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

**17 CANNON AVENUE**

**STATEN ISLAND, NY 10314**

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

**September 2015**

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| BLAZING STAR POST 1574 CONTACT NUMBERSAl Porto, Commander - 718-578-1242, albert.porto38@gmail.comPaul Dietrich, Quartermaster - 718-698-5269, paul@the-dietrichs.comWilliam Alcock, Adjutant - 718-698-1923 |

**IN MEMORIUM**



Robert H. Mullaney, 90, of Eltingville, a retired Con Edison employee, World War II and Korean War veteran who was proud of his Irish ancestry, died Saturday in Eger Health Care and Rehabilitation Center, Egbertville, where he had been a patient since mid-June. The lifelong Staten Islander grew up in Oakwood and settled in Eltingville 50 years ago. He graduated from New Dorp High School, where he played baseball. Bob served in the U.S. Navy during both World War II and the Korean War, stationed primarily aboard an aircraft carrier and also participating in troop transport. He was a member of the Blazing Star Post, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Travis, and the Cpl. Allan F. Kivlehan Chapter, Korean War Veterans. In his younger years he was fond of cars and working on them. He was an enthusiastic stamp collector and loved to read, especially about veterans' and Navy issues. Bob was kind and loving, his family said. Very generous, he was always giving everyone something. And he was very proud of his Irish ancestry. He was a longtime parishioner of St. Clare's R.C. Church, Great Kills. His wife of 25 years, the former Helen White, died in 2009. He also was preceded in death by his stepsons, Thomas and Lawrence White, and his grandson, Jeffrey White, who died in 2001. Surviving are his stepson, John White; three grandchildren, and five great-granddaughters.

**Calendar Events**

Calendar of Events for 2015:

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| **Date** | **Event**  | **Location**  | **Time** | **Remarks** |
| **2 September** | **Blazing Star Post Meeting** | **Gold Star Post** | **1300** |  |
| 10 September | Richmond County Council Meeting | Gold Star Post | 1100 |  |
| 19 September | District 2 OTI | Labetti Post | 0900 |  |
| **7 October** | **Blazing Star Post Meeting** | **Gold Star Post** | **1300** |  |
| 8 October | Richmond County Council Meeting | North Shore Post | 1100 |  |
| **4 November** | **Blazing Star Post Meeting** | **Gold Star Post** | **1300** |  |
| 5 November (T) | Veterans Day Breakfast | St Adalbert's School | 0815 | 718-442-2020 |
| 6 November | Poppy Distribution | SI Ferry | 0700 | Volunteers Needed |
| 6 November  | Poppy Distribution | Phillips Refinery | 1100 | Volunteers Needed |
| 7 November (T) | Poppy Distribution | Stop & Shop | 0900 | Volunteers Needed |
| 8 November (T) | Poppy Distribution | Stop & Shop | 0900 | Volunteers Needed |
| 11 November (T) | Memorial Day Ceremony | Travis War Memorial | 0900 |  |
| 11 November (T) | Richmond County VFW Ceremony | To Be Determined | TBA |  |
| 11 November | Richmond County Council Meeting | Ollis Post | TBA |  |
| 14 November (T) | Poppy Distribution | Shop-Rite | 0900 | Volunteers Needed |
| **2 December** | **Blazing Star Post Meeting** | **Gold Star Post** | **1300** |  |
| 10 December | Richmond County Council Meeting | North Shore Post | 1100 |  |

**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 attained             Payment in Full             Installment Plan Option
 on Dec. 31st                       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. Welcome new members! Elizabeth Mahoney.

3. Post member Jim Smith is currently in the Vanderbilt Nursing home rehab section. Jim fell within his house and broke a bone in his foot. Jim would love visitors or phone calls and his number is 718-808-4338.

**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%3A%5CUsers%5CAlbert%5CDocuments%5CVFW%5CNewsletters%202011%5Cwww.va.gov%5Chealtheligibility%5Cvfw) 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>

5. The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is working to make filing claims and appeals as fast and easy as possible. Beginning Tuesday, March 24, 2015, claims and appeals must be filed using the appropriate form. Standardizing forms will ease frustration among claimants, make claims processing more efficient and help VA reach more accurate decisions.

There are three major actions that will require a specific form or standardized process: Intent to File, claims applications, and Notice of Disagreement. When filing a formal claim, the following forms should be completed and submitted to VA either electronically via eBenefits (ebenefits.va.gov) or the Stakeholder Enterprise Portal (sep.va.gov), or by mailing the completed paper form to VA:

 a.. For disability benefits, applicants must now use VA Form 21-526EZ, Application for Disability Compensation and Related Compensation Benefits.

 b.. To apply for needs-based pension, use VA Form 21-527EZ, Application for Pension. To file a claim for dependency and indemnity compensation (DIC), survivor's pension, and accrued benefits, claimants should complete VA Form 21-534EZ, Application for DIC, Death Pension, and/or Accrued Benefits .

Applicants who are not ready to file a claim for disability, but wish to preserve a date of claim while gathering evidence and completing the necessary application form should use one of the following three methods to communicate an intent to file a claim to VA:

 a.. 1) electronically via eBenefits (ebenefits.va.gov) or the Stakeholder Enterprise Portal (sep.va.gov),

 b.. 2) mailing VA Form 21-0966, Intent to File a Claim for Compensation and/or Pension, or Survivors Pension and/or DIC, or

 c.. 3) over the phone with a VA call center representative.

 Finally, Veterans filing a Notice of Disagreement with a compensation decision should use VA Form 21-0958, Notice of Disagreement. Veterans and their representatives currently use the form on an optional basis. However, beginning March 24, 2015, Veterans must use this form when VA provides the form with a decision notice letter. Veterans and survivors will not be required to use a standardized notice of disagreement form for other types of claims (i.e., pension or survivors benefits) at this time. If you are unable to download these forms from va.gov/vaforms/, call

800-827-1000 to have the correct form sent to your home. Requiring standard forms will help VA more quickly identify what the applicant is claiming and gather the evidence required to process the claim or appeal. Standardized forms are a key component of VA's transformation, which will help achieve the Department's goal to eliminate the backlog in 2015. Contact data for VSO on website. Do not file with VSO review.

6. All paid up members of Post 1574 were enrolled in Group Accidental Death and Dismemberment insurance paid for by the post. Coverage is for $1000 and is with the Lockton Affinity LLC, PO box 87-9610 of Kansas City MO 64187-9610. Please keep information on this policy with your family important documents for your relatives and heirs.

7. The VA is establishing presumptions for service connections for those veterans related to the exposures to contaminated water at the North Carolina Marine Corps base of Camp Lejeune. Service of more than 30 days at Camp Lejeune from 1 Jan 1957 through December 31 1987 is covered Treatment for veterans and reimbursement for treatments for family members exists for fifteen conditions tied to this exposure. Contact your service officer for assistance in preparing a claim. The following illnesses or conditions are :

Bladder Cancer, Miscarriage, Breast cancer, Multiple Myeloma, Esophageal Cancer, Myelodysplastic Syndromes,

Female infertility, Neurobehavioral effects, Hepatic Steatosis, Non-Hodgkins Lymphoma, Kidney Cancer, Renal toxicity,

Leukemia, Scleroderma, Lung Cancer.

**Employment and Education**

1. Looking for a job? Need quality employees? USE VETJOBS! [**www.vetjobs.com**](http://svarialce.vfwemail.org:81/CT00004002MzA1OTA1NDk%3D.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.

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>.

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. Call 718-226-4325 for an application.

2. The Defense POW/MIA Office announced the identification of remains belonging to the following personnel. Returned

home are:

* **Army Air Forces 2nd Lt. Edward F. Barker**, 21. On Sept. 30, 1944, Barker was piloting a P-47D Thunderbolt that failed to return from a training mission in Papua New Guinea.
* **Army Air Forces 1st Lt. William O. Pile**, 24, was piloting a B-26C Invader on a mission near Bastogne, Belgium, when he was shot down by enemy fighters on Dec. 23, 1944. He was assigned to the 559th Bombardment Squadron, 387th Bombardment Group, 9th Air Forces.
* **Army Pfc. George L. Rights**, 23. In Feb. 1951, rights and elements of Battery B, 15th Field Artillery Battalion, 2nd Infantry Division, were supporting the Republic of South Korea when the 15th FA was attacked by Chinese forces near Hoengsong, South Korea. Following the battle, Rights was reported as missing in action.
* **Army Air Forces 2nd Lt. Stephen V. Biezis**, 23. Biezis was assigned to the 575th Bombardment Squadron, 391st Bombardment Group, 9th Air Force as co-pilot of a B-26C Marauder that crashed after being struck by enemy fire during a bombing mission near Ahrweiler, Germany. His remains were not recovered during the war.
* **Army Cpl. Nehemiah E. Butler**, 19. Butler and elements of Company C, 19th Infantry Regiment, 24th Infantry Division were deployed near Seoul, South Korea, when their unit was attacked by enemy forces. He became separated from his unit while attempting to move toward a more defensible position.
* **Army Cpl. Donald A. Therkelsen**, 23. Therkelsen was assigned to Medical Company, 1st Battalion, 15th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Infantry Division. He was reported missing in action following a massive attack by the Chinese during the Battle of Kumsong along the Kumsong River in North Korea.
* **Army Sgt. Wilson Meckley Jr.**, 22, Company A, 1st Battalion, 32nd Infantry Regiment, 7th Infantry Division, when he was declared missing on Dec. 2, 1950, in North Korea.
* **Army Sgt. 1st Class Robert Reager**, 20, Company C, 32nd Regimental Combat Team, 7th Infantry Division, when he was declared missing on Dec. 2, 1950, in North Korea.
* **Army Cpl. Grant H. Ewing**, Battery C, 38th Field Artillery Battalion, 2nd Infantry Division. He reportedly died in captivity on Feb. 28, 1951, in North Korea.
* **Army Sgt. Christopher Y. Vars**, Company E, 9th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Infantry Division, when he died fighting at North Korea’s Chosin Reservoir on Nov. 29, 1950.
* **Army Maj. Dale W. Richardson**, 28, He was lost when the UH-1H helicopter he was a passenger in was shot down near the Vietnamese/Cambodian border on May 2, 1970. He was assigned to 2nd Battalion, 34th Armor Regiment, 1st Cavalry Division.

3. 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. Currently, 89 percent of the Korean War’s 7,800 MIAs have a family reference sample on file, 84 percent for the Cold War’s 126 MIAs, and 81 percent of the Vietnam War’s 1,600 missing. But for World War II, it’s a dismal 4 percent of the 73,500 who are still missing. 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 |  |

4. Free parking for veterans at Richmond County Medical Center. Veterans can park for free in the visitors parking lot where tokens are normally 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.

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| 5. SCAM ALERT: Be on the lookout for a "virtual kidnapping" scam where con artists call people at random, claim to have kidnapped their relatives and demand a ransom payment. Callers, sometimes representing themselves as members of a drug cartel or corrupt law enforcement, will typically provide you with specific instructions to ensure safe "return" of the allegedly kidnapped individual. These instructions usually involve demands of a ransom payment. Most schemes use various techniques to instill a sense of fear, panic, and urgency in an effort to rush the victim into making a very hasty decision. Instructions usually require the ransom payment be made immediately and typically by wire transfer. These schemes involve varying amounts of ransom demands, which often decrease at the first indication of resistance. Callers will often go to great lengths to engage victims in ongoing conversations to prevent them from verifying the status and location of the "kidnapped" individuals. Callers will often make their victims believe they are being watched and were personally targeted. In reality, many of these callers are outside of the United States, simply making hundreds of calls, possibly using phone directories or other phone lists. To avoid becoming a victim of this extortion scheme, look for the following possible indicators: -Incoming calls made from an outside area code-Multiple successive phone calls-Calls do not come from the kidnapped victim's phone-Callers go to great lengths to keep you on the phone-Callers prevent you from calling or locating the "kidnapped" victim-Ransom money is only accepted via wire transfer service If you receive a phone call from someone who demands payment of a ransom for a kidnapped victim, the following should be considered: -Stay calm-Slow the situation down-Avoid sharing information about you or your family during the call-Listen carefully to the voice of the kidnapped victim-Attempt to call or determine the location of the "kidnapped" victim-Request to speak to the victim-Ask questions only the victim would know-Request the kidnapped victim call back from his/her cell phone If you wish to file a complaint about a virtual kidnapping scam phone call, contact the FBI Newark Office Complaint Line: (973) 792-3000 |

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**Items of Interest**

Women in Military Service for America Memorial is located on a 4.2 acres (17,000 m2) site at the entrance of Arlington National Cemetery (although it is technically on National Park Service land). The main approach to the memorial is from Memorial Avenue. The visitor first encounters the Hemicycle, a ceremonial gateway to Arlington National Cemetery constructed in 1932. The Hemicycle is 30 feet (9.1 m) high and 226 feet (69 m) in diameter. In the center of the Hemicycle is an apse 20 feet (6.1 m) across and 30 feet (9.1 m) high. The Great Seal of the United States is carved in granite in the center of the apse arch, while to the south is seal of the U.S. Department of the Army and to the north is the seal of the U.S. Department of the Navy. Six circular niches (three to the south and three to the north) 3 feet 6 inches (1.07 m) deep are distributed along the facade. These niches, and the apse, are inlaid with red granite from Texas. The rear wall of these niches is carved with either oak leaves or laurel leaves, symbols of bravery and victory. Between these niches are rectangular doorways which pierce the wall of the Hemicycle and provide access to the stairways leading into the interior. A fountain with 200 jets of water is placed in the center of the apse. The fountain empties down a stone-lined channel into a circular reflecting pool. The pool is either 78 feet (24 m) or 80 feet (24 m) in diameter (sources vary), and can hold 60,000 US gallons (230 kl) of water.  The fountain is lined with black granite cobblestones quarried in Culpeper, Virginia.  A plaza of light grey granite surrounds the fountain and extends toward Memorial Avenue. Wide panels of close-cut grass are distributed along the wall of the Hemicycle. Sidewalks of black granite flagstone run through these panels, giving access to the light grey granite sidewalk immediately next to the Hemicycle wall. The stairs in the Hemicycle wall lead up into the interior of the memorial. Halfway up the stairs, the patron may pause and look down into the main gallery of the memorial. Continuing up the stairs leads the individual to the Hemicycle's terrace.



Map of the interior of the memorial as of 2013.

On top of the Hemicycle is a terrace of light gray granite 24 feet (7.3 m) wide. A granite balustrade, original to the Hemicycle, frames the eastern side of the terrace. In an arc along the west side of the terrace are 108 glass panels, each 5 inches (13 cm) thick, which form a skylight for the main memorial gallery below.  On most of these panels are etched quotations from various servicewomen throughout American history.  Some panels have been left blank, to allow future inscriptions to be made. Four staircases lead down from the terrace to the rear of the memorial, where staircases lead down into the interior and the main gallery. The main gallery and terrace may also be accessed by doors in the north and south sides of the Hemicycle, or via an elevator in the north side of the Hemicycle. The 35,000 square feet (3,300 m2) memorial (some sources claim 33,000 square feet (3,100 m2)) is partly below-grade. The western wall of the gallery is lined with delicately veing marble. The memorial contains a curving main gallery lined with 14 niches, which contain permanent and temporary displays about women in the U.S. armed forces. Overhead and on the walls, eleven large glass tablets are inscribed with quotes about and from women veterans. Each glass tablet weighs approximately 400 pounds (180 kg).  Twelve computer terminals provide access to a database of names and some pictures of women who served in the U.S. armed forces from the American Revolutionary War through the Iraq War and the War in Afghanistan. Search results are displayed on three large screens overhead. The metal canopies and display cases in the main gallery were by Staples & Charles of Alexandria, Virginia. Through the rear of the main gallery, the visitor may access the Hall of Honor. This room contains a block of Yule marble taken from the same quarry that the Tomb of the Unknowns came from.  In this room are displays and panels which honor women service members taken as prisoners of war, killed in the line of duty, or who earned high honors for bravery or service.  Beyond the Hall of Honor is a 196-seat theater where patrons may watch one of two films which document the roles women have played and continue to play in the U.S. armed forces. This auditorium is also used for lectures and presentations. Each of the seats in the auditorium has a small brass plaque which honors a U.S. servicewoman. Further back is a gift and book shop, a conference room, and offices for the memorial.