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# THE REPORTER

## GRISWOLD TERRY GLOVER POST 803

JANUARY 2025 ★ 631.765.2276

### ★ ★ COMMANDER'S REPORT ★ ★



Greetings Comrades & Friends of the Legion,

I hope everyone is holding up well during the winter months. As we brave the bitter winter weather on the North Fork, some of us find our thoughts wandering to spring and summer and more pleasant warmer weather. However, it is winter and those of us who remain here just have to deal with it. Some people like the change of seasons and the climate here on Long Island.



I want to take this opportunity to express my apologies for the noticeable inconvenience that will occur in the months of March and April as the Legion Hall will be closed to the public and members for business. There will be no Bingo, meetings, events, and the bar will be closed during this time period from March 13th to April 13th. The reason for this closure is because we will be installing a new ceiling in the main hall area, constructing an assessable handicap bathroom, and sound deadening material on the ceiling in the bar area. A large undertaking and necessary improvements. Please excuse our appearance and be patient during this construction. Thank you in advance for your patience, understanding, and cooperation.

As we move into February, a month often associated with love and remembrance, it's a great time to reflect on what it means to care for and support one another, especially within our veteran community.

This month, we honor the legacies of two of our nation's greatest leaders—Abraham Lincoln (February 12) and George Washington (February 22). Their dedication to this nation reminds us of the values we hold dear: freedom, service, and unity. As we celebrate Presidents Day on February 17, let us also remember the men and women who have stood in service to protect the ideals these leaders fought to establish and preserve.

February also brings Valentine's Day (February 14), a reminder to share kindness and appreciation. Reach out to a fellow veteran or member of our community this month—whether with a card, a phone call, or a simple thank-you. Small gestures can make a big impact. Happy Valentines day to all of the ladies of the Legion.

Looking ahead, I encourage you to participate in or support upcoming initiatives at Post 803. Whether it's our efforts to assist veterans in need or preparing for spring activities, your involvement is vital to our mission.

Let's also remember important veteran-related events in February:

- **Four Chaplains Day (February 3):** Honoring the bravery and sacrifice of four Army chaplains during WWII who gave their lives to save others aboard the USAT Dorchester.
- **National Salute to Veteran Patients Week (February 11–17):** A time to pay tribute to the men and women cared for in VA medical facilities. Consider visiting or writing a note to those in VA hospitals—every gesture counts.



*Guess Who?  
Stupid Cupid!*

Finally, I'd like to thank all of you who continue to contribute your time and effort to our Post. Your dedication ensures that Post 803 remains a strong and welcoming place for veterans and their families. Let's continue to uphold the values of the American Legion and keep striving to serve our community.

Yours in service,  
David E. DeFriest  
Commander, American Legion Post 803  
www.post803.com • gtgpost803@gmail.com

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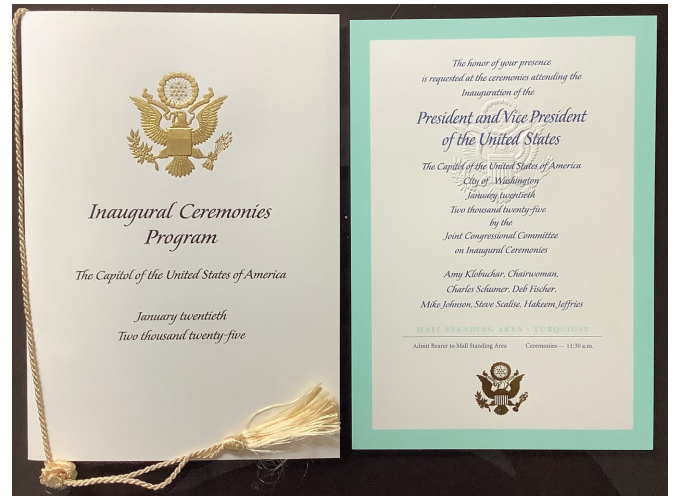


Special Thanks to Congressman LaLota for getting me an invitation to our President's Inauguration. Unfortunately, the weather didn't cooperate, and the big event was moved indoors with limited space. The extreme cold forced many of us to cancel travel plans. However I was able to attend a friends "Watch Party" and we all enjoyed the historical day. Although the fancy invitation from the President was no longer needed I now have another small piece of American History in my collection that was stored with my invitation from eight years ago when I did attend. Godspeed to our new Commander in Chief.

Keep informed about Legion events from this newsletter. Hope to see you all soon.

I leave you with a quote from President Trump  
"The **golden age** of America begins right now"

SAL Commander, Gary Iorio



# Daytona 500 Party

**FEBRUARY 16, 2025**

**1 PM - 6 PM**

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### ★ ★ VETERANS BENEFITS “CORNER” ★ ★

#### VA’S MEDICAL FOSTER HOME PROGRAM

The MFH program offers Veterans who need daily care a unique alternative to nursing homes. Veterans live in caregivers’ homes, receiving personalized attention and one-on-one care, and are supported by VA’s Home-Based Primary Care teams. These teams include doctors, nurses and other health care professionals who provide medical care directly in the home.

Veterans who qualify for the MFH program pay their caregivers directly. For those concerned about affordability, many Veterans may be eligible for financial assistance through VA Pension or Aid and Attendance benefits.

#### HOW VA SUPPORTS MFH VETERANS AND CAREGIVERS

The MFH Program provides valuable support for both Veterans and caregivers. For Veterans, it gives them secure housing and means they receive medical care at home from VA doctors and nurses, reducing the stress of traveling to clinics.

VA social workers actively provide resources for caregivers and regularly check in, ensuring they’re ready for the challenges of caregiving.

#### HOW THE MFH PROGRAM WORKS AND FINANCIAL SUPPORT

The MFH program is open to Veterans of all ages and demographics, allowing Veterans to live in a home environment while receiving personalized care. Veterans are responsible for paying their caregivers directly, with monthly costs typically ranging from \$2,000 to \$4,000.

The caregiver rate is negotiated between the Veteran or their responsible party with oversight from the VA MFH team to ensure that the arrangement meets everyone’s needs.

For Veterans concerned about affordability, VA offers financial assistance programs that may help. Many Veterans in the MFH Program are eligible for VA Pension and Aid and Attendance benefits, which can help offset the cost of care.

VA Pension offers monthly payments to low-income wartime Veterans. The Aid and Attendance benefit provides additional financial assistance for Veterans who require help with daily activities, such as bathing, dressing, eating and moving around safely. These benefits support Veterans as they age or encounter health challenges, ensuring they can access the necessary care.

MFH caregivers provide round-the-clock support for these tasks, offering personal care, medication management, meal preparation and help with social activities. The Aid and Attendance benefit helps make this care more affordable for Veterans while allowing them to maintain their dignity and quality of life in a home-like setting.

If you’re seeking compassionate care, check out the VA Medical Centers with Medical Foster Home programs - **Northport 631-261-4400**. <https://news.va.gov/137070/vas-medical-foster-home-program/>

David Chiaro – [keyarrow@hotmail.com](mailto:keyarrow@hotmail.com)



## SERGEANT THEODORE "T.P. TED" STRICKROTH

US Marine Corps Sergeant Theodore "T.P. Ted" Strickroth, served our country as a radar technician. He joined the Marine Corps in 1970 and received an honorable discharge in 1976. Stationed with the Marine Air Control Group 38 in Yuma, Arizona, he worked in the Continuous Wave Radar section.

Mr. Strickroth's legacy is profound. Known affectionately as **"T.P. Ted,"** he was a master carpenter who deeply connected with the beauty of nature and Indigenous cultures. His journey led him to the Lakota tribe in South Dakota, which profoundly inspired and influenced his life.

In 1990, Ted founded the nonprofit organization **"Wilderness Traveling Museum"**. He traveled the country in his Airstream camper, visiting schools and sharing his passion for Indigenous ways and nature appreciation. Over three decades, he delivered important life lessons to public and private organizations, profoundly impacting generations of children.

I had the honor of knowing Ted and witnessing his incredible connection with young children when he taught camp at the **Mattituck Laurel Museum** on the Main Road.

Every so often a spirit guide of immense creative powers graces our presence here on mother earth. Ted Strickroth was one of those spirits. With gentleness, touching countless lives. Unfortunately, Ted lost his battle with cancer on March 16, 2024. On July 13th, a celebration of his life was held at Indian Island Park in Riverhead. The event featured a 21-gun salute by the U.S. Marine Corps, attended by 120 friends and admirers.

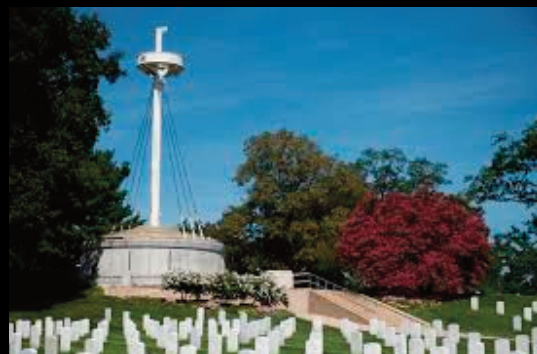
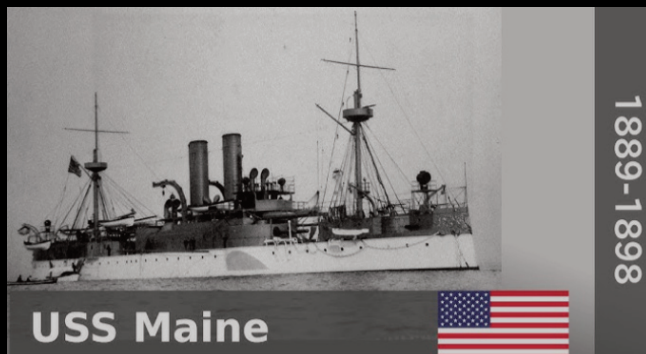
Ted's important work continues through Mr. Anthony Valderrama, a descendant of American Indians, now known as **"T.P. Tony."** As a child, Anthony attended T.P. Ted's summer camp and is now dedicated to continuing Ted's mission. **The Wilderness Traveling Museum** remains active under the guidance of "Friends of T.P. Ted," headquarters in Brookhaven with a satellite location at the Downs Preserve in Cutchogue, to educate both the young and old.

John Christina, Historian



## February 15, 1898

An explosion sinks the battleship **Maine**, anchored in Havana Harbor, Cuba, killing 266 members of its 358-man crew. The Mast of the Maine is currently located at Arlington National Cemetery.





## ★★ CHAPLAIN'S REPORT ★★

**REST IN PEACE - ALLAN H. KROPP** passed on December 23rd. at the age of 83. Allan was a long time member of The American Legion and a dear soul who was a great supporter of our Post. I will always remember his kind smile, generosity and good cheer. Allan H. Kropp was a true American Hero May his soul rest in peace.

Special thanks to Earl Brock who organized a group of men that attended a memorial service for Allan at the McLaughlin Heppner Funeral Home in Riverhead on January 18th.

### 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.

In our thoughts and prayers are Henry Santacroce Sr.

Jeff Chagnon - Post Chaplain 631.456.3258

## ★★ MEMBERSHIP ★★



**Post Status:** We currently have **165/182 (90.6%)** paid up members for 2025. I still have 30 plus 2025 ID cards to distribute. Please send in your annual dues of **\$57** for the 2025 membership year. All on-line membership renewals prior to 23 January, have been mailed. We are still welcoming members of Post 861 in Mattituck to join us. Stay warm, spring is coming, I promise.

**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

**CLOSED  
FOR  
REMODELING**



**Legion is CLOSED to Business:  
March 13th to April 13th.**

**We are scheduling the replacement of the ceiling  
in the main hall and construction of the new  
handicapped bathroom during that time.**

Saturday, February 1st, the Auxiliary will host our “Let’s Make Some Noise Dance Party” with DJ Phil. We all had a great time last year. Come join us at 7:00PM. Admission is \$25 at the door. It’s a good opportunity to have some fun in the winter!

Sunday February 16th brings our annual Daytona Party. At 1:00PM we get together to watch the NASCAR Race at the Legion on multiple TVs. The \$15 admission includes food and snacks – hot dogs, hero sandwiches, etc. There will be a cash bar at both events. Come on down and join the fun!

The Southold Town Salutes Banner Program is now in place. The Auxiliary has partnered with Southold Town to honor Veterans, Active- Duty personnel, and members of the Reserve and National Guard by running a program to install banners on the lamp posts in Southold Village. For information on how you can order a banner, go to <https://post803.com/southold-salutes-banners>. This is a fundraiser for our post and a great tribute to memorialize our service members.

On Friday, January 10th, we took down the Christmas decorations at the Legion Hall. Thank you very much to everyone who helped!

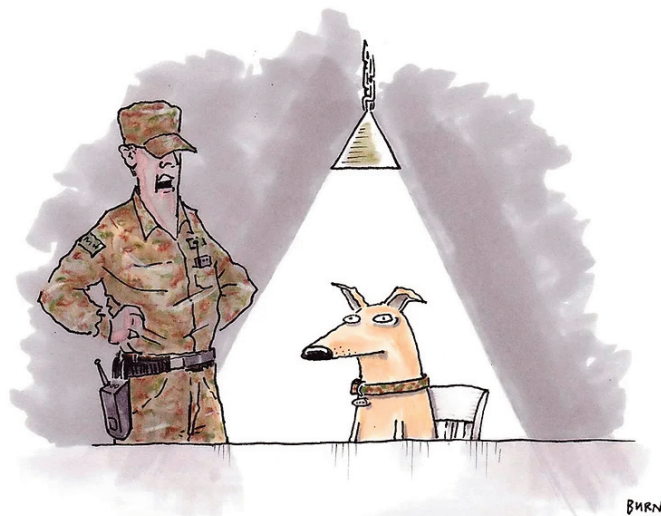
The Queen of Hearts Raffle is progressing nicely. Tickets are available Friday nights at the Legion. Many people ask us how it works. You purchase 3 tickets for \$10. If your name is drawn, you pick the number of the card you want to choose from the case on the wall. If that card turns out to be the Queen of Hearts, you win the jackpot amount posted. The prize increases each week the Queen is not picked, and each week you buy another 3 tickets for that night’s drawing. It has become a fun activity – come down to the bar on Fridays and support this Legion fundraiser. And remember Bingo on Tuesdays at 12:00PM. The Bingo crew does a great job and could use our support, especially in winter.

The office of President of the United States carries a heavy load of duties and responsibilities. As we approach Presidents Day on February 17th, let us not only honor past presidents but also support President Trump. May God bless him as he begins his term and works hard for all of us.

We moved up our next meeting date to Wednesday, February 26th, at 7:00PM. We will not have a March meeting due to the renovations at the Legion at that time.

Enjoy the cold crisp days of winter!

Joan Cochran, President



***“Let’s try this one more time, soldier -  
where’s the other shoe?!”***



# VOLUNTEER CORNER

The annual Golf Classic is scheduled for Monday June 16th.

Bob Bittner is looking for volunteers. He has scheduled a golf meeting on Tuesday February 18th at 4pm. Please let Bob know if you are attending. If you can't make this meeting but can still volunteer, reach out to Bob at navyjan70@gmail.com or leave your name and phone number on the Post 803 answering machine 631.765.2276

Earl Brock is looking for volunteers to help start up NIGHT BINGO on Thursdays, from 6pm – 9pm. Call Earl at 516.901.3228

## FROM YOUR COMMANDER:

Suffolk County American Legion is looking for a candidate to replace our 4th Division Commander, Rob Devito. If anyone has interest or has any questions about the position they can call Rob at 631.765.6320, (eves), for further details.

## — 2024 GOALS —

- ~~1. Volunteer member to step up to fill the position of Adjutant vacated by Dave DeFried 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. <del>Bar Makeover</del>                    | 7. Exterior of Post Painted/Stained                          |
| 4. Bathrooms Renovation (Handicap Accessible) | 8. Renovation of Second Floor Bathroom and Rooms             |



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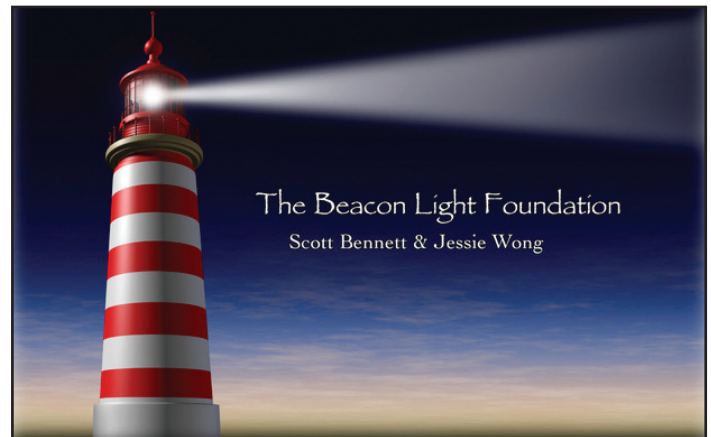
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**ENPHASE**

## ★★ FEBRUARY & MARCH 2025 EVENTS ★★

- 02/01 SAT. DANCE PARTY WITH DJ PHIL 7 PM - 10 PM,  
BAR AND DOORS OPEN AT 6:30 PM**
- 02/07 FRI. BAR IS OPEN 6:30 PM  
AND QUEEN OF HEARTS DRAWING 8 PM
- 02/11 TUES. EXECUTIVE AND BUSINESS MEETING:  
BAR 6:00PM, DINNER 6:30 PM, MEETING 7:00 PM
- 02/14 FRI. BAR IS OPEN 6:30 PM  
AND QUEEN OF HEARTS DRAWING 8 PM
- 02/14 FRI. DAYTONA 500 PARTY SET UP 6 PM
- 02/16 SUN. DAYTONA 500 PARTY 1 PM - 6 PM**
- 02/18 TUES. GOLF OUTING MEETING 4 PM
- 02/21 FRI. BAR IS OPEN 6:30 PM  
AND QUEEN OF HEARTS DRAWING 8 PM
- 02/26 WED. AUXILIARY MEETING 7 PM**
- 02/28 FRI. BAR IS OPEN 6:30 PM  
AND QUEEN OF HEARTS DRAWING 8 PM
- 03/13-04/13 LEGION CLOSED FOR RENOVATIONS**



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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** - Brendan Kelly  
**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

ELECTRONIC SERVICE REQUESTED

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