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

**17 CANNON AVENUE**

**STATEN ISLAND, NY 10314**

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

**February 2017**

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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 |

**Calendar Events**

Calendar of Events for 2017:

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Date | Event  | Location  | Time | Remarks |
| 1 February | Blazing Star Post Meeting | Gold Star Post | 1300 |  |
| 1 March | Blazing Star Post Meeting | Gold Star Post | 1300 |  |
| 4 April | Blood Drive | CSI | 1130-1730 |  |
| 5 April | Blood Drive | CSI | 0830-1430 |  |
| 5 April | Blazing Star Post Meeting | Gold Star Post | 1300 |  |
| 3 May  | Blazing Star Post Meeting | Gold Star Post | 1300 |  |
| 7 June | Blazing Star Post Meeting | Gold Star Post | 1300 |  |
| 1 July | Blazing Star Post Meeting | Gold Star Post | 1000 | Saturday |
| 5 August  | Blazing Star Post Meeting | Gold Star Post | 1000 | Saturday |
| 9 September | Blazing Star Post Meeting | Gold Star Post | 1000 | Saturday |
| 7 October | Blazing Star Post Meeting | Gold Star Post | 1000 | Saturday |
| 4 November | Blazing Star Post Meeting | Gold Star Post | 1000 | Saturday |
| 2 December | Blazing Star Post Meeting | Gold Star Post | 1000 | Saturday |

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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. Welcome new member Rosa n. Kellog!

3. Dues Renewal Reminder:

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| Leunes, Peter | Current Until | 6/17/2016 |
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3. Please remember in your prayers, Carol Van Manen, the wife of Henry Van Manen, Blazing Star post member and former commander of Richmond co9unty Post.

**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).

8. New Veterans Representative on Staten Island. BP Oddo recently announced that Matthew Basile, a Community Outreach Specialist from the NYC Department of Veterans' Services, will be working out of Borough Hall to assist Veterans several days a week. He will also be working in a space at the College of Staten Island, assisting both student-veterans and Veterans who do not attend the college. As a Community Outreach Specialist, Mr. Basile's job entails

interacting with Staten Island's Veterans and their families in order to connect them with employment services, educational benefits, financial services and business opportunities. A Navy Veteran, Mr. Basile made multiple deployments across Eastern Europe and the Middle East. After he finished his active duty service, he owned a small

business that catered to military personnel in the Virginia Beach Area. In this capacity, Mr. Basile was awarded numerous government contracts that made him proficient in working with both the Veteran community and the federal government's procurement system. Later, he attended the College of Staten Island, where he served as a student-veteran mentor, assisting college students with their benefits and academic careers. Mr. Basile's office is located in Borough Hall, Room G-15 and at CSI Campus Center, Room 216. Those interested in meeting with him can set up an appointment by calling ***(646) 799-2743*** or emailing ***mbasile@veterans.nyc.gov***.

9. VA Online Scheduling System to go Live in January.Veterans will initially be able to schedule primary care appointments by using a new app. And in the future VA officials plan to add optometry, audiology and mental-health.

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs plans in January to begin online scheduling of medical appointments nationwide.

With the program, the VA will schedule primary-care appointments for more than 6 million patients through an app on their phones, tablets or computers. VA officials also plan to add appointments for optometry, audiology and mental-health.

Neil Evans, MD, chief of the office of connected care for the Veterans Health Administration said the move will be “a huge step forward” for the VA.  “I think this is really, really, really important for us to be able to offer.” Kathleen Frisbee, executive director for connected health at the VA’s office of connected care, added that the new software will open in the agency’s health system for more public inspection as patients view open appointments and choose which times are best for them with the click of a computer mouse.  “I mean, we are exposing our availability to the world,” Frisbee said.

Initially VA developers planned to offer online requests for appointments rather than actual scheduling. But vets who use the VA’s online portal, called MyHealtheVet, advocated for actual do-it-yourself online scheduling, Evans said.  In fact, online scheduling was the most requested item of vets using the VA’s online portal. The portal software cost $3.2 million, and runs on technology infrastructure from Agilex Technologies, now Accenture Federal Services, and the VA’s internal development.

10. [Vets.gov](http://vets.gov/) Connects Veterans to Services.In November 2015, [Vets.gov](http://naus.informz.net/z/cjUucD9taT02MDg4MzgxJnA9MSZ1PTEwMjg4NDU0MzMmbGk9MzkzNjI2MjY/index.html) was released as a new way to connect to some of the Department of Veterans Affairs' most popular services and transactions.  Over the past year, [Vets.gov](http://vets.gov/) has evolved to include new self-service functionality and tools.  [Vets.gov](http://vets.gov/) includes 39 product features that improve veteran online access to benefits including health care, education, employment and disability benefits.  The goal for [Vets.gov](http://vets.gov/) is to become the single, one-stop place to go to interact with VA.  New content and functionality will be added to the website week by week.  You can track that progress via a [public dashboard](http://naus.informz.net/z/cjUucD9taT02MDg4MzgxJnA9MSZ1PTEwMjg4NDU0MzMmbGk9MzkzNjI2Mjc/index.html).

11. Marlene Roll, Assistant VSO, Veterans of Foreign Wars

Office days: Tuesday – Fridays, Ph: 716.857.3348, Fax: 716.857.3484

<http://www.blogs.va.gov/VAntage/32858/myva311-one-number-call-reach-va/>

Please be advised that this email address is not checked on a daily basis.

If you need *immediate*response, please call 716.857.3403.

**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. The VFW National Headquarters has a job opening as described below:

JOB TITLE: Director, Membership

JOB LOCATION: Kansas City, MO

JOB TYPE: Full Time

COMPENSATION: Salary starting at $87,750; plus benefits including health, dental, vision plans, 401k, retirement plan, life insurance

4. NSWC Indian Head EOD Technology Division, Systems Integration Department Picatinny NJ

December 2016 Vacancies

Transportation Specialist

This position is responsible for generating shipping documentation, scheduling shippers and pick-ups, receives or issues materials, reviews associated documents for accuracy, resolves schedule, shipper or financial/billing issues that emerge while observing applicable Arms, Ammunition and Explosives (AA&E) transportation requirements. Responsible for compliance with Department of State, Department of Transportation and Department of Defense AA&E regulations on transporting weapons materials and equipment (CONUS and OCONUS).

Experience using transportation systems for national and international shipment of weapon materials and equipment is desired.

Field Service Technician

This position provides technical support for the manufacture, overhaul, installation, and conversion of Major Caliber Gun Weapon Systems. Duties includes:

* Test system capabilities including integration with multiple combat systems including, but not limited to, AEGIS and various interfaces.
* Coordinating installation of Major Caliber ordnance alterations (ORDALTs) (system wide) and providing direct government oversight for all alteration installation teams (AIT) performing ship alterations on all variants.
* Providing support to the In-Service Engineering Agent (ISEA) Fleet Support Branch by installing ORDALTs and providing interim training on new equipment.
* Serving as the liaison between Regional Maintenance Center (RMC), (SUPSHIP), Port Engineers, Project

Managers, Design Yard representatives, and various Private Contractors.

* Performing System Operational and Verification Testing (SOVT).
* Provides a full range of technical, mechanical, operational and tactical training to Ship's Force.

This position is based in Picatinny NJ, but requires up to 70% travel to CONUS and OCONUS locations.

Experience as a Gunner’s Mate, or experience with Naval Gun weapon system maintenance, operation, testing, and troubleshooting is required.

Please send resumes for consideration to Mary Bottass, Mary.bottass@navy.mil

## 5. [Division of School Facilities](http://www.opt-osfns.org/nycdsf/default.aspx) [Employment Opportunities](https://nycdoe.silkroad.com/epostings/index.cfm?fuseaction=app.welcome&category_id=36328&company_id=15651&version=2&startflag=1&levelid1=36328). The Department of Education’s Division of School Facilities (DSF) is dedicated to providing a safe, clean and comfortable environment that is conducive in educating and nurturing our children in the most economical and efficient manner possible. DSF is primarily responsible for the maintenance, repair, and the safe, efficient operation of all facilities under the jurisdiction of the City of New York's school system. Currently, there are over 1,300 buildings that make up the Department of Education infrastructure. We provide expertise in every aspect of building management and maintenance. This is accomplished with a dedicated corps of Custodian Engineers, handymen, cleaners assigned to each school, and assisted by a group of mobile Skilled Trades Mechanics who tackle complex work beyond the scope of on-site staff. The DSF employs approximately 500 mechanics, 900 custodian engineers, 100 building managers and approximately 300 other employees with administrative or technical expertise in the fields of facilities management, engineering, environmental health, administration, accounting, construction, planning, and project management.

6. New Restaurant Employment Opportunities. We are assisting the folks from the Tilted Kilt, which is a new restaurant opening on the South Shore of Staten Island with their hiring process. I need Line Cooks ($12-$15) per hour or Security Guards ($15) per hour who would be interested. Security guards must obtain a NYS Security guard license or be NYPD or former NYPD. Please share this information with your Veteran network and have them contact me directly to set up an interview. This is open to Veterans, spouses, family, etc. Interviews begin this morning and will last for two weeks, restaurant is scheduled to open in the middle of February. The restaurant is just off the Outer Bridge, so those in NJ that maybe interested it is a quick trip into Staten Island for employment. As always if there are any questions please let me know, thank you.

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 W: [nyc.gov/workforce1](http://nyc.gov/workforce1)

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:

**Navy Water Tender 1st Class Walter H. Sollie,** 37, Solliewas assigned to the USS Oklahoma, which was moored off Ford Island in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, when Japanese aircraft attacked his ship on Dec. 7, 1941. Sollie was one of 429 crewmen killed in the attack.

**Army Maj. Jack D. Griffiths**, 31, On Nov. 30, 1950, Griffiths was a member of Headquarters, 38th Field Artillery Battalion, 2nd Infantry Division, when he was reported missing in action in the vicinity of Somin-dong, North Korea.

**Mr. John D. Armstrong**, a former U.S. Navy Reservist, was training with the Flying Tigers at Kyedaw Airfield, a British Royal Air Force airfield outside of Toungoo, Burma, in 1941. Armstrong was killed in a midair collision during a training flight on Sept. 8, 1941.

**Mr. Maxx C. Hammer, Jr.**, was among a small group of American pilots training with the Flying Tigers to battle Japanese forces invading China in 1941. Hammer was killed during a training mission on Sep. 22, 1941, when his plane crashed near Toungoo, Burma, after a heavy rainstorm.

**Mr. Peter Atkinson**, a former U.S. Army Air Corps Reservist, was among a small group of American pilots training with the Flying Tigers at Kyedaw Airfield, outside of Toungoo, Burma, in 1941. In preparation for battling Japanese forces invading China, the pilots engaged their Curtiss P-40 single-seat aircraft in aggressive training and mock battles. On Oct. 25, 1941, Atkinson’s plane disintegrated while participating in one of these training flights. **-- Navy Electrician's Mate 3rd Class Cecil E. Barncord**, was assigned to the USS Oklahoma, which was moored off Ford Island in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, when Japanese aircraft attacked his ship on Dec. 7, 1941. Barncord was one of 429 crewmen killed in the attack.

**Navy Radioman 3rd Class Howard W. Bean**, was assigned to the USS Oklahoma, which was moored off Ford Island in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, when Japanese aircraft attacked his ship on Dec. 7, 1941. Bean was one of 429 crewmen killed in the attack. Interment services are pending.

**Navy Mess Attendant 1st Class Ralph M. Boudreaux**, was assigned to the USS Oklahoma, which was moored off Ford Island in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, when Japanese aircraft attacked his ship on Dec. 7, 1941. Boudreaux was one of 429 crewmen killed in the attack.

**Navy Fireman 3rd Class Glaydon I.C. Iverson**, was assigned to the USS Oklahoma, which was moored off Ford Island in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, when Japanese aircraft attacked his ship on Dec. 7, 1941. Iverson was one of 429 crewmen killed in the attack.

**Navy Coxswain Verne F. Knipp**, was assigned to the USS Oklahoma, which was moored off Ford Island in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, when Japanese aircraft attacked his ship on Dec. 7, 1941. Knipp was one of 429 crewmen killed in the attack.

**Navy Fire Controlman 2nd Class Donald R. McCloud**, was assigned to the USS Oklahoma, which was moored off Ford Island in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, when Japanese aircraft attacked his ship on Dec. 7, 1941. McCloud was one of 429 crewmen killed in the attack.

**Navy Seaman 1st Class Camillus M. O'Grady**, was assigned to the USS Oklahoma, which was moored off Ford Island in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, when Japanese aircraft attacked his ship on Dec. 7, 1941. O’Grady was one of 429 crewmen killed in the attack.

**Army Air Forces 1st Lt. Francis J. Pitonyak**, disappeared while leading a four-ship of fighter aircraft on an armed patrol mission. Enroute to Nadzab, Territory of Papua, the pilots encountered inclement weather, causing one pilot to return to base, where he reported his fellow pilots, including Pitonyak, missing. After an unsuccessful aerial search the following day, Pitonyak was declared deceased on Oct. 28, 1943.

**Army Pvt. Gene J. Appleby**, Company A, 508th Parachute Infantry Regiment. On Sep. 17, 1944, Appleby parachuted onto a drop zone north of Groesbeek, the Netherlands, as part of Operation Market-Garden. As the soldiers rallied, Appleby was reportedly struck by enemy fire and, following the attack, was listed as missing in action.

**Army Cpl. Luis P. Torres**, Company C, 1st Battalion, 23rd Infantry Regiment, 2nd Infantry Division along the east bank of the Naktong River, near Changyong, South Korea. On Sept. 1, 1950, his battalion’s position was overrun by enemy forces. Torres was reported missing after the battle.

**Army Pfc. Thomas C. Stagg**, Company K, 3rd Battalion, 187th Airborne Infantry Regiment. On Nov. 29, 1950, Stagg was on a reconnaissance patrol near Hajoyang-ni, North Korea, when it was ambushed. Following the battle, Stagg could not be accounted for and he was declared killed in action.

**Army Pfc. Charles C. Follese**, Company K, 3rd Battalion, 187th Airborne Infantry Regiment. On Nov. 30, 1950, Follese was part of a patrol sent to recover casualties near Hajoyang-ni, North Korea, when his patrol was ambushed. Follese could not be accounted for after the ambush and was declared killed in action.

**Army Sgt. 1st Class Eugene J. Colley**, Company C, 1st Battalion, 32nd Infantry Regiment, 7th Infantry Division. In late November 1950, his unit was assembled with South Korean soldiers into the 31st Regimental Combat Team on the east side of the Chosin River, North Korea, when his unit was attacked by Chinese forces. Colley was among 1,300 members of the RCT killed or captured in enemy territory and was declared missing on Dec. 2, 1950.

**Army Sgt. Thomas E. Zimmer**, Battery A, 57th Field Artillery Battalion, 31st Regimental Combat Team, 7th Infantry Division, on the east side of the Chosin River, North Korea, when his unit was attacked by Chinese Forces. After heavy fighting his unit was forced to withdraw to Hagaru-ri. Zimmer was unaccounted for after the battle and was reported missing as of Dec. 6, 1950.

**Army Sgt. Edward Saunders**, Company K, 3rd Battalion, 9th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Infantry Division. On the night of Feb. 11, 1951, Saunders’ company was supporting a planned offensive with the Republic of Korea’s 16th Regiment when they were attacked by Chinese forces. After heavy fighting, the unit was forced to withdraw to Hoensong, South Korea. Saunders could not be accounted for after the battle.

**Army Cpl. Joseph N. Pelletier**, Headquarters Battery, 15th Field Artillery Battalion, 2nd Infantry Division, near the Central Corridor in South Korea. While supporting Korean-led attacks on Chinese forces, they were caught in a massive Chinese counterattack on Feb. 11, 1951. Pelletier was declared missing on Feb. 13, 1951.

**Marine Corps Gunnery Sgt. Sidney A. Cook** Company E, 2nd Battalion, 8th Marine Regiment, 2nd Marine Division. Cook's unit was one of those tasked with securing the small island of Betio in the Tarawa Atoll. Cook was killed on the first day of the battle, Nov. 20, 1943.

**Marine Corps Cpl. Walter G. Critchley** Company F, 2nd Battalion, 8th Marines, 2nd Marine Division. On Nov. 20, 1943, Critchley's unit landed on the small island of Betio in the Tarawa Atoll against fierce Japanese resistance. Critchley was killed on Nov. 20, 1943.

**Marine Corps Reserve 2nd Lt. Ernest Matthews** Headquarters Company, Headquarters Battalion, Division Special Troops, 2nd Marine Division. On Nov. 20, 1943, Matthews' unit landed against stiff Japanese resistance on the small island of Betio in the Tarawa Atoll. Matthews was among approximately 1,000 Marines and sailors killed in the intense fighting

**Marine Corps Pfc. James O. Whitehurst**Company E, 2nd Battalion, 8th Marine Regiment, 2nd Marine Division. On Nov. 20, 1943, Whitehurst's unit landed on the small island of Betio in the Tarawa Atoll against stiff Japanese resistance. Whitehurst was killed on the first day of the battle.

**Marine Corps Pfc. Larry R. Roberts** Special Weapons Group, 2nd Defense Battalion, Fleet Marine Force. Roberts' unit landed on the small island of Betio in the Tarawa Atoll on Nov. 20, 1943. After five days of intense battle against the Japanese, Roberts was declared killed in action on Nov. 25, 1943.

**Army Air Forces 2nd Lt. Charles E. Carlson** was a P-47 pilot with the 62nd Fighter Squadron, 56th Fighter Group, Eighth Air Force. Carlson was shot down south of Bonn, Germany, during an air battle between American and German pilots on Dec. 23, 1944.

**Army Air Forces 1st Lt. William J. Gray** 391st Fighter Squadron, 366th Fighter Group. In April 1945, Gray flew his single seat P-47D aircraft on a dive-bombing mission in the vicinity of Lindau, Sachsen-Anhalt, Germany. After strafing a truck, Gray's aircraft clipped a tree and crashed. Gray was declared killed in action on April 16, 1945.

**Army Sgt. James W. Sharp** Battery B, 57th Field Artillery Battalion, 31st Regimental Combat Team, 7th Infantry Division. In late November 1950, his unit was assembled with South Korean soldiers in the 31st Regimental Combat Team on the east side of the Chosin River, North Korea, when his unit was attacked by Chinese forces. Sharp was was declared missing on Dec. 6, 1950.

**Marine Corps Reserve 1st Lt. William C. Ryan** was an F-4B radar intercept officer with the Marine Fighter Attack Force 115, Marine Aircraft Group 13, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, Fleet Marine Force Pacific. While pulling out of a bombing pass over Savannakhet Province, Laos, Ryan's aircraft was hit by enemy fire. Ryan failed to eject and was declared deceased as of May 11, 1969.

**Army Air Forces 2nd Lt. John D. Mumford** was a P-51C “Mustang” pilot assigned to the 318th Fighter Squadron, 325th Fighter Group, 15th Air Force. On June 6, 1944, Mumford flew escort for B-17 “Flying Fortress” bombers on their mission to bomb and destroy a German occupied airfield at Galati, Romania. Following the bombing, the formation was attacked by German fighters. Mumford pursued two German fighters before crashing near present day Novi Troyany, Ukraine.

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.

5. Useful Contact Information.

NYPD 122nd Precinct Official  Website [www.nyc.gov/html/nypd/html/precincts/precinct\_122.shtml](http://www.nyc.gov/html/nypd/html/precincts/precinct_122.shtml)

Precinct - 718-667-2211 Community Affairs - 718-667-2292 - Det. Kevin Medefindt

NYPD 122 Precinct Community Council Official Website [www.122pctcouncil.org/](http://www.122pctcouncil.org/) 718-667-2292

Community Board 2 Official Website [www.nyc.gov/html/cau/html/cb/si.shtml](http://www.nyc.gov/html/cau/html/cb/si.shtml) 718-317-3235

Assemblymember Nicole Malliotakis - Assembly District 64

Official website: <http://assembly.state.ny.us/mem/Nicole-Malliotakis/> 718-987-0197

Councilmember Steven Matteo - District 50

Official website:  <http://council.nyc.gov/d50/html/members/home.shtml> 718-980-1017

Boro President James Oddo Official Website: [www.statenislandusa.com](http://www.statenislandusa.com/) 718-816-2000

New York State Senator Andrew Lanza - 24th Senate District

Website: <https://www.nysenate.gov/senators/andrew-j-lanza> 718-984-4073

Public Advocate Letitia James Official Website: [http://pubadvocate.nyc.gov](http://pubadvocate.nyc.gov/) 212-669-7250

Congressman Dan Donovan Official Website: [https://donovan.house.gov](https://donovan.house.gov/) 718-351-1062

District Attorney Michael McMahon Official Website <http://rcda.nyc.gov/> 718-876-6300

Senator Charles E. Schumer Official Website [www.schumer.senate.gov/](http://www.schumer.senate.gov/) 212-486-4430

Senator Kirsten Gillibrand Official Website [www.gillibrand.senate.gov/](http://www.gillibrand.senate.gov/) 212-688-6262

6. Military Exchanges, which are retail stores that offer everything from electronics to apparel, will soon be opened to honorably discharged veterans, [the Department of Defense announced.](https://www.defense.gov/News/News-Releases/News-Release-View/Article/1049503/department-of-defense-extends-online-military-exchange-shopping-privileges-to-v) Dubbed the ["Veterans Online Shopping Benefit,"](https://www.shopmyexchange.com/) 20 million veterans will be able to shop online at Army and Air Force Exchanges come Nov. 11 -- Veterans Day. "We are excited to provide these benefits to honorably discharged veterans to recognize their service and welcome them home to their military family," said Peter Levine, who performs duties under the secretary of defense for personnel and readiness. "In addition, this initiative represents a low-risk, low-cost opportunity to help fund morale, welfare and recreation programs in support of service members' and their families' quality of life. And it's just the right

thing to do,"

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Shopping privileges exclude the purchase of uniforms, alcohol and tobacco products.

7. Mayor de Blasio Proposes Cuts for NYC Veterans. Mayor de Blasio released his administration’s preliminary budget for Fiscal Year 2018 (which begins on July 1st). This is the first step in the city’s process of putting resources behind its priorities. Unfortunately we see a strong statement here about NYC’s veterans, military members, and their families—less funding during a year when the city has had very strong tax revenues. Simply put, we just aren’t a priority in Mayor de Blasio’s budget. Back in 2015, the budget for veterans was just [$600,000](http://www.nycveteransalliance.org/20150416)—and on Memorial Day that year, de Blasio’s administration [insisted that there was no need for anything larger—that the small office and budget “is as it should be.”](http://www.nydailynews.com/opinion/loree-sutton-mayor-de-blasio-promise-veterans-article-1.2232709) Our community saw things differently. We called on our city government to do more for veterans—and we got results. But this is only the beginning. Last year we saw a huge effort to establish the new NYC Department of Veterans’ Services (DVS) with a budget of $2.9 million, and the work of Commissioner Sutton and her new team has been impressive and gives us hope.**But we simply cannot shortchange veterans next year. Especially when our mayor boasts of a new budget with the**[**"highest reserves we've ever had."**](http://www.nydailynews.com/new-york/de-blasio-proposes-84-67b-city-budget-article-1.2954550)

Here are some key details of what Mayor de Blasio has proposed for veterans in his [2018 budget](http://www1.nyc.gov/site/omb/publications/finplan01-17.page):

### **1. Less Funding for DVS.** The Mayor proposes to cut $317,000 from the amount DVS received last year. Granted, there are one-time or short-term costs for supplies and equipment for the new agency to establish itself, which we see in many cut budget lines. But once a new agency is established, it shouldn’t be trimming back—it should be expanding with new capabilities and programs and outreach. For example, we hope to see more DVS staff providing outreach across the city, yet funds for travel reimbursements have been cut by $6,000. We want to see more printed publications for our huge population of veterans who don’t regularly access the internet, yet funds for printing and general supplies have been slashed by more than $155,000. Our community of veterans, military members, and their families are just beginning to see that there’s a new agency in place to support them—and the new DVS is just in its first phases of showing us what they can do. **We can’t start going back to the old “it is as it should be” days of limited funding for veterans--we need more, not less.**

### **2. Elimination of Homelessness Prevention Staff Position.** The Mayor proposes to cut one key homelessness prevention staff position created in last year's budget. This leaves DVS with 34 personnel rather than the 35 planned for the new agency; 8 remaining staff members are dedicated to homelessness prevention, in addition to 4 staff members at the Department of Homeless Services who interact with homeless veterans on streets and in shelters. Affordable housing is a top priority of our membership, and it is a far broader issue spanning beyond the crisis of veteran homelessness. We need more smart staff—not less—working on solutions for veterans to afford housing. A core promise that our nation makes to veterans is to enable them to purchase a home—yet this promise is far too unattainable for far too many veterans who can barely afford to pay rent in the five boroughs. Getting veterans off the streets and out of homeless shelters isn’t nearly enough to fulfill our nation’s and our city's obligation to veterans. **We cannot afford to lose staffing in a brand new agency, especially related to housing.**

### **3. Zero Funding for** [Veterans Alternative (School Tax) Exemption](http://www.nycveteransalliance.org/int_1304)****.**** Even though the new budget proposal reports that the city’s assessed property tax value (including existing exemptions for veterans and elderly) went up by ****$17.6 billion**** (no, that’s not a typo), the Mayor could not find the funding to provide veteran homeowners with long overdue relief from school taxes, which have [increased more than 60% since 2003](http://www.nycveteransalliance.org/property_tax_exemption). The estimated cost of this exemption would be [$39.6 million](http://www.silive.com/news/index.ssf/2016/12/staten_island_veterans_rally_f.html)—which is less, for example, than what the city brings in annually from [cigarette taxes](http://www1.nyc.gov/assets/omb/downloads/pdf/tech1-17.pdf). Our city can and must provide this long-overdue exemption to veteran homeowners. **Budgeting for the Veterans Alternative Tax Exemption is the least that Mayor de Blasio can do, and just one step toward meeting our city’s obligation to ensure veterans can afford homes in the city they call home.**

### **We made a difference in 2015--and it's time to keep those gains from being rolled back. Let Mayor de Blasio know he needs to support veterans in the 2018 budget by calling 311 or sending him an online message (click** [HERE](http://www.nyc.gov/html/static/pages/officeofthemayor/contact.shtml)**).**

**Items of Interest**

**Bureaucracies**

Dakota tribal wisdom says that when you discover you are riding a dead horse, the best strategy is to dismount. However, in business we often try other strategies with dead horses, including the following:

1. Buying a bigger whip.

2. Changing riders.

3. Saying things like "This is the way we always have ridden this horse."

4. Appointing a committee to study the horse.

5. Arranging to visit other sites to see how they ride dead horses.

6. Increasing the standards to ride dead horses.

7. Appointing a tiger team to revive the dead horse.

8. Creating a training session to increase our riding ability.

9. Comparing the state of dead horses in today's environment.

10. Change the requirements declaring that "This horse is not dead."

11. Hire contractors to ride the dead horse.

12. Harnessing several dead horses together for increased speed.

13. Declaring that "No horse is too dead to beat."

14. Providing additional funding to increase the horse's performance.

15. Do a CA Study to see if contractors can ride it cheaper.

16. Purchase a product to make dead horses run faster.

17. Declare the horse is "better, faster and cheaper" dead.

18. Form a quality circle to find uses for dead horses.

19. Revisit the performance requirements for horses.

20. Say this horse was procured with cost as an independent variable.

21. Promote the dead horse to a supervisory position.