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

**17 CANNON AVENUE**

**STATEN ISLAND, NY 10314**

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

**August 2019**

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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**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Date | Event | Location | Time | Remarks |
| 3 August | Blazing Star Post Meeting | Gold Star Post | 1000 | Saturday |
| 13 August | Free Seminar: Life Planning Tools | Sen Lanza’s Office | 1030 | **(212) 613-6526** |
| 4 September | Blazing Star Post Meeting | Gold Star Post | 1300 | Wednesday |
| 2 October | Blazing Star Post Meeting | Gold Star Post | 1300 | Wednesday |
| 22-23 October | Blood Drive | College of Staten Island | TBA |  |
| 6 November | Blazing Star Post Meeting | Gold Star Post | 1300 | Wednesday |
| 4 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. We are still 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:

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **DiPietrantonio, Rosa** |  |  | **UnPaid** | | ***1/31/2019*** | | **EXPIRED** | |
|  | **Eans, Ernest** | **UnPaid** | | | ***6/30/2019*** | | **EXPIRED** | |
|  | **Garriga, Jose A** | **UnPaid** | | | ***12/31/2018*** | | **EXPIRED** | |
|  | **Gomes, Dannyel** | **UnPaid** | | | ***6/30/2019*** | | **EXPIRED** | |
|  | **Griffo, Arnold P** | **UnPaid** | | | ***1/31/2019*** | | **EXPIRED** | |
|  | **Ivan, Peter C** | **UnPaid** | | | ***4/30/2019*** | | **EXPIRED** | |
|  | **Krigel, Adam C** | **UnPaid** | | | ***10/31/2018*** | | **EXPIRED** | |
|  | **Moore, Thomas** | **UnPaid** | | | ***12/31/2018*** | | **EXPIRED** | |
|  | **Nelson, Eric** | **UnPaid** | | | ***5/31/2019*** | | **EXPIRED** | |
|  | **Santiago, Luis A** | **UnPaid** | | | ***4/30/2019*** | | **EXPIRED** | |
|  | **Sedutto, Joseph C.** | **Unpaid** | | | ***7/31/2019*** | | **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. 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. Monique L. Rada Engagement and Community Services Coordinator

NYC Department of Veterans’ Services [1 Centre Street, Suite 2208](x-apple-data-detectors://1/0) [New York, NY 10007](x-apple-data-detectors://1/0) [917-628-8487](tel:917-628-8487) [mrada@veterans.nyc.gov](mailto:mrada@veterans.nyc.gov)

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=.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 Cpl. Donald E. Angle,** Co C, 1st Bn, 5th Cavalry Regt, 1st Cavalry Division, Yongdong, South Korea July 25, 1950.

**USMCR Pfc. Grady J. Crawford**, Btry M, 4th Bn, 11th Mar Regt, 1st Mar Div, Chosin Reservoir, No Korea, Dec. 1, 1950.

**Army Pvt. Penn Franks**, Co G, 371st Inf Regt, 92nd Infantry Division, Strettoia, Italy, Feb. 10, 1945.

**Army Pvt. James I. Trick**, Co M, 3rd Bn, 109th Infantry Regt, 28th Infantry Division, Germeter, Germany, Nov. 4, 1944.

**Army Air Forces Staff Sgt. Paul Cybowski**, 308th Bomb Group, Haiphong, French Indochina, Sept. 15, 1943.

**Army Pvt. Laurel W. Ebert,** Co I, 126th Inf Regiment, 32nd Infantry Division, Papua New Guinea.

**Navy Radioman 3rd Class Starring B. Winfield**, USS Oklahoma, Pearl Harbor, Dec. 7, 1941.

**Navy Radioman 2nd Class Floyd A. Wells,** USS Arizona, Pearl Harbor, Dec. 7, 1941.

**USMCR Pvt. William E. Rambo,** Co H, 2nd Bn, 8th Marine Regiment, 2nd Marine Division, Tarawa Atoll, Nov. 20, 1943.

**Army Pvt. Connie Cagle,** Co K, 126th Infantry Regiment, 32nd Infantry Division, Papua New Guinea, Nov. 22, 1942.

**Army Sgt. Robert W. McCarville,** Co L, 128th Infantry Regt, 32nd Infantry Division, Papua New Guinea, Dec. 5, 1942.

**Navy Fire Controlman 3rd Class Adolph J. Loebach,** USS Oklahoma, Pearl Harbor, Dec. 7, 1941.

**Navy Mess Attendant 1st Class Johnnie C. Laurie,** USS Oklahoma, Dec. 7, 1941.

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.

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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 |  |

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.

**Items of Interest**

**Fighting the Tyranny of Robocalls**

The Federal Communications Commission and the Multicultural Media, Telecom and Internet Council are teaming up to help consumers declare independence from robocalls.  Americans received more than **26 billion robocalls in 2018**, a 46 percent increase over the previous year, according to third-party estimates.  The FCC receives more consumer complaints on this topic than any other, reflecting consumers’ growing frustration with the illegal and unwanted calls.  Robocalls are not only annoying; **they are increasingly used as an entry point to fraud**.  Scammers target innocent consumers, often spoofing local numbers or government agencies to steal their money and identities.  The FBI reports that in just over a year, a Chinese-language robocall has resulted in **over $40 million in reported stolen money** from Chinese-speaking consumers.   Please pass along these tips to your contacts, membership lists, family and friends:

* Don't answer calls from unknown numbers. If you answer such a call, hang up immediately.
* You may not be able to tell right away if an incoming call is spoofed. Be aware, though -- caller ID showing a "local" number does not necessarily mean it is a local caller.
* If you answer the phone and the caller -- or a recording -- asks you to press a button to stop getting the calls, just hang up. Scammers often use this trick to identify potential targets.
* Do not respond to any questions, especially those that can be answered with "Yes."
* Never give out personal information such as account numbers, Social Security numbers, mothers' maiden names, passwords or other identifying information in response to unexpected calls, or if you are at all suspicious.
* If you get an inquiry from someone who says they represent a company or a government agency, hang up and call the phone number in the phone book, on your account statement if you have one, or on the company's or government agency's website to verify the authenticity of the request. You will usually get a written statement in the mail before you get a phone call from a legitimate source, particularly if the caller is asking for a payment.

The FCC has additional consumer information on its website at [www.fcc.gov/robocalls](http://www.fcc.gov/robocalls).  This information is also available in Spanish, Chinese, Vietnamese, Korean and Tagalog.

Last month the FCC empowered phone companies to aggressively [block by default unwanted and illegal robocalls](https://www.fcc.gov/document/fcc-affirms-robocall-blocking-default-protect-consumers-0) before they reach consumers.  Phone companies are also rolling out a robust [caller ID authentication](https://www.fcc.gov/call-authentication) system, allowing them to block or label spoofed calls and help authorities track down the sources.