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

**17 CANNON AVENUE**

**STATEN ISLAND, NY 10314**

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

**December 2017**

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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**

2017

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Date | Event | Location | | Time | Remarks |
| 2 December | Blazing Star Post Meeting | Gold Star Post | | 1000 | Saturday |
| 14 December | Richmond County Council Meeting | | Blazing Star | 1000 | Blazing Star |

2018

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Date | Event | Location | Time | Remarks |
| 6 January | Blazing Star Post Meeting | Gold Star Post | 1000 | Saturday |
| 11 January | Richmond County Council Meeting | Labetti | 1100 | Labetti |
| 3 February | Blazing Star Post Meeting | Gold Star Post | 1000 | Saturday |
| 8 February | Richmond County Council Meeting | Blazing Star | 1100 | Andersen-Lagno |
| 3 March | Blazing Star Post Meeting | Gold Star Post | 1000 | Saturday |
| 8 March | Richmond County Council Meeting | North Shore | 1100 | Mariners Harbor |
| 7 April | Blazing Star Post Meeting | Gold Star Post | 1000 | Saturday |
| 12 April | Richmond County Council Meeting | Labetti | 1100 | Brian Wallace |
| 5 May | Blazing Star Post Meeting | Gold Star Post | 1000 | Saturday |
| 10 May | Richmond County Council Meeting | North Shore | 1100 | North Shore |
| 2 June | Blazing Star Post Meeting | Gold Star Post | 1000 | Saturday |
| 14 June | Richmond County Council Meeting | Ollis | 1100 | Ollis |
| 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:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Curry, Albert | Current Until | 12/31/2017 | ***33*** |
| Delsante Sr, Joseph | Current Until | 12/31/2017 | ***33*** |
| Eans, Ernest | Current Until | 6/4/2018 |  |
| Encarnacion, Douglas | Current Until | 1/12/2018 | ***45*** |
| Gordon, Chris E | UnPaid | 11/22/2017 | ***EXPIRED*** |
| Griffo, Arnold P | Current Until | 12/31/2017 | ***33*** |
| Guerra, Eugene D | Current Until | 12/31/2017 | ***33*** |
| Maloney, Brian T | Current Until | 12/31/2017 | ***33*** |
| Palmieri, Mario A | Current Until | 12/31/2017 | ***33*** |
| Robinson, James A | UnPaid | 6/6/2017 | ***EXPIRED*** |
| Scher, Adam A | Current Until | 12/31/2017 | ***33*** |
| Sjursen, Daniel A | Current Until | 12/31/2017 | ***33*** |
| Smith, Gerald F | Current Until | 12/31/2017 | ***33*** |
| Sogomonyan, Fianna | Current Until | 12/31/2017 | ***33*** |
| Tolas, Raymond | Current Until | 1/7/2018 | ***40*** |
| Treadaway, Ann M | Current Until | 12/31/2017 | ***33*** |

3. Poppy Distribution. Thanks to all who participated in the latest Poppy Distribtuion Drive!!!

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Joe Cassar | Paul Dietrich | Jack O'Day | Marty Satloff |
| Sal Dilorenzo | Gene Guerra | Denny Pizzini | Laura Scazzafavo |

**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, 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**](mailto: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=.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 Air Forces 2nd Lt. Donald E. Underwood**,23, 30th Bombardment Group, Helen Island, Jan. 21, 1944.

**Navy Reserve Radioman 2nd Class Julius H.O. Pieper** LST-523off the coast of Normandy, France, June 19, 1944.

**Army Sgt. Ollie E. Shepard** Co I, 3rd Bn, 31st Inf Regt, 7th Infantry Division, Chosin River, North Korea, Dec. 3, 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.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 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. 'Tis The Season for Giving. Americans are very generous by nature, especially during the Holiday Season of Christmas and Chanukah. However, Americans also want to make sure that the charity or cause they are donating to genuinely applies donations to the intended recipients. Here are several organizations which meet that criteria:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Organization | Program Expenses(Percent of the charity's total expenses spent on the programs and services it delivers) |
| Army Emergency Relief | 87.0% |
| Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society | 86.3% |
| Air Force Aid Society | 83.4% |
| Veterans of Foreign Wars Foundation | 78.8% |
| Wounded Warrior Project | 73.7% |
| USO | 60.6% |

{Source: Charity Navigator.org. If you have a another charity in mind, log on to Charity Navigator.org to view charity profiles and ratings.}

**Items of Interest**

Noah's Ark :Everything I need to know, I learned from Noah's Ark.

**ONE**: Don't miss the boat.

**TWO**: Remember that we are all in the same boat!

**THREE**: Plan ahead. It wasn't raining when Noah built the Ark.

**FOUR**: Stay fit. When you're 80 years old, someone may ask you to do something really big

**FIVE**: Don't listen to critics; just get on with the job that needs to be done.

**SIX:** Build your future on high ground.

**SEVEN**: For safety's sake, travel in pairs.

EIGHT: Speed isn't always an advantage.. The snails were on board with the cheetahs.

**NINE**: When you're stressed, float awhile.

TEN: Remember, the Ark was built by amateurs; the Titanic by professionals.

**ELEVEN:** No matter the storm, there's always a rainbow waiting.