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THE REPORTER

GRISWOLD TERRY GLOVER POST 803

DECEMBER 2024

COMMANDER'S REPORT



Greetings fellow Legionnaires and Friends of the Legion,

November is behind us now. The Auxiliary held their annual Holiday Craft Fair the first Sunday in November. The weather was nice and it was a successful event. Thank you to all who participated: Auxiliary members setting up and working the event, Vendors, and Shoppers.

Moving on in the month of November we held our annual Veterans Day Ceremony on November 11th. I was very pleased with the Ceremony, it was well planned and carried out. I was pleasantly surprised by the large number of community members who attended and supported our Veterans.

Though Veterans Day is traditionally observed in November, December serves as a time to remember the establishment of Veterans Day. Originally called Armistice Day, it was first observed on November 11, 1919, marking the end of World War I. It was later renamed Veterans Day in 1954 to honor all American veterans, and this continues to be a significant holiday for us.

As of the most recent U.S. Census, New York State is home to over 800,000 veterans. A staggering 12% of New York's total population is made up of veterans, and many continue to serve in their communities through volunteerism and leadership roles. The state continues to push for improved healthcare access and programs to support veterans as they transition to civilian life.

I hope everyone had an enjoyable Thanksgiving holiday with family and friends.

Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day - December 7th. December 7th marks the anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor in 1941, which led the United States to enter World War II. Over 2400 Americans; military personnel and civilians, lost their lives that day. Each year, Americans honor those who perished, as well as the veterans who served during and after the attack. This day is a reminder of the ultimate sacrifices made by our military.

Wreaths Across America – December 14th. Wreaths Across America is a nationwide event that takes place every December to honor the sacrifices of fallen veterans. Volunteers across the country place holiday wreaths on the graves of military veterans in more than 2,500 cemeteries including national cemeteries like Arlington, Calverton National, Farmingdale LI National. In 2023 over 2.7 million wreaths were placed on veterans graves. Local cemeteries, including those on Long Island, also participate in this national act of remembrance.

Gulf War Syndrome Awareness Month. December is observed as Gulf War Syndrome Awareness Month, highlighting the ongoing struggles faced by veterans who served in the Gulf War (1990-1991). Many veterans of this conflict suffer from a variety of symptoms known as Gulf War Illness, which includes chronic fatigue, muscle pain, and cognitive difficulties. Advocating for better medical care and recognition for Gulf War veterans remains an important focus of veterans organizations.

Upcoming events: December 9th Auxiliary Unit 803 Snacks with Santa, Story Time and Crafts. In the Legion Hall 4 to 6 PM.

Christmas Holiday Party. Friday December 13th 6:30 PM Pot Luck Dinner. Join us for our annual Holiday Party. This festive gathering is a wonderful opportunity for us to celebrate the season, share camaraderie, and reflect on the year's achievements.

As we reflect on these important dates and milestones, let us be reminded of the selflessness, bravery, and commitment of those who served in our nation's military. The holidays are a time for us to come together, honor our shared history, and give back to those who have given so much.

Please join us for our upcoming events and continue to support our veterans in every way possible. I look forward to seeing everyone this December as we work together to close out another successful year for our Post!

Happy Holidays and God Bless America!

David E. DeFriest, Post 803 Commander

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MADE IN AMERICA

★ ★ ★ Veterans Day 2024 ★ ★ ★



*Greenport Legion Color Guard.
From Left to Right: Bill Lieblein, Tom Quillan,
and Commander Jack Martilotta*



*Commander Dave DeFriest
Presenting 50 Year Continuous
Service of Legion Membership
Recognition to John Foster.*



*Southold American Legion
Post 803 Color Guard*



*Legion Auxiliary - Back Row: Denise Schlachter, Patty Hopkins,
Carol Horne, Joan Cochran, Donna St. Pierre, Tina Ginas
Front Row: Priscilla Devine, Margie Deroski, Vickie DeFriest, Joan Cear.*



Southold Navy Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps (NJROTC)



*Commander Dave DeFriest
Addressing the Community*



B-52 Bombers Deploy to Middle East to Deter Iran, More F-15E Fighters to Come.

U.S. Air Force B-52 Stratofortress bombers have arrived in the Middle East to deter Iran and its proxies, the U.S. military announced Nov. 3. It is the first time that B-52s have deployed to a base in the region since 2019.

The U.S. is deploying a total of six B-52s, an additional squadron of F-15E Strike Eagles, and more aerial refueling tankers to support those aircraft.

Al Udeid is the largest U.S. base in the Middle East and has previously hosted B-52s.



★★ SONS OF THE LEGION ★★



December 7 1941 "A Date Which Will Live in Infamy"

Let us never forget "the 2,403 service members and civilians who were killed during the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941. A further 1,178 people were injured in the attack, which permanently sank two U.S. Navy battleships (the **USS Arizona** and the **USS Utah**) and destroyed 188 aircraft." The surprise attack would draw the United States into WW II.



I hope you all have a Merry Christmas with family and friends and take a moment to remember so many of our Military who didn't return so we can enjoy freedom.

★★ CHAPLAIN'S REPORT ★★

REST IN PEACE - Our dear friend and comrade, Alvah "Skip" B. Goldsmith, a US Air Force veteran who served during the Vietnam War passed on November 9th at the age of 85. Skip was a long-time member of our Post who never said 'no' to anything and was always there to support us when we needed his help. He was an exceptional, loving and kind man on so many levels as a father, a local business owner, a sixty-eight year volunteer firemen and a fifty plus year Legionnaire. Skip was truly an American Hero. May his soul rest in peace.

Special thanks to our Funeral Detail and the Auxiliary for their outstanding turnout at The American Legion Wake Service.



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.

To our Troops and Veterans - Thank you for all you have done for our country. God bless each and every one of you. Have a Happy Holiday, a Merry Christmas and a safe and Happy New Year.

Jeff Chagnon - Post Chaplain 631.456.3258

★ ★ LEGION AUXILIARY POST 803 ★ ★

December is here and we've come to the close of another year supporting our Veterans and Active Military. There was no greater example of our commitment than the somber Veterans Day Ceremony held at Post 803 on November 11th, followed by the joint LI Cares and Legion Auxiliary Thanksgiving Food Distribution. After the ceremony, Justin Berbig arrived with the LI Cares truck to deliver turkeys, chickens and hams, along with the fixings for a nice meal. Joan Cear coordinated this Thank You for our Legion members, who had signed up ahead of time. The Auxiliary would like to thank the LI Cares Veterans Program, and all who assisted with this event, especially the ROTC cadets from our local high schools.

Our Holiday Craft Fair was a huge success! Thanks go to Denise and her committee for a job well done! Thank you, Margie, for making the delicious chili, Donna for the creamy rice pudding, and Charlotte for the tasty sauerkraut. We appreciate all our talented cooks! Thanks again to Linda for donating the Thanksgiving Raffle Basket, and to all who helped sell tickets. And thank you to artist David Arteaga and to all the vendors who donated items for the raffle, to Commander Dave and all the Legion members who helped, and to the community for supporting our event.

You may have noticed a newly planted tree in the Legion yard. Thanks go to Joe and Donna St. Pierre for spearheading this project to honor longtime members Evelyn Mc Conologue and Daphne Horton, in memory of their many years of dedicated service to the American Legion Auxiliary. Thanks go to Sharon Burden, Dave Wilburn, and Steve Zuhoski from Zuhoski Farms for the donation and planting of this beautiful Blue Diamond Spruce. Thank you to everyone who helped with this lovely tribute!

The Auxiliary extends sympathy to the family of Skip Goldsmith. The Legion wake service was a moving tribute to their longtime member and well-known supporter of the community. May he Rest in Peace.

Mark your calendars for Snacks with Santa on Monday, December 9th. Young children of the community are invited to come meet Santa, Mrs. Claus and Santa's elf. Snacks and holiday crafts will be available. Admission is free, but donations are always welcome.

Our Christmas Potluck is scheduled for Friday, December 13th. Bring a dish and join in this convivial event! We plan to decorate the Legion for the holidays on Friday, December 6th. Help is always appreciated!

There is no scheduled Auxiliary meeting for December, so our next meeting will be on Wednesday, January 8th at 7:00PM. Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays!

Joan Cochran, President



VOLUNTEER CORNER

Earl Brock is looking for volunteers to help start up BINGO NIGHT
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 District Commander, Bob 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 some.

THE CHRISTMAS TRUCE OF 1914

The Christmas Truce of 1914 is one of the most touching and memorable stories from World War I. During this moment in history, soldiers found a glimmer of humanity amid the horrors of war.

During a short period from December 24th to the 26th, remarkable peace emerged on the front lines, captivating the hearts of many. British and German soldiers on the Western Front ceased fighting, exchanged gifts, sang carols, and played games.

Approximately 100,000 British and German troops took part in this unofficial truce.

The Germans initiated the truce by placing a Christmas tree with candles in their trenches and singing Christmas carols, including Silent Night, to which the British responded in English.

Historians have recorded this event through letters sent by soldiers to their families, which were later published in newspapers. Furthermore, Joyeux Noel, the well-known drama film inspired by the Christmas Truce of December 1914, portrays the memories of this event from the perspectives of French, British, and German soldiers.

Was it a miracle? We may never know for certain, but The Christmas Truce remains an important part of the World War I narrative, symbolizing the resilience of the human spirit. It also serves as a powerful reminder that even in times of conflict, individuals can find common ground and shared understanding.

As global conflicts continue to unfold, the story of the Christmas Truce remains a poignant testament to compassion amid turmoil and adversity.

We can only hope for Peace on Earth one day!

John Christina, Historian

To all members of our North Fork Legion, we currently have 190 registered members, but only 25 are active. In an effort to increase your participation, we will be sending out a separate questionnaire.

***Your feedback is highly valued!** Meanwhile, we are planning to conclude this year with a group photo. Please reach out to the POST so we can make "2025" a successful year for our organization.*

VA Unveils National Over-the-Phone Emergency Care Option for Veterans

Friday, Sep 27, 2024

Veterans Affairs officials have expanded their new tele-emergency care network (<https://www.va.gov/find-locations/?page=1&facilityType=health>) to include all veterans across the country, giving individuals who are unsure if they're facing an urgent health problem another option to receive medical advice.

The system is not designed to replace 911 calls or emergency room visits for veterans who are seeking immediate, life saving help, department leaders said. But the tele-emergency options can provide answers for medical questions from veterans who are worried they may be heading towards an emergency situation and are unsure of what to do next.

"Every veteran can feel like they have a doctor in the family now," said Dr. Neil Patel, acting director of the VA National Emergency Medicine Office, during a rollout of the new program.

"Veterans can simply pick up the phone to call VA, and we can give them advice on what to do and where to go for care," Patel added. "It's bringing emergency care and advice into a veteran's home, rather than asking veterans to always go to an ER."

The tele-emergency care program was launched earlier this year with pilot programs in separate sections of the country. Medical providers working the calls can access veterans' medical records and other relevant biographical information if callers are already in the VA health care system.

Of the more than 61,000 callers so far this year, about 59% had their medical questions resolved without the patient having to travel to an urgent care clinic or hospital, officials said.

Patel said officials can connect veterans with local emergency services if they determine a patient's condition is too serious to be dealt with through a phone call or video chat.

He acknowledged that the idea of emergency care may feel uncomfortable to some veterans, but said the effort is designed to give patients more options for their care, and not to replace needed emergency visits.

"It's really just as simple as giving us a call, so we can get veterans the right care," he said.

David Chiaro – keyarrow@hotmail.com

SNACKS WITH SANTA

MONDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2024
4 - 6 PM

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CHRISTMAS POTLUCK DINNER

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 13TH
6:30 P.M.

Bring a Main Dish, Casserole, Salad,
Appetizer or Dessert and
Celebrate The Holidays with Your
American Legion Family

★★ MEMBERSHIP ★★



Post Status: We currently have **128/182 (70.3%)** paid up members for 2025. Annual Dues for 2025 are \$57. Anyone who wants to pay their 2024 dues the correct amount is \$50. Ron Breuer is the latest legionnaire to transfer to Post 803 from Post 861 in Mattituck. Welcome to Post 803 Ron. There are approximately 21 members who could transfer to Post 803 from Mattituck. Put out the word we will take them all. The American Legion must survive the changing membership levels. Every Legionnaire should have a Post to call home.

Merry Christmas to all.

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

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



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ENPHASE

★★ DECEMBER 2024 & JANUARY 2025 EVENTS ★★

12/06 FRI.	BAR IS OPEN 6:30PM AND QUEEN OF HEARTS DRAWING 8PM
12/06 FRI.	LEGION HOLIDAY DECORATING 6:30PM
12/09 MON.	SNACKS WITH SANTA 4-6PM
12/10 TUES.	EXECUTIVE AND BUSINESS MEETING: BAR 6:00PM, DINNER 6:30PM, MEETING 7:00PM
12/13 FRI.	POT LUCK CHRISTMAS PARTY 6:30 PM - QOH DRAWING
12/20 FRI.	BAR IS OPEN 6:30PM AND QUEEN OF HEARTS DRAWING 8PM
12/27 FRI.	BAR IS OPEN 6:30PM AND QUEEN OF HEARTS DRAWING 8PM
01/03 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
01/08 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
01/17 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



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 - 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 - 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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