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# THE REPORTER

## GRISWOLD TERRY GLOVER POST 803

APRIL 2025 ★ 631.765.2276

### ★ ★ COMMANDER'S REPORT ★ ★



Comrades,

I hope this message finds you well. As always, I want to express my appreciation for your ongoing support and dedication to American Legion Post 803. Your commitment to our mission ensures that we continue serving veterans, their families, and our community with honor.

I'm excited to share that renovations at our Legion Hall are well underway! These improvements will enhance the functionality and comfort of our post for

years to come. The current projects include:

- **Replacing the old ceiling** in the main hall with a brand-new one.
- **Constructing and installing a new handicapped-accessible bathroom**, ensuring that all members and guests can comfortably access our facilities.
- **Installing sound-deadening material on the ceiling in the bar area** to improve acoustics and reduce noise levels.

A huge thank you to everyone who has contributed their time, effort, or financial support to these upgrades. Your help is invaluable, and these improvements will have a lasting impact on our post and the community we serve.

On our website is a link to the Tango Alpha Lima podcast. Go check it out for vibrant camaraderie, playful joking and hot takes on current events. The weekly podcast is produced by the American Legion.

#### Honoring Our Vietnam Veterans

On **March 29th**, we observed **National Vietnam War Veterans Day**, a time to honor and thank the brave men and women who served during the Vietnam War. To all our Vietnam veterans, we extend our deepest gratitude for your service, sacrifice, and dedication. Your courage and commitment will never be forgotten. If you know a Vietnam veteran, take a moment to reach out and let them know how much they are appreciated.

#### April Observances

April brings several important observances that remind us of the values we hold dear:

- **April 1 – April Fools' Day** – A day for lighthearted fun and laughter.
- **April 2 – World Autism Awareness Day** – Recognizing and supporting individuals with autism and their families.
- **April 5 – Gold Star Spouses Day** – Honoring the spouses of fallen service members who have made the ultimate sacrifice.
- **April 20 – Easter Sunday** – A time for renewal, faith, and family gatherings.
- **April 22 – Earth Day** – A reminder of our responsibility to care for our environment.

#### Next Meeting

Due to ongoing renovations, Post 803 remains closed for the time being. Our next meeting will be held on **the second Tuesday of May**. I encourage all members to attend and see the exciting improvements firsthand.

Thank you for all you do to support our Legion, our veterans, and our community. I look forward to seeing you soon.

#### For God and Country

David E. DeFriest, Commander, American Legion Post 803

www.post803.com • gtgpost803@gmail.com



*Bill working on the plumbing renovations*

In the jungles of Vietnam, silence often spoke louder than words.  
But it was the unbreakable bond between brothers in arms that  
echoed through the years—a bond forged in sacrifice, courage, and  
a promise to never forget.



MADE IN AMERICA

## ★ ★ SONS OF THE LEGION ★ ★



After an exceptionally cold winter, Spring has arrived! Renovations are under way at our building and soon we will get ready for our most important ceremony & parade-Memorial Day. I hope to see a good turnout. All SAL members active and inactive are encouraged to turn out for the Memorial Day parade.

"Memorial Day is one of the federal holidays in the United States for honoring and mourning the U.S. military personnel who died while serving in the United States Armed Forces. It is observed on the last Monday of May. Memorial Day is also considered the unofficial beginning of summer in the United States."

I leave you with this quote from President Theodore Roosevelt.

"Here is your country. Cherish these natural wonders, cherish the natural resources, cherish the history and romance as a sacred heritage, for your children and your children's children."

SAL Commander, Gary Iorio



## ★★★ VETERANS BENEFITS "CORNER"

### **MILITARY HEALTH SYSTEM BENEFICIARIES URGED TO DOWNLOAD OLD MEDICAL RECORDS BY APRIL 1**

The Department of Defense plans to decommission the online portal patients use to access old military health information and recommends patients download their digital medical records if they want to retain copies.

With the Defense Health Agency's transition to the MHS Genesis electronic health record complete, the Tricare Online Patient Portal will cease to be available as of April 1, according to the Pentagon.



David Chiaro –  
keyarrow@hotmail.com

On April 1st, 2001, a People's Republic of China F-8 fighter plane intercepts a Navy EP-3E Aries II surveillance aircraft in international air space off Hainan Island. Flying dangerously close to the EP-3, the Chinese fighter collides with it, sending the Aries into an extreme bank and rapid descent. The pilot, Lieutenant Shane Osborne, rights the EP-3, which suffers damage to its nose, a propeller, and aileron in the collision. Managing to land their aircraft on Hainan Island, the crew is taken into custody by the Chinese government and released after 11 days. The aircraft is disassembled and flown out of China on board a Russian transport on 5 July.





# **22 VETERANS A DAY DIE BY SUICIDE**

## **SATURDAY, MAY 3 2025**

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!**



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## LOVE AND COMPASSION

Last week on the news there was a story about a K-9 dog that recently passed away. It was an interesting story, sad but still expressed Love & Compassion. The dog's obituary read: An American hero has died. K-9 Hurricane, a 16-year-old Belgian Malinois breed who was the most decorated dog in U.S. History.

Hurricane, once a Special Operation Canine for the Secret Service, demonstrated remarkable bravery during his service. Most notably, he subdued an intruder on the White House grounds in 2014, suffering injuries but resuming patrol duties after his recovery until his honorable retirement.

In recognition of his outstanding contributions, Hurricane's legacy continues through the K9-Hurricane's Hero's Foundation, which offers subsidized veterinary care to "retired law enforcement and military dogs" to ensure they enjoy a healthy retirement.

While researching these K9 Service dogs, I found another story I'd like to share with you, titled: "The Dog That Saved My Life and Came to Live With Me".

This story was shared by a young US Marine, Jeff De Young, recounting his 2009 service in Afghanistan alongside his K-9, a black Labrador bomb detection dog named Cena N641. At just 19 years old, Jeff appeared no older than 12, and he was informed that he and Cena were paired due to their personalities, both slightly goofy and quiet. According to his account, the battle of Marjah during their first week in Afghanistan marked a significant turning point in his life. During this time, a couple of men were lost, including a dear friend, leaving him devastated. The pressure of being on patrol and the responsibility of protecting his men began to feel overwhelming.

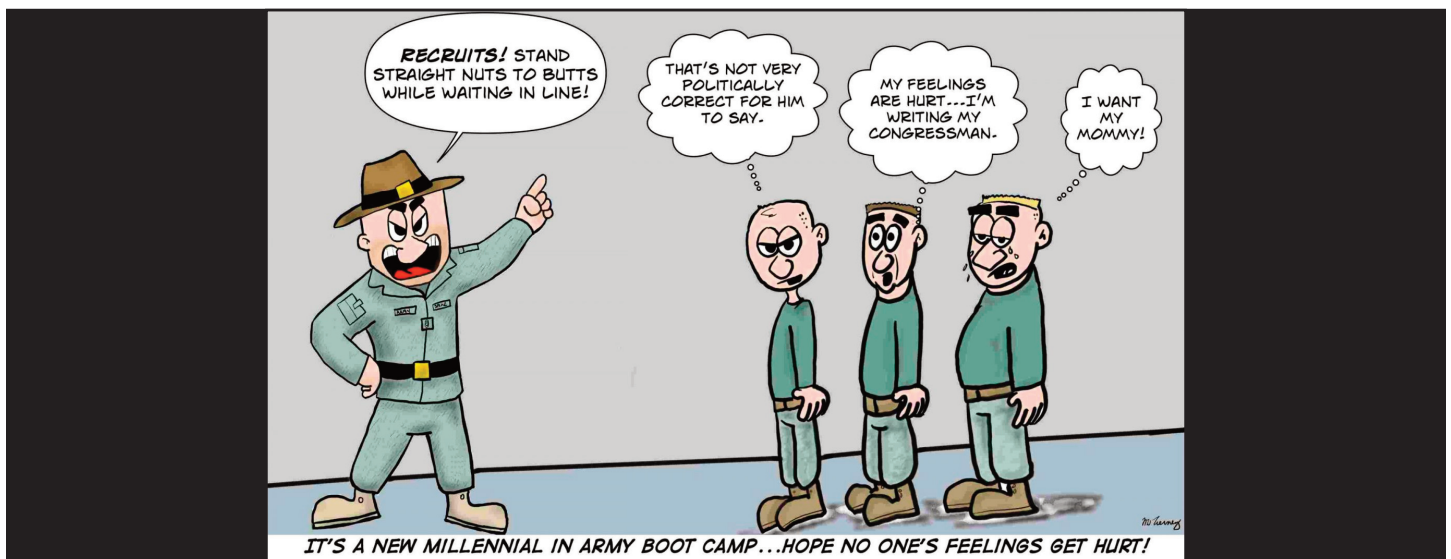
Ultimately, he reached a point where he could no longer manage and contemplated using his military rifle to find peace by ending his life. During this period, his dog noticed his depression and made him laugh, leading him to reconsider.

I never saw active duty in the military. However, reading about Jeff De Young's experience provided me with valuable insight into the challenges of war and the struggles our veterans encounter when adjusting to life upon returning home.

One day, four years after his return from Afghanistan, Jeff received a call from the military asking if he wanted to adopt his bomb-sniffing dog. Upon seeing his dog again, Jeff felt a great sense of familiarity. Cena licked his face and looked up at him, reflecting their strong bond. He could read what his dog was saying to him: "Hey Man, What's Up!"

I wonder how many young men out there may need help. It is important for us to consider what actions can be taken to support them.

John Christina, Historian





## ★★ CHAPLAIN'S REPORT ★★

✠ **REST IN PEACE** I am very sad to report that our dear friend and comrade, **Mortimer M. Kelly III** who served as a Lieutenant in the US Army, passed on March 6th at the age of 81. Mort was a dear soul who was our Post Finance Officer for a few years, an often-difficult job that that he performed with the highest level of grace and a smile. A smile which we will always remember with fondness. Mort was a man whose life was dedicated to his family, his community and his country. He was a true American Hero. May his soul rest in peace.



The American Legion Wake Service was conducted on March 10th at the DeFriest Grattan Funeral Home in Southold. Special thanks to 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 powers of Your love." -Amen.

In our thoughts and prayers is Henry Santacroce Sr.

Jeff Chagnon - Post Chaplain 631.456.3258

## ★★ MEMBERSHIP ★★



**Post Status:** We currently have **176/188 (93.6%)** paid members for 2025. I still have 24 membership ID cards at the Post for the year 2025. The membership dues are currently \$57 for the year 2025. I have mailed out all electronic renewals up to 21 Mar 2025. If you need to pay your 2025 dues please do so before the end of May. The ID cards for 2026 will be available in the month of July. I would like to see all the members of Post 803 get credit for 2025. I believe the month of June is when the National American Legion generates the new list of members for each Post. Maintain your continuous membership status.

**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.**

## ★ ★ LEGION AUXILIARY POST 803 ★ ★

Welcome back snowbirds! Spring is here, and we look forward to continuing our mission to support our veterans, active military, and their families. This year we have achieved 100% of our membership goal. Good job, Donna!

Last month we named Kaitlyn Oliver as our Girls State Citizen for 2025. We have also selected our Alternate Citizen, Elizabeth Estrada. The Alternate is offered the position in the event that the Citizen is unable to attend. We congratulate both of these outstanding young women.



Last month we presented Santa and Mrs. Claus with a painting of them in all their Christmas finery, as a thank you for their dedication and generosity at all our Santa events over the years. You are appreciated!

Vickie is busy getting ready for our Poppy Drive next month. Our members will be distributing Poppies in May at local Post Offices and grocery stores. Our Annual Poppy Drive-Thru at the Legion will be on Friday, May 23rd. The Memorial Day Ceremonies and Parade will be in Southold on Monday, May 26th.

Due to the construction projects at the Legion, our April meeting will be held at the First Presbyterian Church Hall in Southold on Wednesday, April 9th, at 7:00PM.

Joan Cochran, President



## Pop Over For a Poppy

Curbside Distribution

**Friday, May 23rd • 11am - 5pm**

**Southold American Legion  
51655 Main Road, Southold, NY**



**THE POST IS TRYING TO IMPROVE  
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Please provide us your email address. The best way to do this is to send us an email at [gtgpost803@gmail.com](mailto: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 25 and April 26 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

Raffle Sellers Needed we have 188 members but the same ones who volunteer. Please give some time to support your Post April 25 & 26 at IGA Southold call Bob 631.680.6244.

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



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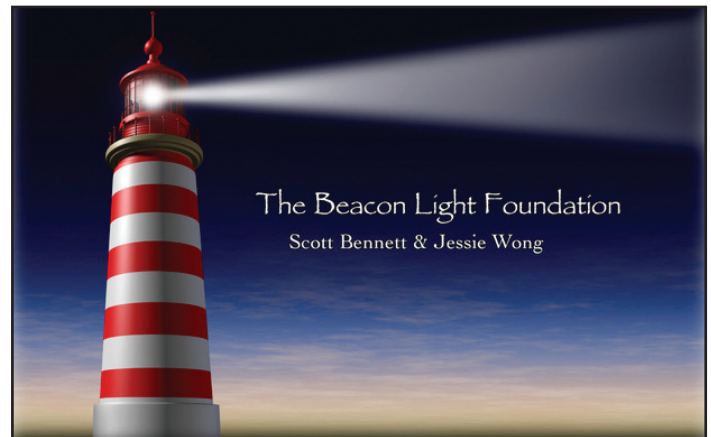
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## ★★ APRIL & MAY 2025 EVENTS ★★

### 03/13-04/13 LEGION CLOSED FOR RENOVATIONS

04/08 TUE. GOLF COMMITTEE MEETING IN COMMANDER'S OFFICE 4PM

### 04/09 WED. AUXILIARY MEETING 7:00PM SOUTHDOLD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

04/18 FRI. BAR IS OPEN 6:30PM AND QUEEN OF HEARTS DRAWING 8PM

04/25 FRI. BAR IS OPEN 6:30PM AND QUEEN OF HEARTS DRAWING 8PM

04/25 FRI. GOLF OUTING RAFFLE SALES OUTSIDE KING KULLEN AND IGA 4-7PM

04/26 SAT. GOLF OUTING RAFFLE SALES OUTSIDE KING KULLEN AND IGA 9AM-NOON

05/02 FRI. BAR IS OPEN 6:30PM AND QUEEN OF HEARTS DRAWING 8PM

### 05/03 SAT. WALK4VALOR 8AM

05/09 FRI. BAR IS OPEN 6:30PM AND QUEEN OF HEARTS DRAWING 8PM

### 05/13 TUE. EXECUTIVE AND BUSINESS MEETING: BAR 6:00PM, DINNER 6:30PM, MEETING 7:00PM

### 05/14 WED. AUXILIARY MEETING 7:00PM

05/16 FRI. BAR IS OPEN 6:30PM AND QUEEN OF HEARTS DRAWING 8PM

05/16 FRI. GOLF OUTING RAFFLE SALES OUTSIDE KING KULLEN AND IGA 4-7PM

05/17 SAT. GOLF OUTING RAFFLE SALES OUTSIDE KING KULLEN AND IGA 9AM-NOON

05/23 FRI. POPPY DRIVE THRU 11AM – 5PM

05/23 FRI. BAR IS OPEN 6:30PM AND QUEEN OF HEARTS DRAWING 8PM

### 05/26 MON. SOUTHDOLD MEMORIAL DAY MONUMENT CEREMONY AT LEGION 7:30AM FOLLOWED BY VISIT TO FIVE VETERAN'S MONUMENTS IN TOWN

### 05/26 MON. MEMORIAL DAY PARADE - SOUTHDOLD LEGION IS HOSTING

05/30 FRI. BAR IS OPEN 6:30PM AND QUEEN OF HEARTS DRAWING 8PM



## ★★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** - Brendan 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** - 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

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