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THE REPORTER

GRISWOLD TERRY GLOVER POST 803

OCTOBER 2024

COMMANDER'S REPORT



Greetings fellow Legionnaires and Friends of the Legion,

The first day of fall, the autumnal equinox arrived Sunday September 22nd. Daylight saving time will end Sunday November 3rd when we fall back and gain an hour of sleep. The first day of winter begins on December 21st. I am not looking to rush the season changes, just informing you as to when they begin.

On September 14th we held our annual chicken BBQ. The weather was beautiful and the event was a great success. Thank you to everyone who volunteered to work at this event and thank you to everyone from the community who came out and supported us. There were some individuals that I would like to mention that did an outstanding job. I hope I don't overlook anyone. Chris Salmon, Chairman of the event, Joe St Pierre and his assistants working to cook the chickens in the BBQ Pit area, Greg Johns, Neil Rochford, Gary Iorio, & Tom May. In the kitchen, Earl Brock and Jan Powers were in charge with the assistance of Brendan Kelly and several NJROTC Cadets. Donna St Pierre, Margie, Mimi, Marcia, & Marlene prepared & cooked her award-winning BBQ Baked Beans and Margie Brock prepared the Delicious Cole Slaw. Margie and Michele Feeley handled the check in table. Donna, Mimi, & Marlene served the desserts at the buffet line. Several of the NJROTC Cadets served the food at the buffet line. Rich and Gary Bartenders. There were more volunteers that did various jobs to help make this event the success that it was. It involves a great deal of effort by many people to provide a good meal and pull off an event like this. Again, thank you to everyone involved!

Our annual Walk 4 Valor took place on September 29th. Because I had to have this report prepared before the event took place, a report on this event will appear in next month's issue of the reporter.

We have approximately 180 members on the roster of our American Legion Post 803. However, the attendance of members at our monthly business meeting is rather low. There are generally 15 to 20 members in attendance with 7 or 8 of these members are officers and the remaining members in attendance are from our general membership and occasionally members of the SONS of the American Legion.

We need our existing members to come forward and take more interest in keeping our Post moving forward. We have members that do not attend our monthly business meetings, and no one new comes forward offering to take officers positions that are imperative to operating our American Legion Post as per our National By Laws.

I, as commander, have tried to streamline the length of the meetings and have the meeting food catered in hopes to attract more attendees at our monthly meetings. I would entertain any and all suggestions anyone might offer to increase participation at our Legion and the monthly meetings.

Earl Brock, Bob Cochran, Dave Wilburn and Commander Dave recently traveled to the Moose Lodge in Riverhead to disassemble and purchase their Bingo Equipment. The equipment is more up to date and modern compared to our outdated equipment. This should be an improvement over the existing equipment we are operating with currently. In the future we are considering holding Bingo on Thursday evenings. The Moose Lodge will no longer be holding Bingo on Thursday evenings. It is not a definite thing, however there is a good possibility it will come to fruition. We will keep you updated on this in the future when more information is available.

Enjoy the fall weather and colorful foliage this time of year. Be Well and Stay Safe.

David E. DeFriest, Post 803 Commander

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MADE IN AMERICA



ODE TO THE FLAG

by Linda Sheehan Cunningham

*Our nation's flag is a stirring sight
As it flutters proudly in the breeze.
Its colors of blue, red and white
Means so much to you and me;
Red stands for courage and hardiness,
The white means innocence and purity,
Blue for justice, perseverance and vigilance
In its promise to keep us free.*

*This banner stands for a bountiful land;
Its government, people and ideals,
The stripes for the thirteen colonies stand,
Its symbolism is very real.
Each state now is represented
By a star of white on blue.
President Washington first presented
The American Flag to you.*

*Many brave men have fought and died
To protect it from dishonor and disgrace.
Wives have mourned and mothers have cried
So we could remain . . . The United States.
The sight of this banner brings feelings of joy,
Of courage, pride and freedom to all.
A symbol of our nation in all its glory...
On the moon Old Glory stands tall.*



UNITED STATES COAST GUARD ROLE IN THE VIETNAM WAR

The United States Coast Guard played a significant role in the Vietnam War, serving in a variety of roles, including combat, search and rescue, and humanitarian missions:

As America's role in the Vietnam conflict escalated, President Lyndon B. Johnson committed the Coast Guard for deployment to war-torn Southeast Asia. 82-foot Point-class patrol boats proved to be both adaptable and capable in the conduct of interdiction and combat missions.

Five high endurance cutters (WHEC), primarily assigned to the Gulf of Thailand, supported a variety of combat missions. The Coast Guard also provided port security, Explosives Loading Detachments, installation and maintenance of aids-to-navigation, established LORAN stations in both Vietnam and Thailand, and conducted search and rescue missions. Some eight thousand Coast Guardsmen served in Vietnam, supporting both combat and traditional service missions.



A Gift of Thanks

The Southold American Legion Auxiliary and Long Island Cares Veterans Project will distribute Thanksgiving gratitude meals to veterans on Veterans Day, Monday, November 11. Veterans who would like to accept this gift in thanks for your service to our country may request an uncooked turkey, ham or chicken and a box of accompanying foods by emailing Southoldpost803@gmail.com or phoning the auxiliary at: 631-407-5555. The deadline to submit your request is Monday, October 7. The food must be picked up on Veterans Day between the hours of noon at 1:30 p.m. at the Southold Post parking lot.



★★ SONS OF THE LEGION ★★



The chicken BBQ was delicious and a big success and great time. A lot of work by some great folks made a successful event. Thanks to all who helped and supported this event. October brings us to the solemn anniversary Of the Beirut bombing. On October 23, 1983, **Hezbollah terrorists killed 241 U.S. military personnel, including 220 Marines, 18 sailors, and three soldiers** in a terrorist bombing of the Marine Corps barracks in Beirut, Lebanon. Never forget!

Our country continues to be in uncertain times as we witness a second attempt on the life of President Trump. Once again he dodged a bullet. Soon election day will arrive, and we have a chance to direct the future of our country. Til next month, stay well. I leave you with a quote from President Reagan.

"We must reject the idea that every time a law's broken, society is guilty rather than the lawbreaker. It is time to restore the American precept that each individual is accountable for his actions."

Gary Iorio, SAL Commander



★★ HISTORIAN ★★

USS Michael Murphy (DDG-112)

The USS Michael Murphy (DD 112) is of the Arleigh Burke-class of guided missile destroyers in the United States Navy. She is named after the Medal of Honor recipient Lieutenant Michael P. Murphy (1976 – 2005) who was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor for his actions in Afghanistan in June 2005.

The construction of this warship started on 13 Sept 2002, and it was christened on 7 May 2011, For all you Ole Salts, here are some details about the USS Micheal Murphy:



- **Length** 510', **Displacement** of 9,200 ton, **Beam** 66', and **Draft** of 33'
- **Powered** by 4 General Electric turbines. **Speed** 35 + knots
- **Compliment** of 300 sailors with 23 officers Armament:
- Consists of 5 different machine gun systems
- Missiles Tomahawk, Cruise, Intercept, Torpedoes
- 2 Seahawk Helicopters

The warships **Motto** is *"Lead the Fight"*

Home Port is Pearl Harbor

Status – in Active Duty

In my next newsletter, I will inform you about the Lt. Michael Murhpy Museum in West Sayville.

John Christina, Historian

★★ CHAPLAIN'S REPORT ★★

REST IN PEACE - Our dear friend and comrade, Albert Peter Rava, a US Navy veteran, passed on September 15th at the age of 81. Albert was an active member of our Post for many years who was always willing to lend a hand when help was needed. I will always remember his kind eyes and welcoming smile. It is impossible for our Post to function without fine men like Albert. He will be dearly missed. He was a true American Hero. May his soul rest in peace. Special thanks to all our members who attended the American Legion Wake Service which was held in his honor on September 18th at the Horton Mattie Funeral Home in Greenport.

PRAYER FOR THE SICK - *"O God, we lift up all those who are facing illness today. We ask that You would bring healing, comfort and peace to their bodies. Calm their fears and let them feel the healing power of Your love."* In our thoughts and prayer is Henry Santacroce Sr.

Jeff Chagnon - Post Chaplain 631-456-3258

★ ★ VETERANS BENEFITS “CORNER” ★ ★

Q&A: What To Know as New TRICARE Contracts Begin in 2025 **By TRICARE Communications NEWS | May 15, 2024**

FALLS CHURCH, Va. – New TRICARE managed care support (MCS) contracts, known as T-5, will start on Jan. 1, 2025. MCS contractors manage administrative support services for the TRICARE benefit. This includes managing enrollment services, maintaining civilian healthcare networks, operating call centers, and processing TRICARE claims. The new contracts will improve health care delivery, quality, and access for beneficiaries living in the United States.

The Defense Health Agency (DHA) and the two regional contractors in the East Region and West Region are currently transitioning to these new contracts to ensure health care delivery is ready for all beneficiaries on Jan. 1, 2025.

“We are committed to keeping all of our military families informed about your health plan, your choices, and ensuring a seamless transition to new contractors,” said Lt. Gen. Telita Crosland, director of the DHA.

Here’s what you should know as the DHA transitions to the new contracts in 2025.

Visit <https://newsroom.tricare.mil/News/TRICARE-News/Article/3776346> or Scan the QR!

David Chiaro – keyarrow@hotmail.com



★ ★ LEGION AUXILIARY POST 803 ★ ★

October is here and the crisp cool days of fall can’t be far behind. The Auxiliary has been busy! Big thanks go to Donna, Margie and their kitchen helpers for the delicious beans and coleslaw at the Post 803 Chicken BBQ in September. All the food was delicious and the Legion members and their helpers did a fabulous job! Thank you all for your dedication to the American Legion.

A big thank you goes out to John Cristina for freshening up the picnic tables on the Legion lawn with a new coat of paint. They look great! Thanks again for a job well done.

Another Potluck Supper is scheduled for Friday, October 11th. Bring a main dish, side or dessert and enjoy a nice meal! All are welcome.

LI Cares has again joined with the Auxiliary for the Veterans Day Turkey/Chicken/Ham giveaway as a thank you to our Post 803 Veterans. Members of Post 803 must call in their choice of a frozen turkey, chicken or ham and the fixings for a nice Thanksgiving dinner before October 7th. Call 631-407-5555 and leave a message with your choice or send us an email at southoldpost803@gmail.com. LI Cares will distribute the food on November 11th at the Legion in Southold, immediately after the Veterans Day Ceremony until 1:30 PM. We encourage you all to attend the ceremony, a very moving tribute to all who have served in the military.

The Auxiliary has begun a new project to “Adopt a Platoon”. Linda and Jeanette are organizing us to help support a group from Ft. Drum who will be deploying soon. We are all eager to carry out this project over the next nine months.

We are planning another Dance Party with DJ Phil on February 1st. Mark your calendars now for this popular event!

The Southold Town Salutes banner program is coming along and we are sponsoring the first banner, which will honor local veteran, George Robert Sullivan, U.S. Marine Corps, who served during the Vietnam War. This tribute banner will eventually be hung in front of Southold Town Hall. After that we will be advertising the program and taking banner orders.

Our next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday , October 9th at 7 PM.

Joan Cochran, President



★★ MEMBERSHIP ★★



Post Status: We currently have **180/189 (95%)** paid up members for 2024 and **92/178 (50.8%)** for 2024. Due to the confusion about the amount of annual dues the Post will accept \$50 or \$57 for the current membership year. The dues have been increased to \$57 due to the increase of the National American Legion and County annual dues. Enough said. We have two new members to welcome to our Post, Paul Wolfrom (USMC), and William Dewey (US ARMY). We also have two new transfers from other Posts, Fred Smith (US NAVY) and Robert Ruchala (US ARMY). Welcome to all.

Veterans, come join us we need new Members.

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

— 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 —

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. 9/11 Memorial Tree Pavers | 5. Basement Walls Coating for Brick Deterioration Mitigation |
| 2. Renovation of 2nd Floor | 6. Pavilion |
| 3. Bar Makeover | 7. Exterior of Post Painted/Stained |
| 4. Bathrooms Renovation (Handicap Accessible) | 8. Renovation of Second Floor Bathroom and Rooms |



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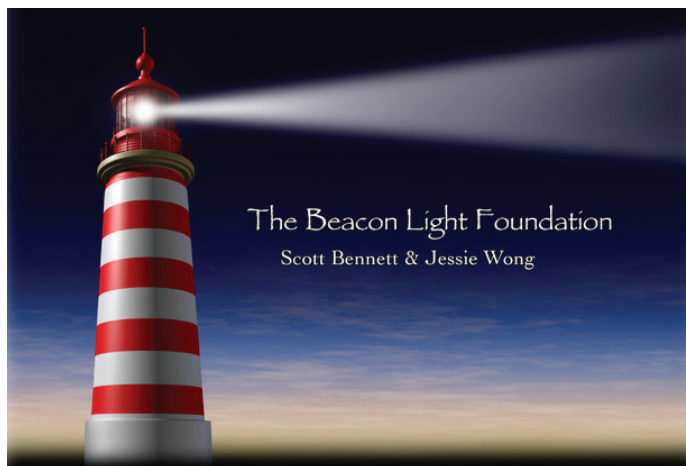


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★★ OCTOBER & NOVEMBER 2024 EVENTS ★★

10/04 FRI. BAR IS OPEN 6:30PM AND QUEEN OF HEARTS DRAWING 8PM

10/08 TUES. EXECUTIVE AND BUSINESS MEETING: BAR 6:00PM, DINNER 6:30PM, MEETING 7:00PM

10/09 WED. AUXILIARY MEETING: 7PM

10/11 FRI. BAR IS OPEN 6:30PM AND QUEEN OF HEARTS DRAWING 8PM

10/11 FRI. POT LUCK, EVERYONE WELCOME, BRING A DISH TO SHARE 6:30

10/18 FRI. BAR IS OPEN 6:30PM AND QUEEN OF HEARTS DRAWING 8PM

10/25 FRI. BAR IS OPEN 6:30PM AND QUEEN OF HEARTS DRAWING 8PM

11/01 FRI. BAR IS OPEN 6:30PM AND QUEEN OF HEARTS DRAWING 8PM

11/01 FRI. CRAFT FAIR SET UP 6PM

11/03 SUN. HOLIDAY CRAFT FAIR 11-4PM (AUXILIARY CHAIR)

11/05 TUES. ELECTION DAY PLEASE VOTE!

11/08 FRI. BAR IS OPEN 6:30PM AND QUEEN OF HEARTS DRAWING 8PM

11/12 TUES. EXECUTIVE AND BUSINESS MEETING:
BAR 6:00PM, DINNER 6:30PM, MEETING 7:00PM

11/13 WED. AUXILIARY MEETING: 7PM

**11/11 MON. VETERANS DAY CEREMONY 11AM
AND VETERAN BRUNCH TO FOLLOW**

11/11 MON. THANKSGIVING MEAL PICK-UP 12-1:30

11/12 TUES. 2025 PLANNING MEETING 6PM

11/15 FRI. BAR IS OPEN 6:30PM AND QUEEN OF HEARTS DRAWING 8PM

11/22 FRI. BAR IS OPEN 6:30PM AND QUEEN OF HEARTS DRAWING 8PM

11/29 FRI. BAR IS OPEN 6:30PM AND QUEEN OF HEARTS DRAWING 8PM



★★ 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 - John Christina

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 - John Christina

★★ AUXILIARY OFFICERS ★★

President - Joan Cochran

1st Vice Pres - Denise Thilberg Schlacter

2nd Vice Pres - Jeanette Cooper

Treasurer - Patricia Burns

Recording Sec. - Priscilla Devine

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ELECTRONIC SERVICE REQUESTED

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