



# Great South Bay Power Squadron

A Unit of the United States Power Squadrons  
Chartered 16 May 1941

## Media Release

For Immediate Release

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### NEW OFFICERS INSTALLED IN POWER SQUADRON – AMERICA’S BOATING CLUB

February 16, 2019.....The Great South Bay Power Squadron of the *United States Power Squadrons – America’s Boating Club*, has installed its officers for 2019-2020. The “*Change of Watch*” Meeting was on Friday, February 15, 2019, at the Rusy-Bohm Post 411 American Legion, Islip, New York.

James M. Milton, JN, East Islip, New York has been installed as Squadron Commander. Installed to serve with Commander Milton is Kathy Matheson, P, of Islip Terrace, NY, who will be Executive Officer; Diane Boland, S, of West Islip, NY, as Administrative Officer; Marie A. Wallach, P, of Holbrook, NY, as Educational Officer; Chuck La Carrubba, JN, Nesconset, NY, as Assistant Educational Officer; James F. Milton, JN, of Islip Terrace, NY as Secretary; and Steve Potestio, P, of Holbrook, NY, as Treasurer.

Commander Milton is a Squadron *Junior Navigator* of the **United States Power Squadrons** and served as the Executive Officer over this last year. His previous Squadron responsibilities include being the Educational Officer in 2016 and 2017, the Assistant Educational Officer in 2015 and Squadron Webmaster in 2013 and 2014. James has received the following educational advancements and awards in the Squadron: grade of Junior Navigator in 2015, Advanced Pilot in 2016, Pilot in 2008, Seamanship and the ABC Boating Course in 2007. He has also earned Educational Proficiency in 2017 and successfully completed the following educational courses: Cruise Planning, Engine Maintenance, Advanced Powerboat Handling, Weather Forecasting, and Emergencies On-Board in 2017, Man Overboard in 2016, RADAR in 2015, and Operations Training in 2014. He was presented with the Pilot Award in 2015 and became a Senior Member of the United States Power Squadron in 2011. He is a Certified Vessel Examiner, SERAT Captain, and Certified Instructor. Commander Milton has earned 13 Merit Marks with the **United States Power Squadrons**, which is based on dedication and work that has been accomplished within the Squadron. Commander Milton has also been awarded the Lifesaving Award by the United States Power Squadrons for saving the life of a father and son on July 27, 2017, when they got caught in a current when swimming behind their boat. He founded and is the Team Leader the Squadron Emergency Response Team, whose mission is to provide on-water emergency support on the Great South Bay and has been Captain and Team leader since its inception.

Over 125 Squadron members attended the “*Change of Watch*” Meeting, along with several elected and governmental officials. Several proclamations were received and presented to Outgoing Commander John P. Pergola, AP of Patchogue, NY. Proclamations were presented by Ed Wiggins – representing State Senator Phil Boyle, State Assemblyman Mike LiPetri, Suffolk County Legislator Tom Cilmi, Islip Town Supervisor Angie Carpenter, and Nassau County Marine Police Officer Joe Frederico. Other letters and proclamations presented to Outgoing Commander Pergola were from U.S. Congressman Peter King, New York State Governor Andrew Cuomo, NY State Senator James F. Gaughran, NY State Assemblyman Douglas Smith, New York Assemblyman Andrew R. Garbarino, Suffolk County Legislature Presiding Officer DuWayne Gregory, Suffolk County Executive Steven Bellone, Town of Babylon Supervisor Richard Schaffer, and Town of Brookhaven Supervisor Ed Romaine.

Organized in 1914, the United States Power Squadrons – America’s Boating Club, is the world’s large private boating organization. The national organization is comprised of nearly 40,000 members in over 450 local Squadrons across the country.

The *United States Power Squadrons and America’s Boating Club* is a non-profit organization of boating enthusiasts who have a common interest and appreciation of recreational boating, boating safety, and education. As a public service, America’s Boating Club offers and provides Safe Boating Courses. Through this course, over three million students have already learned how to make their boating safer and more enjoyable.

For additional information on any of our Public Safe Boating Course, please go to “GSB” *Public Course Schedule*,” at [www.BoatGSB.org](http://www.BoatGSB.org), or send an email to: [marieawallach@gmail.com](mailto:marieawallach@gmail.com) or call Marie A. Wallach, Squadron Educational Officer at 631-269-7169.

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*America's Boating Club – [www.GSBPS.org](http://www.GSBPS.org)*