



Blazing Star Newsletter



VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS BLAZING STAR POST #1574
17 CANNON AVENUE
STATEN ISLAND, NY 10314
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February 2015

VFW BLAZING STAR POST 1574 CONTACT NUMBERS IN CASE OF ILLNESS OR IN NEED OF ASSISTANCE
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

Calendar of Events for 2015:

Date	Event	Location	Time	Remarks
4 Feb 2015	Blazing Star Post Meeting	Gold Star Post	1300	
8 Feb 2015	Four Chaplains Breakfast	Staaten Restaurant	0900	
17 Feb 015	50 State-wide Tour Kickoff	Ollis VFW Post	1300	Details below
4 Mar 2015	Blazing Star Post Meeting	Gold Star Post	1300	
29 Mar 2015	District 2 VFW Meeting	Wappingers Post 5913	1300	Input needed
1 Apr 2015	Blazing Star Post Meeting	Gold Star Post	1300	Post Elections
26 Apr 1015	SSG Ollis Memorial Poker Run	Ollis VFW Post	1100	Details below
6 May 2015	Blazing Star Post Meeting	Gold Star Post	1300	
6 Jun 2015	Blazing Star Post Meeting	Gold Star Post	1000	
11 Jul 2015	Blazing Star Post Meeting	Gold Star Post	1000	
1 Aug 2015	Blazing Star Post Meeting	Gold Star Post	1000	
2 Sep 2015	Blazing Star Post Meeting	Gold Star Post	1300	
7 Oct 2015	Blazing Star Post Meeting	Gold Star Post	1300	
4 Nov 2015	Blazing Star Post Meeting	Gold Star Post	1300	
2 Dec 2015	Blazing Star Post Meeting	Gold Star Post	1300	

Membership

1. The new dues rate for annual members is \$35 per year. Note that dues change was done at the national level. Below are the membership rates for Life membership and Installment Plan Life Membership. Recommend that all members consider installment Life membership when their renewal is due as you save over the long run and eliminate the need to renew yearly.

Age attained on Dec 31	Payment in Full	Installment Plan 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

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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. Front and Center. Blazing Star member Major Timothy Mahoney has been promoted to lieutenant colonel on 1 February 2015. Congratulations Tim!

3. Post elections will be held during the April meeting. I urge all members to attend that meeting to participate in the election process and vote. One of the trustee positions is vacant and we need a candidate.



Scott Lobaido will begin a flag painting tour of VFW posts throughout the United States. He will kick-off his tour from the SSG Michael Ollis Post.

DATE: Tuesday, February 17th
TIME: 1:00 PM
PLACE: 575 Mill Road S.I.

Let's give Scott a resounding send-off. Bring your support and American flags to wave for inspiration!

Rolling Thunder 2 N.Y.



And the SSG. Ollis VFW Post 9581
2nd Annual \$20.00 a Hand April 26, 2015

SSG. Mike Ollis Memorial



Poker Run Rain or Shine
Bike or Car

Michael was born and raised in New Dorp, Staten Island. After Graduating Petrides High School, Mike enlisted in the Army. While in the Army, he served with distinction in the 1st Armored Division, 101st Airborne and the 10th Mountain Division. He was also a Ranger

and a recipient of the Silver Star. He was Killed in Action on August 28th, 2013 while on his 3rd overall deployment.

-Registration Begins at 11:00 am at the SSG. Ollis V.F.W. Post at 575 Mill Road.

- Players will leave on their own path at Noon and must return by 2:30 PM. Winners will be announced at the after party.

All Proceeds will go to the SSG Michael Ollis Freedom Foundation



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 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 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, Paul Dietrich.

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

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5. VA Choice Program Rollout. The Veterans Access, Choice and Accountability Act required VA to start implementation of the Choice Program by November 5, 2014. Starting this week, veterans who live 40 or more miles away from a VA medical facility will have the opportunity to choose whether to receive their health care at VA or in their community, through non-VA doctors. Veterans who live within 40 miles of a VA medical facility, but are currently waiting longer than 30 days for VA care will begin receiving their cards later this month. VA expects that all veterans who were enrolled in the VA health care system on August 1, 2014, will receive their cards by January 2015. However, receiving a Veterans Choice Card does not instantly authorize you to start receiving health care from non-VA doctors. All care received through the Choice Program must be pre-authorized and coordinated by VA.

Employment and Education

1. Looking for a job? Need quality employees? USE VETJOBS! www.vetjobs.com
2. Vets looking for jobs, the website: 100000jobsmission.com. Go there to apply and search for available jobs specifically held for veterans.
3. New initiative called the We can't wait program plan helps ex GIs get civilian credentials/licenses for skills learned in the military. For info: http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/docs/veterans_report_5-31-2012.pdf
4. Veterans Head Back to Boot Camp to Learn Business Skills. Boots to Business: Reboot is a two-day entrepreneurship workshop presented by the U.S. Small Business Administration and the Institute for Veterans and Military Families (IVMF) available to transitioning service members as a part of the Defense Department's Transition Assistance Program. Learn more about the program <http://www.military1.com/veterans/article/538543-veterans-head-back-to-boot-camp-to-learn-business-skills>.

General

1. E-Mail Addresses: If you have an e-mail address, please provide it to us for the sole purpose of conducting Post-business, distribution of newsletters and significant announcements that affect the Post and its membership (for example, death of a member). We will continue to send paper newsletters to those members who prefer to receive them.
2. 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. Call 718-226-4325 for an application.
3. The Defense POW/MIA Office announced the identification of remains belonging to the following personnel. Returned home are:
 - * Army Air Forces Maj. Peyton S. Mathis Jr., 28, of Montgomery, Ala. On June 5, 1944, Mathis was piloting a P-38J Lightning when the aircraft lost power while attempting to land at Kukum Air Field on Guadalcanal Island in the Solomon Islands. A rescue team located the crash site but was unable to recover Mathis because the aircraft was submerged in a dense jungle swamp.
 - * Army Cpl. Francis D. Knobel, 20, of La Crosse, Wis., was assigned to Headquarters Company, 3rd Battalion, 31st Infantry Regiment, 7th Infantry Division, when he was lost Dec. 12, 1950, in North Korea.
 - * Air Force Col. William E. Cooper, 45, of Albany, Ga., was assigned to the 469th Tactical Squadron, 388th Tactical Fighter Wing, when his F-105D Thunderchief was shot down while on a strike mission on a highway-railroad bridge north of Hanoi, North Vietnam, on April 24, 1966.
 - * Marine Corps Pvt. Jack M. Redman, 20, from Watseka, Ill., was lost on Nov. 20, 1943, during the Battle of Tarawa. He was assigned to Headquarters Company, 3rd Battalion, 6th Marine Regiment.
 - * Army Sgt. Joseph M. Snock Jr., 21, from Westmoreland, Pa., was lost on Nov. 30, 1950, in North Korea, where it would be learned he died as a prisoner of war. He was assigned to Heavy Mortar Company, 31st Infantry Regiment.
 - * Army Sgt. 1st Class James W. Holt, 26, of Hot Springs, Ark., was lost Feb. 7, 1968, in Vietnam. He was assigned to Company C, 5th Special Forces Group.

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Items of Interest

The Final Inspection

The soldier stood and faced God, Which must always come to pass.
He hoped his shoes were shining, Just as brightly as his brass.

'Step forward now, soldier, How shall I deal with you?
Have you always turned the other cheek? To My Church have you been true?'

The soldier squared his shoulders and said, "No, Lord, I guess I ain't,"
Because those of us who carry guns, Can't always be a saint.

I've had to work most Sundays, And at times my talk was tough.
And sometimes I've been violent, Because the world is awfully rough.

But, I never took a penny, That wasn't mine to keep...
Though I worked a lot of overtime, When the bills just got too steep.

And I never passed a cry for help, Though at times I shook with fears...
And sometimes, God, forgive me, I've wept unmanly tears.

I know I don't deserve a place, Among the people here.
They never wanted me around, Except to calm their fear.

If you've a place for me here, Lord, It needn't be so grand.
I never expected or had too much, But if you don't, I'll understand.

There was a silence all around the throne, Where the saints had often trod.
As the soldier waited quietly, For the judgment of his God.

"Step forward now, you soldier, You've borne your burdens well.
Walk peacefully on Heaven's streets, You've done your time in Hell."

Author Unknown~