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

**17 CANNON AVENUE**

**STATEN ISLAND, NY 10314**

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

**October 2018**

|  |
| --- |
| 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 |

**IN MEMORIAM**



Mario A. Palmieri, age 95, passed away September 17, 2018. Mr. Palmieri was born in Brooklyn, NY on August 2, 1923. He was preceded in death by his loving wife of 41 years, Eleanor DeStefano Palmieri, who passed away in 1989. Mario attended college and later on served in the United States Army, serving in Italy from 1943 to 1946. He received various medals/honors while being there, including the W.W. II Victory Medal and the European/African/Mid Eastern Medal of Good Conduct. He was a member of the Blazing Star Harbor VFW in Staten Island. Mario was a General Contractor in NYC and Florida. He is survived by his daughters Susan Palmieri, Rosemary Palmieri, and Linda Evanko, as well as his grandchildren Dylan, Danielle (Kevin), Lauren, Donald, and two great-grandchildren.

Peter Speziale, age 46, passed away September 26th, 2018. Peter served in the United States Army, serving in Korea in the 1960s. He was a member of the Blazing Star Harbor VFW in Staten Island where he also served as Trustee.

**Calendar Events**

2018

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Date | Event | Location | Time | Remarks |
| 3 October | Blazing Star Post Meeting | Gold Star Post | 1300 | Wednesday |
| 13 October | Oktoberfest | Marine Corps League | 1200-1900 | $5.00 718-273-1200 |
| 20 October | Walk-a-Thon | Various | All Day | Exercise 22 minutes |
| 22 October | College of Staten Island Blood Drive | Green Dolphin Room | 1130-1730 |  |
| 23 October | College of Staten Island Blood Drive | Green Dolphin Room | 0800-1400 |  |
| 27 October | Poppy Distribution | Shop Rite | 0900-1500 | Tentative |
| 2 November | Poppy Distribution | SI Ferry | 0700-1000 | Tentative |
| 2 November | Poppy Distribution | Philips Refinery | 1100-1300 | Tentative |
| 3 November | Poppy Distribution | Stop & Shop | 0900-1500 | Tentative |
| 4 November | Poppy Distribution | Stop & Shop | 0900-1500 | Tentative |
| 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. Blazing Star member wakes. We all will be in this situation eventually and would like our families to be comforted by the presence of fellow veterans. Please make every effort to attend. The poem posted in this newsletter's items of interest says it all.

3. 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.

4. VFW National has reengaged a national company to call unpaid members encouraging them to renew their membership.  This program was initiated last year and is being used again for this membership year.

Gene Ratigliano State Commander

5. 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** | Scazzafavo, Laura | | Current | 9/30/2018 | **2 days** |
| Krishna, Ash | UnPaid | 6/18/2018 | **EXPIRED** | Sheinwald, Abe | | UnPaid | 3/30/2018 | **EXPIRED** |
| Leunes, Peter | UnPaid | 5/16/2018 | **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:\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. John Bartow, Assistant VSO, Veterans of Foreign Wars 518-626-5687.

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/>

11. 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

12. 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=.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:

**USMC Pfc. Roger Gonzales**, 20, Co F, 2nd Bn, 7th Marine Regt, 1st Marine Division, North Korea, Nov. 29, 1950.

**Army Cpl. Morris Meshulam**, 19, Btry D, 82nd AAA Bn, 2nd Infantry Division, Sunchon, North Korea, Dec. 1, 1950.  **Army Pfc. Willard Jenkins**, 27, Co C, 307th Abn Engr Bn, 82nd Abn Division, Nijmegen, Netherlands. Sep. 20, 1944.  
**Army Pvt. Charles G. Kaniatobe,** Co A, 1st Bn, 21st Infantry Regt, 24th Inf Division, Chonui, South Korea, July 10, 1950.

**Army 1st Lt. Seymour P. Drovis,** Co A, 105th Infantry Regiment, 27th Inf Division, Saipan, July 7, 1944.

**Army Staff Sgt. Karl R. Loesche,** 24th Pursuit Group. Bataan, April 9, 1942.

**Navy Seaman 1st Class Robert W. Headington,** USS Oklahoma, Pearl Harbor, Dec. 7, 1941.

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

**Army Master Sgt. Charles H. McDaniel**,8th Cavalry Regiment Medical Company, Unsan, North Korea, Nov. 2, 1950.

**USMC Capt. John A. House, II**, 28, Thua Thien-Hue Province, Vietnam, June 30, 1967.

**USMC Lance Cpl. John D. Killen, III**, 18, Thua Thien-Hue Province, Vietnam, June 30, 1967.

**USMC Cpl. Glyn L. Runnels, Jr.**, 21, Thua Thien-Hue Province, Vietnam, June 30, 1967.

**USAFR Col. Fredric M. Mellor**, 30, 20th Tactical Recon Sqdn, over North Vietnam, Aug. 13, 1965.   
**USMCR Merton R. Riser**, 19, Co K, 3rd Bn, 8th Marine Regt, 2nd Marine Div, Tarawa, Nov. 20, 1943.   
**Navy Seaman 1st Class Robert V. Young**, 23, USS Oklahoma, Pearl Harbor, Dec. 7, 1941.

**Army Cpl. Edward M. Jones,** Co D, 1st Bn, 38th Infantry Regt, 2nd Inf Div, Hoengsong, South Korea, Feb. 12, 1951. **Army Pfc. John W. Martin,** Medical Co, 32nd Infantry Regt, 7th Infantry Div, Chosin River, North Korea, Dec. 2, 1950.  **Naval Reserve Seaman 2nd Class Deward W. Duncan, Jr.,** Standard Landing Craft Unit 4, Tarawa Atoll, Jan 12, 1944.  **Army Pfc. Lewis E. Price,** Co E, 2nd Bn, 109th Infantry Regt, 28th Infantry Div, Hürtgen Forest, Germany, Nov. 6, 1944.  **Navy Seaman 1st Class Millard Burk** was assigned to the USS Oklahoma.

**Navy Seaman 2nd Class David B. Edmonston** USS Oklahoma, Pearl Harbor, Dec. 7, 1941.

**Navy Electrician's Mate 3rd Class Merle A. Smith** USS Oklahoma, Pearl Harbor, Dec. 7, 1941.

**Navy Fireman 1st Class Claude O. Gowey** USS Oklahoma, Pearl Harbor, Dec. 7, 1941.

**Navy Storekeeper 2nd Class Gerald L. Clayton** USS Oklahoma, Pearl Harbor, Dec. 7, 1941.

**Navy Musician 2nd Class Francis E. Dick** USS Oklahoma, Pearl Harbor, Dec. 7, 1941.

4. The 55 remains that were returned to the US as a result of current negotiations between the US and North Korea, two already have been identified and the families notified. One still had a dog tag which of course aided id. The other remains are being analyzed for id purposes but at this point at least two more MIAs are coming home.

5. 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 |  |

6. 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.

7.  Comrades, currently there are two bills awaiting action in the US Senate that need action before the end of this year. Both of them are major priorities of the VFW and all veterans. The first is the Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act of 2018 HR299 which has passed the house UNANIMOUSLY and would restore benefits for blue water navy veterans who served off the coast in territorial waters during the Vietnam, expand benefits for Korean War Veterans who were exposed to toxins before April 1968 and provide Spina Bifida benefits to the children of veterans exposed to Agent Orange in Thailand. The second bill is called the Navy Seal Chief Petty Officer William “Bill” Mulder (Ret) transition Improvement act of 2018 passed in the house July 24 2018. It would require service members to begin transition assistance programs 12 months out from separation, include mandatory info on education , entrepreneurship or technical skills, reopen TAP in the community programs for veterans, provide grants for private organizations that specialize in transition to employment and

open pathways for veterans to connect with community and veteran organizations in their home towns while still on active duty. Contact your NY Senators either on line or by telephone and notify them that you want them to pass both of these bills as soon as possible. Note that if they do NOT move in the Senate we will have to start over again on them next year.

Paul Dietrich Chairman Legislative Committee, VFW Department of NY

**Items of Interest**

**A Veteran Died Today**

He was getting old and paunchy and his hair was falling fast,   
and he sat around the VFW telling stories of the past.   
Of the war he had fought in and the deeds that he had done.   
In his exploits with his buddies they were heroes, everyone.   
And 'tho sometimes, to his neighbors, his tales became a joke,   
all his buddies listened, for they knew whereof he spoke.   
But we'll hear his tales no longer, for ol' Bob has passed away,   
and the world's a little poorer for a *veteran* died today.

No, he won't be mourned by many, just his children and his wife.   
For he lived an ordinary, very quiet sort of life.  He held a job and   
raised a family, quietly going on his way; and the world   
won't note his passing, 'tho a *veteran* died today.

When politicians leave this earth, their bodies lie in state,   
while thousands note their passing and proclaim they were   
great.  Papers tell their life stories,  from the time they   
were young, but the passing of a *veteran* goes unnoticed and   
unsung.  Is the greatest contribution to the welfare of our land   
some jerk who breaks his promise and cons his fellow man?   
Or the ordinary fellow, who in times of war and strife, goes   
off to serve his country and offers up his life?

The politician's stipend and the style in which he lives   
are sometimes disproportionate to the service that he gives.   
While the ordinary *veteran,* who has offered up his all,   
is paid off with a medal and perhaps a pension, small.   
It's so easy to forget them, for it is so long ago, that our Bobs   
and Jims and Johnnys went to battle, but we know.  It   
was not the politicians and their compromises and ploys,   
who won for us the freedom that our country now enjoys.   
Should you find yourself in danger, with your enemies at hand,   
would you really want some cop-out, with his ever-waffling stand?   
Or, would you want a *veteran,* who has sworn to defend his home,   
his kin and country, and would fight until the end?

He was just a common *veteran* and his ranks are growing thin,   
but his presence should remind us we may need his likes again.   
For when countries are in conflict,  then we find the military's   
part is to clean up all the troubles that the politicians start.

If we cannot do him honor while he's here to hear the praise,   
then at least let's give him homage, at the ending of his days.   
Perhaps just a simple headline in the paper that might say   
***Our country is in mourning, for a veteran died today.***

Unknown