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# THE REPORTER

## GRISWOLD TERRY GLOVER POST 803

MARCH 2026 ★ 631.765.2276

### ★ ★ COMMANDER'S REPORT ★ ★



March is a meaningful month for our American Legion Family, as we celebrate the founding of the American Legion on March 15, 1919—an organization built on service, patriotism, and community. As we look toward spring, this season of renewal reminds us that our work continues to evolve and grow. I encourage all members to consider becoming more involved as we prepare for upcoming activities and community events. Your participation—whether attending a meeting, lending a hand, or simply sharing ideas—strengthens our post and ensures that our mission remains strong for generations to come.



St. Patrick's Day, celebrated annually on March 17th, is a global, 100+ year old cultural and religious holiday marking the death of Ireland's Patron Saint. In 2026, it falls on Tuesday, March 17th. It honors Irish heritage through parades, wearing the green, the shamrock symbol, and feasts. Originally a solemn religious day, it transformed into a major celebration of Irish culture, especially in the U.S.

Also in the month of March is Vietnam War Veterans Recognition Day (March 29th). A moment to honor Vietnam Veterans—many of whom did not receive the recognition they deserved when they returned home.

Last month Auxiliary Unit 803 and our Legion Family held two events. On February 15th we had our annual Daytona 500 party. It was a nice event, plenty of food, snacks, and refreshments. Thank you to the Ladies of the Auxiliary who did all the work, setting up, decorating, arranging the food, etc. Also, I would be remiss if I did not mention all the work done in the kitchen preparing and cooking by none other than Rob and Janique Nine. Thank you one and all! We appreciate everyone who came out to attend and support this event as well. Thank you!

In addition to the Daytona 500 Party, the Auxiliary also held their annual DJ Dance party. That took place at the Legion Hall on February 28th, which was after the deadline for copy for my Reporter article. More on that next month.

As we move into the spring and summer months, Post 803 has several important events and traditions on the horizon.

In May we will conduct our Annual Post Election of Officers. This is an important part of our organization's continued strength and leadership. I encourage all eligible members to participate, whether by considering a leadership role or by attending and casting your vote. The future of our Post depends on engaged and committed members.

Memorial Day will once again be a meaningful and active time for our Legion Family. This year, the Memorial Day Parade will take place in Greenport and is sponsored by Burton Potter American Legion Post 185. We look forward to standing alongside our fellow veterans and community members in honoring those who made the ultimate sacrifice.

On Memorial Day morning, Post 803 will carry on our solemn tradition of honoring and memorializing the veterans who lost their lives in service to our nation. At 7:30 AM, our Color Guard and Legion Officers will attend and participate in brief memorial services conducted at the five war monuments throughout the hamlet of Southold. These moments of reflection remind us of the true meaning of Memorial Day—not simply a holiday, but a sacred time of remembrance. I encourage all members and residents to join us as we honor our fallen heroes and continue the proud traditions of American Legion Post 803. The locations of these memorials where the brief services are held are: Civil War Monument at the Legion Corner Route 25, Southold Free Library, Triangle Memorial Park, Peconic Elementary School Grounds on Peconic La, and Southold Town Highway Dept.

*Continued on next page*

**MADE IN AMERICA**

This summer we will be celebrating America's 250th Birthday and holding a grand parade in Southold Village. There will be much preparation and planning for this huge event. We will have more information available to you in the coming months.

As we move further into the spring season, let us continue building on the strength, dedication, and camaraderie that defines Post 803. Your involvement--whether big or small--makes a difference. Together, we will continue serving our veterans, our families, and our community with pride and purpose.

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



Commander Dave would also like to remind everyone that on Saturday May 2, 2026, American Legion Post 803 and Auxiliary Unit 803 will be hosting our **Veterans Resource Fair at the American Legion Hall**. This important event is designed to connect our veterans and their families with valuable local, county, state, and federal resources. It is an excellent opportunity to learn more about the benefits and services available to those who have served.

**On that same day**, we will be holding our annual **Walk 4 Valor**. This meaningful walk serves as a visible demonstration of our continued commitment to honoring and supporting our veterans. I encourage all members, families, and friends to participate, volunteer, and help us make this a strong showing of community support.

Together, these events reflect the true mission of our Legion Family—service to veterans, their families, and our community.

## QUEEN OF HEARTS UPDATE “WE HAVE A WINNER”

♥ ♥ ♥ Congratulations to Ted Beebe! ♥ ♥ ♥



He was winner of the Queen of Hearts drawing last month that went down to the very last card.

The Queen of Hearts has been restarted with \$1000 startup amount balance.

The drawings are every Friday night at 8pm. The doors and bar are open by 6:30pm so come on down and enjoy a drink and get in on the fun.

*Save the Date for another  
fun night with DJ Phil*

# **DANCE PARTY!**

**Southold American Legion Hall  
Friday, April 17, 2026  
7 to 10 PM**



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

## **SAVE THE DATE**

**Celebrate America's 250th Birthday**

**MONDAY JUNE 15TH, 2026**

**ISLANDS END GOLF COURSE**

**Post 803 Golf Outing and Cart Poker Run to benefit  
selected Veterans Charities & Local Scholarships**



# ★★★ 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](http://www.post803.com/southold-salutes-banners)



## ★ ★ CHAPLAIN'S REPORT ★ ★

### REST IN PEACE

I am sad to report that our dear friend and comrade **Lawrence J. Bowles**, a US Navy veteran, passed on February 2nd at the age of 88. Larry was a graduate of the US Merchant Marine Academy whose duty in the Navy included service as an Officer on a Destroyer and later as an instructor at the Naval Academy. He went to Law School and had a very successful career specializing in Maritime Law. I had the honor of playing golf with Larry twice a week for about twelve years. He was a fine man and a true gentleman who was adored by his wife, Peggy, his beautiful family and all of us. Lawrence J. Bowles is a true American Hero. I will miss him dearly. May his soul rest in peace.

The American Legion Wake Service was held on February 9th at the DeFriest Grattan Funeral Home in Mattituck. Special thanks to our funeral detail for an excellent turnout.

I am sad to report that our dear friend and comrade, **Louis F. Angotti**, a US Marine Corps veteran who served in Vietnam where he was awarded the Combat Action Ribbon, passed on February 3rd at the age of 81. After his military service he had a successful career as a salesman in the aquarium business. He was the father of a beautiful family which included a son and two daughters, five grandchildren and ten great grandchildren. Louis F. Angotti is a true American Hero. May his soul rest in peace.

The American Legion Wake service was held on February 14th at the DeFriest Grattan Funeral Home in Mattituck. Special thanks to our Funeral Detail for an excellent turnout.

I am sad to report that our dear friend and comrade, **Anton F. Ficurilli**, a US Army veteran who served in Vietnam, passed at the age of 79. Anton "Topy" was a long-time barber in Greenport who was very well known and adored by everyone. I met his lovely family at the funeral and was once again reminded that a good tree bears good fruit. Anton F. Ficurilli is a true American Hero. May his soul rest in peace.

The American Legion Wake service was held at the Horton Matthie Funeral Home in Greenport on February 14th. Special thanks to our Funeral detail for an excellent turnout.

### A 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."*

Jeff Chagnon, Post Chaplain - 631.456.3258

## HONORING OUR HISTORY – WHILE SHAPING A BRIGHT FUTURE FOR AMERICA

Historically, the Town of Southold was the first English settlement of the State of New York. Southold was founded in 1640.

The 250th anniversary of our nation marks a milestone filled with reflection, pride, and renewed commitment. For Post 803 of the American Legion, this celebration is more than a date on the calendar. It is a moment to honor the enduring spirit of freedom and unity that has defined our community and country for two and a half centuries. This article explores how Post 803 has contributed to this legacy and how it continues to shape the future.

### The Roots of Post 803 in a Historic Nation

The American Legion was founded in 1919 with a clear mission: to serve veterans, support their families, and promote patriotism in the community. Since its establishment, the American Legion has been a cornerstone for veterans returning from service, offering a place of fellowship and support.

### Post 803's Role in Community and Veteran Support

One of the most significant ways Post 803 contributes to the 250th celebration is through its ongoing community engagement. The post organizes events that bring people together, such as parades, memorial services, our annual Chicken BBQ and Bingo. These

activities foster a sense of belonging and remind everyone of the shared history that unites us.

### Honoring Tradition While Embracing the Future

As Post 803 celebrates 250 years of American freedom, it also looks ahead. The post embraces new ways to connect with younger generations of veterans.\*\* Looking ahead we are currently undertaking improving the Post's outside grounds, which we feel will benefit these service veterans and the community as well. These initiatives we feel will help build a foundation for the future leadership who will carry forward the legacy of Freedom and Unity.\*\*\*

Post 803's journey is far from over. This 250th celebration is a steppingstone towards these future achievements. The Post plans to expand its outreach and will continue to honor the past while building a stronger future. **To do this, we will need support from our members and community.**

Community members are encouraged to participate in upcoming events and support Post 803's mission.

### **TOGETHER!**

**We served our Nation, and now we are dedicated to serving our Community!**

John Christina, Historian

*\*\*Most current Legion members served during the Vietnam era. Now, as we reach our mid-70s, it is essential that we focus on passing the torch to veterans of Afghanistan and Iraq.*

*\*\*\*Our Plans include creating an outdoor patio along with a barbecue area. A fundraising campaign will be required.*

## What's happening, you may ask?

**How about getting the Post ready for this year's 4th of July celebration!!! Yup! Forget about that 12" of snow outside, it's time to get started planning for this once in a lifetime historical event.**

**Commander Dave encourages all you couch potatoes and rocking chair malingerers to step up and join in with all the fun!**

### Planned activities include:

- A group Post photograph
- Participation in the parade, either by marching or riding on a float or in a vehicle

**This is just the beginning. For more information, reach out to your Post.**

**Contact: E-mail: [gtgpost803@gmail.com](mailto:gtgpost803@gmail.com) Office: (631) 765 2276**

**Let's share and celebrate together.**

# VETERANS BENEFITS "CORNER"

## CAN RETIRED SERVICE MEMBERS BE PUNISHED UNDER THE UCMJ?

For decades, Veterans have viewed retirement as the end of military authority and the start of civilian life. Rank is honorary. Retirement pay reflects past service. Speech becomes fully protected.

The Mark Kelly and Pete Hegseth dispute challenges that view and draws attention to military law after retirement.

A rarely used part of the Uniform Code of Military Justice is at issue. Some retirees remain subject to specific UCMJ provisions and can have rank and pay reviewed in special cases.



READ MORE ABOUT THIS HERE



David Chiaro –keyarrow@hotmail.com

### ★ ★ SONS OF THE LEGION ★ ★



This extreme winter weather has many folks staying local and has increased activity at legion events. Stay with us folks as this July 4th is the 250th anniversary of our country. Before long Memorial Day will be here and I would like to see a big turnout for the parade and July 4th events.

"On July 4, 2026, America will celebrate the most important milestone in our country's history—250 years of American Independence. "With

a single sheet of parchment and 56 signatures, America began the greatest political journey in human history," said President Trump of this momentous anniversary. "

Stay warm and stay informed with our newsletter.

SAL Commander, Gary Iorio



★★ LEGION AUXILIARY POST 803 ★★

March is here and Spring is on the way! February was a busy month at the Legion. The Annual Legion Daytona Party was held on Sunday, February 15th. We got together to watch the NASCAR Daytona 500 Race on all the Legion TVs. Denise and I had fun shopping for lots of good food and snacks. The decorations helped to make it a festive gathering! Thanks go to Tina & Jamie, Dave & Vickie, Margie Deroski, Dave Steele, Ty, Nancy, Doris and all who helped with set-up. Everyone had a great time! Thanks go to Jamie Ginas for donating the TV stand. A big thank you to Janique and Rob for running the kitchen, and to Sherry and Dave, Vickie and Dave, Denise and Greg, Bill Ryan and Ty, and all who helped during and after the event.

As I write this the Auxiliary is looking forward to our Dance Party with DJ Phil on Saturday, February 28th. Look for a report on it in next month's article.

Late in January our Girls State Committee, headed by Linda Ruland, held interviews for Girls State. Congratulations go to Rachel Haas, this year's Girls State Citizen. Alternate Alison Erwin was chosen to go in the event our Citizen is unable to make it. Congratulations again to these two fine young women!

The Southold Town Salutes banner program honoring our local veterans and active duty is still accepting applications. Info can be found on the Post's website at <https://post803.com/southold-salutes-banners> With the help of Southold Town Dept. of Public Works, the banner program is expanding by 10 more poles in Southold hamlet and 10 in Cutchogue too.

Our next meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 11th, at 7:00PM.

Joan Cochran, President



★★ MEMBERSHIP ★★



**Post Status:** We currently have (158/184 = 85.9%) paid up members for the membership year 2026. We have 15 active members who need to pay their 2026 dues. There are another 10 members who haven't paid their dues for 2025 or 2026. If you don't have a Post 803 ID card that has 2026 across the top, send in your dues (\$57). I will soon send a friendly reminder for 2026 dues. The best to all.

**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

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

- |                   |      |                      |      |
|-------------------|------|----------------------|------|
| Mark Gray         | 3/3  | • William E Evans    | 3/18 |
| Mark Rolle        | 3/10 | • O D Lingo          | 3/26 |
| William T O'Grady | 3/14 | • Eileen E McCarroll | 3/28 |
| Steven Amiaga     | 3/15 | • Robert F Coady     | 3/29 |

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

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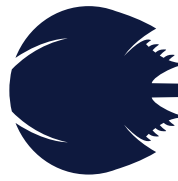
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## ★★MARCH & APRIL EVENTS★★

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
<b>03/10 Tue.</b>	<b>Executive and Business Meeting: Bar 6:00pm, Dinner 6:30pm, Meeting 7:00pm</b>
<b>03/11 Wed.</b>	<b>Auxiliary Meeting 7:00pm</b>
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
03/19 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
03/26 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
04/02 Thu.	Night BINGO - Doors Open at 6:00pm and Games start at 7pm
04/03 Fri.	Bar is Open 6:30pm and Queen of Hearts Drawing 8pm
04/07 Tues.	Tuesday Day BINGO - Doors Open at 12 noon and Games start at 12:30pm
<b>04/08 Wed.</b>	<b>Auxiliary Meeting 7:00pm</b>
04/09 Thu.	Night BINGO - Doors Open at 6:00pm and Games start at 7pm
04/10 Fri.	Bar is Open 6:30pm and Queen of Hearts Drawing 8pm
<b>04/14 Tue.</b>	<b>Executive and Business Meeting: Bar 6:00pm, Dinner 6:30pm, Meeting 7:00pm</b>
04/16 Thu.	Night BINGO - Doors Open at 6:00pm and Games start at 7pm
04/17 Fri.	Set up for Dance Party 1:30pm
04/17 Fri.	Bar is Open 6:30pm
<b>04/17 Fri.</b>	<b>DANCE Party with DJ Phil 7-10pm, doors &amp; bar open at 6:30pm</b>
04/21 Tues.	Tuesday Day BINGO - Doors Open at 12 noon and Games start at 12:30pm
04/23 Thu.	Night BINGO - Doors Open at 6:00pm and Games start at 7pm
04/24 Fri.	Bar is Open 6:30pm and Queen of Hearts Drawing 8pm
04/30 Thu.	Night BINGO - Doors Open at 6:00pm and Games start at 7pm

MADE IN AMERICA

## ★★LEGION OFFICERS★★

**Commander** - Dave DeFriest  
**1st Vice Commander** - Jeff Chagnon  
**2nd Vice Commander** - David Wilburn  
**Past Commander** - Charles Sanders  
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**2nd Finance Assistant** - Vacant  
**Sergeant at Arms** - Neil Rochford  
**Chaplain** - Jeff Chagnon  
**Post Historian** - John Christina  
**Membership Chair** - Bob Cochran

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**1st Vice** - Rich Feely  
**2nd Vice** - Michael Anasagasti  
**Adjutant** - Jerry Murtha  
**Treasurer** - Brian Hughes  
**Sergeant at Arms** - Jonathan Bittner  
**Chaplain** - Daniel Kaelin

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ELECTRONIC SERVICE REQUESTED

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