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

**17 CANNON AVENUE**

**STATEN ISLAND, NY 10314**

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

**May 2016**

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| BLAZING STAR POST 1574 CONTACT NUMBERS  Al Porto, Commander - 718-578-1242, albert.porto38@gmail.com  Paul Dietrich, Quartermaster - 718-698-5269, paul@the-dietrichs.com  William Alcock, Adjutant - 718-698-1923 |

**Calendar Events**

Calendar of Events for 2016:

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Date** | **Event** | **Location** | **Time** | **Remarks** |
| 7 May Saturday | Blazing Star Post Meeting | Gold Star Post | 1000 |  |
| 14 May | Poppy Distribution | Shop-Rite | 0900-1500 | Volunteers Needed |
| 26 May | St Adalberts Ice Cream Social | St Adalberts | 1200 | 718-442-2020 |
| 27 May | Poppy Distribution | SI Ferry | 0700-1000 | Volunteers Needed |
| 27 May | Poppy Distribution | Refinery | 1100-1300 | Volunteers Needed |
| 28 May | Poppy Distribution | Stop and Shop | 0900-1500 | Volunteers Needed |
| 29 May | Poppy Distribution | Stop and Shop | 0900-1500 | Volunteers Needed |
| 30 May | Memorial Day Ceremonies | Travis and Oceanview | TBA | To Be Announced |
| 4 June Saturday | Blazing Star Post Meeting | Gold Star Post | 1000 |  |
| 9 July Saturday | Blazing Star Post Meeting | Gold Star Post | 1000 |  |
| 6 August Saturday | Blazing Star Post Meeting | Gold Star Post | 1000 |  |
| 7 September | Blazing Star Post Meeting | Gold Star Post | 1300 |  |
| 5 October | Blazing Star Post Meeting | Gold Star Post | 1300 |  |
| 2 November | Blazing Star Post Meeting | Gold Star Post | 1300 |  |
| 7 December | Blazing Star Post Meeting | Gold Star Post | 1300 |  |

**Membership**

1. Consider Life Membership. You save money over the long run and eliminate the need to renew yearly. Below are the membership rates for Life membership and Installment Plan Life Membership.

**Age attained             Payment in Full             Installment Plan Option                               
 on Dec. 31st                       Total:                   Initial Fee:        11 payments of:**

Through Age 30               $425.00                $45.00                $38.64

31-40                                  $410.00                $45.00                $37.27

41-50                                  $375.00                $45.00                $34.09

51-60                                  $335.00                $45.00                $30.45

61-70                                  $290.00                $45.00                $26.36

71-80                                  $225.00                $45.00                $20.45

81 and over                        $170.00                $45.00                $15.45

2. Dues Renewal Reminder:

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| --- | --- | --- |
| Eans, Ernest | Current Until | 5/5/2016 |
| Leunes, Peter | Current Until | 6/17/2016 |
| Pizzini, Denny | Current Until | 5/7/2016 |
| Robinson, James A | Current Until | 4/8/2016 |

3. Unfortunately the additional accidental death/dismemberment insurance that our post had for all of it’s members was discontinued by the insurance provider and currently there is no replacement. The effective date of this action is May 11 2016. We have asked headquarters to notify us if a replacement carrier becomes available but as of this time, membership coverage will end on May 11th of this year. This applies to the additional accidental death and dismemberment insurance only which was totally funded by Blazing Star Post for our members.

**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:\Users\Albert\Documents\VFW\Newsletters%202011\www.va.gov\healtheligibility\vfw) 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](blockedhttp://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>

7. To someone going through a difficult time, one simple act has the power to make a difference. Reach out to veterans and service members in your life today – let them know they’re not alone. Find out how you can make a difference <http://www.veteranscrisisline.net/ThePowerof1.aspx>.

9. NY State Creates Mobile App for Veterans to Access Services. There's a new mobile app designed to help New York's veterans access state and federal services. Gov. Andrew Cuomo announced the creation of the application Thursday. It's compatible with Apple and Android products and has help for veterans looking for information on health care, jobs and benefits. The program also locates the closest state veterans' affairs office. Cuomo says the app is an example of how technology can be used to improve the delivery of state services and programs. The program was developed by the state's Division of Veterans' Affairs.

**Employment and Education**

1. Looking for a job? Need quality employees? USE VETJOBS! [**www.vetjobs.com**](http://svarialce.vfwemail.org:81/CT00004002MzA1OTA1NDk=.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>

Bottom of Form

5. Job info. Seeking Video grapher / Editor. Experience required. Working knowledge of Panasonic AG-HMC 150 Camera. Proficient in use of Final Cut Pro editing. Must have a vehicle. Forward contact info and resume to [SIVidher@Aol.com](mailto:SIVidher@Aol.com).

6. MTA NYC Transit has two opportunities.  These include:

 Manager, Transit Demand Analysis in Operations Planning - will have an integral role in for the Second Avenue Subway expansion project. The candidate will develop plans for permanent service changes dues to new subway expansions; monitor service changes due to ridership patterns; and identify long-term service changes to accommodate reconstruction projects and their impacts.

 Director, AFC Equipment Installation Support - will manage and provide direction in the implementation of standard design elements to optimize the efficiency and effectiveness of the station control area environment; including fare control configuration utilizing customer interaction and flow patterns. Day-to-day responsibilities include planning & coordinating field surveys for incorporation into as built drawings for the installation of all Automated Fare Collection (AFC) equipment. Manage the inspection of all AFC equipment installations, including Turnstiles, MetroCard Vending Machines, ADA Farecard Access Systems, railings & gates.

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:

* **Marine Corps Pfc. John F. Price**, lost fighting on Tarawa on Nov. 20, 1943. He was assigned to Company F, 2nd Battalion, 8th Marine Regiment, 2nd Marine Division.
* **Marine Corps Pfc. Anthony Brozyna**, lost fighting on Tarawa on Nov. 20, 1943. He was assigned to Company G, 2nd Battalion, 8th Marine Regiment, 2nd Marine Division.
* **Army Cpl. Robert P. Graham**, 20, in February 1951, Graham was assigned to Company A, 13th Engineer Combat Battalion, 7th Infantry Division, which was engaged in a battle near Hoengsong, South Korea. His unit was ordered to withdraw south while under heavy attack. He was reported missing on Feb. 13, 1951.
* **Army Air Forces Flight Officer Dewey L. Gossett**, 23, was piloting an A-36A Apache in a flight of four searching for targets of opportunity when they encountered bad weather. Only three aircraft returned to base. He was assigned to the 527th Fighter Squadron, 86th Fighter Group, 12th Air Force.
* **Army Pfc. Aubrey D. Vaughn**, 20, On April 23, 1951, Vaughn was assigned to Company C, 1st Battalion, 5th Infantry Regiment, 5th Regimental Combat Team, when his company's position was overrun by Chinese forces in North Korea. Vaughn was reported missing in action after the battle.
* **Army Air Forces Capt. Arthur E. Halfpapp**, 23, On April 24, 1945, Halfpapp was piloting a P-47 Thunderbolt that crashed during an armed reconnaissance mission southeast of Alberone, Italy. He was assigned to the 87th Fighter Squadron, 79th Fighter Group.
* **Army Cpl. Dennis D. Buckley**, 24, On Feb. 5, 1951, Buckley was assigned to A Battery, 15th Field Artillery Battalion, 2nd Infantry Division, which was fighting in the central corridor of South Korea. Buckley would be reported missing on Feb. 13 after the Chinese counterattacked.
* Army**Cpl. Dudley L. Evans**, 24, Company G, 2nd Battalion, 23rd Infantry Regiment, 2nd Infantry Division, engaged in a battle in the vicinity of Chipyong-ni, South Korea. It would be later learned he died in captivity after being taken prisoner on Feb. 15, 1951.
* **Navy Fireman 3rd Class Kenneth L. Jayne**, missing since Dec. 7, 1941, when the battleship USS Oklahoma he was aboard suffered multiple torpedo hits and capsized as it was moored off Ford Island in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii.
* **Army Cpl. George G. Simmons**, missing since Nov. 19, 1942, while fighting in the Philippines. It would be later learned he died in a Japanese prison camp. He was assigned to Battery H, 60th Coastal Artillery Regiment.
* **Army Pvt. John P. Sersha**, 21, missing since Sept. 27, 1944, while fighting in the Netherlands. He was assigned to Company F, 325th Glider Infantry Regiment, 82nd Airborne Division.

The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency has announced one burial update and the identification of remains of four sailors who had been unaccounted for since Dec. 7, 1941, when the battleship USS Oklahoma suffered multiple torpedo hits as it was moored off Ford Island in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. The attack capsized the ship,

resulting in 429 casualties. Thirty-five sailors would be subsequently recovered and identified; the rest would eventually be buried as unknowns in the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific, better known as the Punchbowl. Being returned home for burial with full military honors on a date and location yet to be determined are **Ensign Joseph P. Hittorff Jr.**, 25, of Westmont, N.J.; **Chief Storekeeper Herbert J. Hoard**; **Fire Controlman 1st Class Paul A. Nash**, 26, of Indiana; and **Machinist’s Mate 1st Class Alfred F. Wells**.

3. The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency is seeking the public’s help to find and encourage more MIA families to donate a DNA sample to help speed the identification process of recovered remains. Currently, 89 percent of the Korean War’s 7,800 MIAs have a family reference sample on file, 84 percent for the Cold War’s 126 MIAs, and 81 percent of the Vietnam War’s 1,600 missing. But for World War II, it’s a dismal 4 percent of the 73,500 who are still missing. Each military service and the State Department has a service casualty office that can explain how to donate.

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| Army: 800-892-2490 | Navy: 800-443-9298 | State Department: 202-485-6106 |
| Marine Corps: 800-847-1597 | Air Force: 800-531-5501 |  |

4. Free parking for veterans at Richmond County Medical Center. Veterans can park for free in the visitors parking lot where tokens are required. Stop at the main reception desk or security post, show proof you are a veteran (drivers license with vet on it, retired ID card, VA card or similar) and they will give you a free token for the parking lot. Get it on the way in as the reception/info desk is not manned all night. Use the token to exit the lot. Saves you $4 per visit.

6. VFW essay contest themes for 2016-2017 are as follows: Voice of Democracy - “MY RESPONSIBILITY TO AMERICA” Patriot’s Pen - “THE AMERICA I BELIEVE IN”

The student entry deadline for 2016-2017 will be November 1, 2016 for both contests.

**7. ARMED FORCES *INVITATIONAL* Striped Bass Tournament $100,000.00 GRAND PRIZE HEAVIEST STRIPED BASS 50 LBS. OR OVER Let’s give back to our veterans, the best way we know how, TAKE THEM FISHING! Friday, June 10, 2016, 8:00am – 4:00pm Captains Meeting - Breakfast – 6:30 – 8:00am Dinner Buffet and Awards 4:00pm – 6:00pm. Calcutta’s will be available!** Weigh-in will be held at Atlantis Marina and Yacht Club - 180 Mansion Ave., Staten Island, NY 10308 4pm Awards Ceremony will be held at Marina Café - 154 Mansion Ave., Staten Island, NY 10308 4-6 pm **For information on how to sponsor a team/boat please email** [**situnaclub@gmail.com**](mailto:situnaclub@gmail.com) **or for more information please call: Guy (Bill) Ahearn - (917) 751-7840**

**Items of Interest**

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