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

**17 CANNON AVENUE**

**STATEN ISLAND, NY 10314**

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

**January 2020**

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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 |

In Memoriam

Long term member and former commander of VFW Post 1574 John J. Byrnes passed away in late October after his release from the nursing home. John was a served in the NYARNG and in the US Navy during World War II on the USS Alaska. He was released but we lost contact with him as his family moved him so he was closer to them. John is buried with his first wife Alice in St Charles Cemetery 2015 Wellwood Ave, Farmingdale, Long Island.

**Calendar Events**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Date | Event | Location | Time | Remarks |
| 4 January 2020 | Blazing Star Post Meeting | Gold Star Post | 1000 | Saturday |
| 13 January 2020 | CSI Blood Drive | Green Dolphin Room | 0930-1530 | Monday |
| 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 |

**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:

**Navy Fireman 1st Class Leo T. Keninger,** 20, USS Oklahoma, Pearl Harbor, Dec. 7, 1941.

**Navy Seaman 1st Class Orval A. Tranbarger,** 20, USS Oklahoma, Pearl Harbor, Dec. 7, 1941.

**Army MSG Harold F. Drews,** 21, K Co, 3rd Bn, 31st Inf Regt, 7th Inf Div, Chosin Reservoir, No Korea. Dec. 12, 1950.

**Army Sgt. 1st Class Riley Burchfield,** 22, D Co, 1st Bn, 24th Inf Regt, 25th Inf Div, POW Camp 5, February 1951.

**Army Air Forces 1st Lt. Steve Nagy,** 23, 92nd Bomb Group, Merseburg, Germany. Aug. 24, 1944.

**Navy Quartermaster 2nd Class Daryle E. Artley,** 21, USS Oklahoma, Pearl Harbor, Dec. 7, 1941.

**Navy Chief Water Tender Frances D. Day,** 37, USS Oklahoma, Pearl Harbor, Dec. 7, 1941.

**Army Air Forces 2ndLt. George M. Johnson,** 23, 30th Bomb Group, Hawkins Field, Betio Island, Tarawa Atoll.

**Army Air Forces 2nd Lt. Lowell S. Twedt,** 27, 1st Fighter Group, Regensburg, Germany, Oct. 20, 1944.

**Army Sgt. John V. Phillips,** 25, HQ Co, 31st Inf Regt, Cabanatuan POW camp.

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

**Army Sgt. Maximiano T. Lacsamana,** 37, I Co, 3rd Bn, 31st RCT, 7th Inf Div, Hagaru-ri, North Korea, Dec. 3, 1950. **Army Cpl. Jerome V. Hummel, 23,** Hvy Mortar Co, 31st Inf Regt, 7th Inf Div, Chosin Res, No Korea, Nov. 30, 1950.

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.

6. Staten Island University Hospital is working together on a new volunteer program that would place volunteers with people that don't have family or friends to sit with them or be a liaison between them and the doctors/nurses.  This came about years ago when a man at SI University Hospital who was a veteran who had no one to be with him. If anyone would like to be a volunteer at Staten Island University Hospital for this purpose, contact Bart Cambria, who heads the Volunteer Program at the hospital.  He is simply taking names, and basic information. Bart can be reached at: (917) 584-0168 or [bcambria@northwell.edu](mailto:bcambria@northwell.edu).

**Items of Interest**

Rules for Work

1. Never give me work in the morning. Always wait until 4:00 and then bring it to me. The challenge of a deadline is refreshing.

2. If it's really a rush job, run in and interrupt me every 10 minutes to inquire how it's going. That helps. Or even better, hover behind me, advising me at every keystroke.

3. Always leave without telling anyone where you're going. It gives me a chance to be creative when someone asks where you are.

4. If my arms are full of papers, boxes, books, or supplies, don't open the door for me. I need to learn how to function as a paraplegic and opening doors with no arms is good training in case I should ever be injured and lose all use of my limbs.

5. If you give me more than one job to do, don't tell me which is the priority. I am psychic.

6. Do your best to keep me late. I adore this office and really have nowhere to go or anything to do. I have no life beyond work.

7. If a job I do pleases you, keep it a secret. If that gets out, it could mean a promotion.

8. If you don't like my work, tell everyone. I like my name to be popular in conversations. I was born to be whipped.

9. If you have special instructions for a job, don't write them down. In fact, save them until the job is almost done.

No use confusing me with useful information.

10. Never introduce me to the people you're with. I have no right to know anything. In the corporate food chain, I am plankton. When you refer to them later, my shrewd deductions will identify them.

11. Be nice to me only when the job I'm doing for you could really change your life and send you straight to manager's hell.

12. Tell me all your little problems. No one else has any and it's nice to know someone is less fortunate. I especially like the story about having to pay so much taxes on the bonus check you received for being such a good manager.

13. Wait until my yearly review and THEN tell me what my goals SHOULD have been. Give me a mediocre performance rating with a cost of living increase. I'm not here for the money anyway.