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

**17 CANNON AVENUE**

**STATEN ISLAND, NY 10314**

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

**December 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 |
| 4 December | Blazing Star Post Meeting | Gold Star Post | 1300 | Wednesday |
| 4 January 2020 | Blazing Star Post Meeting | Gold Star Post | 1000 | Saturday |
| 1 February 2020 | Blazing Star Post Meeting | Gold Star Post | 1000 | Saturday |
| 7 March 2020 | Blazing Star Post Meeting | Gold Star Post | 1000 | Saturday |
| 4 April 2020 | Blazing Star Post Meeting | Gold Star Post | 1000 | Saturday |
| 2 May 2020 | Blazing Star Post Meeting | Gold Star Post | 1000 | Saturday |
| 6 June 2020 | Blazing Star Post Meeting | Gold Star Post | 1000 | Saturday |
| 11 July 2020 | Blazing Star Post Meeting | Gold Star Post | 1000 | Saturday |
| 1 August 2020 | Blazing Star Post Meeting | Gold Star Post | 1000 | Saturday |
| 2 September 2020 | Blazing Star Post Meeting | Gold Star Post | 1300 | Wednesday |
| 7 October 2020 | Blazing Star Post Meeting | Gold Star Post | 1300 | Wednesday |
| 4 November 2020 | Blazing Star Post Meeting | Gold Star Post | 1300 | Wednesday |
| 2 December 2020 | Blazing Star Post Meeting | Gold Star Post | 1300 | Wednesday |

The K of C Gov. Dongan 4th Degree Assembly will once again sponsor a bus to a National Veterans Cemetary on the day of action for the Wreaths Across America Program. The date this year is Saturday, December 14, 2019. The

destination has not been finalized as of yet but it will likely be Calverton National once again this year (90%). Departure will be from somewhere on S.I. at approximately 0800 and anticipated return to S.I. approximately 1700 ( give or take an hour ). These final details are still marked officially TBD but I'm sure it will be close to last years arrangements. And yes, the invitation is extended to members of the Veteran's community here on S.I. and there families with the same financial considerations; request the attendee to participate in a 50/50 raffle and or free will offering(modest) / pass the hat to cover miscellaneous expenses. Participants will again be advised to bring their own provisions for the day as they may see fit.

**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:

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Eans, Ernest** | **UnPaid** | ***6/30/2019*** | **EXPIRED** |
|  | **Gomes, Dannyel** | **UnPaid** | ***6/30/2019*** | **EXPIRED** |
|  | **Nelson, Eric** | **UnPaid** | ***5/31/2019*** | **EXPIRED** |
|  | **Santiago, Luis A** | **UnPaid** | ***4/30/2019*** | **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 Air Forces Tech. Sgt. Charles G. Ruble**, 20, 441st Troup Carrier Group, Groesbeek, Netherlands, Sept. 17, 1944.

**Navy Fire Controlman 3rd Class Adolph J. Loebach,** 22,USS Oklahoma, Pearl Harbor, Dec. 7, 1941.

**Army Cpl. Gerald N. Wilson,** 19, Co F, 2nd Bn, 5th Cav Regt, 1st Cavalry Div, Yongdong, South Korea, July 25, 1950. **-- Army Pvt. William D. Hedtke,** 28, Btry B, 319th Glider FA Bn, 82nd Abn Div, Groesbeek, Netherlands, Sept. 18, 1944.  
**Navy Fireman First Class Bethel E. Walters,** 25, USS West Virginia, Pearl Harbor, Dec. 7, 1941.

**Navy Fireman 1st Class Lawrence E. Woods**, 28, USS Oklahoma, Pearl Harbor, Dec. 7, 1941.

**Navy Fireman 1st Class Rex E. Wise,** 21, USS Oklahoma, Pearl Harbor, Dec. 7, 1941.

**Army Cpl. Jackey D. Blosser,**21,D Co, 1st Bn, 32nd Inf Regt, 7th Inf Div, Chosin Reservoir, North Korea, Dec. 2, 1950.

**Army Cpl. Kenneth E. Ford,**18, Co C, 1st Bn, 32nd Inf Regt, 7th Inf Div, Chosin Reservoir, North Korea, Dec. 2, 1950.

**Army Air Forces Tech. Sgt. Max. W. Lower,**23, 98th Bomb Group, Ploiesti, Romania, Aug. 1, 1943.

**Army Cpl. Joe T. Avant,**20,Hvy Mortar Co, 31st Inf Regt, 7th Inf Div, Chosin Reservoir, North Korea, Nov. 30, 1950.

**Army Pfc. Karl L. Dye,**17, Btry B, 52nd FA Bn, 24th Inf Div, Taejon, South Korea, July 16, 1950.

**Army Cpl. Leon E. Clevenger,**21, Co K, 3rd Bn, 21st Inf Regt, 24th Inf Div, Choch’iwon, South Korea, July 11, 1950.

**Marine Corps Pfc. Jack B. Van Zandt**, 22, Co A, 1st Bn, 6th Marine Regt, 2nd Marine Div, Tarawa, Nov. 22, 1943.

**Navy Fireman 1st Class Hadley I. Heavin,**23, USS West Virginia, Pearl Harbor, Dec. 7, 1941.

**Navy Fireman 3rd Class Welborn L. Ashby,**24, USS West Virginia, Pearl Harbor, Dec. 7, 1941.

**Army Sgt. Maximiano T. Lacsamana,**37, Co I, 3rd Bn, 31st RCT, 7th Infantry Div, Hagaru-ri, North Korea, Dec. 3, 1950.

**USMCR Pfc. Alfred Edwards,**33, Co E, 2nd Bn, 2nd Marine Regt, 2nd Marine Div, Tarawa, Nov. 20, 1943.

**USMCR Pfc. John R. Bayens,**20, Co B, 1st Bn, 6th Marine Regt, 2nd Marine Div, Tarawa, Nov. 22, 1943.

**Army Pfc. Wilbur T. Tackett,**18, Btry B, 57th FA Bn, 31st RCT, 7th Inf Div, Chosin Reservoir, North Korea, Dec. 6, 1950.

**Navy Boatswain's Mate 1st Class Arnold M. Nielsen,**32, USS Oklahoma, Pearl Harbor, 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**

**Christmas Dinner, the Ardennes, 1944**

