidates early in February. These young women are selected by local high schools for academic achievement, community involvement and all-around good character. We are pleased to announce Kaitlyn Oliver as this year's Empire Girls State Citizen. We wish her well with this wonderful opportunity to learn how our government works and to find a network of new friends. Many thanks go to Linda Ruland and her committee. Each year Linda devotes her time to this cause, and we all appreciate it!

On February 16th the annual Daytona Party was held as a fundraiser for the Legion. Despite poor weather, we had a faithful group of NASCAR fans join us for good food and fun. Thanks go to Denise and her committee for undertaking this event each year.

The Auxiliary was happy to donate 10 cases of Girl Scout Cookies to the "Cookies for the Troops" program, where Girl Scout Cookies are sent to deployed troops. This is a great program, and you can participate in it through your local Girl Scout troops and Suffolk County Girl Scout Council.

The response to the "Southold Town Salutes" banner program, a joint venture between Southold Town and the Legion Auxiliary, was overwhelming, and all available poles have been assigned a sponsor for this year. Thank you to all who participated in this wonderful tribute to our heroes.

We will have no March meeting, since we moved it to February 26th to avoid the construction at the Legion. Our April meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 9th, location to be determined depending on the progress of the renovations.

Joan Cochran, President





THE POST IS TRYING TO IMPROVE LINES OF COMMUNICATION.



Please provide us your email address. The best way to do this is to send us an email
 at gtgpost803@gmail.com with your contact information. Or if you want to call,
 leave your name and email address on the answering machine **631.765.2276**,
 lastly you can mail it to **American Legion Post 803, P.O. Box 591 Southold, NY 11971**

VOLUNTEER CORNER

Golf Outing - Raffle Sales Volunteers Needed on April 26 and April 27 and May 16 and May 17th. In front of King Kullen in Cutchogue and IGA in Southold.

Times: 4 pm - 7 pm on Friday and 9 am - 12 pm on Saturday.

Please contact Bob Bittner at 631 680 6244 or navyjan70@gmail.com

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

— 2025 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. New Legion Hall Ceiling & Sound Deadening Material in the Bar Ceiling - installing during the month that the Legion is closed
5. Look Into Fire Alarm System: Project Manager Joe St. Pierre
6. Gather emails of all members - Happening now.
- ~~7. Create a handicap parking area for two automobiles next to the handicap ramp.~~

— LONG-TERM GOALS —

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. 9/11 Memorial Tree Pavers | 5. Basement Walls Coating for Brick Deterioration Mitigation |
| 2. Renovation of the 2nd Floor - presently underway | 6. Pavilion |
| 3. Bar Makeover | 7. Exterior of Post Painted/Stained |
| 4. Handicap Bathroom Renovation - being installed during the month that the Legion is closed | 8. Renovation of Second Floor Bathroom and Rooms |



LUBE SHOP

SOUTHOLD AUTOMOTIVE CORP.

DBA AUTO REPAIR OF SOUTHOLD

NEW CAR WARRANTIES MAINTAINED HERE

Foreign & Domestic Car & Light Truck Service

N.Y. State Inspection Sta.

Donald Tonyes

David Smith

54360 Main Road, Southold, New York 11971

(631) 765-5156

NIGHT (631) 774-0417

FAX (631) 765-3615

**YOUR
AD HERE.
TO ADVERTISE CALL
631.765.2276**



northforkprinting.com

631.765.3625



175 Boisseau Avenue | P.O. Box 665
Southold, New York 11971

theinkspot@northforkprinting.com



**FULL-SERVICE
MARINA**

Family owned and inspiring boaters since 1946



poemarine.com | 631-765-2445 YAMAHA



34890 COUNTY RD. 48
PECONIC, NEW YORK 11958

- Tree Removal
- Stump Removal & Grinding
- Land Clearing
- New Plantings
- Property & Lawn Maintenance
- Pesticide Control

631.734.6279



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.



WE BRING THE SHINE TO YOU

CERAMIC COATING | PAINT PROTECTION FILM | WINDOW TINT
VINYL WRAP | FULL DETAIL

(631) 734-8899
Info@northforkdetailing.com

22355 County Rd 48 Unit 23
Cutchogue, NY 11935

Paulette Ofrias
Southold Pharmacy
"More than a Drug Store"

631-765-3434 • Fax: 631-765-4395
53895 Main Street • PO Box 1177
Southold, NY 11971
www.southoldpharmacy.com



Serving the East End for over 35 years

(631) 298-5527

North Fork | South Fork | Shelter Island
www.kolbmechanical.com

Please Support Our Advertisers as They Support Our Post

Proud To Support The Southold American Legion



Thoughtfully Crafted, Honestly MadeSM

NorthForkBuilder.com

Proud to Support Our Friends
At The Southold American Legion

97 YEARS **MULLEN MOTORS**

DODGE RAM Jeep CHRYSLER

Earning Your Trust Every Day Since 1927



631.765.1061 Feather Hill Village
53345 Main Road • Southold, NY 11971
www.satnickjewelers.com



RegenBenzMacKenzie
Regen, Benz & MacKenzie, C.P.A.'S, P.C.
Certified Public Accountants

240 BECKWITH AVENUE • SOUTHOLD, NEW YORK 11971
PHONE 631.765.1118 • FAX 631.765.1755

www.rbmcpas.com



**Suffolk
Security
Systems**

Paul J Romanelli
President

(631) 765-5262

paul@suffolksecurity.com

50300 Main Road
PO Box 1355
Southold NY 11971

"Security is Our Middle Name"



**DeFriest-Grattan
Funeral Homes**

Joseph S. Grattan Joseph S. Grattan, Jr.
(631) 765-3850

Heating Oil ★ Kerosene ★ On & Off Road Diesel ★ Gasoline

Proud To Support The Southold American Legion



Always There, Always Fair.

Bob Ghosio, Owner

JarzombekEnergy.com

Electrical Construction
Generator Sales and service
Solar and Battery Power Systems



PECONIC POWER SYSTEMS

GENERAC[®]
PWRCELL

Phone: (631)734-5026
Website: PeconicPowerSys.com
Email: PeconicPowerSys@gmail.com



★★ MARCH & APRIL 2025 EVENTS ★★

| | |
|----------------------|--|
| 03/07 FRI. | BAR IS OPEN 6:30 PM AND QUEEN OF HEARTS DRAWING 8 PM |
| 03/11 TUES. | GOLF OUTING MEETING 5:15 PM |
| 03/11 TUES. | EXECUTIVE AND BUSINESS MEETING: BAR 6 PM, DINNER 6:30 PM, MEETING 7 PM |
| 03/13 – 04/13 | LEGION CLOSED FOR RENOVATIONS |
| 04/18 FRI. | BAR IS OPEN 6:30 PM AND QUEEN OF HEARTS DRAWING 8 PM |
| 04/25 FRI. | BAR IS OPEN 6:30 PM AND QUEEN OF HEARTS DRAWING 8 PM |



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

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



NonProfit Org
 US Postage
 PAID
 Southold, NY
 Permit No. 32