

The Aviator

American Legion James Ely Miller Post 833

51 Juniper Ave
Smithtown, NY 11787
Phone: 631-724-1804
Email: commander@alpost833ny.org
Website: alpost833ny.org



US95th Aero Squadron
the "Kicking Mules"



the first fighting aero squadron to the front



MEETING:
Post 833: 1st Monday of the Month
 8pm Meeting
SONS: 3rd Wednesday of the Month
 7pm Meeting
 51 Juniper Ave Smithtown, NY 11787

Welcome

Welcome to The Aviator. This newsletter is an attempt to keep the membership better informed as to what is happening at the Post and in the community. Please read through as I hope you will find it informative.

Take care,
Bill Coderre
Commander

General Info:

The **March Meeting** is **Cancelled**. (Hall is closed while Hall floor is being replaced)
Office Hours: Saturdays 9-11am All are welcome to come down have a cup of Joe and say hello!
 Be on the lookout for upcoming emails. We will be updating our records as we are missing some basic information on our members, such as Branch of Service, Dates of Service, Date of Birth, Home Address, and home/cell phone numbers. This applies to both Post 833 members and SAL members. SAL members will be required to produce documentation of family members service in the military

Upcoming Events

MAR 04: NO MEETING
Hall Floor is being replaced so the Hall is closed.
Next meeting: April 1, 2024

MAR 1: Walk-A-Thon
The Annual SAL-Aux
Walk-A-Thon begins
(See Page 7 for details & 9 for flyer)

MAR 15: Legion Birthday
Happy 105th Birthday
American Legion!!!

MAR 20: SAL Squadron 833
NO MEETING
Due to Hall Floor Renovations

APR 12: Veterans Breakfast
In Honor of Tom Mooney
for 35 years of service to Post 833, Post 10870
and the Smithtown Community
Time: 9am
Location: Smithtown HS West Library
(See Flyer on Page 10)

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Post Officers

- Commander: Bill Coderre**
- 1st Vice: Kevin Eaton**
- 2nd Vice: Richie Pandolf**
- 3rd Vice: George Hohenstein**
- Adjutant: Ron Fischer**
- Finance Officer: George Church**
- Chaplain: Anthony Cannella**
- Sgt. at Arms: Lou Forrisi**
- Judge Advocate: Ed Hemp**
- Service Officer: Tom Mooney**
- Historian: James Gouras**
- Membership Chair: Al Krauth**
- Compliance: Wayne Crerend**
- Homeland Security: Don Lettieri**

Past Events

"These brave souls faced death and served humanity regardless of another person's race, creed, ethnicity or religious beliefs."



The story

Early on Feb. 3, 1943, an enemy torpedo struck the Army transport *Dorchester* as it carried 902 officers and enlisted men, Navy armed guard, merchant seamen and civilian workers in the North Atlantic. The Coast Guard cutter escorts *Comanche* and *Escanaba* rescued 230 men.

As *Dorchester* took on water, four Army chaplains – Lt. George L. Fox (Methodist), Lt. Alexander D. Goode (Jewish), Lt. John P. Washington (Roman Catholic), and Lt. Clark V. Poling (Dutch Reformed) – calmed frightened soldiers, aided the wounded and guided the disoriented toward safety.

On deck, they opened a storage locker and began distributing life jackets. When there were no more available, the chaplains removed their life jackets and gave them to four young men. "It was the finest thing I have seen or hope to see this side of heaven," said John Ladd, a survivor.

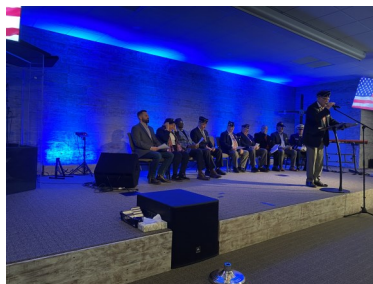
As the ship went down, men in rafts saw the four chaplains, arms linked and braced against the slanting deck, singing hymns and praying.

Congress attempted to confer the Medal of Honor on the chaplains but was prevented by strict requirements of heroism under fire. It authorized a one-time posthumous Special Medal for Heroism, awarded by President Eisenhower in 1961; it was intended to have the same weight and importance as the Medal of Honor.

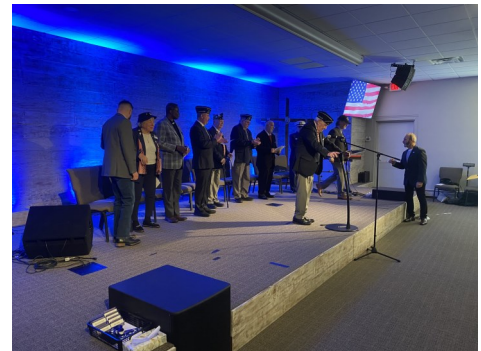
The Four Chaplains

The Four Chaplains ceremony, which took place on Sunday, February 4, 2024 at the CenterPoint Church in Kings Park, was well attended by the Suffolk County American Legion. I want to give a special shout out to 1st Vice Kevin Eaton, Chaplain Anthony Cannella and Bill Maynard for coming down.

County Chaplain Hugh Doherty organized the event and PCC/Chaplain Tom Bergen was the Master of Ceremonies. The County Color Guard, did a wonderful job presenting the Colors and made us all proud.



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Past Events

The Rho Kappa Honor Society

Members of the Rho Kappa Honor Society from Smithtown HS East held a fundraiser at Cabo Fresh for James Ely Miller Post 833.

Emily Sang, Lauren Montemarano, Danielle Marturano and Lillian Grayson, raised \$300 and presented the check to the Post at our monthly meeting on February 5, 2024

Commander Bill Coderre accepted the check and presented each young lady with a Certificate of Appreciation.

Rho Kappa Honor Society Advisor, Mr. Shaun Minton, stated the ladies came to him with the idea to give back and support the Veterans of the Smithtown. They settled on the idea of a fundraiser and it was a great success.



Girl Scout Troop 1986



On Saturday, February 10, 2024, Girl Scout Troop 1986 stopped down to the Post. They interviewed some of the members about their experiences while serving in the military.

This is part of their Silver Award Project. Shea Paese, Giana Borzumato, Brynn Lennon, and Shayna Simson are all working on their Silver Award and have chosen to record the experiences of Veterans. The girls did a great job and we look forward to seeing the completed project.



Membership

The renewal process begins in July for the upcoming 2025 membership year. The Legion Membership year is July 1st to June 31st. Renewal notices are sent out in July, October, and January.

If dues are paid to the local post, it takes a little longer for national to be notified about the renewal and the member may receive another renewal notice. If this occurs, please contact Post 833 to ensure that we have received your dues.

To avoid this, we **STRONGLY** suggest that you renew your membership online. By doing so, your membership will be renewed immediately avoiding any delays in notification to national.

In order to renew online please click these [2024 Dues \\$45](#) or [RENEW ONLINE](#) buttons. (You'll need your Legion ID #)

If you have not paid your 2024 dues by January 1, 2024, you're delinquent.

Important Note: 2025 Dues Increase
Due to National and County raising dues, Post 833 dues will increase to \$55 for 2025 (This was voted on at the January meeting)

VOAGC Members:

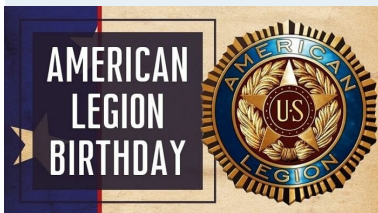
If you have not paid your 2024 dues by January 1, 2024, Your FOB will be deactivated.

"Our debt to the heroic men and valiant women in the service of our country can never be repaid. They have earned our undying gratitude. America will never forget their sacrifices." Harry S. Truman, April 16, 1945

Legion Birthday

March 15 is the designated birthday of The American Legion. On that date in 1919, the first American Legion caucus, held by members of the American Expeditionary Force, convened in Paris. Much as the birthday of the United States is celebrated on July 4 - for the date in 1776 when patriots declared the independence of the British colonies and the spirit of America was born - March 15 is the date when The American Legion came to life.

Throughout the organization's history, local posts across the country have celebrated with festivities that have included the entire community.



Happy 105th Birthday

The American Legion was chartered by Congress in 1919 as a patriotic veterans organization. Focusing on service to veterans, service members and communities, the Legion evolved from a group of war-weary veterans of World War I into one of the most influential nonprofit groups in the United States. Membership swiftly grew to over 1 million, and local posts sprang up across the country. Today, membership stands at nearly 2 million in more than 13,000 posts worldwide. The posts are organized into 55 departments: one each for the 50 states, along with the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, France, Mexico and the Philippines.

Over the years, the Legion has influenced considerable social change in America, won hundreds of benefits for veterans and produced many important



MYLEGION

All members are encouraged to register online at www.mylegion.org Once an account has been established, you will be able to:

- Update your personal information
- Sign up to receive the Digital Dispatch, a monthly e-newsletter sent directly to subscribers' e-mail inboxes that features stories from the print publication. The e-newsletter features headlines with clickable links to the full stories on the [Digital Dispatch website](#).
- Opt-in to receive E-newsletters on important Legion topics.
- View online versions of the American Legion Magazine.

Building Revitalization

The Roof has been replaced. All work was completed on 11/3/2023. The DASNY reimbursement check was received on 1/2/2024. The flooring company was contacted and work on the Hall floor is scheduled to begin 3/4/2024. The Hall will be closed (off limits) until 3/22/2024. (May be adjusted as work progresses)

The Building Revitalization program was initiated so that James Ely Miller Post 833 will continue to be able to honor it's Mission:

“To Provide Support For Veterans, Active Duty Military, and Their Families”



Boys' State June 28—July 3, 2024

Post 833 is looking to Interview and Sponsor up to 3 delegates for Boys' State. If you know any young men, presently in 11th grade (Juniors), let them know about Boys' State.

American Legion Boys' State is a week-long program that immerses high school youth (currently completing their junior year) in citizenship and leadership training. The Cost is \$600 per delegate which includes transportation to and from Morrisville College.

For more information, please visit the Department of New York Boys State Webpage. [Click Here for the New York Boys State Webpage](#)

The **Application deadline** is **April 1, 2024**

All potential delegates must complete and online application, However, they also **MUST PRINT** their **application** out as well.

[Click Here for Online Application 2024:](#)

(Note: D.O.B. must include 4-digit year; e.g. 1998.)

When Printing: Reduce image to **60%** on your printer App to get application to one page.

Others Forms Needed: 1) Parental sign off 2) School sign off 3) Health forms (All require a parental signature!) These will be on the Boys State Webpage

For more info/assistance contact:

Commander Bill Coderre
commander@alpost833ny.org

or

Boys State Coordinator Jim Beecher



AMERICAN LEGION BOYS STATE AND NATION AMERICAN LEGION BOYS STATE

Since 1935, American Legion Boys State has been one of the country's most revered and selective government instruction programs, teaching high school students about the operation of local, county and state governments. Fifty American Legion departments conduct this program, serving more than 17,000 young men each year. The American Legion Auxiliary sponsors a similar program for young women called Girls State.

At American Legion Boys State, young men learn about the rights, privileges, duties and responsibilities of a franchised citizen. Elected and appointed local officials offer participants objective, practical training in city, county and state governance, and activities are conducted such as legislative sessions, court proceedings, law enforcement presentations, assemblies, band, chorus and recreational programs.

American Legion posts select participants to attend their respective Boys State program after receiving recommendations from school officials. Usually posts, local businesses or community organizations pay the cost of attendance.

American Legion Boys State participants go on to achieve success in a variety of fields. Notable alumni include astronaut Neil Armstrong, basketball legend Michael Jordan and national television news journalist Tom Brokaw.



2024 - 2025 Elections

February Post 833 meeting: Nomination of candidates for were presented to the membership.

(Normally takes place in March but due to replacement of the Hall floor, the March Legion meeting will be cancelled)

If you are interested in running for a position in the Post, let us know.

Nominations will be posted in the office.

April Meeting: Nominations for Election of new Officers are to be finalized.

Legion College

American Legion College of NY May 31 – June 2, 2024

If you are interested in becoming an officer of the Post or just want to learn more about the American Legion, you should attend Legion College.

American Legion College of New York is a weekend immersion into the Legion's programs and structure, and issues facing the largest veterans' organization in the country.

As a **Legion College**, it is open to members of the Legion, the Auxiliary, the Sons of the American Legion, and American Legion Riders.

Held at Morrisville State College (SUNY Morrisville), Legion College fosters leadership skills of Legion Family members. The curriculum covers an array of topics, such as leadership and communication; Americanism, children and youth; MyLegion.org; legislation; constitution and bylaws; duties of local officers; media relations; membership.

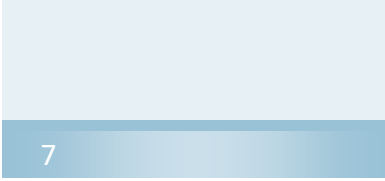
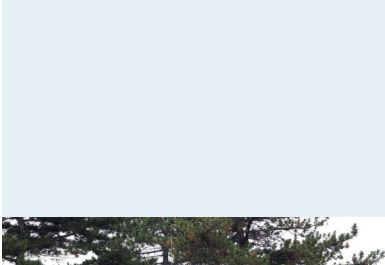
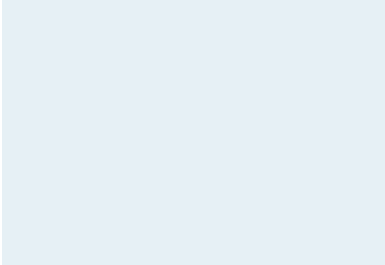
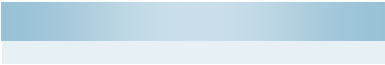
Space is limited to 100 students

Application Deadline: April 1, 2024

Click Below for:

[Legion College Info Sheet](#)
[2024 Application](#)

Post 833 members that attend and successfully complete the program (i.e. graduate and receive a certificate) are eligible for tuition reimbursement by Post 833.



Honor Flight - Long Island

On May 29, 2004, President Bush dedicated the World War II Memorial to honor "The Greatest Generation," 59 years after the end of WWII. One year later, the Honor Flight Program was inaugurated.

Earl Morse and Jeff Miller, co-founders of Honor Flight, realized that many World War II veterans would never have the opportunity to visit the memorial that was erected in their honor.

It is the intention of Honor Flight Long Island to honor as many of our fellow Long Islanders, who helped to preserve our freedom, as we can by providing them a free trip to visit their memorial. Along with WWII, we are now taking Korean War, Vietnam War and other conflict veterans to Washington D.C.

Please see the website for Veteran and Guardian Applications under [Apply to Fly](#)

Website: <https://www.honorflightlongisland.org/>

Next Flight: Saturday, May 4, 2024

Join us in welcoming all of the Veterans and Guardians from this Honor Flight Home.

May 4th Flight Info: <https://www.honorflightlongisland.org/events-1/spring-flight-saturday-may-4-2024>



WALK-A-THON NYS



Sponsored by
Sons of the American Legion and American Legion Auxiliary

“THEY MARCHED FOR US.....
LETS WALK FOR THEM”

A program operated in partnership for 17 years by the Sons of The American Legion and The American Legion Auxiliary

Date: **Kickoff March 1st, 2024**

GOAL: \$65,000

PROCEEDS: Awarded equally to support the following:

SAL: NYS VA Medical Center Homeless Programs & NYS Veterans Homes

Homeless Veterans are sometimes found living in wooded areas, in cars, under bridges. Some locations, such as abandoned buildings, can pose physical dangers for outreach staff and volunteers. Assisting homeless veterans to find suitable, permanent housing and the support services necessary to help them remain self-sufficient is a number one priority of the VA.

There are 4 NYS Veteran Homes operated by the NYS Department of Health and 1 operated by the State University of New York. They are skilled Nursing Homes that provide quality care to all eligible veterans and their eligible dependents in need of skilled nursing care and rehabilitative services.

ALA: Hope For The Warriors:

Hope For The Warriors has advocated restoring a foundation of Stability, Strength, and Community for military families since 2006 by building on:

Stability: Financial Wellness & Career & Education

Strength: Physical Wellness & Emotional Wellness

Community: Connection & Belonging Social Support

American Legion

James Ely Miller Post 833



Suffolk County American Legion

NEWS YOU CAN USE

[Click](#) below for the latest news and [UPCOMING EVENTS](#) from the Suffolk County American Legion



Suffolk County American Legion

"News You Can Use"



American Legion

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WALK-A-THON NYS

Sponsored by
Sons of the American Legion and American Legion Auxiliary



“THEY MARCHED FOR US.....
LETS WALK FOR THEM”

June 12, 2024

Help SAL Squadron 833
meet their
2024 Walk-A-Thon Goal of
\$3000

To donate go to:

<https://www.givesendgo.com/salvets24>





SMITHTOWN WEST RHO KAPPA
PRESENTS



VETERANS *Breakfast*

In Honor of Mr. Tom
Mooney



Featuring food and beverages as a
thank you for your service.



FRIDAY
12 APRIL 2024
9:00 AM



Located at the Smithtown
High School West Library

SUPPORT OUR TROOPS CARE PACKAGES

**Upon request, we are collecting donations of some of the following items to be shipped to our servicemen and women overseas~

~ Any and all donations are greatly appreciated. ~

~Monetary donations are also accepted and appreciated as well to cover postage



For further information, please contact Tara Montebello at (631)290-0979

Thank You.. ~~



God Bless our troops



Suffolk County American Legion Auxiliary

We are collecting items to be shipped to our soldiers overseas.



The following items have been requested:

Personal hygiene items for both women and men. Hand warmers, Deodorant, Travel size Shampoo and Conditioners. Soap. Lotion, Hand Sanitizer, Lip Balm, Nail Files and clippers, Foot powder, Hats, Ear Muffs, Scarves, Socks, Disposable Razors, Shaving cream, Q-Tips, Toothbrushes and Toothpaste, Mouthwash. Playing cards, Puzzle books, Magazines, Hand held games, Stationary, Candy, Gum, Beef Jerky, Nuts, Non-Perishable Snacks.

Monetary donations are also accepted.

Items can be dropped off as Rusy Bohm Post 411 on Tuesdays 8am to 1pm at 39 Nassau Ave, Islip, NY 11751



ASSOCIATION FOR
MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLNESS



To Advocate. To Educate. To Empower. Together.



SAVE THE DATE!

**10th ANNUAL
DAY OF WELLNESS
FOR VETERANS AND FAMILIES**

**Camp Pa-Qua-Tuck
2 Chet Swezey Road
Center Moriches, NY**

Saturday June 15th 2024

**MORE DETAILS AND REGISTRATION
LINK COMING SOON!**

Phone: (631) 853-8345 www.dwyerproject.org
Facebook: Joseph P. Dwyer Veterans Peer Support Project

JOSEPH DWYER VETERANS PEER SUPPORT PROJECT

IN PERSON GROUPS:

Liberty Village - 600 Albany Avenue, N. Amityville
Every Monday: 6-7 pm

Liberty Landing - 58 Portion Road, Lake Ronkonkoma
Every Wednesday: 4-5 pm

United Methodist Church - 158 W Montauk Hwy,
Hampton Bays Every 1st & 3rd Thursday: 4 - 5 pm

Sag Harbor - 3330 Noyac Road Building D Sag Harbor
Every 2nd & 4th Thursday 5 - 6pm

Senior Veteran Group: Rose Caracappa Senior Center
- 739 Route 25A, Mt Sinai *Open to Veterans 60 & up
Every 2nd & 4th Thursday: 10-11 am

American Legion Monthly Community Breakfast - Post
269 215 South Ocean Ave. Patchogue
Every 3rd Saturday: 10 - 11am *Open to all

WOMEN VETERANS ZOOM GROUPS:

Women's Main Group -
MEETING ID: 932 2123 8672
Every 1st and 3rd Saturday: 11:30am-1:30pm

New Moms Group - MEETING ID: 857 3879 4618
Every 2nd and 4th Saturday: 11:30am-12:30pm

MST Group - MEETING ID: 886 6132 0754
Every Tuesday: 6-7 pm

LIKE US ON FACEBOOK:

**JOSEPH P. DWYER VETERANS PEER SUPPORT
PROJECT**



**DWYER GROUPS
ARE OPEN TO ALL
VETERANS AND
SERVICE
MEMBERS.**

**GROUPS ARE
ANONYMOUS,
CONFIDENTIAL,
AND FREE.**

**REGISTRATION
AND PROOF OF
SERVICE ARE NOT
REQUIRED**

For more
information:
(631) 853-8345