

February 1, 2024  
Volume 1, Issue 1

# 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



**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 first issue of The Aviator. I created this newsletter in an to 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:

**Next scheduled meeting of the Post is Monday, February 5th . 7pm Dinner 8pm Meeting.**  
**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

- FEB 04:** Four Chaplains Ceremony  
CenterPoint Church  
25 W Main St ( RTE 25A )  
Kings Park, NY 11754  
**Time: 2pm**
- FEB 05:** Monthly Meeting  
James Ely Miller Post 833  
Smithtown, NY 11787  
7pm: Dinner  
8pm: Meeting
- FEB 16:** 2nd Division Meeting  
Smith-Wever Post 651  
Sayville, NY 11782  
6:30pm: Dinner  
7pm: Meeting
- FEB 18:** Eagle Scout Fundraiser  
Pancake + Breakfast  
James Ely Miller Post 833  
Time: 8am - 12pm
- FEB 21:** SAL Squadron 833  
James Ely Miller Post 833  
Smithtown, NY 11787  
7pm: Meeting

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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 Forristi**
- Judge Advocate: Ed Hemp**
- Service Officer: Tom Mooney**
- Historian: James Gouras**
- Membership Chair: Al Krauth**
- Compliance: Wayne Crerend**
- Homeland Security: Don Lettieri**



**VOAGC Members:**

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

## Membership

The renewal process begins in July for the upcoming 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)

*"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, also referred to as the Immortal Chaplains or the Dorchester Chaplains, were four World War II chaplains who died rescuing civilian and military personnel as the American troop ship SS *Dorchester* sank on February 3, 1943, in what has been referred to as the second-worst sea disaster of World War II.

The *Dorchester* was a civilian liner converted for military service in World War II as a War Shipping Administration troop transport. She was able to carry slightly more than 900 military passengers and crew.

Ceremony: Sunday, February 4, 2024  
 CenterPoint Church  
 2pm



## MYLEGION

All members are encouraged to register online at [www.mylegion.org](http://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 13, 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.)

**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  
631.255.0456 jbeecher@optonline.net



### 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 Offices shall be presented to 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.

## 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.

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



THE AMERICAN LEGION  
VETERANS • DEFENSE • AMERICANISM • YOUTH

Suffolk County American Legion

"News You Can Use"



American Legion

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## FOUR CHAPLAINS CEREMONY February 4, 2024

This year marks the 81st anniversary of the sinking of the USS Dorchester on February 3, 1943 and the selfless acts of four Army Chaplains who perished that day.

Suffolk County American Legion will conduct a Back to God service commemorating the heroic Four Chaplains on **February 4, 2024** at **2:00 pm**

All Legion Family members are encouraged to attend and participate

**Date:** February 4, 2024

**Location:** CenterPoint Church

25 W Main Street (Rte. 25A)

Kings Park, NY 11754

(Just East of Sunken Meadow Parkway)

**Time:** 2pm

Any questions, please contact County Chaplain Hugh Doherty

Phone: (631) 275 8500

email: [flashue42@gmail.com](mailto:flashue42@gmail.com)

# Veteran Listening Session



**Caring for the veteran population  
is a priority for Catholic Health.**

Join us for an upcoming listening session where we will discuss the barriers to care for those who have served.

**Thursday, February 8, 2024**

**2:00 pm**

Catholic Health Corporate Office  
245 Old Country Road  
Melville, NY 11747



To RSVP, please email [christina.woods@chsli.org](mailto:christina.woods@chsli.org)  
or call (631) 376-4104.

**TROOP 3**

**Eagle Scout  
Fundraiser**

# Pancake Breakfast



**SUNDAY FEB 18TH**

**8 AM - 12 NOON**

Includes

*Bacon, Sausage,  
Eggs, Fresh Fruit,  
Coffee, Tea, Juice*



*Thank you for supporting  
Scouting*



**\$10 ADULTS  
\$5 CHILDREN**

**AMERICAN LEGION POST 833  
51 JUNIPER AVE SMITHTOWN, NY 11787**



ASSOCIATION FOR  
MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLNESS



*To Advocate. To Educate. To Empower. Together.*



**SAVE THE DATE!**

**10<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL  
DAY OF WELLNESS  
FOR VETERANS AND FAMILIES**

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

**Saturday June 15<sup>th</sup> 2024**

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

Phone: (631) 853-8345 [www.dwyerproject.org](http://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 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday: 4 - 5 pm

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

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

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

## WOMEN VETERANS ZOOM GROUPS:

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

New Moms Group - MEETING ID: 857 3879 4618  
Every 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> 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**