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

**17 CANNON AVENUE**

**STATEN ISLAND, NY 10314**

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

**September 2016**

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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 MEMORIAM**

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Edward V. Matusiak, NYC fireman, Navy veteran Edward V. Matusiak, 69, of Travis died on Wednesday, Aug. 24, 2016, peacefully in his home. He was born in Elm Park and lived most of his life in Travis. He was a fireman for the NYC Fire Department from 1972 to 2000. He served in the U.S. Navy from 1966 to 1970. He was a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Blazing Star Post and American Legion, Gold Star Post in Travis. He was the 98th Grand Marshall of the Travis 4th of July Parade, and a member of St. Anthony of Padua R.C. Church where he served as an usher for many years. He was also a member of the Knights of Columbus and the Elks Club. His hobbies included working around his home, and he was an avid sports fan, especially concerning the NY Yankees, Giants, and Rangers. He is survived by his wife, Julianna (nee Bonczek); loving children, Edward J. Matusiak, Michele Romano, Laura Howley, and Susan Houle; his sister, Lorraine Silvestri, and by his 11 loving grandchildren.

We had a small group that attended the wake of our recently passed member. Rendering final honors to our brothers and sisters is one of our most important duties as members. Please make an effort to attend these events.

**Calendar Events**

Calendar of Events for 2016:

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| **Date** | **Event**  | **Location**  | **Time** | **Remarks** |
| 5 October Wednesday | Blazing Star Post Meeting | Gold Star Post | 1300 |  |
| 29 October | Poppy Distribution | Shop-Rite | 0900-1500 |  |
| 2 November Wednesday | Blazing Star Post Meeting | Gold Star Post | 1300 |  |
| 3 November | Poppy Distribution | Staten Island Ferry | 0700-1000 |  |
| 3 November | Poppy Distribution | Refinery | 1100-1300 |  |
| 5 November | Poppy Distribution | Stop & Shop | 0900-1500 |  |
| 6 November | Poppy Distribution | Stop & Shop | 0900-1500 |  |
| 11 November | Veterans Day Ceremony | Gold Star Post | 0900-1100 |  |
| 7 December Wednesday | 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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| Leunes, Peter | Current Until | 6/17/2016 |

**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. 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. 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%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. RECRUITMILITARY NYC HIRING EVENT FOR VETERANS.

### New York Hilton Midtown, 1335 Avenue of the Americas, New York, NY 10019

New York All Veterans Job Fair

September 15, 201611:00 AM – September 15, 2016 3:00 PM

For more information on how to register for the event please have them visit this link:

<https://events.recruitmilitary.com/events/new-york-all-veterans-job-fair-september-15-2016#registration>

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 Pvt. Virgil B. Adkins**, Company B, 1st Battalion, 65th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Infantry Division.

On July 17, 1953, Adkins was reported missing after his patrol came under attack north of the former Demilitarized Zone in North Korea.

* **Navy Fireman 1st Class Jim H. Johnston and Seaman 1st Class Murry R. Cargile**, were both stationed

aboard the USS Oklahoma on Dec. 7, 1941, when the battleship suffered multiple torpedo hits and capsized as it was moored off Ford Island in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii.

* **Army Sgt. James L. Campbell**, 18. On the night of Nov. 27, 1950, Campbell, who was assigned to the 31st

 Regimental Combat Team, was attacked and forced into a fighting withdrawal from their positions on the east side of the Chosin River in North Korea. He would be reported missing after the battle.

* **Marine Pfc. James F. Mansfield**, 19. In November 943, Mansfield was assigned to Company K, 3rd 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. Mansfield died on the first day of battle, Nov. 20, 1943.

* **Marine Pfc. George H. Traver**, 25. In November 1943, Traver was also 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 on the first day of battle, Nov. 20, 1943.

* **Navy Lt. Julian B. Jordan**, 37. On Dec. 7, 1941, Jordan was assigned aboard the USS Oklahoma, which

capsized after sustaining multiple torpedo hits as the battleship was moored off Ford Island in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii.

* **Marine Pfc. Anthony Brozyna**, 22. In November 1943, Brozyna 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. Brozyna died on the first day of the battle, Nov. 20, 1943.

* **Army Capt. Elwood J. Euart**, 28. On Oct. 26, 1942, Euart was assigned to Headquarters, 103rd Field Artillery

Battalion, 43rd Infantry Division, aboard an Army transport ship that struck two mines near Espiritu Santo Island, New Hebrides, in the Republic of Vanuatu. The ship was beached on a nearby coral reef and evacuated. Hearing that men were trapped inside, Euart entered the sinking ship to help the men escape. The ship rolled and slid off the reef an hour later. Euart was one of only two crewmen lost out of approximately 5,000 troops aboard. He would be posthumously awarded the Distinguished Service Cross in 1943.

* **Navy Water Tender 1st Class Walter H. Sollie**, died on Dec. 7, 1941, while stationed aboard the

 USS Oklahoma, which capsized after receiving multiple torpedo hits as it was moored off Ford Island in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii.

* **Army Cpl. Curtis J. Wells**, 19. In late November 1950, Wells was assigned to Company C, 65th Engineer

Combat Battalion, 25th Infantry Division, when his company joined with Task Force Wilson to fight in the vicinity of Unsan, North Korea. The task force was overwhelmed and by Nov. 27, 1950, began to extricate themselves south. Wells would be reported missing after his unit regrouped.

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.

**Items of Interest**

**Getting Rid of Squirrels**

**There were four churches and a synagogue in a small town: a Presbyterian church, a Baptist church, a Methodist church, a Catholic church, and a synagogue. Each church and the synagogue had a problem with squirrels.**

**The Presbyterian church called a meeting to decide what to do about their squirrels. After much prayer and consideration, they concluded the squirrels were predestined to be there and they shouldn't interfere with God's divine will.**

**At the Baptist church the squirrels had taken an interest in the baptistery. The deacons met and decided to put a water slide on the baptistery and let the squirrels drown themselves. The squirrels liked the slide and, unfortunately, knew instinctively how to swim so twice as many squirrels showed up the following week.**

**The Methodist church decided that they were not in a position to harm any of God's creatures. So, they humanely trapped their squirrels and set them free near the Baptist Church. Two weeks later the squirrels were back when the Baptists took down the water slide.**

**But the Catholic Church came up with a very creative strategy. They baptized all the squirrels and consecrated them as members of the church. Now they only see them on Christmas and Easter.**

**Not much was heard from the Jewish synagogue; they took the first squirrel and circumcised him. They haven't seen a squirrel since.**