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

**17 CANNON AVENUE**

**STATEN ISLAND, NY 10314**

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

**September 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 |
| 9 September | Blazing Star Post Meeting | Gold Star Post | 1000 | Saturday |
| 24 September | MOH Memorial | Baron Hirsch Cemetery | 1315 |  |
| 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 |

Calendar of Events for 2018

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Date | Event  | Location  | Time | Remarks |
| 6 January | Blazing Star Post Meeting | Gold Star Post | 1000 | Saturday |
| 3 February | Blazing Star Post Meeting | Gold Star Post | 1000 | Saturday |
| 3 March | Blazing Star Post Meeting | Gold Star Post | 1000 | Saturday |
| 7 April | Blazing Star Post Meeting | Gold Star Post | 1000 | Saturday |
| 5 May  | Blazing Star Post Meeting | Gold Star Post | 1000 | Saturday |
| 2 June | Blazing Star Post Meeting | Gold Star Post | 1000 | Saturday |
| 7 July | Blazing Star Post Meeting | Gold Star Post | 1000 | Saturday |
| 4 August  | Blazing Star Post Meeting | Gold Star Post | 1000 | Saturday |
| 5 September | Blazing Star Post Meeting | Gold Star Post | 1300 | Wednesday |
| 3 October | Blazing Star Post Meeting | Gold Star Post | 1300 | Wednesday |
| 7 November | Blazing Star Post Meeting | Gold Star Post | 1300 | Wednesday |
| 5 December | Blazing Star Post Meeting | Gold Star Post | 1300 | Wednesday |

**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 on 31 Dec             Payment in Full             Installment Plan Option
                         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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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Mahoney, Elizabeth L | Current Until | 8/21/2017 | ***EXPIRED*** |
| Scazzafavo, Laura A | Current Until | 9/18/2017 | ***12*** |
| Krigel, Adam C | Current Until | 6/26/2017 | ***EXPIRED*** |
| Robinson, James A | Current Until | 6/6/2017 | ***EXPIRED*** |

3. VFW Continuous Membership Awards. Congratulations to all! Formal presentations to be scheduled.

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| Member | Award |
| Joseph Modzelewski | 50 Year |
| Martin Satloff | 50 Year |
| Jack O'Day | 30 Year |
| John Byrnes | 25 Year |
| John Diana | 20 Year |
| Gene Guerra | 15 Year |
| Paul Dietrich | 5 Year |
| Albert Porto | 5 Year |
| William Alcock | 5 Year |

**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, Doug Encarcion.

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 – <http://www.veteranscrisisline.net/ThePowerof1.aspx>.

6. Online Health Care Application.[www.vets.gov](https://www.vets.gov/).  or call 877-222-VETS (8387).

7. Veterans Representative on Staten Island. Matthew Basile, Borough Hall, Room G-15 and at CSI Campus Center, Room 216. **(646) 799-2743** or emailing **mbasile@veterans.nyc.gov**. Also at NYC Department of Veterans' Services
1 Centre Street, Suite 2208, New York, NY 10007, DVS General Phone: (212) 416-5250

8. [Vets.gov](http://vets.gov/) Connects Veterans to Services.

9. 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.

10. The following web site is the medical providers close to your house who have accepted the VA Choice program and are registered to do so.  Quite a few here on SI.  It gives a map where you can see them in relation to where you live or work.  You can also get contact information to reach out to them. <https://www.va.gov/opa/apps/locator/>

**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.

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:

**USMC Gunnery Sgt. Sidney A. Cook**,32,Co E, 2nd Bn, 8th Marine Regt, 2nd Marine Division, Tarawa, Nov. 20, 1943.  **Navy Reserve Ensign William M. Thompson**, 21, USS Oklahoma, Pearl Harbor, Dec. 7, 1941.

**USMCR Cpl. Henry Andregg, Jr**., 22, Co C, 2nd Amphibious Tractor Bn, 2nd Marine Division, Tarawa, Nov. 20.

**Army Sgt. 1st Class Max E. Harris**, 21, 3rd Bn, 31st Infantry Regt, 7th Infantry Division, Chosin Reservoir North Korea.

**Army Pfc. Felipe A. Champion**, 20, Co K, 3rd Bn, 38th Infantry Regiment, Central Corridor, South Korea.

**Air Force Col. Martin R. Scott**, 34, 8th Tactical Fighter Wing, over North Vietnam, March 15, 1966.

**Air Force Reserve 1st Lt. David T. Dinan, III**, 25, 34th Tactical Fighter Sqdn, over northern Laos.

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. 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.

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5. The College of Staten Island blood drive dates are below.  October dates are confirmed.  The 2018 dates are still tentative.  October 24, October 25, January 8, April 3, April 4, June 18.

6. The Harry W. Colmery Veterans Educational Assistance Act of 2017, H.R. 3218, passed by the House and Senate was signed by the President on August 16, 2017. Also known as the Forever G.I. Bill, the legislation improves provisions in the existing G.I. Bill and provides more flexibility for using educational benefits.  The measure contains a number of provisions that specifically impact disabled veterans and their families, including:

* Increases monthly Dependents Educational Assistance (DEA) payments by about 40 percent effective October 1, 2018 (note: effective August 1, 2018, DEA decreases from 45 to 36 months to be consistent with other VA educational programs);
* Eliminates the 15-year limit for using the G.I. Bill, allowing for the use of the educational benefits for life, for those who were discharged after January 1, 2013;
* Grants full G.I. Bill benefits to Purple Heart Recipients, regardless of total time in service effective August 1, 2018;
* Provides G.I. Bill eligibility for reservists undergoing medical care for active duty injuries effective August 1, 2018;
* Restores used G.I. bill benefits to enrolled students whose school permanently closes after January 1, 2015, effective November 14, 2017; and
* Allows veterans who are National Guard members and Reservists who are receiving Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment (VR&E) benefits, to "pause" their eligibility so their time under the VR&E program is not negatively affected while called up for active duty orders. This provision takes effect immediately.

**7. Important message from Texas Past State Commander Dan West.**With over **26,000+** VFW/Auxiliary members in the affected areas of Hurricane Harvey and dozens of VFW Posts being damaged, completely destroyed or flooded in an area covering over 500+ miles I and the rest of Department headquarters staff have been busy calling, emailing, texting and private messaging as many VFW/Auxiliary members as we can, and while we have heard from most we still have members we are trying to reach. We continue to coordinate resources with those affected and those who want to help.

I know that we have still have members stranded in their houses, many without power or potable water, we have members who have evacuated or who have been evacuated as the water continued to rise and they for the most part are living in shelters, having escaped with only the clothes on their backs. We also have hundreds of our VFW members who have been activated with the Texas National Guard and who are already on the ground helping. They are joined by the thousands of Texans who have come to assist their neighbors as best they can in this time of great need. There are some estimates that in Houston alone over 40,000 homes have been damaged and are unlivable, meaning these families will need help for weeks if not months in the future. As each of your Posts not affected mobilize to provide funds and materials for our fellow Texans in need, please know that the Texas VFW and the Texas VFW Foundation have created and funded a very limited disaster assistance program of $100,000.00. The National VFW Council of Administration has also made a very generous offer of matching donated funds up to $50,000.00. Yet due to the sheer size of the affected area and the number of members and veterans involved more funds will be needed. In talking with my campaign staff we have temporarily suspended my fundraising operations for my campaign and made a donation to the Texas VFW Foundation as there are members who will need the funds to survive, recover and rebuild and their needs are definitely more important. I know many people I am sending this email out to, are in the affected area and they may or may not receive it as they may not have power or access to email if they do. Nevertheless my thoughts and prayers are with those affected by this epic disaster of historic proportion.

**Items of Interest**

