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

**17 CANNON AVENUE**

**STATEN ISLAND, NY 10314**

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

**November 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 |
| 3 November | Poppy Distribution | SI Ferry | 0700-1000 |  |
| 3 November | Poppy Distribution | Bayway Refinery | 1100-1300 |  |
| 4 November | Blazing Star Post Meeting | Gold Star Post | 1000 | Saturday |
| 5 November | Poppy Distribution | Shop-Rite | 0900-1500 |  |
| 8 November | Annual Veterans Breakfast | St Adalbert's School | 0800 | 718-442-2020 |
| 11 November | Veterans Assistance Desk | Applebee's | 1600-1800 |  |
| 15 November | Veterans Portrait Project | College of Staten Island | 1000-1600 |  |
| 15 November | Education on Veterans Affairs Lunch | Labetti Post | 1200 |  |
| 16 November | Veterans Portrait Project | College of Staten Island | 1000-1600 |  |
| 16 November | Annual Veterans Breakfast | Old Bermuda Inn | 1000 | 718-356-2867 |
| 18 November | Poppy Distribution | Stop and Shop | 0900-1500 |  |
| 19 November | Poppy Distribution | Stop and Shop | 0900-1500 |  |
| 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:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Robinson, James A | Current Until | 6/6/2017 | ***EXPIRED*** |

**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:

**Army Staff Sgt. Michael Aiello,** 35, Co G, 401st Glider Infantry Regt (GIR) Operation Market Garden in Sep 1944.

**Army Pfc. Richard A. Lucas,** 17, Co C, 1st Bn, 9th Infantry Regt, 2nd Infantry Division, North Korea, Nov. 26, 1950.  **Army Pfc. Walter C. Hackenberg,** 22, Co F, 2nd Bn, 35th Inf Regt, 25th Infantry Division, South Korea, April 25, 1951.  **Navy Shopfitter 3rd Class Francis L. Hannon,** USS Oklahoma, Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, Dec. 7, 1941.  **USMC Pfc. Arnold J. Harrison,** Co B, 1st Bn, 2nd Marine Regt, 2nd Marine Division, Tarawa, Nov. 20, 1943.

**Army Sgt 1st Class Lester R. Walker,** Btry B, 82nd AAA Bn, 2nd Inf Div, Changnyeong, South Korea, Sept. 3, 1950.  **USMCR Pfc. Donald E. Eichschlag,** Co D, 2nd Bn, 7th Marine Regt, 1st Marine Div, North Korea, Nov. 28, 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. 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. The USS HUE CITY will be coming to New York City,docking at the Staten Island Pier over Veterans Day weekend.

The ship will be available for tours as listed below:

NOVEMBER 10        10:00 a.m -5:00 p.m

NOVEMBER  11       10:00 a.m -5:00 p.m.

NOVEMBER 12        10:00 a.m- 5:00 p.m.

Anyone who wants a tour of the ship  please RSVP to me with the name of your group e.g. Boy Scout Troop 1234, American Legion Post # 1234,  VFW Post # 1234 , Friends of VFW Post #1234 , the time that you desire  & the approximate # of people attending. The sooner  I get that info the better but please no later than November 6th. I will do my best on any later requests but I don't want to inconvenience the crew. This will ensure the maximum efficiency of the ships crew & afford these fine men & women more time to enjoy" liberty" in NYC.

Capt. Gillen has requested that I extend the invitation to as many Vietnam veterans & especially those who fought at Hue City as possible. If you know of any Hue City veterans, please have them contact me as the Captain & crew would like to meet them.So if you know of any individuals or veteran organizations whose members were at that battle please inform them as well as notifying me.

All adults please have photo ID in your possession.

Kevin J. McCann, Post Commander, VFW Post 8450, 718 634 2157, captain947@aol.com

**Items of Interest**

**Military Rules for the Non-Military Personnel for Veterans Day**

Dear Civilians,
We know that Veterans Day is upon us and you're excited to thank veterans for their service. For those of you who have not served in the military, you can still lend a hand. Here are a few of the areas we would like your assistance:

1) When you see an adult talking, wearing a hat or **kneeling** during the playing of the National Anthem ... kick their ass.

2) When you witness firsthand someone burning the American Flag in protest... kick their ass.

3) Regardless of the rank they held while they served, pay the highest amount of respect to all veterans. If you see anyone doing otherwise, quietly pull them aside and explain how these Veterans fought for the very freedom they bask in every second. Enlighten them on the many sacrifices these Veterans made to make this Nation great. Then hold them down while a Disabled Veteran kicks their ass.

4) (GUYS) If you were never in the military, DO NOT pretend that you were. Wearing battle dress uniforms (BDUs), telling others that you used to be "Special Forces," and collecting GI Joe memorabilia, might have been okay if you were still seven. Now, it will only make you look stupid and get your ass kicked.

5) Next time you come across an Air Force member, do not ask them, "Do you fly a jet?" Not everyone in the Air Force is a pilot. Such ignorance deserves an ass kicking (children are exempt).

6) If you witness someone calling the U.S. Coast Guard non military, inform them of their mistake...and kick their ass.

7) Next time Old Glory (U.S. flag) prances by during a parade, get on your damn feet and pay homage to her by placing your hand over your heart. Quietly thank the military member or veteran lucky enough to be carrying her...of course, failure to do either of those could earn you a severe ass kicking.

8) Don't try to discuss politics with a military member or a veteran. We are Americans and we all bleed the same regardless of our party affiliation. Our Chain of Command, is to include our commander in Chief. The President (for those who didn't know) is our CIC regardless of political party. We have no inside track on what happens inside those big important buildings where all those  representatives" meet. All we know is that when those civilian representatives screw up the situation, they call upon the military to go straighten it out. The military member might direct you to Oliver North. (I can see him kicking your ass already.)

9) "Your mama wears combat boots" never made sense to me ... stop saying it! If she did, she would most likely be a vet and probably kick your ass!

10) Flyboy (Air Force), Jar Head (Marines), Grunt (Army), Squid (Navy), are terms of endearment we use describing each other. Unless you are a service member or vet, you have not earned the right to use them. Could get your ass kicked.

11) Last but not least, whether or not you become a member of the military, support our troops and their families. Every Thanksgiving and religious holiday that you enjoy with family and friends please remember that there are, literally, thousands of troops far from home wishing they could be with their families. Thank God for our military and the sacrifices they make every day. Without them, our country would get its ass kicked.