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THE REPORTER

GRISWOLD TERRY GLOVER POST 803

OCTOBER 2025 ★ 631.765.2276

★ ★ COMMANDER'S REPORT ★ ★



Comrades,

The summer has come and gone, and it seems to me it has passed by rather quickly. Fall officially arrived with the Autumn Equinox on Monday, September 22nd at 2:19 PM. Personally, I've always favored the Spring and Fall seasons over Summer and Winter. Already, the days are growing shorter, and the evenings darker earlier.



September was a very busy month here at Post 803. On September 11th, members of our Post attended the Southold Town Firefighters' Memorial and Remembrance Ceremony, honoring the victims of the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks. The event was held at Jean Cochran Park in Peconic.

The following evening, September 12th, we hosted a Potluck Dinner for members and guests. It was a great success, with a wonderful turnout, delicious food, and good fellowship enjoyed by all.

On Saturday, September 20th, we held our annual Chicken BBQ. The weather was perfect, and the community support was outstanding. Events like this don't happen without the dedication of many helping hands. I extend my deepest thanks to every Post member, volunteer, and community friend who worked tirelessly to make it a success. I would be remiss if I did not also recognize the Southold, Mattituck, and Greenport NJROTC Cadets, who did a fantastic job assisting us throughout the day. Without their help, the event would not have run as smoothly as it did. A special thank you as well to our Chicken BBQ Event Chairman, Chris Salmon, for a job very well done.



MADE IN AMERICA

Continued on next page

I am also pleased to announce that Post 803 now has its own American Legion Riders group, officially recognized as the **Department of New York American Legion Riders Motorcycle Association**. We have Dave Wilburn to thank for establishing and organizing this chapter. Dave will serve as President, in addition to his duties as 2nd Vice Commander and coordinator of Thursday Night Bingo. Thank you, Dave, for your leadership and dedication to our Post. Members interested in learning more about the Legion Riders can contact Dave at 631-636-2840 or davidawilburn@yahoo.com.



Dave Wilburn, President of the American Legion Riders Group

Looking ahead, our next **monthly executive and business meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 14th**. The bar opens at 6:00 PM, dinner at 6:30 PM, and the meeting begins promptly at 7:00 PM. At this meeting, I plan to hold a membership vote regarding the removal of the dumpster and BBQ pit area. This proposal would change the landscape of the grounds and create valuable space for future events and community gatherings. I strongly encourage as many members as possible to attend and have their voices heard on this important matter.

Other scheduled events include our regular Bingo sessions on Tuesday afternoons and Thursday evenings, our Legion meeting on the second Tuesday, and the Auxiliary Unit 803 meeting on the second Wednesday of the month.

Looking ahead to **November**, the Auxiliary will host their **Annual Craft Fair on Sunday, November 2nd** from 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM at the Legion Hall. For more information, please contact Denise Schlachter at 631-466-2527 or email msvater69@aol.com.

Don't forget to exercise your civic duty and vote on **Election Day, November 4th**.

On **Veterans Day, Tuesday, November 11th**, we will hold our annual Veterans Day Ceremony on the Post grounds at 11:00 AM (weather permitting). Following the ceremony, brunch will be provided by the Southold Rotary Club. Afterwards, the Legion Auxiliary, together with Long Island Cares Veterans Project, will once again sponsor a *Special Holiday Thank You for Our Veterans*. As a token of appreciation, they will provide local veterans and current service members with a complimentary uncooked turkey, ham, or chicken along with a box of holiday meal fixings. If you have signed up for this, please don't forget to come to the Legion on 11/11 between 12:15 and 1:15pm to pick up your meal box. Call Joan Cear with any questions at 516-317-0728.

In closing, I would like to share that this will be my final year serving as Commander of Post 803. My term will conclude in June 2026, when the Legion fiscal year ends. I am deeply honored and humbled to have been elected to this position, and grateful for the trust you have placed in me. Between now and then, we must begin thinking ahead. A replacement should be nominated and elected by April or May of 2026 so that the transition is smooth and the Post continues to thrive.

Thank you for your support and thank you for all you do to strengthen Post 803 and our community.

Yours in patriotism and service,

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



October 13, 2025, is the 250th Birthday of the U.S. Navy, marking the anniversary of the Continental Congress establishing the Continental Navy in 1775 to serve as a naval force for the American colonies.



**The Brendan Kelly Memorial
Pickleball Tournament
has been tentatively
rescheduled for
July 11, 2026.**

★★★
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David Chiaro – keyarrow@hotmail.com

★★★ **MEMBERSHIP** ★★★



Post Status: We currently have (101/183 = 55.2%) paid up members for the 2026 membership year. We finished the 2025 membership year stands with (177/191 = 92.6 %). There are fourteen who could still pay up for 2025. We would like to welcome Albert Daniels to Post 803, a recent transfer from Sag Harbor. Albert served in the USAF during the Vietnam War. Keep sending in the dues and I will keep sending out the ID cards. I love my job. Get it done!

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

RAISING PTSD AWARENESS THROUGH THE ANNUAL KAYAKATHON AND RESOURCE FAIR IN PORT JEFFERSON



On August 29th, 2025, I attended the vibrant resource fair at the Port Jefferson Village Center, which combined community spirit with raising PTSD awareness, particularly among veterans. The event featured food, beverages, and music, celebrating both community and cause.

One of the highlights of the day was the **22 PTSD Awareness Challenge**, an annual kayakathon from Bridgeport, CT, to Port Jefferson, NY, focusing on veteran mental health and raising funds for supportive nonprofits.

The Importance of the Kayakathon

The kayakathon symbolizes the journey veterans face with PTSD, raising funds and awareness for an issue affecting about **20% of veterans** returning from combat. It fosters camaraderie and understanding, encouraging veterans to share their stories and find strength in community support.

The Resource Fair Experience

At the fair, lively music and food aromas greeted attendees, alongside booths from nonprofits offering essential resources for veterans and families. Organizations provided information on mental health support, job training, and community integration, making the fair valuable for those seeking help.

Raising Awareness about PTSD

The **22 PTSD Awareness Challenge** educates the public on PTSD's impact, including symptoms like anxiety and flashbacks. It encourages community engagement, helping reduce veteran suicide risk by **25%** through strong support networks.

Community Involvement

The community's support for veterans was evident, with local businesses, volunteers, and residents contributing to the fair's success by donating food and time. This collective effort highlights the power of community in addressing mental health challenges.

The Role of Nonprofits

Nonprofits are crucial in providing PTSD resources, showcasing programs for counseling, therapy, job placement, and housing assistance. Veterans could explore support options, including trauma recovery programs connecting them with trained therapists.

Closing Thoughts

Attending the resource fair was meaningful. The **22 PTSD Awareness Challenge** and kayakathon raise awareness and strengthen community bonds. Supporting our veterans is crucial, and events like this remind us of our role in improving their lives.

For more information, 22pac.org and www.uvbh.org

John Christina, Historian



Hope everyone had a great summer. A big welcome to our newest members and a little background about the SAL.

"Founded in 1932, Sons of The American Legion exists to honor the service and sacrifice of Legionnaires. S.A.L. members include males of all ages whose parents or grandparents served in the U.S. military and were eligible for American Legion membership. Members of The American Legion, American Legion Auxiliary and Sons of The American Legion comprise the Legion Family, which has a combined membership of nearly 3 million. Although Sons has its own membership, the organization is not a separate entity. Rather, S.A.L. is a program of The American Legion. Many Legionnaires hold dual membership in S.A.L."



We are always interested in bringing in new members so pass the word.

Gary Iorio, SAL Commander

*We extend our
Warmest Birthday Wishes
to all our fellow Legionnaires
Celebrating in October!*

Frank Wruck	October 2	Richard Walker	October 25
David Albrecht	October 6	Michael Burke	October 27
Frederick Glasser	October 13	Thomas Obrien	October 27
Lan Currier	October 17	William Zebroski	October 27
Dave DeFriest	October 18		

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

★ ★ LEGION AUXILIARY POST 803 ★ ★

Fall is here and it's time to look ahead to our Annual Holiday Craft Fair on Sunday, November 2nd, from 10 am to 3 pm. Mark your calendars now for this wonderful collection of vendors with quality products to purchase, especially for Christmas. Do all your holiday shopping right here at the American Legion!

Right now, we are gathering names for our joint Veterans Day Turkey Giveaway with Long Island Cares. If you want to participate in this thank you for our Legion veterans, call the Auxiliary at 631-407-5555 or email Southoldpost803@gmail.com by October 2nd and let us know if you would like a frozen turkey, ham or chicken along with fixings for a nice Thanksgiving meal. A big thank you goes to Joan Cear for organizing and carrying out this event. The meals must be picked up after the Veterans Day Ceremony, and only those who order ahead will be eligible.

Auxiliary member dues for 2026 are \$28 and should be paid to Donna St. Pierre. If you are unable to attend our next meeting, make out a check to American Legion Auxiliary Unit 803 and mail it to Donna at PO Box 703, Southold, NY, 11971.

We again thank Donna, Margie, and their kitchen helpers for the wonderful beans and coleslaw at the recent Post 803 Chicken BBQ. Donna also organized our Potluck in September, which is always a popular gathering. Thanks go to all who worked so hard at these Legion events.

We are now planning for two dances for the coming year – stay tuned! And remember Bingo, now twice every week. Tuesday the doors open at 12 noon, and Thursday night at 6:00 PM.

Our next meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 8th, at 7:00 pm.

Joan Cochran,
President

Holiday Craft Fair



**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 2ND
10 AM TO 3 PM**



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**WE START SELLING SHEETS AT 6 PM
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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.

ALL WELCOME • ALL AGES • CASH ONLY

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.

★ ★ 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

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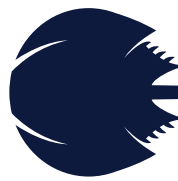
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★★ OCTOBER & NOVEMBER EVENTS ★★

10/02 Thu.	Night BINGO- Doors Open at 6:00pm and Games start at 7pm
10/03 Fri.	Bar is Open 6:30pm and Queen of Hearts Drawing 8pm
10/07 Tue.	Tuesday Day BINGO- Doors Open at 12 noon and Games start at 12:30pm
10/08 Wed.	Auxiliary Meeting 7pm
10/09 Thu.	Night BINGO- Doors Open at 6:00pm and Games start at 7pm
10/10 Fri.	Bar is Open 6:30pm and Queen of Hearts Drawing 8pm
10/14 Tue.	Tuesday Day BINGO- Doors Open at 12 noon and Games start at 12:30pm
10/14 Tue.	Executive and Business Meeting: Bar 6:00pm, Dinner 6:30pm, Meeting 7:00pm
10/16 Thu.	Night BINGO- Doors Open at 6:00pm and Games start at 7pm
10/17 Fri.	Bar is Open 6:30pm and Queen of Hearts Drawing 8pm
10/21 Tue.	Tuesday Day BINGO- Doors Open at 12 noon and Games start at 12:30pm
10/23 Thu.	Night BINGO- Doors Open at 6:00pm and Games start at 7pm
10/24 Fri.	Bar is Open 6:30pm and Queen of Hearts Drawing 8pm
10/28 Tue.	Tuesday Day BINGO- Doors Open at 12 noon and Games start at 12:30pm
10/30 Thu.	Night BINGO- Doors Open at 6:00pm and Games start at 7pm
10/31 Fri.	Bar is Open 6:30pm and Queen of Hearts Drawing 8pm
11/02 Sun.	Holiday Craft Fair 10am-3pm (AUXILIARY CHAIR)
11/04 Tue.	Tuesday Day BINGO- Doors Open at 12 noon and Games start at 12:30pm
11/06 Thu.	Night BINGO- Doors Open at 6:00pm and Games start at 7pm
11/07 Fri.	Bar is Open 6:30pm and Queen of Hearts Drawing 8pm
11/11 Tue.	Veterans Day Ceremony at 11:00am and Veterans' Brunch to Follow
11/11 Tue.	Thanksgiving Meal Pick-up 12:15-1:30pm
11/11 Tue.	Executive and Business Meeting: Bar 6:00pm, Dinner 6:30pm, Meeting 7:00pm
11/12 Wed.	Auxiliary Meeting 7pm
11/13 Thu.	Night BINGO- Doors Open at 6:00pm and Games start at 7pm
11/14 Fri.	Bar is Open 6:30pm and Queen of Hearts Drawing 8pm
11/18 Tue.	Tuesday Day BINGO- Doors Open at 12 noon and Games start at 12:30pm
11/20 Thu.	Night BINGO- Doors Open at 6:00pm and Games start at 7pm
11/22 Fri.	Bar is Open 6:30pm and Queen of Hearts Drawing 8pm
11/25 Tue.	Tuesday Day BINGO- Doors Open at 12 noon and Games start at 12:30pm
11/28 Fri.	Bar is Open 6:30pm and Queen of Hearts Drawing 8pm

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