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

**17 CANNON AVENUE**

**STATEN ISLAND, NY 10314**

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

**March 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 |

**Calendar Events**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Date | Event | Location | Time | Remarks |
| 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 |
| 9 May 2020 | Poppy Distribution | Shop Rite | 0900-1500 |  |
| 15 May 2020 | Poppy Distribution | Staten Island Ferry | 0700-1000 |  |
| 15 May 2020 | Poppy Distribution | Bayway Refinery | 1100-1300 |  |
| 16 May 2020 | Poppy Distribution | Stop & Shop | 0900-1500 |  |
| 17 May 2020 | Poppy Distribution | Stop & Shop | 0900-1500 |  |
| 23 May 2020 | Memorial Day Ceremony | Oceanview Cemetery | 1300 |  |
| 30 May 2020 | SI Tuna Club Bass Tournament | Great Kills Marina | TBA |  |
| 6 June 2020 | Blazing Star Post Meeting | Gold Star Post | 1000 | Saturday |
| **8 July 2020** | **Blazing Star Post Meeting** | **Gold Star Post** | **1300** | **Wednesday** |
| 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 |

July’s meeting has been changed to the 8th at 1300.

**College of Staten Island BLOOD DRIVE**

**Monday, April 27, 2020**

**11:30am – 5:30pm**

**Tuesday, April 28, 2020**

**8:30am – 2:30pm**

**Green Dolphin Room**

**Remember to eat, drink and bring your donor ID or ID with name and photo**

**Eligibility Information: https://www.nybc.org/donate/become-donor/can-i-donate-blood/**

**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 mailed out our first packages to our newest member Michael Marra who is currently deployed to the Middle east. Please keep Michael in your prayers so he can return to us and his wife and 9-month old son.

3. 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** |

**Treadaway, Ann M Unpaid 2/29/2020 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 (driver’s 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 James C. Webb,** 23, USS Oklahoma, Pearl Harbor, Dec. 7, 1941.  
**Army Sgt. David C. Sewell,** 30,Co M, 3rd Bn, 31st Inf Regt, 7th Inf Div, Chosin Reservoir, North Korea, Nov. 28, 1950.   
**Navy Seaman 2nd Class Everett G. Windle**, 20, USS Oklahoma, Pearl Harbor, Dec. 7, 1941.  
**Naval Reserve Machinist’s Mate 1st Class Paul H. Gebser,** 39, USS Oklahoma, Pearl Harbor, Dec. 7, 1941.

**U.S. Navy Steward’s Mate 2nd Class Jesus F. Garcia,** 21,USS Oklahoma, Pearl Harbor, Dec. 7, 1941.

**U.S. Army Air Forces 1st Lt. Ernest L. Roth,** 20,303rd Bomb Group, over Berlin, May 19, 1944.

**U.S. Navy Seaman 1st Class Lyal J. Savage,** 19, USS Oklahoma, Pearl Harbor, Dec. 7, 1941.

**U.S. Navy Fire Controlman 1st Class Robert L. Corn,** 24, 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.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 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**

**464th Chemical Brigade**

[](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:464ChemBdeSSI.svg)

The **464th Chemical Brigade** was a chemical unit in the United States Army Reserve from February 1972 until September 2008.

**Mission.** To provide command and control of two to six chemical battalions and other assigned or attached separate companies at Corps level. To provide staff planning and coordination for the combat, combat support, and combat service support operations for all assigned and attached units. To allocate units and resources in support of chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear (CBRN) reconnaissance, decontamination, biological detection, and smoke operations. And, to conduct civilian decontamination in response to a domestic accident or deliberate CBRN incident.

**Motto. We Serve In Silence** is the motto of the 464th Chemical Brigade. This motto connotes the silent, but deadly force of the weapons that the chemical corps built to combat and the silent, dirty, thankless, yet life-saving job that the chemical soldier performs with the utmost expertise, dignity, and honor.

**History.** Constituted on 20 October 1953 in the Army Reserve as the 464th Chemical Group and assigned to First United States Army. It was officially activated in New York City on 1 December 1953. It was later inactivated on 31 January 1968. On 22 February 1972, the unit was assigned to Third United States Army and activated at Orlando, Florida. The unit was transferred from Third United States Army to Second United States Army on 1 October 1983. After being reassigned back to First United States Army on June 1987, it was reorganized from the 464th Chemical Group to the 464th Chemical Brigade. And, it was relocated to Johnstown, Pennsylvania. The unit was inactivated on 16 September 2008.

**Notable Commanders.**

Colonel Paul H. Dietrich January 2003 – January 2006