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THE REPORTER

GRISWOLD TERRY GLOVER POST 803

APRIL 2024

COMMANDER'S REPORT



Greetings fellow Legionnaires and Friends of the Legion,

Welcome Spring time. Of the four seasons, I find Spring the most favorable. The flowers and trees begin to blossom. The drab colors and leafless plants and trees of winter begin to produce vibrant and pastel colors. I am looking forward to the temperatures becoming milder and sunny days.

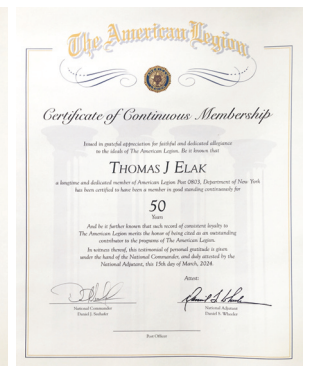
During the month of March the Auxiliary held a DJ Dance Party on March 2nd which proved to be very successful. It was well attended, DJ Phil did a great job, The Catered Fork provided light food and all in attendance had a wonderful time. Thank you to Rose Anasagasti for organizing and chairing this event. And thank you to all of the volunteers that helped as well.



Post 803 held their annual St Patrick's Day Dinner / Dance on Saturday March 16th. Thank you to Earl Brock for all his hard work and effort to make this event a success. Thank you to the many volunteers that assisted and worked at this event as well. It proved to be a success, the Dinner prepared by Steve Ammirati of the Catered Fork was excellent and the band, Studio G was great. Everyone in attendance had an enjoyable evening. Thank you to everyone who supported us and attended this event.



I would like to recognize two members of our American Legion Post 803 for their many continuous years as a member. John A. Foster and Thomas J. Elak are longtime and dedicated members of American Legion Post 803 Dept of New York. They have been certified to have been members in good standing continuously for 50 years. We have received certificates, that we need to present to them from the American Legion National Commander. Issued in grateful appreciation for faithful and dedicated allegiance to the ideals of the American Legion. Such record of consistent loyalty to the American Legion merits the honor of being cited as an outstanding contributor to the programs of the American Legion. Thank you, gentlemen for your past service to all Veterans, The United States of America, and our American Legion.



Upcoming events of importance are: The annual Memorial Day Parade will be held in Greenport sponsored by the Greenport American Legion. Our Color Guard will be conducting brief Memorial Ceremonies at the five War memorials located in Southold on Memorial Day. Our Color Guard Commander, Jeff Chagnon will have more information to follow.

Also in the month of April we should form an Election of Officers nominating committee. Nominations for Officers should be delivered at our April meeting. The election of Officers will take place at our May meeting. On a final note, this month, thank you for your time and attention.

Hope everyone takes time to smell the roses and enjoy our North Fork of Long Island !

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



SONS OF THE
AMERICAN
LEGION

March brought us some great Legion events! The American Legion Honor Guard represented the post at the Cutchogue Parade and the following week a great time was had at the St. Pat's dinner dance. Thanks to all who lent a hand. As this issue goes to print, Spring will have arrived and that is always a great time of year on the North Fork. Soon we will prepare for the most important event - Memorial Day. I encourage all our Legion Sons to join us this coming Memorial Day and march to honor all who lost their lives defending freedom and the United States Constitution.

I remind you of a quote from President Reagan.

"Freedom is never more than one generation away from extinction. We didn't pass it to our children in the bloodstream. It must be fought for, protected, and handed on for them to do the same."

Gary Iorio, SAL Commander



OKINAWA

On April 1, 1945, more than 60,000 soldiers and US Marines of the First & Sixth Divisions & US Tenth Army stormed ashore at Okinawa, in the final island battle before an anticipated invasion of mainland Japan. Note it was Easter Sunday and the landing on the beaches was unopposed. That would soon not be the case as 100 thousand of the enemy lay in wait.

Okinawa as those who fought there would say "was one damn ridge after another". At a sheer cliff that became known as Hacksaw Ridge, Desmond Doss, an American combat medic, was a conscientious objector on the basis of his religion and so refused to bear arms during the war; even in the midst of heavy fire from the Japanese, Doss was able to save the lives of many soldiers. His actions during the war would later earn him the Medal of Honor.

The Battle for Okinawa had the absolute most loss of life of any battle of the Pacific Campaign. My uncle Donald Rhatigan fought with the Sixth Marine division and received the Purple Heart another friend of mine Judge Braswell Deen Jr of Georgia fought with the First Marine Division King Company and previously fought alongside my dad at "the Point" on Peleliu.

May God's Eternal Light Shine Peace Upon Their Souls

Bob Bittner

West Point Military Academy Drops 'Duty, Honor, Country' from Mission Statement

Published March 14, 2024, 6:34 a.m. ET

The US Military Academy at West Point has made the decision to remove the "Duty, Honor, Country" motto from its mission statement.

In a letter sent to students and supporters, Superintendent Lt. Gen. Steve Gilland said the phrase, which was first added to the mission statement in 1998, would be replaced with the words, "Army Values."

"Our responsibility to produce leaders to fight and win our nation's wars requires us to assess ourselves regularly," Gilland wrote in a letter to cadets and supporters on Monday. "Thus, over the past year and a half, working with leaders from across West Point and external stakeholders, we reviewed our vision, mission, and strategy to serve this purpose."

He continued: "As a result of this assessment, we recommended the following mission statement to our senior Army leadership: 'To build, educate, train, and inspire the Corps of Cadets to be commissioned leaders of character committed to the Army Values and ready for a lifetime of service to the Army and Nation.'"

The lieutenant general said the new mission statement "binds the Academy to the Army." He clarified that the patriotic phrase would "always" remain the school's motto.

David Chiaro – keyarrow@hotmail.com

Volunteer Corner

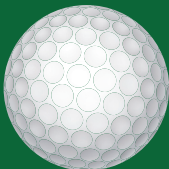
LOOKING FOR A FEW GOOD MEN OR WOMEN TO HELP MAKE THE GOLF OUTING A SUCCESS

by selling raffle tickets outside IGA and King Kullen. These raffle tickets are to help raise funds for the Golf Outing, drawing to be held at the golf outing June 17th.

We need a minimum of two volunteers at each of these sessions,
but the more the merrier and the time goes fast.

The seller who sold the first ticket drawn gets a \$150.00 Gift Certificate!

— DATES/TIMES —

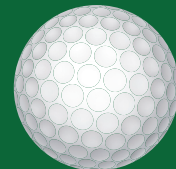


FRIDAY APRIL 26TH 4-7PM

SATURDAY APRIL 27TH 9AM – 12 NOON

FRIDAY MAY 24TH 4-7PM

SATURDAY MAY 25TH 9AM – 12 NOON



ALSO LOOKING FOR A MEMBER WHO IS A CPA who could verify the Post is using Good Accounting Procedures (this is a requirement to pre-qualify for a NYS Grant).

Bob Bittner Golf Chairman & Grants Application Processor
Contact: navyjan70@gmail.com or 631-680-6244



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★★ MEMBERSHIP ★★



Post Status: We currently have **164/188 (87.2%)** paid up members for 2024. We still need about 25 members to submit their dues for the 2024 membership year. All membership renewals will be cherished. We have a new member to our Post, David Wilburn, a former First Sergeant with the U.S. ARMY, who served in both Iraq and Afghanistan. Welcome Dave. The Department of New York will soon finalize their Post 803 Membership for 2025 on or about 1 May. Prior to the dues rate increase starting in 2025, the National American Legion will allow you to pay your dues electronically for the next three years, at the current rate of \$50. Several members have taken advantage of this offer and it is reflected in the Post 803 Department of N.Y. Data Base.

Come join us we need new Veterans.

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 \$50 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

★★ CHAPLAIN'S REPORT ★★

REST IN PEACE

WILLIAM BRIAN KELLY, a US Army veteran who served with the 82nd Airborne Division from 1957 to 1960 passed February 28th at the age of 84. I did not know William but I could clearly see from reading his obituary in the Suffolk Times that he was a self-made man who dearly loved his family, friends, community and country. We cannot ask for more than that from anyone. William was a true American Hero.



May his soul rest in peace. A celebration of his life will be held sometime later this spring.

Sick Call - Henry F. San-tacroce is at home being cared for by his family. Please remember him in your prayers.

Jeff Chagnon - Post Chaplain 631-456-3258

"Blessed are they who mourn, for they shall be comforted." - Matthew 5:4

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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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Spring is here and the Auxiliary is busy planning for the upcoming months. We look forward to getting our paper poppies ready for next month, when we plan to again have our Poppy Drive Thru and to distribute poppies around town.

Our Dance Party in March was a great success, with lots of “happy dancers” and good times. Snacks were provided by Catered Fork for purchase. Big thanks go to Rose Anasagasti for organizing the event! Great job! And thanks to Priscilla, Patty B, Patty H, Carol, Marjie, Margie, Denise, Vickie, Dave and all who helped set up, clean up, and sell raffle tickets. The transition to online entry tickets went smoothly and we may do it all again in the future!

Sadly, Auxiliary member Germaine Vindigni passed away recently. She was a wonderful woman and will be missed by all. Our condolences go out to her family. May she Rest in Peace.

Joan Cear sent me information on the upcoming Veterans Resource Fair & Food Distribution on Friday, April 12th, where veterans and their families will receive resources from a variety of vendors and food to take home. Long Island Cares will run this event from 2:00PM - 6:00PM at their Center for Community Engagement at 75 David’s Drive in Hauppauge. For more information and registration call Isabel at 631-582-3663 ext. 142.

Mark your calendars for Bingo, every Tuesday at 12:00PM. Come have some fun, meet new people, and help support Legion Post 803!

Our next meeting will be on Wednesday, April 10th at 7:00PM. We will be working on “fluffing up” the paper poppies.

Joan Cochran, President



- 2024 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. 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 -

- | | |
|---|--|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 9/11 Memorial Tree Pavers 2. Renovation of 2nd Floor 3. Bar Makeover 4. Bathrooms Renovation (Handicap Accessible) | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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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★★ APRIL & MAY 2024 EVENTS ★★

04/05 FRI.	BAR IS OPEN 6:30PM AND QUEEN OF HEARTS DRAWING 8PM
04/09 TUES.	SAL MEETING 6:00PM ALL SAL MEMBERS WELCOME
04/09 TUES.	GOLF COMMITTEE MEETING 5:45PM
04/09 TUES.	EXECUTIVE AND BUSINESS MEETING: BAR 6:00PM, DINNER 6:30PM, MEETING 7:00PM
04/10 WED.	AUXILIARY MEETING: 7PM
04/12 FRI.	BAR IS OPEN 6:30PM AND QUEEN OF HEARTS DRAWING 8PM
04/19 FRI.	BAR IS OPEN 6:30PM AND QUEEN OF HEARTS DRAWING 8PM
04/26 FRI.	BAR IS OPEN 6:30PM AND QUEEN OF HEARTS DRAWING 8PM
05/03 FRI.	BAR IS OPEN 6:30PM AND QUEEN OF HEARTS DRAWING 8PM
05/08 WED.	AUXILIARY MEETING: 7PM
05/10 FRI.	BAR IS OPEN 6:30PM AND QUEEN OF HEARTS DRAWING 8PM
05/14 TUES.	GOLF COMMITTEE MEETING 5:45PM
05/14 TUES.	EXECUTIVE AND BUSINESS MEETING: BAR 6:00PM, DINNER 6:30PM, MEETING 7:00PM
05/17 FRI.	BAR IS OPEN 6:30PM AND QUEEN OF HEARTS DRAWING 8PM
05/24 FRI.	BAR IS OPEN 6:30PM AND QUEEN OF HEARTS DRAWING 8PM
05/24 FRI.	POPPY DRIVE THRU 11AM - 5PM
05/27 MON.	SOUTHOLD MEMORIAL DAY MONUMENT CEREMONY AT LEGION 7:30AM, FOLLOWED BY VISIT TO FIVE VETERAN'S MONUMENTS IN TOWN
05/27 MON.	MEMORIAL DAY PARADE - GREENPORT
05/31 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 - Vacant
Past Commander - Charles Sanders
Adjutant - Bob Bittner
Finance Officer - Jim Cowan
1st Finance Assistant - Mort Kelly
2nd Finance Assistant - Raymond Terry
Sergeant at Arms - Neil Rochford
Chaplain - Jeff Chagnon
Post Historian - TBD
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 - Douglas Kalvns

★★ AUXILIARY OFFICERS ★★

President - Joan Cochran
Vice Pres - Denise Thilberg
Treasurer - Margie Brock
Recording Sec. - Priscilla Devine

ELECTRONIC SERVICE REQUESTED

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