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

**17 CANNON AVENUE**

**STATEN ISLAND, NY 10314**

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

**January 2017**

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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**

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Frank L. Zielinski, 88 Korean War Army veteran, of Todt Hill died suddenly on Wednesday, Dec. 14, at Richmond University Medical Center. Frank was born Nov. 13, 1928, in Staten Island and lived in Mariners Harbor as a child. He was at the present address since 2004. He worked as a tank and pump mechanic for Mobil Oil Company for over 35 years and retired in 1990. He served in the U.S. Army during the Korean War. Frank attended the Salem Evangelical Free Church and formerly served in the Royal Rangers, a Christian Boy Scout group, for over 30 years. He enjoyed woodworking, bowling and was active with the Veterans of Foreign Wars as the Senior Vice Commander of Blazing Star Post 1574 and the Korean War Veterans Association. He is survived by his loving wife, Theresa (nee Pietrocola) and they would have been married for 63 years in March 2017. He has three sons, Douglas F. (Nancy), Dr. Glenn D., and Bryan S. (Tara) Zielinski, along with his five grandchildren, Jessica, Steven, Eric, Tyler and Sawyer Zielinski. Frank also has two sisters, Fannie Nalwasky and Evelyn Montella.

**Calendar Events**

Calendar of Events for 2017:

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Date | Event | Location | Time | Remarks |
| 4 January | Blazing Star Post Meeting | Gold Star Post | 1300 |  |
| 9 January | CSI Blood Drive | Green Dolphin Room | 0930-1530 | Free Movie Ticket |
| 1 February | Blazing Star Post Meeting | Gold Star Post | 1300 |  |
| 1 March | Blazing Star Post Meeting | Gold Star Post | 1300 |  |
| 5 April | Blazing Star Post Meeting | Gold Star Post | 1300 |  |
| 3 May | Blazing Star Post Meeting | Gold Star Post | 1300 |  |
| 7 June | Blazing Star Post Meeting | Gold Star Post | 1300 |  |
| 1 July | Blazing Star Post Meeting | Gold Star Post | 1000 | Saturday |
| 5 August | Blazing Star Post Meeting | Gold Star Post | 1000 | Saturday |
| 9 September | Blazing Star Post Meeting | Gold Star Post | 1000 | Saturday |
| 7 October | Blazing Star Post Meeting | Gold Star Post | 1000 | Saturday |
| 4 November | Blazing Star Post Meeting | Gold Star Post | 1000 | Saturday |
| 2 December | Blazing Star Post Meeting | Gold Star Post | 1000 | Saturday |

**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. Dues Renewal Reminder:

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| --- | --- | --- |
| Leunes, Peter | Current Until | 6/17/2016 |
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| --- | --- | --- |
| Tolas, Raymond | Current Until | 12/31/2016 |
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**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. Tri-Care Dental. Tri-Care dental isn't free. You must enroll to be covered. Tri-Care dental web site, [www.trdp.org](blockedhttp://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. 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 – let them know they’re not alone. Find out how you can make a difference <http://www.veteranscrisisline.net/ThePowerof1.aspx>.

6. NY State Creates Mobile App for Veterans to Access Services. There's a new mobile app designed to help New York's veterans access state and federal services. Gov. Andrew Cuomo announced the creation of the application Thursday. It's compatible with Apple and Android products and has help for veterans looking for information on health care, jobs and benefits. The program also locates the closest state veterans' affairs office. Cuomo says the app is an example of how technology can be used to improve the delivery of state services and programs. The program was developed by the state's Division of Veterans' Affairs.

**7. Online Health Care Application.** Providing health care to our Nation’s Veterans is a vital service of the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), one that must persistently improve.  Through the MyVA transformation, VA is rebuilding trust with Veterans and the American people; modernizing service delivery; and setting the course for long-term, VA excellence, all

while continuing to expand access to high-quality care.  Through improvement efforts, many of the steps Veterans must take to receive health care were reviewed and found that enhancements were necessary in the initial application to better the Veteran experience by removing barriers that hinder access. The VA will soon launch a new online health care application on[www.vets.gov](https://www.vets.gov/).  Previously, Veterans could apply for health care online, but the user experience was often frustrating. Beginning June 30, 2016, Veterans applying for health care will be directed to the health care application on [www.vets.gov](https://www.vets.gov/).  Veterans and other stakeholders will still have access to VA Form 10-10EZ, which was originally

available through the Veterans On-line Application; however, going forward, those applying for health care eligibility will use the online application or call 877-222-VETS (8387). Please take a moment to review the new [online form](http://www.vets.gov/healthcare/apply/), and, as of June 30, 2016, begin referring Veterans interested in applying for health care eligibility to the new site.  To learn more about applying for health benefits, please visit VA’s Health Benefits [webpage](http://www.va.gov/HEALTHBENEFITS/apply/index.asp).

8. New Veterans Representative on Staten Island. BP Oddo recently announced that Matthew Basile, a Community Outreach Specialist from the NYC Department of Veterans' Services, will be working out of Borough Hall to assist Veterans several days a week. He will also be working in a space at the College of Staten Island, assisting both student-veterans and Veterans who do not attend the college. As a Community Outreach Specialist, Mr. Basile's job entails interacting with Staten Island's Veterans and their families in order to connect them with employment services, educational benefits, financial services and business opportunities. A Navy Veteran, Mr. Basile made multiple deployments across Eastern Europe and the Middle East. After he finished his active duty service, he owned a small

business that catered to military personnel in the Virginia Beach Area. In this capacity, Mr. Basile was awarded numerous government contracts that made him proficient in working with both the Veteran community and the federal government's procurement system. Later, he attended the College of Staten Island, where he served as a student-veteran mentor, assisting college students with their benefits and academic careers. Mr. Basile's office is located in Borough Hall, Room G-15 and at CSI Campus Center, Room 216. Those interested in meeting with him can set up an appointment by calling ***(646) 799-2743*** or emailing [***mbasile@veterans.nyc.gov***](mailto:mbasile@veterans.nyc.gov).

**9. VA Online Scheduling System to go Live in January.** Veterans will initially be able to schedule primary care appointments by using a new app. And in the future VA officials plan to add optometry, audiology and mental-health.

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs plans in January to begin online scheduling of medical appointments nationwide.

With the program, the VA will schedule primary-care appointments for more than 6 million patients through an app on their phones, tablets or computers. VA officials also plan to add appointments for optometry, audiology and mental-health.

Neil Evans, MD, chief of the office of connected care for the Veterans Health Administration said the move will be “a huge step forward” for the VA.  “I think this is really, really, really important for us to be able to offer.” Kathleen Frisbee, executive director for connected health at the VA’s office of connected care, added that the new software will open in the agency’s health system for more public inspection as patients view open appointments and choose which times are best for them with the click of a computer mouse.  “I mean, we are exposing our availability to the world,” Frisbee said.

Initially VA developers planned to offer online requests for appointments rather than actual scheduling. But vets who use the VA’s online portal, called MyHealtheVet, advocated for actual do-it-yourself online scheduling, Evans said.  In fact, online scheduling was the most requested item of vets using the VA’s online portal. The portal software cost $3.2 million, and runs on technology infrastructure from Agilex Technologies, now Accenture Federal Services, and the VA’s internal development.

**10.** [**Vets.gov**](http://vets.gov/)**Connects Veterans to Services.** In November 2015, [Vets.gov](http://naus.informz.net/z/cjUucD9taT02MDg4MzgxJnA9MSZ1PTEwMjg4NDU0MzMmbGk9MzkzNjI2MjY/index.html) was released as a new way to connect to some of the Department of Veterans Affairs' most popular services and transactions.  Over the past year, [Vets.gov](http://vets.gov/) has evolved to include new self-service functionality and tools.  [Vets.gov](http://vets.gov/) includes 39 product features that improve veteran online access to benefits including health care, education, employment and disability benefits.  The goal for [Vets.gov](http://vets.gov/) is to become the single, one-stop place to go to interact with VA.  New content and functionality will be added to the website week by week.  You can track that progress via a [public dashboard](http://naus.informz.net/z/cjUucD9taT02MDg4MzgxJnA9MSZ1PTEwMjg4NDU0MzMmbGk9MzkzNjI2Mjc/index.html).

11. Marlene Roll, **Assistant VSO, Veterans of Foreign Wars**

Office days: Tuesday – Fridays, Ph: 716.857.3348, Fax: 716.857.3484

<http://www.blogs.va.gov/VAntage/32858/myva311-one-number-call-reach-va/>

Please be advised that this email address is not checked on a daily basis.

If you need *immediate*response, please call 716.857.3403.

**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.

3. The VFW National Headquarters has a job opening as described below:

JOB TITLE: Director, Membership

JOB LOCATION: Kansas City, MO

JOB TYPE: Full Time

COMPENSATION: Salary starting at $87,750; plus benefits including health, dental, vision plans, 401k, retirement plan, life insurance

**4. NSWC Indian Head EOD Technology Division, Systems Integration Department Picatinny NJ**

**December 2016 Vacancies**

**Transportation Specialist**

This position is responsible for generating shipping documentation, scheduling shippers and pick-ups, receives or issues materials, reviews associated documents for accuracy, resolves schedule, shipper or financial/billing issues that emerge while observing applicable Arms, Ammunition and Explosives (AA&E) transportation requirements. Responsible for compliance with Department of State, Department of Transportation and Department of Defense AA&E regulations on transporting weapons materials and equipment (CONUS and OCONUS).

Experience using transportation systems for national and international shipment of weapon materials and equipment is desired.

**Field Service Technician**

This position provides technical support for the manufacture, overhaul, installation, and conversion of Major Caliber Gun Weapon Systems. Duties includes:

* Test system capabilities including integration with multiple combat systems including, but not limited to, AEGIS and various interfaces.
* Coordinating installation of Major Caliber ordnance alterations (ORDALTs) (system wide) and providing direct government oversight for all alteration installation teams (AIT) performing ship alterations on all variants.
* Providing support to the In-Service Engineering Agent (ISEA) Fleet Support Branch by installing ORDALTs and providing interim training on new equipment.
* Serving as the liaison between Regional Maintenance Center (RMC), (SUPSHIP), Port Engineers, Project

Managers, Design Yard representatives, and various Private Contractors.

* Performing System Operational and Verification Testing (SOVT).
* Provides a full range of technical, mechanical, operational and tactical training to Ship's Force.

This position is based in Picatinny NJ, but requires up to 70% travel to CONUS and OCONUS locations.

Experience as a Gunner’s Mate, or experience with Naval Gun weapon system maintenance, operation, testing, and troubleshooting is required.

Please send resumes for consideration to Mary Bottass, [Mary.bottass@navy.mil](mailto:Mary.bottass@navy.mil)

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 Cpl. David T. Nordin, Jr.,** 23,Company K, 3rd Battalion, 35th Infantry Regiment, 25th Infantry Division. He was declared missing Nov. 28, 1950, after his unit was attacked by Chinese forces while establishing a position near Unsan, North Korea, as part of a United Nations Command offensive.

**Army Sgt. Stafford L. Morris** Battery A, 503rd Field Artillery Battalion, 2nd Infantry Division. His unit was operating just north of Kujang-dong, North Korea, when it was attacked by overwhelming Chinese forces and was forced to withdraw through an area referred to as “The Gauntlet.” Morris was declared missing on Dec. 1, 1950.

**Navy Seaman 2nd Class Floyd F. Clifford** was assigned to the USS Oklahoma, which was moored off Ford Island in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, when Japanese aircraft attacked his ship on Dec. 7, 1941. Clifford was one of 429 crewmen killed in the attack.

**Navy Fireman 3rd Class Kenneth L. Holm** was assigned to the USS Oklahoma, which was moored off Ford Island in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, when Japanese aircraft attacked his ship on Dec. 7, 1941. Holm was one of 429 crewmen killed in the attack.

**Navy Seaman 1st Class Harold W. Roesch** was assigned to the USS Oklahoma, which was moored off Ford Island in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, when Japanese aircraft attacked his ship on Dec. 7, 1941. Roesch was one of 429 crewmen killed in the attack. Interment services are pending.

**Navy Yeoman 3rd Class Edmund T. Ryan** was assigned to the USS Oklahoma, which was moored off Ford Island in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, when Japanese aircraft attacked his ship on Dec. 7, 1941. Ryan was one of 429 crewmen killed in the attack.

**Army Air Forces Staff Sgt. Byron H. Nelson** was a nose gunner aboard an American B-24G Liberator bomber with the 721st Bomb Squadron, 450th Bomb Group, 15th Air Force. During a bombing run near Varese, Italy, on April 25, 1944, Nelson’s aircraft and two others were separated from the formation due to dense clouds and later attacked by German fighters. Of the 10 crewmen, six parachuted from the aircraft and escaped capture, two parachuted and were captured by German forces, and two perished in the crash. Nelson was reported to be one of the two who perished.

**Army Air Forces Capt. Albert L. Schlegel**, of Cleveland, Ohio,disappeared Aug. 28, 1944, while piloting his P-51D Mustang on a ground strafing mission near Strasbourg, France. In his final communication, the fighter “ace” radioed he’d been hit by heavy anti-aircraft fire and would need to bail out.

**Army Cpl. Gerald I. Shepler** was the lead scout on a reconnaissance patrol for Company K, 3rd Battalion, 187th Airborne Infantry Regiment, 7th Infantry Division, near Hajoyang-ni, North Korea, when his patrol was ambushed by enemy forces. Shepler was unaccounted for after the mission, and the U.S. Army declared him deceased on Nov. 29, 1950.

**Army Sgt. Homer R. Abney** was a member of Company A, 1st Battalion, 9th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Infantry Division, when his unit was engaged in heavy fighting with Chinese forces on the road from Kunu-ri to Sunch’on, North Korea — later named “The Gauntlet.” After several days of fighting, his regiment declared Abney missing on Nov. 30, 1950..

**Army Cpl. James T. Mainhart** served with Company I, 31st Infantry Regiment, 7th Infantry Division, part of the 31st Regimental Combat Team deployed east of the Chosin Reservoir in North Korea. The RCT was attacked by an overwhelming number of Chinese forces in late November, 1950. Mainhart was among 1,300 members of the RCT killed or captured in enemy territory. He was reported missing as of Nov. 30, 1950..

**Army Cpl. Edward Pool** was reported missing in action on Nov. 30, 1950, while serving with 31st Heavy Mortar Company, 31st Infantry Regiment, 7th Infantry Division. His unit was part of the 31st Regimental Combat Team deployed east of the Chosin Reservoir in North Korea. Pool could not be accounted for after several days of intense fighting.

**Army Cpl. Jules Hauterman** was a medic with the Medical Platoon, 1st Battalion, 32nd Infantry Regiment, 7th Infantry Division, attached to the 31st Regimental Combat Team deployed east of the Chosin Reservoir in North Korea. The RCT

was attacked by an overwhelming number of Chinese forces in late November, 1950. Mainhart was among 1,300 members of the RCT killed or captured in enemy territory. He was reported missing as of Dec 2, 1950.

**Army Cpl. George A. Perreault** was part of Support Force 21, assigned to Headquarters Battery, 15th Field Artillery Battalion, 2nd Infantry Division, near the Central Corridor in South Korea. While supporting Korean-led attacks on Chinese forces, they were caught in a massive Chinese counterattack on Feb. 11, 1951. Perreault was declared missing on Feb. 13, 1951.

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 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.

**Items of Interest**

**Happy New Year**

When things in your life seem almost too much to handle, When 24 hours in a day are not enough, remember the mayonnaise jar and the 2 Beers.

A professor stood before his philosophy class and had some items in front of him. When the class began, he wordlessly picked up a very large and empty mayonnaise jar and proceeded to fill it with golf balls. He then asked the students if the jar was full. They agreed that it was. The professor then picked up a box of pebbles and poured them into the jar. He shook the jar lightly.  The pebbles rolled into the open areas between the golf balls. He then asked the students again if the jar was full. They agreed it was. The professor next picked up a box of sand and poured it into the jar.  Of course, the sand filled up everything else.  He asked once more if the jar was full? The students responded with a unanimous 'yes.'

The professor then produced two beers from under the table and poured the entire contents into the jar effectively filling the empty space between the sand. The students laughed! 'Now,' said the professor as the laughter subsided, 'I want you to recognize that this jar represents your life. The golf balls are the important things--- **your family, your children, your health, your friends and your favorite passions** --- **and if everything else was lost and only they remained, your life would still be full.** The pebbles are the other things that matter **like your job** , your house and your car..

The sand is everything else---the small stuff. 'If you put the sand into the jar first,' he continued,  'there is no room for the pebbles or the golf balls.  The same goes for life.  If you spend all your time and energy on the small stuff you will never have room for the things that are important to you.  Pay attention to the things that are critical to your happiness.

 Spend time with your children.  Spend time with your parents.  Visit with grandparents.  Take your spouse out to dinner.  Play another 18 holes of golf.  There will always be time to clean the house, fix the disposal or deal with things from your job. **Take care of the golf balls first---the things that really matter.** Set your priorities. **The rest is just sand.**

One of the students raised her hand and inquired what the beer represented. The professor smiled and said, 'I'm glad you asked.'

**The beer just shows you that no matter how full your life may seem, there's always room for a couple of beers with a friend.**