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THE REPORTER

GRISWOLD TERRY GLOVER POST 803

APRIL 2026 ★ 631.765.2276

★ ★ COMMANDER'S REPORT ★ ★



Some of the special days in the month of April are:

April Fools Day, April 1st. Better a witty fool than a foolish wit. "If it thunders on All Fools Day, expect good crops of corn and hay." The first of April is the day we remember what we are, the other 364 days of the year. The greatest lesson in life is to know that even fools are right sometimes.

The United Nations General Assembly unanimously declared April 2nd as World Autism Awareness Day to highlight the need to help improve the quality of life of those with autism so they can lead full and meaningful lives as an integral part of society.



In April 2026 Easter Sunday falls on April 5th, with the surrounding holy days including Good Friday on April 3rd and Easter Monday on April 6th. This period marks the end of lent, ending April 2nd and is characterized by Christian Services, egg hunts, and spring celebrations. With that in mind I would like to give a shout out to The Southold Town PBA and thank them for sponsoring their annual Easter Egg Hunt for children up to the 6th grade. It is a well-attended and special community program for the children and their families. This year it took place on March 29th, 12 noon at Southold High School.

Just a reminder, Auxiliary Unit 803 is holding their second DJ Dance Party on Friday, April 17th from 7 to 10 PM in the Legion Hall. This Dance Party is a fundraiser to fund programs to support veterans.

In last month's issue of the Reporter I mentioned several upcoming events. Walk 4 Valor on May 2nd, begins 8 AM on the front lawn of our American Legion Post 803. More information is available on Walk 4 Valor website. Also taking place on May 2nd is the Southold American Legion and Long Island Cares Veterans Project, Veteran's Resource Fair and Food Distribution. This will take place from 10 AM to 2 PM.

Be mindful of these upcoming events and more events in the future. Please plan to attend and support our Legion Family and Community.

Our efforts to improve our building and grounds was put on hold temporarily because of the severe winter we just experienced. However, we are back on track and work is progressing, thanks to our building and grounds Guru, John Christina. Thank you, John for everything you are doing and the time and effort you are putting into it. Much appreciated.

As we turn the corner into spring and look ahead to the summer months, we are reminded that this is a season of renewal, growth, and opportunity. Our Post has always been strongest when our members come together with a shared sense of purpose and the months ahead offer many chances to do just that—through our events, our service to veterans, and our connection to the community.

With our election of officers approaching this is also a time to reflect on how each of us can play a role in shaping the future of Post 803. We are fortunate to have a strong membership, but our continued success depends on more of us stepping forward, getting involved, and sharing the responsibility of keeping our Post active and vibrant. Whether you are considering a leadership position or simply becoming more engaged in our day-to-day activities, your participation truly makes a difference.

I encourage all members to take part, lend a hand, and help carry our mission forward. Together, we can ensure that Post 803 remains a place of pride, service, and camaraderie for years to come

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



*Let's Make Some
More Noise*

DANCE PARTY!

with DJ Phil spinning all the dance classics

Friday, April 17

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 Humanitix.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



WE HAVE GREAT NEWS! You're invited to a Life Line Screening Event!

Hosted by our Southold American Legion

Life Line Screening is the premier provider of stroke and cardiovascular disease risk screenings since 1993. Life Line Screening is extending a discounted offer of **\$129 to all members** which will identify your risk level for the following diseases - **Carotid Artery Disease, Peripheral Arterial Disease, Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm and Atrial Fibrillation.**

WEDNESDAY, MAY 6TH, 2026

American Legion Post 803 • 51655 Route 25 • Southold, NY 11971

THIS EVENT IS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC.

Schedule your appointment! A simple screening can be worth a lifetime.

Life Line Screening is the nation's leader in
Stroke and Cardiovascular Disease Risk Screenings.
Trusted by over 11 million customers.

Screenings are simple and painless. Get peace of mind or early detection.

Who should attend: Anyone age of 40+

SPECIAL PRICING FOR \$129

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These tests cannot detect all risk factors for all conditions, such as and including the presence of coronary artery disease.

Those with abnormal results should discuss possible next steps with their family healthcare provider and ensure they understand the risk and benefits of any additional testing or procedures.

SOUTHOLD AMERICAN LEGION, AUXILIARY AND LONG ISLAND CARES VETERANS PROJECT To Host Veteran's Resource Fair and Food Distribution

BUILDING A HUNGER-FREE LONG ISLAND, TOGETHER



JOIN US!

Among the organizations participating in the May 2 Veterans Resource Fair are the following:

- Advocate Health Advisors
- CAST
- EOC of Suffolk County
- Helmets to Hardhats
- Island Harvest
- Joseph P. Dwyer Project
- Long Island Cares Veterans Project
- Long Island Veterans Home
- National Grid
- Northwell Health
- Open Door Exchange
- Paws of War
- PSEG
- Rebuilding Together
- Southold American Legion
- Southold American Legion Auxiliary
- Suffolk County Department of Labor
- Suffolk County Veterans Service Agency
- Surviving PTSD Through Art
- VA Medical Center Outreach
- Vet Center
- Veterans Defense Program
- Wellcare
- Wounded Warrior Project
- US Family Health Plan - TRICARE Prime Option

VETERANS RESOURCE FAIR & FOOD DISTRIBUTION

SATURDAY, MAY 2 • 10AM - 2PM
Southold American Legion
51655 Main Rd. (Rte. 25), Southold, NY

We invite all our Legion members, their veteran friends and active members of the military to the first North Fork **FREE Veterans Resource Fair and Food Distribution**. More than 30 Long Island organizations that offer services and programs specifically for veterans and active military personnel will be onsite. In addition, Long Island Cares Veterans Project will distribute **FREE FRESH PRODUCE*** to veterans from its Farm Truck and **FREE BROWN BAG LUNCHES** prepared by Wayside Market will be available to the first 200 attendees.

"Our Legion Post and its Auxiliary continually seek ways to better serve local veterans, but it can be difficult to identify those who need help and to connect them with the appropriate resources," explained Post Commander Dave DeFriest. "We're excited to partner with Long Island Cares Veterans Project to bring these veterans service organizations together and offer a one-stop resource for local vets."



The Veterans Fair is a convenient and valuable opportunity for East End veterans to connect with and learn about programs and services available to them. Admission is free and open to all veterans and active military.



Registration is Required. Individuals planning to attend are asked to register in advance by scanning QR or calling Justin Berbig at 631.583.3663 ext. 151, however, walk-ins will be welcome.

*ONLY FOR VETERANS, ACTIVE DUTY PERSONNEL AND THEIR FAMILIES.

GOLF OUTIn G **In n EED OF VOLUn TEERS** **DAY OF EVEEn T MOOn DAY JUUn E 15TH**



Work Grill - 2 volunteers needed
Work Poker Card Distribution
at specified holes on course - 4-8 volunteers needed

Many hands make the workload lighter!

PLEASE ATTEEn D THE APRIL BUSIn ESS MEETIn G
AT 6:15 PM, DIIn n ER AVAILABLE n O CHARGE.
THIS EVEEn T IS THE LIFE BLOOD OF THE POST..
PLEASE HELP

I need Legionnaires, Sons of Legion or Aux Unit 803 members
to help sell Raffle Tickets at King Kullen
in Cutchogue and IGA in Southold



DATES An D TIMES

Friday	April 24	4PM to about 7PM
Saturday	April 25	9AM to n oon
Friday	May 22	4PM to about 7PM
Sunday	May 24	9AM to n oon

Without volunteers the Post cannot sustain itself.
I also need every member to take 1 chance in the raffle
which will be mailed out April 1st.
Doing so will cover the costs involved in running the raffle.



Contact Bob Bittner 631.680.6244 or n avyjan70@gmail.com to volunteer.

THAn K YOU ALL FOR YOUR SUPPORT



APRIL IS A PIVOTAL MONTH In U.S. MILITARY HISTORY,

marking the start of the Civil War (April 12, 1861), the U.S. entry into WWI (April 6, 1917), and major WWII actions, including the Okinawa invasion (April 1, 1945) and the end of the war in Europe... Additionally, the month witnessed the start of the Spanish-American War in 1898 and the Bay of Pigs invasion in 1961.



Civil War



WWII Okinawa



WWI



Bay of Pigs Invasion

Fulfilling Our Nation's Promise Airman Accounted For From World War II

Jan. 13, 2026 - WASHInGTON —The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency announced today that U.S. Army Air Forces Staff Sgt. Nicholas J. Governale, 22, of Brooklyn, New York, killed during World War II, was accounted for May 15, 2025.

Governale's family recently received their full briefing on his identification, therefore, additional details on his identification can be shared.

In the summer of 1943, Governale was a member of 69th Bombardment Squadron, 42d Bombardment Group (Medium). He was killed on July 10 when his North American B-25C-1 Mitchell medium bomber crashed on takeoff from Carney Field, Guadalcanal, Solomon Islands. His remains were not recovered after the war, and he was declared nonrecoverable on May 11, 1949.

In 2017, Project Recover, a DPAA partner, conducted an investigation in the Solomon Islands and located aircraft wreckage consistent with a B-25 in close proximity to Governale's reported crash location. In 2022, after receiving the data from Project Recover, historians and archaeologists at DPAA began excavating the site. The team recovered possible human remains, osseous material, possible osseous material, and material evidence, including life support equipment. Excavations continued until 2024, and all evidence recovered was accessioned into the DPAA Laboratory for analysis.

To identify Governale's remains, scientists from DPAA used dental and anthropological analysis, as well as material evidence. Additionally, scientists from the Armed Forces Medical Examiner System used mitochondrial, Y-chromosome, and autosomal DNA analysis.

Governale's name is recorded on the Walls of the Missing at the Manila American Cemetery and Memorial in the Philippines, along with the others who are still missing from World War II. A rosette will be placed next to his name to indicate he has been accounted for.

Governale will be buried in Ridgewood, New York on a date yet to be determined.

Creating Lasting Memories for the 250th Anniversary of Independence Day Celebration!

As we approach the 250th anniversary of our nation's independence, it is a perfect moment to reflect on the rich history behind our celebrations. Did you know that John Adams believed July 2nd was the true date of independence because that was when the Declaration of Independence was drafted and approved? Early colonists shifted from honoring the King's birthday to holding mock funerals for King George III, symbolizing their break from British rule. Interestingly, the 4th of July did not become a federal holiday until 1941. These facts remind us that our traditions have evolved, and now it's our turn to create meaningful memories for the future.

Our community is one big family, and the 250th anniversary at our Post should be a special event that brings everyone together. We want to build moments that children will cherish and share with their own families when they celebrate the 300th anniversary in 2076. **Let's explore some creative ideas to make this celebration unforgettable:**



Fun and Engaging Activities for All Ages

- Tug of War between the Fire and Police Departments
- Potato Sack Races
- Fire Truck Hose Play for Children (If it's a hot day)
- Creating Patriotic Atmosphere with Music (Playing songs that everyone knows such as *When Johnny Comes Marching Home*, *Yankee Doodle Dande* and songs by the Andrew Sisters)

How You Can Help

This celebration will be a success only if we all come together. **We encourage everyone reading this to share ideas, volunteer, and get involved.** Whether you want to help organize games, assist with music, or manage refreshments, your contribution matters. Together, we can create a day filled with joy, pride, and lasting memories.

God Bless America and our Freedom

John Christina, Historian



• **UPDATE** •

We truly appreciated everyone coming out to Bingo.

TUESDAY DAYTIME BINGO, IS NOW HELD ON THE 1ST AND 3RD TUESDAY of each month with cards sales at 12pm and games starting at 12:30pm.

THURSDAY NIGHT BINGO IS STILL EVERY THURSDAY

with card sales starting at 6pm and games starting at 7pm.

The progressive jackpot is over \$1000 and continues to grow each Thursday

22 VETERANS A DAY DIE BY SUICIDE

SATURDAY, MAY 2 2026

JOIN NATIONAL GUARD OFFICER MAJOR CHARLES J. SANDERS FOR 22-MILES OR CHOOSE SEGMENTS OF THE ROUTE TO WALK.

START AT AMERICAN LEGION POST 803 IN SOUTHOLD AND TRAVERSE ROUTE 25 THROUGH THE VILLAGE OF GREENPORT TO ROUTE 48 STOPPING AT EACH LOCAL FIRE HOUSE AND AMERICAN LEGION TO HONOR THE FALLEN. TURNAROUND AT ORIENT FIRE HOUSE AND END AT THE SOUTHOLD FIRE HOUSE.

WALK4VALOR WILL RAISE AWARENESS AND FUNDING FOR MEASURES TO HELP REDUCE VETERAN SUICIDE AND SUPPORT THE EDUCATION OF MILITARY FAMILIES.

WALK4VALOR IS PRODUCED BY THE BOB FELLER ACT OF VALOR AWARD FOUNDATION, A 501(C)(3) TAX EXEMPT ORGANIZATION.



All net proceeds support scholarships for military families and initiatives that assist veterans in crisis. Through an alliance with Mission Roll Call, we help advocate for policies that help reverse the trend of veteran suicide in America.

Join us and help create awareness for this tragedy.

WE WALK FOR VALOR!



INFORMATION
REGISTRATION



★★★ TRIBUTE BANNERS ★★★



We are still 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



★★ CHAPLAIN'S REPORT ★★

A 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.”

Jeff Chagnon, Post Chaplain - 631.456.3258

What's Happening!

America's 250th Anniversary Celebration

Time seems to be flying by! Spring is just around the corner.

As we look ahead, the 4th of July isn't as far off as it might seem.

It is only 77 days away!

This year's 4th of July is particularly special.
We are honored to attend and reflect on the sacrifices
of true Americans who shaped our nation.

America's 250th Anniversary... A Once-in-a-Lifetime Event!

The parade will conclude at our Post on Main Street U.S.A.

This special event deserves an equally special celebration.

We formally invite all "REPORTER" readers to join us for this year's festivities.

You will be receiving updates about the planning as we move forward.

Our Post will be working to improve our grounds in preparation
for this historic event. More information will be shared soon.

God bless our Founding Fathers for their wisdom and faith!

VETERANS BENEFITS "CORNER"

NEXT MONTH, COMMISSARIES WILL BEGIN CHARGING FOR BAGS

All commissaries will begin charging shoppers for single-use plastic and paper bags on April 6, to encourage more people to bring in reusable bags, the Defense Commissary Agency said Monday. "This change will allow the Defense Commissary Agency to continue to offer its eligible patrons significant savings while strengthening its fiscal stewardship and reducing operating expenses," according to a statement about the change. It will cost 5 cents per plastic bag and 10 cents for each paper bag in store and through curbside and delivery orders, the agency said.

Customers using curbside and delivery can note when they intend to use their own bags.

READ MORE ABOUT THIS HERE



David Chiaro –keyarrow@hotmail.com

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

Joseph St Pierre	4/1	•	William W Dewey	4/19
Thomas J Elak	4/7	•	John Copertino	4/19
Joseph T Reilly	4/8	•	Jeffrey Chagnon	4/21
John Paterson	4/15	•	Robert C Cochran	4/23
Robert A Atkinson	4/17	•	Robert F Neville	4/26

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

★★ LEGION AUXILIARY POST 803 ★★

April is here, and the long cold winter is behind us! Welcome back snowbirds! Tuesday Bingo will be starting again – it will be held the first and third Tuesdays of each month, check the calendar for dates.

Another Dance Party with DJ Phil is scheduled for Friday, April 17th. Come join us for a night of fun! Please purchase tickets on-line at <https://events.humanitix.com> Thanks go to Rose and all the Legion, Auxiliary, and Sons of the Legion who helped make our February dance a great success!

Mark your calendars for Saturday, May 2nd, for the first Veterans Resource Fair, a joint project with LI Cares. Joan Cear, Dave Wilburn, and their committee are working hard to help serve our veterans with representatives from many groups. Be sure to check it out. The same day Post 803 will also be hosting the Annual Walk for Valor. Look online for more information and to sign up for this event.

Our next meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 13th at 7:00PM.

Joan Cochran, President



★★ MEMBERSHIP ★★



Post Status: We currently have (162/175 = 92.7%) paid up members for the membership year 2026. We have 13 active members who need to pay their 2026 dues. I sent out a friendly reminder to those members who need to pay their 2026 dues. The Post 803 members who haven't paid their dues for 2025 and 2026 have been dropped from the database by the Department of NY. If you don't have a Post 803 ID card that has 2026 across the top, send in your dues (\$57). On a positive note I would like to welcome William Smith to our post. Bill served in the US Army during the Vietnam conflict.

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

★★ SONS OF THE LEGION ★★



Rest In Peace American Heroes. Casualties of operation Epic Fury.

The six Army Reserve soldiers killed in an Iranian drone strike in Kuwait on March 1 – the first American casualties of the conflict – returned home on Saturday.

President Trump attended the dignified transfer of the service members –

Maj. Jeffrey O'Brien, 45, of Indianola, Iowa;

Capt. Cody Khork, 35, of Winter Haven, Florida;

Chief Warrant Officer 3 Robert Marzan, 54, of Sacramento, California;

Sgt. 1st Class Nicole Amor, 39, of White Bear Lake, Minnesota;

Sgt. 1st Class Noah Tietjens, 42, of Bellevue, Nebraska;

and **Sgt. Declan Coady**, 20, of West Des Moines, Iowa, who was posthumously promoted from specialist – at Dover Air Force Base.

SAL Commander, Gary Iorio

U.S. SOLDIERS KILLED IN KUWAIT
MARCH 1



MAJ. JEFFREY O'BRIEN

CAPT. CODY KHORK

CWO3 ROBERT MARZAN

SFC NICOLE AMOR

SFC NOAH TIETJENS

SGT. DECLAN COADY

HONORING FALLEN SOLDIERS
103RD SUSTAINMENT COMMAND - DES MOINES

IRAN WAR

KCCI NEWS 8

5:04 / 58"



BREAKING NEWS

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IDENTIFIED AS THE 7TH AMERICAN
HERO LOST DEFENDING OUR NATION
AGAINST IRAN. 🇺🇸

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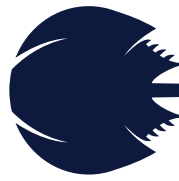
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Beacon Light Foundation



HonorFlightLongIsland.org

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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★★ APRIL & MAY EVENTS ★★

04/02 Thu.	Night BINGO - Doors Open at 6:00pm and Games start at 7pm
04/03 Fri.	Bar is Open 6:30pm and Queen of Hearts Drawing 8pm
04/07 Tues.	Tuesday Day BINGO- Doors Open at 12 noon and Games start at 12:30pm
04/08 Wed.	Auxiliary Meeting 7:00pm
04/09 Thu.	Night BINGO - Doors Open at 6:00pm and Games start at 7pm
04/10 Fri.	Bar is Open 6:30pm and Queen of Hearts Drawing 8pm
04/14 Tue.	Executive and Business Meeting: Bar 6:00pm, Dinner 6:30pm, Meeting 7:00pm
04/16 Thu.	Night BINGO - Doors Open at 6:00pm and Games start at 7pm
04/17 Fri.	Set up for Dance Party 1:00pm
04/17 Fri.	Bar is Open 6:30pm
04/17 Fri.	DANCE Party with DJ Phil 7-10pm, doors & bar open at 6:30pm
04/21 Tues.	Tuesday Day BINGO - Doors Open at 12 noon and Games start at 12:30pm
04/23 Thu.	Night BINGO - Doors Open at 6:00pm and Games start at 7pm
04/24 Fri.	Bar is Open 6:30pm and Queen of Hearts Drawing 8pm
04/30 Thu.	Night BINGO - Doors Open at 6:00pm and Games start at 7pm
05/01 Fri.	Bar is Open 6:30pm and Queen of Hearts Drawing 8pm
05/02 Sat.	Walk For Valor 8am
05/02 Sat.	Veterans Resource Fair 10am-2pm
05/05 Tues.	Tuesday Day BINGO - Doors Open at 12 noon and Games start at 12:30pm
05/07 Thu.	Night BINGO - Doors Open at 6:00pm and Games start at 7pm
05/08 Fri.	Bar is Open 6:30pm and Queen of Hearts Drawing 8pm
05/12 Tue.	Executive and Business Meeting: Bar 6:00pm, Dinner 6:30pm, Meeting 7:00pm
05/13 Wed.	Auxiliary Meeting 7:00pm
05/14 Thu.	Night BINGO - Doors Open at 6:00pm and Games start at 7pm
05/15 Fri.	Bar is Open 6:30pm and Queen of Hearts Drawing 8pm
05/19 Tues.	Tuesday Day BINGO - Doors Open at 12 noon and Games start at 12:30pm
05/21 Thu.	Night BINGO - Doors Open at 6:00pm and Games start at 7pm
05/22 Fri.	Bar is Open 6:30pm and Queen of Hearts Drawing 8pm
05/28 Thu.	Night BINGO - Doors Open at 6:00pm and Games start at 7pm

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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