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# THE REPORTER

## GRISWOLD TERRY GLOVER POST 803

JUNE 2024

### COMMANDER'S REPORT



Greetings fellow Legionnaires and Friends of the Legion,

Flag Day is a holiday celebrated on June 14th in the United States. It commemorates the adoption of the Flag of the United States on June 14, 1777, by resolution of the Second Continental Congress. The Flag of the United States of America consists of 13 equal horizontal stripes of red (top and bottom) alternating with white, with a blue rectangle in the canon bearing 50 small white, five-pointed stars arranged in nine offset horizontal rows of six stars (top and bottom) alternating with rows of five stars.



We are now six months into this calendar year, 2024. However, The American Legion utilizes and functions with a fiscal year of June to July. We, therefore, are just beginning our year in the Legion. We had our election of Officers last month and our current elected officers are listed on the back page of the Reporter.

Here is a list of some of our upcoming events for Legion members:

**The Suffolk County American Legion Convention** will take place on June 8th at Wilson-Rich Post 432, 1450 Hallock Ave Pt Jefferson Station.

**The 106th New York Dept Convention**, June 15th – 19th, Niagara Falls, New York.

**American Legion Boys State of NY** to take place at SUNY at Morrisville on June 28 – July 3. We are sending one candidate, Kenneth McGonnigle from Southold High School. Congratulations and best wishes, Ken.

**The American Legion National Convention** will be held in New Orleans, La on August 21 - 29

In addition to Flag Day here are some special days that take place in June. Celebrated on June 1, this day recognizes the importance of Milk as a global food. Celebrate Nature with World Environment Day (June 5), World Oceans Day (June 8), Juneteenth (June 19), the celebration commemorating the day 250,000 slaves in the state of Texas were finally declared free, by the U.S. Army, after the close of the Civil War. This day became a national holiday in 2021. World Rain Forest Day (June 22). Also during the month of June, we celebrate several awareness events, including Pride month, PTSD Awareness Month, and Men's Health Month. Lest we forget to honor DAD on Father's Day, June 16th, and appreciate all of his Dadisms!

The Auxiliary Unit 803 had their annual distribution of Poppies Drive Through event on Friday May 24th from 11Am to 5PM. This year's chairperson is Vickie DeFriest the Poppy Queen! Along with all the ladies who helped with this event and the distribution of Poppies outside our local post offices and grocery stores deserve a great deal of thanks and appreciation for what they do. Special thanks to Bob Bittner for offering to assist with the annual Poppy Distribution.

We were blessed by the presence an attendance of Auxiliary President Joan Cochran and Vickie DeFriest at our monthly meeting last month. The purpose of their attendance was to request some advance volunteers for the annual car show in August. And to remind us that we would apply some of the money raised at last year's car show to acquire tents to shade the volunteers at the entry gates. A motion was made, seconded, and approved to purchase three canopies, one for each entry gate. Thank you, ladies for your helpful hints and everything you do for this organization.

Summer begins this month. I hope everyone has a great summer. Enjoy what this beautiful North Fork Area has to offer. Be Safe and Stay Well.

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



## SLEEP IN HEAVENLY PEACE

On May 18th at our American Legion there was much activity taking place in the front parking area. Sleep in Heavenly Peace, is a volunteer organization who makes beds for children that do not have a bed to sleep in. There were many volunteers who showed up to build a bed, 20 beds were scheduled to be built from scratch. John Succoso of Southold has organized a local chapter of these bed building dynamo's. It's like an assembly line, many small groups of people working on one part of the beds at the same time. It is such a wonderful project for someone who does not have a bed to sleep in.

Their slogan or motto is,  
*"No kid sleeps on the floor in our town"*

John can be contacted at 516-244-5515  
or email: [john.succoso@shbeds.org](mailto:john.succoso@shbeds.org)



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SOUTHOLD AMERICAN LEGION POST 803



# SAVE THE DATE

## OUR CHICKEN BBQ IS BACK!

### SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 14TH, 2024

★★ SONS OF THE LEGION ★★



#### PREAMBLE TO THE SAL NATIONAL CONSTITUTION

Proud possessors of a priceless heritage, we male descendants of veterans of the Great Wars, associate ourselves together as "Sons of The American Legion" for the following purposes:

To uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States of America; to maintain law and order; to foster and perpetuate a true spirit of Americanism; to preserve the memories of our former members and the associations of our members and our forefathers in the Great Wars; to inculcate a sense of individual obligation to the community, state and nation; to combat the autocracy of both the classes and masses; to make right the master of might; to promote peace and good will on earth; to safeguard and transmit to posterity the principles of justice, freedom and democracy; to consecrate and sanctify our friendship by our devotion to mutual helpfulness; to adopt in letter and spirit all of the great principles for which The American Legion stands; and to assist in carrying on for God and Country.

Gary Iorio, SAL Commander

★★ HISTORIAN ★★

**June 6th, 1944:** More than 150,000 Allied troops land on the beaches of Normandy, France, as part of the largest seaborne invasion in history. Known as "D-Day," the name and date loom large in the memory of World War II—perhaps second only to December 7th, 1941.

**June 13, 1968,** a team of U.S. Army 5th Special Forces and South Vietnamese irregular troops were conducting a long-range reconnaissance patrol in North Vietnamese Army-held territory at an undisclosed location, most likely in Laos. Early in the mission, the patrol was surrounded by a battalion of North Vietnamese forces. After a brief but intense firefight, Specialist Fifth Class John J. Kedenburg, the leader of the team, provided covering fire from a rear-guard position as they broke out toward a clearing for emergency extraction. The clearing was small, so extraction had to be done from the air with slings. Amid withering fire, Kedenburg ensured everyone on his team got a sling. With no sling left for himself, however, he ordered the helicopters to leave. As he turned to again return fire, he was almost immediately overwhelmed and mortally wounded. John Kedenburg earned the Medal of Honor for his actions that day.

**June 14, 1775,** the Continental Congress voted to create the Continental Army as a united colonial response against the British enemy. This new Continental Army included 10 companies of riflemen.

**June 14th 1916** President Wilson issues a proclamation establishing June 14th as Flag Day. On August 3, 1949 National Flag Day was established by an Act of Congress.

**Battleship New Jersey** No other U.S. battleship served in more military campaigns. Christened on the first anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor, Dec. 7, 1942, it went on to earn 19 battle stars during 21 years of active service. Roughly 45,000 sailors and Marines served on its decks in World War II, the Korean and Vietnam Wars, the Lebanese Civil War and the Iran-Iraq Tanker War.

Bob Bittner

## ★★ VETERANS BENEFITS “CORNER” ★★

### VA AIMS TO EMPHASIZE FREE BURIAL BENEFITS FOR VETERANS AT NATIONAL CEMETERIES

Source - Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — The Department of Veterans Affairs is nearing its goal to provide 95% of veterans with burial options at national and grant-funded veterans cemeteries within a two-hour drive of their homes. Yet less than a quarter of veterans and their families take advantage of the free burials, headstones and other services offered at the 158 national veterans cemeteries the VA operates, said Matthew Quinn, the VA’s undersecretary for memorial affairs.

An informal survey by the National Cemetery Administration found that only a third of veterans were aware of the benefits. The National Cemetery Administration provides “perpetual care” at more than 5 million gravesites of military veterans. More than 135,000 veterans were laid to rest at national veterans cemeteries last year. Burial services are extended to eligible veterans, their spouses and qualifying dependents.

Read more at: <https://www.stripes.com/veterans/2024-03-20/burial-benefits-veterans-cemeteries-13373719.html>  
David Chiaro – [keyarrow@hotmail.com](mailto:keyarrow@hotmail.com)

## ★★ MEMBERSHIP ★★



**Post Status:** We currently have **179/189 (94.7%)** paid up members for 2024. We still have about a dozen members who could pay their dues for 2024. It is important to get it done before the Department of New York generates the list of members for 2025. I would like to thank all members who have supported the Post during membership year 2024.

**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

## ★★ LEGION AUXILIARY POST 803 ★★

June brings our Annual Installation and Initiation Ceremonies, held at our meeting on June 12th. Members of Suffolk County American Legion Auxiliary will join us to conduct the ceremonies. At our last meeting, we voted for the slate of Joan Cochran President, Denise Thilberg Schlacter 1st Vice President, Jeanette Cooper 2nd Vice President, Priscilla Devine Secretary, and Patricia Burns Treasurer. We look forward to working together, and we thank outgoing Treasurer Margie Brock for all her hard work and dedication! We also welcome three new members: Marjorie Deroski, Carol Horne, and Vickie DeFriest.

As I write this, we are approaching Memorial Day and all our solemn ceremonies. We thank Joe, Neil, and their helpers for putting up the Memorial Field of Poppies again this year on the Legion lawn. Let us never forget all those who gave their all for our country.

Last month we voted to assist several local veterans and their families, and two Northport VA programs for women veterans: Women’s Wellness Center and Welcome Baby. We also voted to donate to Bobby’s Books at Floyd Memorial Library in Greenport in memory of Germaine Vindigni, one of our well-loved members who passed away.

Auxiliary members have been getting together at Bingo lately and having a great time! Remember Bingo on Tuesday’s at 12 at Post 803.

Our next meeting will be on Wednesday, June 12th. Ceremonies start at 7:00 PM, so members should arrive by 6:30. See you then!

Joan Cochran, President



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# Volunteer Corner

**"Many Hands  
Make Light Work"**

**Volunteers are needed  
FOR THE CAR SHOW.**

**Contact Denise at  
631.466.2527**

**Easy tasks and any  
amount of time  
will be greatly  
appreciated.**

## ★ ★ CHAPLAIN'S REPORT ★ ★

**SICK CALL - HENRY F. SANTACROCE**, is at home being cared for by his family. Please remember Henry in your prayers.

“ Dear God, we place our worries in Your hands. We place our sick under Your care and humbly ask that You restore your servants to health again. Above all, grant us the grace to acknowledge Your holy will and know that whatsoever You do, You do for the love of us. Amen.”

Special thanks to all our members who participated in our Memorial Day Parade and Services. In particular, I thank our Color Guard. For years now the same men arrive at the Post at 7:30am and participate in our Cemetery Monument Ceremony which is conducted at six locations in Southold. After that it is off to the Parade. I cannot thank these men enough. They are truly dedicated members of our Country and community.

If anyone is interested in joining the Color Guard, please contact me for information.

Jeff Chagnon - Post Chaplain 631-456-3258

## - 2024 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 -

1. 9/11 Memorial Tree Pavers
2. Renovation of 2nd Floor
3. ~~Bar Makeover~~
4. Bathrooms Renovation (Handicap Accessible)
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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ENPHASE

★★ JUNE & JULY 2024 EVENTS ★★

06/07 FRI.	BAR IS OPEN 6:30PM AND QUEEN OF HEARTS DRAWING 8PM
06/11 TUES.	LAST GOLF MEETING BEFORE OUTING 6:00PM
06/11 TUES.	EXECUTIVE AND BUSINESS MEETING: BAR 6:00PM, DINNER 6:30PM, MEETING 7:00PM
06/12 WED.	AUXILIARY MEETING: 7PM
06/14 FRI.	BAR IS OPEN 6:30PM AND QUEEN OF HEARTS DRAWING 8PM
06/14 FRI.	FLAG DAY
<b>06/17 MON.</b>	<b>31ST LEGION GOLF CLASSIC ISLANDS END GOLF COURSE</b> VOLUNTEERS FOR CHECK-IN BE THERE BY 10 AM
06/21 FRI.	BAR IS OPEN 6:30PM AND QUEEN OF HEARTS DRAWING 8PM
06/28 FRI.	BAR IS OPEN 6:30PM AND QUEEN OF HEARTS DRAWING 8PM
06/28 FRI.	LEGION CONSOLIDATED REPORTS DUE TO SUFFOLK COUNTY/STATE LEGION
07/09 TUES.	EXECUTIVE AND BUSINESS MEETING: BAR 6:00PM, DINNER 6:30PM, MEETING 7:00PM
07/10 WED.	AUXILIARY MEETING: 7PM
07/05 FRI.	BAR IS OPEN 6:30PM AND QUEEN OF HEARTS DRAWING 8PM
07/12 FRI.	BAR IS OPEN 6:30PM AND QUEEN OF HEARTS DRAWING 8PM
07/19 FRI.	BAR IS OPEN 6:30PM AND QUEEN OF HEARTS DRAWING 8PM
07/26 FRI.	BAR IS OPEN 6:30PM AND QUEEN OF HEARTS DRAWING 8PM



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★★ 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** - Mort Kelly  
**2nd Finance Assistant** - Vacant  
**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 Kalvnas

★★ AUXILIARY OFFICERS ★★

**President** - Joan Cochran  
**1st Vice Pres** - Denise Thilberg Schlacter  
**2nd Vice Pres** - Jeanette Cooper  
**Treasurer** - Patricia Burns  
**Recording Sec.** - Priscilla Devine

ELECTRONIC SERVICE REQUESTED

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