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THE REPORTER

GRISWOLD TERRY GLOVER POST 803

FEBRUARY 2026 ★ 631.765.2276

★ ★ COMMANDER'S REPORT ★ ★



February is a month rich in history and reflection as we honor the birthdays of two of our nation's greatest leaders- George Washington and Abraham Lincoln. George Washington, born February 22, 1732, is remembered as the "Father of Our Country", whose leadership and vision helped secure our independence and established the foundations of our nation. Abraham Lincoln, born February 12, 1809, guided the United States through its most difficult chapter, preserving the Union and advancing the cause of liberty and equality.

Their legacies remind us of the enduring values of leadership, sacrifice, and devotion to country – principles that remain at the heart of the American Legion.

February also includes Valentine's Day, a time to reflect on the importance of friendships, compassion, and appreciation for one another. It is an opportunity to recognize the bonds we share with our families, fellow Legionnaires, and our community, and to express gratitude for those who support us in service and fellowship throughout the year. In that same vein, I would like to give a special shout out to a recently joined Friend of the Legion and local community business owner, Travis Zurawski. Travis owns and operates PANORAMICA, a modern forward-thinking coffee shop serving breakfast and lunch, located at 2745 Peconic Lane in Peconic. Panoramica has quickly become a welcoming gathering place in our community, and we appreciate Travis' support of our Post and his commitment to local involvement. I encourage our members and friends of the Legion to stop by, enjoy a great cup of coffee or a meal, and show your support for a local business that supports our community and veterans.

The website is <https://www.visitpanoramica.com> and Travis can be reached at 631.796.1814 or by email at Travis@visitpanoramica.com

Coming events during the month of February: Daytona 500 Party will be held at the Legion Hall on Sunday February 15th from 1 to 6 PM. Auxiliary Unit 803 is hosting a DJ Dance Party on Saturday February 28th from 7 to 10 PM. More detailed information will appear on the following pages of this month's issue of the Reporter.

Earl Brock and his Bingo Team continue to hold Bingo on Tuesday afternoons weekly. As does David Wilburn and his Bingo Team hold Bingo on Thursday evenings. I just wanted to mention that the attendance of participants has been falling off during the winter months. We may have to consider not having Bingo for this month and possibly the month of March as well. Therefore, I hope that attendance improves.

Jeff Chagnon is looking into the possibility of having our Post sponsor and send a local student or students to Boys State this summer. Boys State is scheduled to be held from June 27th through July 2nd, 2026, at SUNY Morrisville in Morrisville, NY. Boys State is a program of the American Legion developed from the concept that youth should be offered a better perspective of the practical operation of government; that the individual is an integral part, and commensurately responsible, for the character and success of his government. Boys State is an objective citizenship training program, which inculcates individual responsibility to the community, state, and nation. Furthermore, serving the youth in our community is one of the four pillars of the American Legion.



Continued on next page

MADE IN AMERICA

John Christina, with the assistance of the Tuesday workman's crew has installed the new dividers in both the men's and ladies' restrooms. A job well done, thank you men !

Post 803 is in need of a person to fill the position of 1st Finance Assistant. If any member has an accounting background or is good with numbers and willing to step up and fill this position, that would be appreciated. I would like to remind everyone that as of July 1st 2026 I will be retiring from my position as commander of Post 803. We need a member to step up to accept taking over as commander.

In closing, I want to express my sincere appreciation to our Legion Family for all that you do in support of Post 803. February is a time to reflect on service and sacrifice, and there is no better way to honor those values than by staying active and involved. I encourage every member to join us at our meetings and activities as we continue building a strong and vibrant Post.

For God and Country
David E. DeFriest,
Commander, American Legion Post 803
www.post803.com ★ gtgpost803@gmail.com



Daytona 500 Party

FEBRUARY 15, 2026

1 PM - 6 PM

\$15 ENTRY FEE

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& Big Screen TV's

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Let's Make Some Noise

DANCE PARTY!

with DJ Phil spinning all the dance classics

Saturday, February 28, 2026

7 to 10 PM

Southold American Legion Hall

Cash Bar ♦ 21 and over ♦ 50/50 Raffle

No outside food or beverage permitted

Tickets \$20

**Advance purchase on-line
at [Humantix.com](https://humantix.com)**

If tickets are still available, \$25 at the door.



THIS DANCE PARTY IS A FUNDRAISER HOSTED BY THE SOUTHOLD AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY TO FUND PROGRAMS TO SUPPORT VETERANS

★★★ TRIBUTE BANNERS ★★★



We are now taking applications from sponsors to honor Veterans, Active-Duty personnel, and members of the Reserve and National Guard, by purchasing a tribute banner to be hung on lamp posts in the Hamlet of Southold. Information on the program, can be found on the Post's website www.post803.com/southold-salutes-banners



COST OF FREEDOM

The **Cost of Freedom** is an organization committed to honoring veterans who have returned from combat with both visible and invisible wounds, such as **PTSD**. I was honored to be invited to the Army/Navy game on December 14th, 2025, which was sponsored by the **Cost of Freedom**.

This organization unites Veterans and Gold Star families for a three-day weekend, treating them as VIPs. During the weekend, many participants share their personal stories, while others attend just for the camaraderie.

In December (2025), the event featured special guests, including three *Medal of Honor* recipients, a *Gold Star Mom*, and a *Gold Star Spouse*. It was truly an honor to be in the presence of these remarkable Americans. I should mention that a few days before the event, one of the honored guests made a special request. He intended to propose to his girlfriend during Halftime and inquired if it could be arranged. **Mission Accomplished!**

Such moments serve as potent reminders of trust, preparation, commitment, and respect for our veterans. They highlight why our veterans should never be forgotten, something we all must remember and take seriously.

Prior to the game, we attended a *Tailgate party*

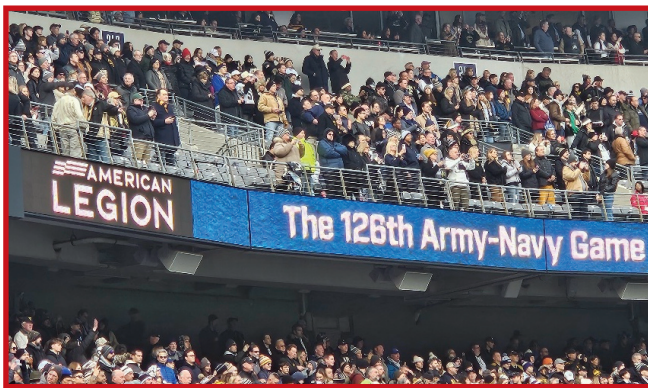
hosted by the **Travis Manion Foundation**, which provided all the food and drinks. The atmosphere felt like a family gathering, even as we waited in line to enter the stadium. There was plenty of playful banter between the Army and Navy fans. It was a hugely enjoyable event, and I will always treasure these wonderful memories.

The Army/Navy game took place at the M&T Stadium in Baltimore, Maryland, drawing a sold-out crowd of 70,000. Due to heightened security, entering the stadium took over two hours. President Trump and Secretary of War Peter Hegseth attended this major American event. When the President entered the field for the coin toss, the stadium erupted with chants of “U.S.A.,” creating a moment filled with pride for our country!

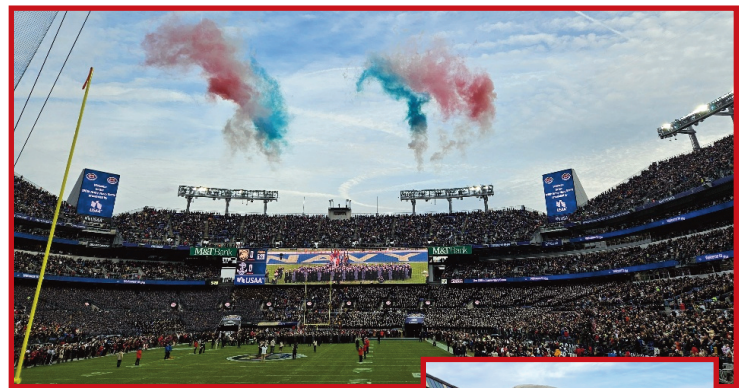
Earlier, I mentioned visible and invisible wounds. The invisible wound refers to **PTSD**. We have lost many of our young veterans returning to this debilitating disorder. The American Legion has launched the “**BEtheONE**” program to promote **Awareness!**

Returning veterans need to readjust to civilian life after deployment. It is challenging to leave behind the experiences they have endured. They need our support. This must be our **Mission**.

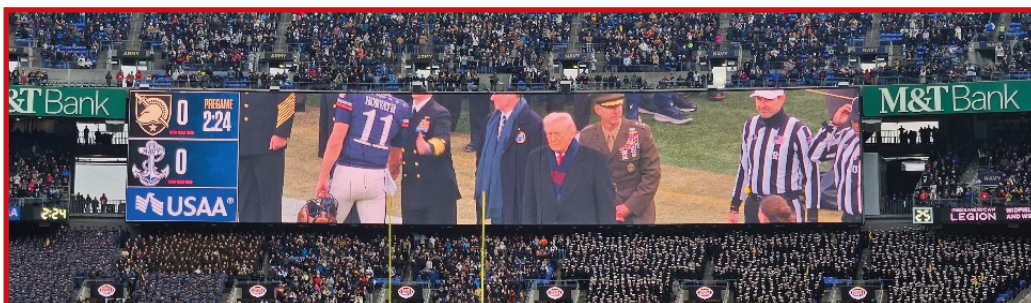
John Christina, Historian



American Legion Attendees



From Opening Ceremony



President Attending the Games



BeTheOne (Pepsi & John)

VETERANS BENEFITS "CORNER"

VA PROVIDES VETERANS RELIEF FROM BIDEN-ERA BACKLOGGED MEDICAL BILLS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE NOVEMBER 20, 2025

The Department of Veterans Affairs today announced it will relieve Veterans of more than \$272 million in potential medical bills that accrued after the Biden Administration stopped certain copayment claims processing and collections in early 2023.

READ MORE HERE

<https://news.va.gov/press-room/va-provides-veterans-relief-from-biden-era-backlogged-medical-bills/>



David Chiaro –keyarrow@hotmail.com

★ ★ SONS OF THE LEGION ★ ★



Many good things are happening at the post,
read this newsletter for details.

Today I remind all of our Preamble:

Proud possessors of a priceless heritage, we male descendants of veterans of all 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 association of our members and our forefathers in all wars; to inculcate a sense of individual obligation to the Community, State and Nation; to combat the autocracy of both the classes and the 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."

SAL Commander, Gary Iorio

★ WHAT'S HAPPENING ★



LET'S MAKE THIS HISTORIC "4TH OF JULY" SPECIAL FOR ALL OUR POST VETERANS.

- Let's make this historic parade with a great turnout. Open trucks will be available.
- Become a part of History, but more importantly a show of all that served.
- Sending a correspondence to the Post right now is very important. We **NEED** to hear from you regarding our Reporter newsletter.
- We need to update our records.
IMPORTANT.
- Please share any ideas that can benefit our Post.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR THE GOLF OUTING:

Contact Bob Bittner at
navyjan70@gmail.com
or 631.680.6244 via text.



**The Golf Outing is on
MONDAY JUNE 15th**

Raffle ticket sellers needed in
April and May and volunteer needed
to follow up on our sponsors.

We also need Grill Crew
at the golf course day of.



*We extend our
Warmest
Birthday Wishes
to all our
Fellow Legionnaires
Celebrating in February!*

William Donahue 2/1

Denis Bischoff 2/3

James Cear 2/3

David Martinez 2/15

Peter Jacobs 2/19

Raymond Jacobs 2/20

William Kreitsek 2/22

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

★★ LEGION AUXILIARY POST 803 ★★

Enjoy the beauty of February and ignore the cold!

This month we look forward to the Annual Legion Daytona Party on Sunday, February 15th from 1:00PM to 6:00PM. Your \$15.00 admission includes hot dogs, heroes, salads and snacks. Enjoy watching the Nascar Daytona 500 Race on our big screen TV at the Legion with friends. It's a fun way to spend a February Sunday afternoon!

Mark your calendars for our winter Dance Party with DJ Phil on Saturday, February 28th. Tickets are available for purchase online at Humantix.com. Last year we sold out and everyone had a blast, so order your tickets soon!

The Auxiliary thanks Linda Ruland for all her work preparing and delivering holiday gifts to veterans through the Southold Town Nutrition Center in December. This is our mission – to help veterans, active military, and their families.

There will be no monthly meeting in February, but I hope to see you all at the Daytona Party and Dance Party with DJ Phil. Our next meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 11th.

Joan Cochran, President

★★ MEMBERSHIP ★★



Post Status: We currently have (151/185 = 81.6%) paid up members for the membership year 2026. We have 30 plus members who need to pay their 2026 dues. Check your current Post 803 ID card, if it has 2025 across the top, send in your dues (\$57). If your Membership ID card has 2026 across the top you already paid your dues for 2026.

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

★★ 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.

A PRAYER FOR THE NEW YEAR

"Eternal God, You gave us the greatest gift: The gift of life. In the coming year help us to use it wisely. May we grow in generosity, kindness, forgiveness, hope, faith and love. Amen. " - A short prayer based on Jewish wisdom and tradition from Rabbi Evan Moffic.

Jeff Chagnon, Post Chaplain - 631.456.3258

A LITTLE HUMOR...



I got myself a senior GPS.
Not only does it tell me how to get to my destination,
it also tells me Why I wanted to get there!

I just burned, 3,000 calories yesterday.
That's the last time I take a nap while the Brownies are in the oven.

It's been months since I bought a book,
"How to scam people on Line". It still hasn't arrived yet.

Just before I die, I'm going to swallow a bag of
Pop Corn Kernels. My cremation is going to be Epic!

My wife and I have started role playing in the bedroom, her favorite
is "Sexy Librarian". I have to sit quietly while she reads a book.

Two potatoes are standing on the street corner.
How can you tell which one is the Prostitute?
The one that has the sticker "IDAHO"

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website or call Virginia Bennett at 631-702-2423.



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★★ FEBRUARY & MARCH EVENTS ★★

02/03 Tues.	Tuesday Day BINGO- Doors Open at 12 noon and Games start at 12:30pm
02/05 Thu.	Night BINGO- Doors Open at 6:00pm and Games start at 7pm
02/06 Fri.	Bar is Open 6:30pm
02/10 Tues.	Tuesday Day BINGO- Doors Open at 12 noon and Games start at 12:30pm
02/10 Tue.	Executive and Business Meeting: Bar 6:00pm, Dinner 6:30pm, Meeting 7:00pm
02/12 Thu.	Night BINGO- Doors Open at 6:00pm and Games start at 7pm
02/13 Fri.	Bar is Open 6:30pm
02/13 Fri.	Daytona 500 Party set-up 6pm
02/15 Sun.	Daytona 500 Party 1PM-6PM
02/17 Tues.	Tuesday Day BINGO- Doors Open at 12 noon and Games start at 12:30pm
02/19 Thu.	Night BINGO- Doors Open at 6:00pm and Games start at 7pm
02/20 Fri.	Bar is Open 6:30pm
02/24 Tues.	Tuesday Day BINGO- Doors Open at 12 noon and Games start at 12:30pm
02/26 Thu.	Night BINGO- Doors Open at 6:00pm and Games start at 7pm
02/27 Fri.	Bar is Open 6:30pm and Queen of Hearts Resumes Drawing 8pm
02/27 Fri.	Dance Party set-up. Tentatively 1:30pm
02/28 Sat.	DANCE Party with DJ Phil 7-10pm, doors & bar open at 6:30
03/03 Tues.	Tuesday Day BINGO- Doors Open at 12 noon and Games start at 12:30pm
03/05 Thu.	Night BINGO- Doors Open at 6:00pm and Games start at 7pm
03/06 Fri.	Bar is Open 6:30pm and Queen of Hearts Drawing 8pm
03/10 Tues.	Tuesday Day BINGO- Doors Open at 12 noon and Games start at 12:30pm
03/10 Tue.	Executive and Business Meeting: Bar 6:00pm, Dinner 6:30pm, Meeting 7:00pm
03/11 Wed.	Auxiliary Meeting 7:00pm
03/12 Thu.	Night BINGO- Doors Open at 6:00pm and Games start at 7pm
03/13 Fri.	Bar is Open 6:30pm and Queen of Hearts Drawing 8pm
03/17 Tues.	Tuesday Day BINGO- Doors Open at 12 noon and Games start at 12:30pm
03/19 Thu.	Night BINGO- Doors Open at 6:00pm and Games start at 7pm
03/20 Fri.	Bar is Open 6:30pm and Queen of Hearts Drawing 8pm
03/24 Tues.	Tuesday Day BINGO- Doors Open at 12 noon and Games start at 12:30pm
03/26 Thu.	Night BINGO- Doors Open at 6:00pm and Games start at 7pm
03/27 Fri.	Bar is Open 6:30pm and Queen of Hearts Drawing 8pm
03/31 Tues.	Tuesday Day BINGO- Doors Open at 12 noon and Games start at 12:30pm

MADE IN AMERICA

★★ 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 - Don Jayamaha
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
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