



# THE REPORTER

## GRISWOLD TERRY GLOVER POST 803

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DECEMBER 2023

### COMMANDER'S REPORT



Greetings fellow Legionnaires and Friends of the Legion,

Last month, Legion Post 803 Auxiliary held their annual craft fair on November 5th and it was very well attended and a successful event. Thank you to all the ladies of the Auxiliary that came out and participated in organizing, planning, and setting up and working the Fair.

On November 11th American Legion Post 803 conducted our annual Veterans Day Ceremony. We were fortunate to have a nice sunny day. It was well attended and so uplifting to see so many people from our community were in attendance. I want to thank the Veterans, our community leaders, Town Supervisor Scott Russell, Al Krupski, Suffolk County Legislature and recently elected Southold Town Supervisor, Denis Noncarrow our Town Clerk, Brian Mealey our Town Councilman, Legion Post 803 Past Commander, Charles Sanders, Barry Charles Acting Chaplain, Joan Cochran, Auxiliary President, Southold, Greenport, & Mattituck High Schools NJROTC Cadets & leaders, Jeff Chagnon, Post 803 Color Guard Commander, members of Post 803, and last but not least, the many people in attendance.

We held our annual planning and events scheduling meeting on November 14th. You can expect to see a list of all of our planned events for the coming year 2024 in our January issue of the Reporter.

Thanksgiving has already come and gone. I hope everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving Holiday and had an opportunity to celebrate with family and friends.

Next up on our schedule of events, the Auxiliary will be having Snacks With Santa on Monday Dec 11th at the Legion Hall from 4 – 6 PM . The event is Free and open to all.

On Friday December 15th we will be holding our annual pot luck Legion Christmas Party. All the awnings that are on our Legion building have been removed, cleaned, and stored away for the winter. Thank you Earl Brock, Bob Cochran, and Dave DeFriest.

The Queen of Hearts weekly raffle drawing is back up and running. The newly reorganized Queen of Hearts Team consisting of Jan Powers, Sherry Steele, Mark Rolle, and Dave DeFriest will rotate and share the duties of managing this raffle. We have restructured the prize payouts as follows:

If the Queen of Hearts is not drawn the winning payouts are:  
Any 2,3,4,5 \$30 Any 6,7,8,9 \$50 Any 10, Jack, King \$60 Any Ace \$75 Any Joker \$120  
Any Queen, except the Queen of Hearts \$100

The Legion Hall is festively decorated for the upcoming Christmas Holidays. Please stop by and celebrate the season and have some libation in our Lounge (Bar). We are open on Friday nights and Queen of Hearts raffle is ongoing each Friday evening.

Happy Holidays to One and All!

Have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

For God and Country, God Bless

David E. DeFriest, *Post 803 Commander*

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★ ★ THE LEGION IS HERE FOR ALL ★ ★

*"Piglet?"* said Pooh.

*"Yes?"* said Piglet.

*"I'm scared,"* said Pooh.

For a moment, there was silence.

*"Would you like to talk about it?"* asked Piglet, when Pooh didn't appear to be saying anything further.

*"I'm just so scared,"* blurted out Pooh.

*"So anxious. Because I don't feel like things are getting any better. If anything, I feel like they might be getting worse. People are angry, because they're so scared, and they're turning on one another, and there seems to be no clear plan out of here, and I worry about my friends and the people I love, and I wish SO much that I could give them all a hug, and oh, Piglet! I am so scared, and I cannot tell you how much I wish it wasn't so."*

Piglet was thoughtful, as he looked out at the blue of the skies, peeping between the branches of the trees in the Hundred Acre Wood, and listened to his friend.

*"I'm here,"* he said, simply. *"I hear you, Pooh. And I'm here."*

For a moment, Pooh was perplexed.

*"But... aren't you going to tell me not to be so silly? That I should stop getting myself into a state and pull myself together? That it's hard for everyone right now?"*

*"No,"* said Piglet, quite decisively. *"No, I am very much not going to do any of those things."*

*"But-"* said Pooh.

*"I can't change the world right now,"* continued Piglet. *"And I am not going to patronize you with platitudes about how everything will be okay, because I don't know that."*

*"What I can do, though, Pooh, is that I can make sure that you know that I am here. And that I will always be here, to listen; and to support you; and for you to know that you are heard."*

*"I can't make those Anxious Feelings go away, not really."*

*"But I can promise you that, all the time I have breath left in my body... you won't ever need to feel those Anxious Feelings alone."*

And it was a strange thing, because even as Piglet said that, Pooh could feel some of those Anxious Feelings start to loosen their grip on him; could feel one or two of them start to slither away into the forest, cowed by his friend, who sat there stolidly next to him.

Pooh thought he had never been more grateful to have Piglet in his life.

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★ ★ SONS OF THE LEGION ★ ★



SONS OF THE  
AMERICAN  
LEGION

I would like to wish our members, families, and all veterans and active-duty military a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. Hope to see you all at some of the upcoming Legion events. 2024 dues are due and there is a little confusion on the renewal card over the amount due. We pay \$11 to the national legion per member but charge \$25. The excess stays in our Squadron account and helps pay for administrative and event costs. You can see me or mail a check for \$25 to SAL Squadron 803, PO Box 591 Southold, NY 11971.

I am often asked if it is possible to obtain Military awards for a family member that were either lost or never issued. Yes, if you have a family member that served, first locate his discharge papers or what is called a DD-214. Get that information to your local Congressman and ask for assistance. Today a simple email to your Congressman can get the process started. I myself was able to obtain awards

for two of my own family members that served in both Korea and WWII. Feel free to reach out to me if you have any questions. Service ribbons and corresponding medals are a great way to pass on both your family legacy and American history to the next generation.

Hope to see you all at the Potluck Christmas Party December 15th!

Stay well and all better things for the New Year.

Gary Iorio, SAL Commander





★ ★ HISTORIAN ★ ★

On Christmas Day every year, many Americans relax and enjoy time with their families. For many of our troops, though, it can be a day of sacrifice and hardship.

Over the history of the U.S., several big military actions have taken place on Dec. 25. Here is a noteworthy one.

1776: Washington's Famous Crossing of the Delaware.

The winter of 1776 didn't start as a good one for Gen. George Washington's Continental Army. They suffered many defeats in the first few months of the American Revolution and had been pushed out of New York and New Jersey into Pennsylvania. For the troops, morale was low.

Washington needed to renew faith in the battle for independence, so he decided to surprise the Hessians — German troops hired by the British — who were stationed in Trenton, New Jersey. He figured that doing so after the enemy's Christmas celebrations would find them groggy and unprepared for a fight, especially as a terrible winter storm was brewing.

So late Christmas night, Washington and his troops hopped in boats and waded across the icy Delaware River to test his theory — and he was right. At dawn on Dec. 26, about 2,400 frozen Continentals pushed into Trenton, and they did indeed surprise the enemy, who surrendered within an hour and a half.

The mission, which became known as the Battle of Trenton, was of huge significance to the Continental Army's cause. Not only did it raise the troops' spirits, but it revived the hope of the colonists, who were beginning to think their battle for independence wasn't feasible.

Bob Bittner



*Painting of Washington crossing the Delaware during the Revolution.*

## SNACKS WITH SANTA

MONDAY DECEMBER 11TH, 2023

4-6 pm

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## SAINT PATTY'S DAY DINNER DANCE

SATURDAY MARCH 16TH, 2024

6 PM -7 PM cocktail hour,  
7 PM Traditional corn beef  
and cabbage dinner catered by  
Ammirati's, served buffet style.

Music will be supplied by  
Studio G, a fantastic dance band,  
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Contact Earl Brock 516.901.3228  
and look for additional info in  
the January Reporter.  
Looking forward to seeing you all.

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## ★★ MEMBERSHIP ★★



**Post Status:** We currently have **121/181 (66.8%)** paid up members for 2024. We have 190/207 (91.8%) paid up members for 2023. JANUARY 2024 is coming fast, and we have 60 members to go to be 100% paid up for 2024. Please do your part to support our Post, the County is focusing on Membership levels.

If you know of anyone who is interested in joining the American Legion please forward their mailing address or telephone number so I can contact them. **Come join us we need new Veterans.**

**New 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, P.O. Box 591, Southold, NY 11971.

Thanks for your support of Post 803.

Bob Cochran, *Membership Chairman*, 631.765.5828

## ★★ VETERANS BENEFITS "CORNER" ★★

### **Perpetrators of pension poaching scams can present themselves in many professions, including attorneys and financial planners.**

"Pension Poaching" is a fraudulent scheme that targets Veterans, their families, and survivors who may be potentially eligible for VA benefits. Unscrupulous advisors exploit claimants by artificially qualifying them for VA Pension benefits in exchange for financial gains. They may advise claimants to conceal their assets in trusts or annuity products to circumvent pension rates for veterans and survivors. However, this financial exploitation can lead to disqualification from benefits or result in investments that earn high fees for the advisors.

Furthermore, advisors may neglect to mention that the VA reviews any assets transferred in the last three years before filing a pension claim, which could require claimants to repay benefits to the government. Be vigilant and protect yourself against this harmful scam.

<https://benefits.va.gov/BENEFITS/factsheets/limitedincome/pension-poaching.pdf>

## ★★ LEGION AUXILIARY POST 803 ★★

November was a very busy month, and now December is upon us! Next up is decorating the Legion for Christmas on Friday night, December 1st, at 6:30PM. The Auxiliary will again host "Snacks with Santa", a free after school event for children, on Monday December 11th at 4:00PM. Snacks and crafts will be available and Santa will read a story. Come join us!

The Auxiliary's Holiday Craft Fair was a big success! There were lots of happy customers and vendors. Thanks go to Denise, Margie, Linda, Priscilla, Dorothy, Patty, Janique, Sherry, Kay and Joan Cear for all their hard work! Denise booked more vendors than ever, Margie's chili was delicious as always, and Linda did a wonderful job with our grand prize basket. Thanks also to our vendors for donating raffle prizes, and as always, we thank the community for supporting us!

The Veterans Day Ceremony on November 11th was very moving. Afterwards, Legion members who had registered ahead of time picked up their turkey, ham or chicken along with fixings for a nice Thanksgiving meal. Joan Cear did a great job organizing this "Thank You to Veterans" turkey giveaway with LI Cares. Thanks go to all who helped, including Valerie, Ike, Rose, Priscilla, Ty, EJ, and also Justin from LI Cares. The Long Island Cares Veterans Project helps veterans in many ways, and we support them.

Remember to stop in at the Legion Bar on Friday nights – Sherry Steele and Mark Rolle have begun the next Queen of Hearts game! And mark your calendars for the Christmas Potluck on Friday, December 15th.

There is no Auxiliary meeting scheduled for December. Our next meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 10th at 7:00PM.

Merry Christmas and a happy, healthy holiday season to all!

Joan Cochran, President



★ ★ AMERICAN HEROES ★ ★

Our veterans on the Post 803 Bingo committee were honored with a special luncheon on Tuesday, November 7th, for Veterans Day. The Bingo players, led by Vicky Slade, organized “American Heroes”, sides and desserts, and Brauns donated coleslaw. Vicky presented the Legion with a donation check collected from the Bingo players in appreciation of their service.



— 2023 GOALS —

1. ~~Volunteer member to step up to fill the position of Adjutant vacated by Dave DeFriest 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"> <li>1. 9/11 Memorial Tree Pavers</li> <li>2. Renovation of 2nd Floor</li> <li>3. Emergency Exit for 2nd Floor</li> <li>4. <del>Bar Makeover</del></li> <li>5. Bathrooms Renovation (Handicap Accessible)</li> </ol> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6. Basement Walls Coating for Brick Deterioration Mitigation</li> <li>7. Pavilion</li> <li>8. Exterior of Post Painted/Stained</li> <li>9. Renovation of Second Floor Bathroom and Rooms</li> </ol> |
|--|--|

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**VOLUNTEER CORNER  
BOYS STATE COMMITTEE**

We need a member to volunteer to be chairman of Boys State Committee. Cuppy Horton had been for many years, sadly he has passed away. We are also in need of a volunteer to chair the Scholarship Committee. Charles Barkley is stepping down. Contact Commander Dave DeFriest.

**GOLF OUTING**

The Golf Outing is scheduled for Monday June 17, 2024....A Committee is forming now. The majority of the work is done in March, April and May prior to the event. We are in need of individuals Experienced in the Fundraising aspect of Golf Outings or Sales...or those able to pitch in at the course or with the Raffle. Also needed is pamphlet design experience to update the Registration Pamphlet. Email Bob Bittner at navyjan70@gmail.com.



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★★DECEMBER 2023 & JANUARY 2024 EVENTS★★

12/01 FRI. BAR IS OPEN 6:30 PM - QOH DRAWING

12/08 FRI. BAR IS OPEN 6:30 PM - QOH DRAWING

12/11 MON. SNACKS WITH SANTA 4 - 6 PM

12/12 TUES. EXECUTIVE AND BUSINESS MEETING:  
BAR 6:30PM MEETING 7:00 PM

12/15 FRI. POT LUCK CHRISTMAS PARTY 6:30 PM  
QOH DRAWING

12/22 FRI. BAR IS OPEN 6:30 PM - QOH DRAWING

12/29 FRI. BAR IS OPEN 6:30 PM - QOH DRAWING

01/05 FRI. BAR IS OPEN 6:30 PM - QOH DRAWING

01/12 FRI. BAR IS OPEN 6:30 PM - QOH DRAWING

01/19 FRI. BAR IS OPEN 6:30 PM - QOH DRAWING

01/26 FRI. BAR IS OPEN 6:30 PM - QOH DRAWING

01/12 TUES. EXECUTIVE AND BUSINESS MEETING:  
BAR 6:30 PM MEETING 7:00 PM



MADE IN AMERICA

★★ LEGION OFFICERS ★★

Commander - Dave DeFriest  
1st Vice Commander - Jeff Chagnon  
2nd Vice Commander - Vacant  
Past Commander - Earl Brock  
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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