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

**17 CANNON AVENUE**

**STATEN ISLAND, NY 10314**

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

**January 2019**

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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**

2019

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Date | Event  | Location  | Time | Remarks |
| 5 January  | Blazing Star Post Meeting | Gold Star Post | 1000 | Saturday |
| 2 February | Blazing Star Post Meeting | Gold Star Post | 1000 | Saturday |
| 2 March | Blazing Star Post Meeting | Gold Star Post | 1000 | Saturday |
| 6 April | Blazing Star Post Meeting | Gold Star Post | 1000 | Saturday |
| 4 May | Blazing Star Post Meeting | Gold Star Post | 1000 | Saturday |
| 1 June | Blazing Star Post Meeting | Gold Star Post | 1000 | Saturday |
| 13 July | Blazing Star Post Meeting | Gold Star Post | 1000 | Saturday |
| 3 August | Blazing Star Post Meeting | Gold Star Post | 1000 | Saturday |
| 4 September | Blazing Star Post Meeting | Gold Star Post | 1300 | Wednesday |
| 2 October | Blazing Star Post Meeting | Gold Star Post | 1300 | Wednesday |
| 6 November | Blazing Star Post Meeting | Gold Star Post | 1300 | Wednesday |
| 4 December | Blazing Star Post Meeting | Gold Star Post | 1300 | Wednesday |

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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 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. We are collecting items such as snacks, microwave popcorn, jiffy pop and hard candies, etc. for fellow post member Adam Scher who is deployed to Afghanistan.

3. Dues Renewal Reminder:

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Curry, Albert | UnPaid | 12/31/2017 | **EXPIRED** | Maloney, Brian T | UnPaid | 12/31/2017 | **EXPIRED** |
| Hayes, Matthew T | UnPaid | 5/9/2018 | **EXPIRED** | Ruggiero, Blenda C | UnPaid | 6/29/2018 | **EXPIRED** |
| Johnson, Khadijah L | UnPaid | 5/2/2018 | **EXPIRED** | Sheinwald, Abe | UnPaid | 3/30/2018 | **EXPIRED** |
| Krishna, Ash | UnPaid | 6/18/2018 | **EXPIRED** | Krigel, Adam C. | UnPaid | 10/31/2018 | **EXPIRED** |
| Leunes, Peter | UnPaid | 5/16/2018 | **EXPIRED** | Moore, Thomas | UnPaid | 12/31/2018 | 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. DD Form 214 website. http://vetrecs.archives.gov. If you need assistance, contact the post service officer, Doug Encarcion.

3. 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>

4. 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>.

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

6. 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

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

8. John Bartow, Assistant VSO, Veterans of Foreign Wars 518-626-5687.

9. 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/>

10. A VBA Representative at the Staten Island Vet Center every Wednesday.  **There are no walk-ins everyone must call  (718)816-4499 to set up an appointment.**  All services are free. Samuel B. Cottes, Jr., Veterans Outreach

Specialist, Staten Island Veterans Center, US Department of Veterans Affairs; Readjustment Counseling Services, 60 Bay Street, Staten Island, NY 10301 Tel:   (718) 816-4499 x 7747 Cell:  (929) 359-2449 Fax:  (718) 816-6899

11. Discharge Upgrade Online Tool.

<http://www.ourveterans.nyc/discharge_upgrade_online_tool?utm_campaign=180129&utm_medium=email&utm_source=nycveteransalliance>

**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. Go to the Security Office with proof of military/veteran status. You will be given 12 parking stamps. Place them on parking ticket and no fee.

2. 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.

3. The Defense POW/MIA Office announced the identification of remains belonging to the following personnel. Returned

home are:

**Army Pfc. John A. Taylor,** Co C, 2nd Bn, 24th Infantry Regt, 25th Inf Div. Haman, Aug. 12, 1950.

**Army Master Sgt. Carl H. Lindquist,** HQ Co, 3rd Bn, 31st Inf Regt, 7th Inf Div, Chosin River, No. Korea, Nov. 29, 1950.

**Army Air Forces 1st Lt. Ottaway B. Cornwell,** 52nd Fighter Group, Pierrefeu-du-Var, France, Jan. 27, 1944.

**Navy Radioman 3rd Class Jack R. Goldwater,** USS Oklahoma, Pearl Harbor, Dec. 7, 1941.

**Navy Fireman 1st Class Leonard R. Geller,** USS Oklahoma, Pearl Harbor, Dec. 7, 1941.

**Navy Reserve Musician 1st Class Henri C. Mason**USS Oklahoma, Pearl Harbor, Dec. 7, 1941.

**Navy Shopfitter 3rd Class John M. Donald**USS Oklahoma, Pearl Harbor, Dec. 7, 1941.

**Navy Seaman 2nd Class George A. Thompson**USS Oklahoma, Pearl Harbor, Dec. 7, 1941.

**Air Force Col. Richard A. Kibbey**, 38th Aerospace Rescue and Recovery Squadron, over North Vietnam, Feb. 6, 1967, **-Army Sgt. 1st Class James L. Boyce,** Co K, 3rd Bn, 21st Inf Regt, 24th Inf Div, Chonui, South Korea, July 11, 1950. **-- Army Cpl. Frederick E. Coons,** Co A, 1st Bn, 34th Inf Regt, 24th Inf Div, Geochang, South Korea On July 29, 1950.

**Army Pfc. William H. Jones,** Co E, 2nd Bn, 24th Inf Regt, 25th Inf Div, Pakchon, North Korea, Nov. 26, 1950.

**Army Pfc. George L. Spangenberg,** Co E, 8th Cav Regt, 1st Cav Div, Unsan, North Korea, Dec. 21, 1953.

**Army Pfc. James P. Shaw,** Co G, 2nd Bn, 7th Inf Regt, 3rd Inf Div, North Korea, June 23, 1951.

**Army Air Forces Sgt. Vernon L. Hamilton,** 409th Bomb Gp, Dülmen, Germany, On March 23, 1945.

**Army Air Forces 2nd Lt. Lynn W. Hadfield,** 409th Bomb Gp, Dülmen, Germany, On March 23, 1945.

**Army Air Forces 2nd Lt. Hulen A. Leinweber,** 35th Fighter Gp, Philippines, June 10, 1945.

**Army Air Forces 2nd Lt. James R. Lord,** 57th Fighter Gp, Anghione, Corsica, On Aug. 10, 1944.

**Army Pvt. William A. Boegli,** Co L, 332nd Inf Regt, 81st Inf Div, Angaur Island, Sept. 30, 1944.

**USMCR Pfc. Nicholas J. Gojmerac,** Co Q, 4th Raider Bn, Bairoko Harbor, New Georgia Island, July 20, 1943.

**USNR Pharmacist’s Mate 3rd Class William H. Blancheri,** HQ Co, 2nd Bn, 2nd Mar Div, Tarawa, Nov. 20, 1943. **Marine Corps Pfc. Michael L. Salerno,** Coy K, 3rd Bn, 2nd Mar Regt, 2nd Mar Div, Tarawa, Nov. 20, 1943.

**USMCR Pvt. Fred E. Freet,** Co F, 2nd Bn, 8th Mar, 2nd Mar Div, Tarawa, Nov. 20, 1943.

**USS Oklahoma:** The following personnel were stationed aboard the USS Oklahoma, Pearl Harbor, Dec. 7, 1941.

-- **Navy Seaman 2nd Class Wilbur C. Barrett**.
-- **Navy Storekeeper 2nd Class Gerald L. Clayton**.
-- **Navy Storekeeper 1st Class John W. Craig**.
-- **Navy Fireman 3rd Class Warren H. Crim**.
-- **Navy Musician 2nd Class Francis E. Dick**.
-- **Navy Seaman 2nd Class George T. George**.
-- **Navy Seaman 2nd Class Charles C. Gomez**.
-- **Navy Fireman 1st Class Claude O. Gowey**.
-- **Navy Seaman 1st Class Daniel L. Guisinger**.
-- **Navy Seaman 1st Class Robert W. Headington**.
-- **Navy Seaman 2nd Class Challis R. James**.
-- **Navy Seaman 1st Class Wesley V. Jordan**
-- **Navy Radioman 3rd Class Howard V. Keffer**.
-- **Navy Seaman 2nd Class Joe M. Kelley**.
-- **Navy Fireman 1st Class Elmer D. Nail**.
-- **Navy Fireman 1st Class Frank E. Nicoles**.

-- **Navy Storekeeper 3rd Class Eli Olsen**.
-- **Navy Fireman 1st Class Millard C. Pace**.
-- **Navy Electrician’s Mate 3rd Class Merle A. Smith**.
-- **Navy Reserve Fireman 1st Class Lewis F. Tindall**.

4. 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 |  |

5. Staten Island Community TV: Veterans TV Shows are available 24 hours a day via Youtube. To view, google "Youtube, Ed Salek, In Honor of" or go to Youtube.com and search for Ed Salek, In Honor of.

6. Senator Andrew Lanza Announces Legal Services Clinic Series for Veterans

*Free civil legal services are available for veterans, current service members and military connected family members*

I am proud to have secured funding in this year's State budget to support New York Legal Assistance Group's (NYLAG) Veterans Legal Assistance Project. In support of Staten Island's veterans, I will continue hosting NYLAG attorneys at my district office for a series of one-on-one legal clinics. Veterans, current service members and military connected family members are invited to schedule a free appointment with a NYLAG attorney on civil legal issues.

Legal Issues That Veterans Can Discuss With NYLAG

* **Veterans Benefits:** VA service connected compensation, VA non-service connected disability pensions, accessing VA healthcare, discharge upgrades
* **Consumer Protection:** debt matters, bankruptcy, mortgage and foreclosure issues
* **Family Law:**child support, custody/visitation, uncontested divorce
* **Housing Issues:** eviction prevention, landlord disputes, unsafe or hazardous housing conditions
* **Advance Planning:** last wills and testaments, medical advance directives, powers of attorney
* **Public Benefits:** Medicaid, Medicare, Social Security Disability (SSD), Supplemental Security Insurance (SSI), SNAP (Food Stamps)

Senator Lanza’s District Office - 3845 Richmond Avenue, Staten Island, NY 10312

\*\*APPOINTMENTS ARE REQUIRED\*\*
Appointments from 1pm-4pm
Tuesday, January 8, 2019
Tuesday, February 12, 2019
Tuesday, March 12, 2019
Tuesday, April 9, 2019

**Items of Interest**

**Bureaucracies**

Anybody who's ever worked in a bureaucracy (large OR small) will understand this...

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.