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THE REPORTER

GRISWOLD TERRY GLOVER POST 803

JULY 2025 ★ 631.765.2276

★ ★ COMMANDER'S REPORT ★ ★



Comrades,

As we approach the height of summer, I'd like to take a moment to reflect on what has been a very active couple of months here at Post 803.

The months of May and June were packed with events and activities that showcased the strength and commitment of our Legion family. We began with the Auxiliary's Poppy Drive-Thru, followed by Memorial Day services, the farewell party for Lt. Colonel Charles Sanders, the well-attended lecture by FDNY Lt. Joseph Torillo; "Buried Alive", our Flag Day observance, and, most recently, our annual Golf Outing.

The Golf Outing, held on June 16th at Island's End Golf Course, was a great success. We were fortunate to have 117 golfers participate this year. The weather was beautiful—just a bit breezy—and the spirit of camaraderie was strong throughout the day. A sincere thank you goes out to Golf Chairman Bob Bittner, his committee, and all the members and volunteers who gave their time and energy working on the course all day. We couldn't have done it without you.

Looking ahead, the Southold Village Merchants Parade will take place on Friday, July 4th at 12:00 PM, starting at the intersection of Boisseau Avenue and Main Road. Line-up begins at 11:30 AM alongside Wayside Market. Parade uniform is white shirt, red, white & blue tie, grey slacks, and cover. In the spirit of the day, I thought it would be fitting to have Jim lead our Post dressed in his signature patriotic golf attire—LOL!

We are grateful once again to Mullen Motors for generously providing two jeeps so our elderly veterans and Auxiliary members may ride the parade route in comfort. Bob Cochran also has our golf cart up and running again, and he'll be at the wheel for the parade.

At our recent monthly meeting, we held our annual election of officers. I'm pleased to report that the same slate of officers was re-elected and will continue to serve Post 803 for another term. A complete list of officers can be found on the back page of this month's Reporter.

Lastly, please mark your calendars for our Annual Car Show, scheduled for Sunday, August 24th from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM. More details on the event will be included in next month's edition of the Reporter.

Thank you all for your continued support and dedication to our Post and our mission.

For God and Country,

David E. DeFriest,

Commander, American Legion Post 803

www.post803.com

gtgpost803@gmail.com



*Historian John Christina,
FDNY Lt. Joe Torillo and
Commander Dave DeFriest.*



*Our most patriotic attired golfer,
Jim Cowan*



American Legion Post 803

51655 Main Road, Southold, NY 11971

DOORS OPEN AT 6 PM

GAMES BEGIN AT 7 PM, ENDING AROUND 9 PM.

Cash prizes for Thursday Night BINGO will be determined by sales and attendance, which we are anticipating will be considerably higher than Tuesday afternoon bingo.

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Players can bring in food and drink, but no alcohol.
Legion bar is closed. For questions, call Earl at 516.901.3228.

Tuesday afternoon bingo is still on-going and remains the same.

★ ★ SONS OF THE LEGION ★ ★



Welcome summer! Always a great time of year on the North Fork. Once again, the legion golf outing was a great success. Thanks to all who lent a hand! As we go to press, plans are in the works for the Southold Merchants July 4th parade. I hope to see you all there.

I leave you with a little American history. "On July 4, 1776, the Continental Congress adopted the Declaration of Independence, formally declaring the thirteen American colonies independent from Great Britain. This document, largely written by Thomas Jefferson, outlined the reasons for the separation and proclaimed the colonies as free and independent states."

Gary Iorio
SAL Commander



★★★ VETERANS BENEFITS “CORNER”

REAL ID IS IMPACTING TRAVEL RULES: HERE’S WHAT VETERANS NEED TO KNOW

As of May 7th, 2025, all individuals will need to have a REAL ID, or a REAL ID compliant alternative to fly commercially. Extensions for travelers to get a REAL ID have been in place since May 2008. With continual delays, it seemed like it would never become the standard for air travel. But, earlier this month, the U.S. Transportation Security Administration (TSA) officially enacted the rule requiring a REAL ID for domestic air travel.

Even with the delay, some travelers are still finding themselves unprepared for the new change. Now, with summer on the horizon, many are worried about being able to get the necessary ID required for domestic trips.

There is a caveat for Veterans with the new requirement. If you are a Veteran without a REAL ID or a passport, you can alternatively use your Veteran Health Identification Card to ensure that your travel plans are not disrupted.

David Chiaro – keyarrow@hotmail.com

Go to this website to learn more about the steps you need to take to ensure that you are travel ready.

SCAN HERE.



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REFLECTIONS ON A DAY OF TRAGEDY AND RESILIENCE IN NEW YORK CITY!

September 11, 2001, remains etched in the hearts and minds of people everywhere. For many, it's a day filled with sorrow, but for others, it symbolizes resilience and unity in times of crisis. I often find myself reflecting on this pivotal day, not only because of its historical significance but also due to my personal memories of that day while working for the Alexander S. Onassis Public Benefit Foundation, USA in New York City.

That morning began like any typical day, but there was unexpected tension in the air, as though the city was collectively holding its breath. As soon as I arrived at the office, my late husband, the Senior Trade Commissioner of Greece in New York, called to inform me that a major Greek television station had contacted him to verify that the first tower had been struck. A wave of disbelief washed over me, and I recall the unsettling silence in our office as we hurried to the television, anxiously hoping it was a dreadful error.



As we gathered around the screen, it became painfully clear that we were witnessing a nightmare. The second tower was struck while we watched, a moment that changed everything forever. Throughout the day, our office remained glued to that screen, absorbing the unfolding tragedy. The chaos echoed through New York City, shaking the foundation of a place known for its strength.

A blend of shock and shared mourning permeated the atmosphere, signifying the loss of innocence for a lively city. Later that afternoon, when I went outside, I saw the streets teeming with people heading uptown, all coated in thick dust from the collapsed buildings. Each person seemed to carry a silent story, sharing the weight of a city plunging into a profound crisis. It was at that moment I witnessed the true spirit of New York: a city that can bend but never breaks!

Recently, while visiting friends in Long Island, NY, I had the privilege of attending an event hosted by the American Legion Southold Post 803 aimed at raising awareness about Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and the BEtheONE Veterans Program.

The guest speaker, FDNY Lt. Joe Torrillo, shared his compelling Buried in the Rubble survival story. As a first responder, he endured the horror of being buried alive, not once but twice, in the rubble of the Twin Towers.

Listening to Lt. Torrillo speak about his struggles with PTSD and the deep scars left by 9/11 was both heartbreaking and inspiring. His story resonated with the resilience that we cultivated in the days, months, and years after that tragic Tuesday. He reminded us of life's fragility but also of the unyielding human spirit.

Reflecting on my personal experience with acute trauma while residing in Tehran, Iran, as the spouse of a Senior Greek Diplomat during the Iran/Iraq war in the 1980s, along with the stories shared at the American Legion event, I realized how important these narratives are for our collective healing. Remembering the past helps us honor those we lost while reinforcing the strength within us all. In our fast-evolving world, we can incorporate the lessons of resilience into our daily lives, fostering our communities and supporting one another.

As I left the event, I felt a renewed sense of hope. This hope isn't just for me or the survivors of that fateful day. It extends to everyone facing their own challenges and carrying their invisible burdens.



Continued on next page

So how can we continue to honor the memory of September 11 and the stories that emerged from it? Here are some of the things I believe we need to do:

Embrace Communities

- Communities possess the unique ability to uplift and support one another. Participating in local volunteer efforts or reaching out to neighbors with small acts of kindness can create ripples of positivity.

Share Stories

- Encouraging people to share their personal experiences can deepen our understanding of one another. Each shared story provides insight into our collective journey, allowing us to appreciate the diverse narratives that shape our history.

Educational Programs

- I feel it's essential that we ensure younger generations are aware of the events that have shaped our world. Creating educational programs that keep memories alive helps preserve the lessons learned from tragedies and resilience.

Practicing Mental Wellness

- Promoting open dialogues about mental health is essential. FDNY Lt. Torrillo's experience, highlights the long-lasting effects of trauma or PTSD. By normalizing conversations about mental wellness, we can create a healthier society where individuals feel at ease seeking assistance for mental health concerns.

To everyone who remembers that day, may we find strength within each other and transform shared grief into collective hope for future generations.

Article written by Karitas Sigurdsson
(e-mail: karitas1203@outlook.com)

★ ★ 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.

In our thoughts and prayers are Raymond Terry.
Jeff Chagnon - Post Chaplain 631.456.3258

★ ★ MEMBERSHIP ★ ★



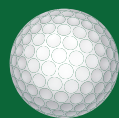
Post Status: We currently have **177/191 (92.6%)** paid up members for 2025. We still have 14 membership ID cards at the Post for the year 2025. We have 191 lines in the Department of NY database. Currently 14 are unpaid, 6 are deceased with paid dues for 2025. We started the year with 182 lines in the Department of NY Database. We have lost other members who are dropped from the Database if they have not yet paid their dues. If you subtract the 6 from the 191 you get 185 breathing members which is a net gain of three for the year. When some Posts are closing their doors, we are holding our ground with the membership numbers. I urge all to pay their dues which are (\$57) for the 2025 membership year. Thanks to the recent transfers and new members who joined our Post.

Veterans, come join us we could use the help.

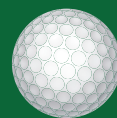
Members are welcome: To contact the Post, use P.O. Box 591, Attn. Membership
Legion Auxiliary Attn: Donna St Pierre • Sons of Legion Attn: Gary Iorio

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



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★ ★ LEGION AUXILIARY POST 803 ★ ★

Happy birthday USA! July is the month to celebrate the beginning of our great nation. Never forget the sacrifices of those who came before us and fought for our independence.

June was a busy month. On June 11th the Auxiliary held our Annual Installation and Initiation Ceremonies. Officials from the Suffolk County American Legion Auxiliary installed our slate of officers once again. We welcomed new members Candy Ward-Ruchala, Carol Cardone, Anne McElroy, Nancy Gilbert, and Elena Tomasino during the Initiation Ceremony. Big thanks go to Donna, Priscilla, and all their helpers for organizing this wonderful joint event, which included 14 members of Mitchell Auxiliary Unit 281 along with 14 of our Unit 803 members. Refreshments were served before the very moving ceremonies. It was heartening to see so many come together with a common purpose – to help our veterans, active military and their families.

On June 8th the Auxiliary assisted at the PTSD Event sponsored by Post 803. The program was well received, and the attendees were enthusiastic about continuing this lecture series. Thanks go to John Christina for organizing the event.

The Annual Post 803 Golf Outing was fun and successful. Thanks go to Bob Bittner and all who worked so hard to make this event possible.

Sadly, our longtime member Ada Horton passed away in June. Also, our member Claire Kennedy lost her father last month, and our member Linda Ruland's sister-in-law passed away as well. Condolences go out to all the families.

Our next meeting will be held on Wednesday, July 9th, at 7:00PM.

Joan Cochran, President



VOLUNTEER CORNER

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

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

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★★ JULY & AUGUST 2025 EVENTS ★★

07/03 THU.	NIGHT BINGO 6:30 PM
07/04 FRI.	SOUTHOLD VILLAGE MERCHANTS PARADE, FORMATION 11:30 AM AT MAIN RD & BOISSEAU.
07/04 FRI.	BAR IS OPEN 6:30 PM AND QUEEN OF HEARTS DRAWING 8 PM
07/08 TUE.	EXECUTIVE AND BUSINESS MEETING: BAR 6:00 PM, DINNER 6:30 PM, MEETING 7:00 PM
07/09 WED.	AUXILIARY MEETING 7 PM
07/10 THU.	NIGHT BINGO 6:30 PM
07/11 FRI.	BAR IS OPEN 6:30 PM AND QUEEN OF HEARTS DRAWING 8 PM
07/17 THU.	NIGHT BINGO 6:30 PM
07/18 FRI.	BAR IS OPEN 6:30 PM AND QUEEN OF HEARTS DRAWING 8 PM
07/24 THU.	NIGHT BINGO 6:30 PM
07/25 FRI.	BAR IS OPEN 6:30 PM AND QUEEN OF HEARTS DRAWING 8 PM
07/31 THU.	NIGHT BINGO 6:30 PM
08/01 FRI.	BAR IS OPEN 6:30 PM AND QUEEN OF HEARTS DRAWING 8 PM
08/07 THU.	NIGHT BINGO 6:30 PM
08/08 FRI.	BAR IS OPEN 6:30 PM AND QUEEN OF HEARTS DRAWING 8 PM
08/12 TUE.	EXECUTIVE AND BUSINESS MEETING: BAR 6:00 PM, DINNER 6:30 PM, MEETING 7:00 PM
08/13 WED.	AUXILIARY MEETING 7 PM
08/14 THU.	NIGHT BINGO 6:30 PM
08/15 FRI.	BAR IS OPEN 6:30 PM AND QUEEN OF HEARTS DRAWING 8PM
08/21 THU.	NIGHT BINGO 6:30 PM
08/22 FRI.	BAR IS OPEN 6:30 PM AND QUEEN OF HEARTS DRAWING 8PM
08/24 SUN.	CAR SHOW 9 AM – 3 PM
08/28 THU.	NIGHT BINGO 6:30 PM
08/29 FRI.	BAR IS OPEN 6:30 PM AND QUEEN OF HEARTS DRAWING 8PM



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Chaplain - Jeff Chagnon
Post Historian - John Christina
Membership Chair - Bob Cochran

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Treasurer - Brian Hughes
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Chaplain - Daniel Kaelin

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