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

**17 CANNON AVENUE**

**STATEN ISLAND, NY 10314**

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

**August 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** |
| 6 August Saturday | Blazing Star Post Meeting | Gold Star Post | 1000 |  |
| 7 September Wednesday | Blazing Star Post Meeting | Gold Star Post | 1300 |  |
| 5 October Wednesday | Blazing Star Post Meeting | Gold Star Post | 1300 |  |
| 2 November Wednesday | Blazing Star Post Meeting | Gold Star Post | 1300 |  |
| 7 December Wednesday | Blazing Star Post Meeting | Gold Star Post | 1300 |  |

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**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:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Leunes, Peter | Current Until | 6/17/2016 |
| Mahoney, Elizabeth L | Current Until | 7/27/2016 |
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**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>

5. 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>.

6. 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.

7. Four new agent orange conditions are being considered for agent orange eligibility. As of yet these are not approved but under consideration: Bladder cancer, hypothyroidism, parkinson disease and high blood pressure. These are under consideration but as of this time, no definitive answers if they will be included as presumptive. On a more positive note all VA patients suffering from hepatitis C are now eligible to receive care and medication to treat the virus. This will be a major expansion of the treatment of Hep C patients from only those patients in the most advanced states of the illness to all with Hep C.

**8. Online Health Care Application.** Providing health care to our Nation’s Veterans is a vital service of the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), one that must persistently improve.  Through the MyVA transformation, VA is rebuilding trust with Veterans and the American people; modernizing service delivery; and setting the course for long-term, VA excellence, all

while continuing to expand access to high-quality care.  Through improvement efforts, many of the steps Veterans must take to receive health care were reviewed and found that enhancements were necessary in the initial application to better the Veteran experience by removing barriers that hinder access. The VA will soon launch a new online health care application on[www.vets.gov](https://www.vets.gov/).  Previously, Veterans could apply for health care online, but the user experience was often frustrating. Beginning June 30, 2016, Veterans applying for health care will be directed to the health care application on [www.vets.gov](https://www.vets.gov/).  Veterans and other stakeholders will still have access to VA Form 10-10EZ, which was originally available through the Veterans On-line Application; however, going forward, those applying for health care eligibility will use the online application or call 877-222-VETS (8387). Please take a moment to review the new [online form](http://www.vets.gov/healthcare/apply/), and, as of June 30, 2016, begin referring Veterans interested in applying for health care eligibility to the new site.  To learn more about applying for health benefits, please visit VA’s Health Benefits [webpage](http://www.va.gov/HEALTHBENEFITS/apply/index.asp).

**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. Job Opportunities for Veterans.

* Veterans that are licensed NYS Security Guards.

**Details: Full Time $25 per hour Tech Company located in Manhattan.** If you know of a Veteran that is interested and has a NYS Security Guard license please have them call Peter Romano (USMC), Veterans Specialist, Staten Island Workforce1 Career Center, 120 Stuyvesant Place, 3rd Floor, Staten Island, NY 10301, T: 718 – 285 - 8431,

F: 718 – 981 - 8367, E: [promano@edsisolutions.com](mailto:promano@edsisolutions.com), W: [nyc.gov/workforce1](http://nyc.gov/workforce1)

* Train to work in an exciting career in the maritime industry- tug & barge!! Longshoremen! Services for the underserved sponsored training at SUNY Maritime Fort Schuyler, Bronx, NY August 15th & aug. 29th- sep.2, 2016 job placement & credentialing assistance upon successful completion of program with initial earnings of $35,000 a year

Candidates must be able to push/pull/lift 40+ lbs comfortable working in tight quarters  full background/medical history and mandatory drug test navy and coast guard veterans Encouraged to apply . Contact Rick Shuart at [fshuart@sus.org](mailto:fshuart@sus.org) or 917.494.2469

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:

* Marine Corps Pvt. Robert J. Carter, 19, In November 1943, Carter was assigned to Company G, 2nd Battalion, 8th Marine Regiment, 2nd Marine Division, which landed against stiff Japanese resistance on the small island of Betio in the Tarawa Atoll of the Gilbert Islands. d. Carter died on Nov. 20, 1943
* Army Master Sgt. Charles J. Brown, who died fighting in North Korea on Nov. 2, 1950. He was assigned to Company L, 3rd Battalion, 8th Cavalry Regiment.
* Army Sgt. Harold L. Curtis, 18, was declared missing in action while fighting on the east side of the Chosin Reservoir in North Korea on Dec. 12, 1950. He was assigned to Company I, 3rd Battalion, 31st Infantry Regimen.
* Army Sgt. 1st Class Lawrence Smith, who died fighting in South Korea on Feb. 12, 1951. He was assigned to Company A, 1st Battalion, 38th Infantry Regiment.
* Marine Pfc. Charles E. Oetjen, 18, In November 1943, Oetjen was assigned to Company E, 2nd Battalion, 8th Marines, 2nd Marine Division, which landed against stiff Japanese resistance on the small island of Betio in the Tarawa Atoll of the Gilbert Islands. Oetjen died sometime on the first day of battle, Nov. 20, 1943.
* Army Cpl. Charles A. White, 20, On December 3, 1950, White was a member of Company G, 2nd Battalion, 7th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Infantry Division, when his company’s position was overrun by the Chinese Communist Forces near Huksu-ri, North Korea. He was captured but died in captivity on May 12, 1951.
* Navy Fireman 2nd Class James B. Boring, 21, of Vales Mill, Ohio, will be buried Aug. 6 in Albany, Ohio. On Dec. 7, 1941, Boring was assigned to the USS Oklahoma, which was moored off Ford Island in Pearl Harbor when the ship sustained multiple torpedo hits and quickly capsized, resulting in 429 casualties, including Boring.
* Army Master Sgt. Ira V. Miss Jr., 23, who was declared missing in South Korea on Feb. 5, 1950. He was assigned to Headquarters Company, 3rd Battalion, 38th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Infantry Division.
* Army Cpl. Curtis J. Wells, 19, who was declared missing in North Korea on Nov. 27, 1950. He was assigned to Company C, 65th Engineer Combat Battalion, 25th Infantry Division.
* Army Air Forces Flight Officer Judson B. Baskett, 26, went missing on Nov. 28, 1946, while piloting a C-47B Dakota aircraft with two other crewmen over Malaysia. He was assigned to the 1305th Army Air Base Unit.
* Army Air Forces 1st Lt. Robert L. McIntosh, 21, On May 12, 1944, McIntosh was piloting a single-seat P-38 aircraft on a strafing mission against an enemy airfield in Piacenza, Italy. As visibility worsened, his formation was ordered to climb above the overcast. McIntosh’s aircraft was observed diving through the clouds and was not seen again. He was assigned to the 27th Fighter Squadron, 1st Fighter Group.
* Army Cpl. Ronald M. Sparks, On Feb. 12, 1951, Sparks was a member of Company D, 1st Battalion, 38th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Infantry Division, and was declared missing in action when his unit was clearing a roadblock held by enemy forces in the vicinity of Hoengsong, South Korea.
* Marine Pvt. Dale R. Geddes, 21, In November 1943, Geddes was assigned to Company H, 2nd Battalion, 8th Marines, 2nd Marine Division, which landed against stiff Japanese resistance on the small island of Betio in the Tarawa Atoll of the Gilbert Islands. Geddes died sometime on the first day of the battle, Nov. 20, 1943.
* Marine Pfc. George H. Traver In November 1943, Traver was assigned to Company K, 3rd Battalion, 8th Marine Regiment, 2nd Marine Division, which landed against stiff Japanese resistance on the small island of Betio in the Tarawa Atoll of the Gilbert Islands. Traver died sometime on the first day of the battle, Nov. 20, 1943.
* Army Master Sgt. Charles J. Brown In early November 1950, Brown was a member of Company L, 3rd Battalion, 8th Cavalry Regiment, when Chinese forces attacked the regiment and forced the unit to withdraw to the village of Ipsok, North Korea. The survivors attempted to set up a defensive perimeter, but many soldiers became surrounded and attempted to escape and evade the enemy. The majority were captured and marched to POW camps.
* Army Sgt. 1st Class Lawrence J. Smith On Feb. 11, 1951, Smith was a member of Company A, 1st Battalion, 38th Infantry Regiment, supporting South Korea’s attack on Chinese forces in an area known as the central corridor. The Chinese launched a massive counterattack, forcing the Americans to fight at Changbong-ni. Smith would be reported as missing the next day.
* Army Cpl. Frederick G. Collins, 23, was a member of the 263rd Quartermaster Company, Quartermaster Corps, stationed at Nichols Field in Manila, Philippines, when the Japanese invaded on Dec. 8, 1941. Following the April 9, 1942 surrender, Collins and thousands of others began the torturous 65-mile "Bataan Death March" northward. On Nov. 19, 1942, 14 Americans, including Collins, were reported to have died and were buried by their fellow prisoners in a common grave.
* Army Air Forces 2nd Lt. Marvin B. Rothman was piloting a single-seat P-47D Thunderbolt on a bomber escort mission over New Guinea, when he was attacked by enemy fighter aircraft. He would be declared missing on April 11, 1944. He was a member of the 311th Fighter Squadron, 58th Fighter Group.
* Army Cpl. Larry M. Dunn was a member of Company B, 2nd Engineer Combat Battalion, 2nd Infantry Division, when his unit was fighting through a heavily defended roadblock near Sonchu, North Korea. He would be declared missing in action on Dec. 1, 1950.

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.

9. The Korean War Veterans Memorial wall of Remembrance act of 2015 will require the names of those 36,574 Americans killed in Korea from 1950-53 to be added on a wall of remembrance. The wall will be built with private funds for that purpose. Contact Senator Schemer at 518-431-4070 to urge him to push for further action in the senate. (HR 1475).

10. Get in Shape! Ocean Breeze Athletic Complex 625 Father Capodanno Blvd. $25.00 annual membership for Seniors and Veterans.

**Items of Interest**

Once upon a time when our politicians didn't tend to apologize for our country's prior actions, here's a refresher on how some of our former patriots handled negative comments about our country.  
  
JFK'S Secretary of State, Dean Rusk, was in France in the early 60's when DeGaulle decided to pull out of NATO. DeGaulle said he wanted all US military out of France as soon as possible. Rusk responded,  "Does that include those who are buried here?" DeGaulle did not respond. You could have heard a pin drop.  
  
When in England ,at a fairly large conference, Colin Powell was asked by the Archbishop of Canterbury if our plans for Iraq were just an example of 'empire building' by George Bush. He answered by saying,  
"Over the years, the United States has sent many of its fine young men and women into great peril to fight for freedom beyond our borders. The only amount of land we have ever asked for in return is enough to bury

those that did not return." You could have heard a pin drop.

There was a conference in France where a number of international engineers were taking part, including French and American. During a break, one of the French engineers came back into the room saying, "Have you heard the latest dumb stunt Bush has done? He has sent an aircraft carrier to Indonesia to help the tsunami victims. What does he intend to do, bomb them?" A Boeing engineer stood up and replied quietly: "Our carriers have three hospitals on board that can treat several hundred people; they are nuclear powered and can supply emergency electrical power to shore facilities; they have three cafeterias with the capacity to   
feed 3,000 people three meals a day, they can produce several thousand gallons of fresh water from sea water

each day, and they carry half a dozen helicopters for use in transporting victims and injured to and from their flight deck. We have eleven such ships; how many does France have?" You could have heard a pin drop.

A U..S. Navy Admiral was attending a naval conference that included Admirals from the U.S., English, Canadian, Australian and French Navies At a cocktail reception, he found himself standing with a large   
group of officers that included personnel from most of those countries. Everyone was chatting away in English as they sipped their drinks but a French admiral suddenly complained that, whereas Europeans learn many   
languages, Americans learn only English. He then asked, "Why is it that we always have to speak English in these conferences rather than speaking French?" Without hesitating, the American Admiral replied, "Maybe it's because the Brit's, Canadians, Aussie's and Americans arranged it so you wouldn't have to speak German."  
You could have heard a pin drop.

AND THIS STORY FITS RIGHT IN WITH THE ABOVE...   
Robert Whiting, an elderly gentleman of 83, arrived in Paris by plane. At French Customs, he took a few minutes to locate his passport in his carry on. "You have been to France before, monsieur?" the customs officer asked sarcastically. Mr. Whiting admitted that he had been to France previously. "Then you should know enough to have your passport ready." The American said, "The last time I was here, I didn't have to show it." "Impossible.. Americans always have to show their passports on arrival in France !" The American senior gave the Frenchman a long hard look. Then he quietly explained, ''Well, when I came ashore at Omaha Beach on D-Day in 1944 to help liberate this country, I couldn't find a single Frenchmen to show a passport to."   
You could have heard a pin drop.