**VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS BLAZING STAR POST #1574**

**17 CANNON AVENUE**

**STATEN ISLAND, NY 10314**

**Website. http://blazingstarvfwpost1574.org/wp**

**June 2015**

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| BLAZING STAR POST 1574 CONTACT NUMBERSAl Porto, Commander - 718-578-1242, albert.porto38@gmail.comPaul Dietrich, Quartermaster - 718-698-5269, paul@the-dietrichs.comWilliam Alcock, Adjutant - 718-698-1923 |

**IN MEMORIUM**

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William P. Kuntz, age 83, of Lincroft, passed away on May 8, 2015. William served his country during the Korean War in both the Navy and Air Force and was a member of The Veterans of Foreign Wars Blazing Star Post in Staten Island, The American Legion Kells-Grennie Staten Island Post and he was also a member and former Treasurer of the Allan F. Kiviehan Chapter of the Korean War Veterans in Staten Island. William was a Financial Advertising Executive with Doremus Advertising and The Bond Buyer in New York City. He was a communicant of St. Leo the Great in Lincroft. William was predeceased by his son, Kevin in 2013. Surviving are his wife, Carmen; his son, William M.; his daughter-in-law, Jill, and his grandchildren Katie and William.

**Calendar Events**

Calendar of Events for 2015:

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Date** | **Event**  | **Location**  | **Time** | **Remarks** |
| **6 June** | **Blazing Star Post Meeting** | **Gold Star Post** | **1000** |  |
| 14 June | P.S. 26 Flag Day | P.S. 26 | 0900 |  |
| 14 June | Vietnam Vets Day of Remembrance | Manor Road Memorial | 1100 | Site Rededication  |
| 19 June | P.S. 26 Graduation | P.S. 26 | 0900 |  |
| 20 June | Memorial for Students KIA in RVN | St Peter's High School | 1000 |  |
| 4 July | Travis 4th of July Parade | Showcase Bowling | 1030 |  |
| **11 July** | **Blazing Star Post Meeting** | **Gold Star Post** | **1000** |  |
| **1 August** | **Blazing Star Post Meeting** | **Gold Star Post** | **1000** |  |
| **2 September** | **Blazing Star Post Meeting** | **Gold Star Post** | **1300** |  |
| **7 October** | **Blazing Star Post Meeting** | **Gold Star Post** | **1300** |  |
| **4 November** | **Blazing Star Post Meeting** | **Gold Star Post** | **1300** |  |
| **2 December** | **Blazing Star Post Meeting** | **Gold Star Post** | **1300** |  |

**Membership**

1. Welcome New Members!

Joseph Cassar

Denny Pizzini

2. Congratulations to Comrade Anthony Avevor on his graduation from the College of Staten Island with an AA in Liberal Arts. Well Done. Anthony plans to attend John Jay College for further study next year.

3. Poppy Platoon. Many thanks to Blazing Star Members who participated in distributing Memorial Day Buddy Poppies!

This drive was particularly successful! Watch out for details of November's Poppy Drive for Veterans Day.

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| --- | --- |
| William Alcock | Gene Guerra |
| Paul Dietrich | Charlie Malone |
| George Everett | Keith Mollett |
| Arnold Grippo | Martin Satloff |

4. Memorial Day. Many thanks to Blazing Star Members who participated in the Oceanview Cemetery and Travis Memorial Day Ceremonies.

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| Paul Dietrich |
| Gene Guerra |
| James Smith |

**Service Officer**

1. Veterans are encouraged to enroll in the VA health care so they are on record should they ever need it.  No cost to apply.  Apply on line at [www.va.gov/healtheligibility/vfw](file:///C%3A%5CUsers%5CAlbert%5CDocuments%5CVFW%5CNewsletters%202011%5Cwww.va.gov%5Chealtheligibility%5Cvfw) or call 1-877-222-8387.

2. Tri-Care Dental. Tri-Care dental isn't free. You must enroll to be covered. Tri-Care dental web site, www.trdp.org
Delta Dental Tel #. 888-838-8737. The Tri-Care number for NY, is 1-877-874-2273.

3. DD Form 214 website. http://vetrecs.archives.gov. If you need assistance, contact the post service officer, Paul Dietrich.

4. Survivor Outreach Services. The website has a lot of information for those left behind when a service member or veteran passes. <http://www.sos.army.mil/> or <http://www.westpointmwr.com/acs/survivor_outreach_services.html>

5. VA Choice Program Rollout. The Veterans Access, Choice and Accountability Act required VA to start implementation of the Choice Program by November 5, 2014. Starting this week, veterans who live 40 or more miles away from a VA medical facility will have the opportunity to choose whether to receive their health care at VA or in their community, through non-VA doctors. Veterans who live within 40 miles of a VA medical facility, but are currently waiting longer than 30 days for VA care will begin receiving their cards later this month. VA expects that all veterans who were enrolled in the

VA health care system on August 1, 2014, will receive their cards by January 2015. However, receiving a Veterans Choice Card does not instantly authorize you to start receiving health care from non-VA doctors. All care received through the Choice Program must be pre-authorized and coordinated by VA.

6. The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is working to make filing claims and appeals as fast and easy as possible. Beginning Tuesday, March 24, 2015, claims and appeals must be filed using the appropriate form. Standardizing forms will ease frustration among claimants, make claims processing more efficient and help VA reach more accurate decisions.

There are three major actions that will require a specific form or standardized process: Intent to File, claims applications, and Notice of Disagreement.

When filing a formal claim, the following forms should be completed and submitted to VA either electronically via eBenefits

(ebenefits.va.gov) or the Stakeholder Enterprise Portal (sep.va.gov), or by mailing the completed paper form to VA:

 a.. For disability benefits, applicants must now use VA Form 21-526EZ, Application for Disability Compensation and Related Compensation Benefits.

 b.. To apply for needs-based pension, use VA Form 21-527EZ, Application for Pension. To file a claim for dependency and indemnity compensation (DIC), survivorâ€™s pension, and accrued benefits, claimants should complete VA Form 21-534EZ, Application for DIC, Death Pension, and/or Accrued Benefits .

Applicants who are not ready to file a claim for disability, but wish to preserve a date of claim while gathering evidence and completing the necessary application form should use one of the following three methods to communicate an intent to file a claim to VA:

 a.. 1) electronically via eBenefits (ebenefits.va.gov) or the Stakeholder Enterprise Portal (sep.va.gov),

 b.. 2) mailing VA Form 21-0966, Intent to File a Claim for Compensation and/or Pension, or Survivors Pension and/or DIC, or

 c.. 3) over the phone with a VA call center representative.

 Finally, Veterans filing a Notice of Disagreement with a compensation decision should use VA Form 21-0958, Notice of Disagreement. Veterans and their representatives currently use the form on an optional basis. However, beginning March 24, 2015, Veterans must use this form when VA provides the form with a decision notice letter. Veterans and survivors will not be required to use a standardized notice of disagreement form for other types of claims (i.e., pension or survivors benefits) at this time. If you are unable to download these forms from va.gov/vaforms/, call

800-827-1000 to have the correct form sent to your home. Requiring standard forms will help VA more quickly identify what the applicant is claiming and gather the evidence required to process the claim or appeal. Standardized forms are a key component of VA's transformation, which will help achieve the Department's goal to eliminate the backlog in 2015. Contact data for VSO on website. Do not file with VSO review.

7. All paid up members of Post 1574 were enrolled in Group Accidental Death and Dismemberment insurance paid for by the post. Coverage is for $1000 and is with the Lockton Affinity LLC, PO box 87-9610 of Kansas City MO 64187-9610. Please keep information on this policy with your family important documents for your relatives and heirs.

**Employment and Education**

1. Looking for a job? Need quality employees? USE VETJOBS! [**www.vetjobs.com**](http://svarialce.vfwemail.org:81/CT00004002MzA1OTA1NDk%3D.HTML?D=2011-08-26)

2. Vets looking for jobs, the website: 100000jobsmission.com. Go there to apply and search for available jobs specifically held for veterans.

3. New initiative called the We can't wait program plan helps ex GIs get civilian credentials/licenses for skills learned in the military. For info: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/docs/veterans_report_5-31-2012.pdf>

4. Veterans Head Back to Boot Camp to Learn Business Skills. Boots to Business: Reboot is a two-day entrepreneurship workshop presented by the U.S. Small Business Administration and the Institute for Veterans and Military Families (IVMF) available to transitioning service members as a part of the Defense Department’s Transition Assistance Program. Learn

more about the program <http://www.military1.com/veterans/article/538543-veterans-head-back-to-boot-camp-to-learn-business-skills>.

Bottom of Form

General

1. Staten Island University Hospital's Military Appreciation Program. This program entitles active duty members and veterans free parking 12 times per year at the SIUH parking lot. Call 718-226-4325 for an application.

2. The Defense POW/MIA Office announced the identification of remains belonging to the following personnel. Returned

home are:

\* Army Master Sgt. Francis H. Stamer, 35, Company M, 3rd Battalion, 8th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Cavalry Division, reported missing in action when his unit was attacked by Chinese forces at Unsan in North Korea.

\* Army Cpl. Abilesio L. Apodaca, 18, In early 1951, Apodaca and elements of Heavy Mortar Company, 9th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Infantry Division, were occupying a position near Hoengsong, South Korea, when attacked by Chinese forces. It would later be learned that he had been captured, but died in a POW camp.

\* Army Cpl. Richard L. Wing, 19, In late November 1950, Wing was assigned to Company H, 5th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Cavalry Division, deployed near Kunu-ri, North Korea, when attacked by Chinese forces. It would later be learned that he had been captured, but died from dysentery in a POW camp.

\* Army Pfc. Paul L. Tingle, 36, In late 1950, Tingle was assigned to Company I, 3rd Battalion, 9th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Infantry Division, deployed near Kujang, North Korea, when attacked by Chinese forces. It would later be learned that he had been captured, but died in a POW camp.

\* Army Air Forces 2nd Lt. Alvin Beethe, 23, On Nov. 26, 1944, Beethe, of the 393rd Fighter Squadron, 367th Fighter Group, 9th Air Force, was piloting a P-38 Lightning that failed to return from a mission against enemy forces near Duren, Germany. Another pilot reported the aircraft crashed near the town of Morschenich.

\* Marine 1st Lt. Raymond O. Ball, 31, Company E, 2nd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division. On Nov. 27, 1950, Ball was killed in action in the vicinity of Hill 1282, while fighting on the western side of the Chosin Reservoir in North Korea. His remains were not recoverable after the battle.

\* Army Pfc. Charlie Wilcher Jr., 21, In late November 1950, Wilcher was assigned to Company A, 9th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Infantry Division, when their defensive line was attacked by Chinese forces near the town of Kujang, North Korea. Wilcher would be reported missing in action on Nov. 30, 1950.

4. Updated list of Senior Discounts. Uploaded on Blazing Star Web site.

5. DNA Samples Needed for MIA Identifications There are 83,000 missing and unaccounted for Americans from World War II forward, yet many families of the missing have yet to provide a family reference sample to assist in DNA identifications. Currently, 89 percent of Korean War families have provided samples, as well as 83 percent of Cold War families and 81 percent of Vietnam War families, but only 4 percent of WWII families have. The government last year identified 107 MIAs, but more could have been identified-and faster-if more family reference samples were on file. Please forward the following service casualty office contact information to MIA families in your hometown, as well as to local newspapers:

Army: 800-892-2490

Marine Corps: 800-847-1597

Navy: 800-443-9298

Air Force: 800-531-5501

State Department: 202-485-6106

6. VFW Files Suit Against VA. The VFW and Disabled American Veterans filed a joint lawsuit to force the Department of Veterans Affairs to change a new claims submission procedure that eliminated the informal claims process and instituted a rigid, veteran-unfriendly system for filing claims for benefits, among several other disagreements. Previously, any form of written communication would have served notice to the VA that within one year, that veteran would be filing a formal claim for disability compensation. If approved, the claim's effective date could be backdated to the day of the initial notification. Now the VA requires all veterans to use a standardized form, which essentially postpones the effective date and denies compensation to veterans. "The VFW doesn't oppose the use of standardized forms," said VFW National Veterans Service Director Bill Bradshaw. "Our opposition is to this all-or-nothing approach that VA is forcing on veterans-changes, that if left in place, will guarantee in this year alone that tens of thousands of service-connected wounded, ill and injured veterans will be denied benefits they were entitled to before the change became effective." The VFW, DAV and other veterans' service organizations fought against the change after VA first proposed it in October 2013. "The VA's move to a standardized form should not come at the cost of an informal claims notification procedure that works," said Bradshaw. "The VA can and should accept both." Read the lawsuit here.

<http://heroes.vfw.org/site/R?i=xgN9EjzxlbxJl9Wj71rxTw>

## 7. President Obama to Award the Medal of Honor. WASHINGTON, DC – On June 2, 2015, President Barack Obama will award the Medal of Honor to Army Sergeant William Shemin and to Army Private Henry Johnson for conspicuous

## gallantry during World War I. Sergeant William Shemin will receive the Medal of Honor posthumously for his actions while serving as a member of Company G, 2nd Battalion, 47th Infantry Regiment, 4th Division, American Expeditionary Forces. Sergeant Shemin distinguished himself during combat operations in the vicinity of the Vesle River, Bazoches, France, on August 7-9, 1918. Sergeant Shemin entered the Army on October 2, 1917. He was assigned as a rifleman to Company G, 47th Infantry Regiment, which moved from Syracuse, New York to Camp Greene, North Carolina, joining the 4th Infantry Division. The Division arrived in France in May, 1918. While serving as a rifleman from August 7-9, 1918, Sergeant Shemin left the cover of his platoon’s trench and crossed open space, repeatedly exposing himself to heavy machine gun and rifle fire to rescue the wounded. After officers and senior non-commissioned officers had become casualties, Shemin took command of the platoon and displayed great initiative under fire, until he was wounded, August 9.

Ms. Elsie Shemin-Roth of Webster Grove, Missouri, will join the President at the White House to accept the Medal of Honor on her father’s behalf.

8. Please call Assemblyman Denny Farrell 518-455-5491-The VFW is calling to express our support for A4455 Ramos which has passed the Senate and is awaiting Assembly action. The bill makes a small adjustment to the application of the existing property tax exemption for veterans to include a small number of those on active duty that have not yet actively discharged. Although this impacts a small number of veterans it sends a strong message of support to those who continue to serve and have established aÂ residence in NYS.

9. Please call Assemblyman Gary Pretlow, (Chair of Assembly Racing and Wagering) - 518-455-5291. Assemblyman Pretlow The VFW is calling to express our support for A4042 Cusick and A932-A enabling charity gaming in the form of Charity Poker and Electronic Bell Jar. These bills are in your committee and are to advance in the Senate to Rules. We urge to you to give them favorable hearing so that they may advance in the Assembly as well. They are important for internal fundraising purposes for our Posts throughout the state and allow us to meet our mission requirements of supporting returning Veterans.

10. The Croci legislation approved by the NYS Senate includes Senate bill 3134 amends the real property tax law to entitle active military members to file for the alternative veterans' tax exemption while still in uniform. Current law only offers this benefit to veterans who have completed their service. Active duty personnel who are serving their country should be able to receive this benefit immediately.

**Items of Interest**

**Things They Never Teach You About American History**

**NAVAL HISTORY:** Wooden Ships and Iron Men. From "Oceanographic Ships, Fore and Aft", published by the Oceanographer of the Navy. It has to do with a cruise of the 204-foot frigate USS Constitution, commonly known as Old Ironsides, in 1779. It reads: On 23 August 1779, the USS Constitution set sail from Boston loaded with 475 officers and men, 48,600 gallons of water, 74,000 cannon shot, 11,500 pounds of black powder and 79,400 gallons of rum. Her mission: to destroy and harass English shipping. On 6 October, she made Jamaica, took on 826 pounds of flour and 68,300 gallons of rum. Constitution reached the Azores, where she provisioned with 550 pounds of beef and 6,300 gallons of Portuguese wine. On 18 November, the ship set sail for England where her crew captured and scuttled 12 English merchant vessels and took aboard their rum. But the Constitution had run out of shot. Nevertheless, she made her way unarmed up the Firth of Clyde for a night raid. Her landing party captured a whiskey distillery, transferred 40,000 gallons aboard and headed for home. On 20 February 1780, the Constitution arrived in Boston with no cannon shot, no food, no powder, no rum, no whiskey. Just 48,600 gallons of water.

**Detailed analysis:**

Length of cruise -- 181 days

Booze consumption -- 2.26 gallons per MAN per day (plus whatever they rescued from the 12 English merchant ships)

Guesstimated re-enlistment rate -- 100 percent, winner of the Secretary of the Navy Golden Anchor for Retention.

Probable EPA Award of Gold Certificate for water conservation.

