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

**17 CANNON AVENUE**

**STATEN ISLAND, NY 10314**

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

**July 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 |

**Calendar Events**

Calendar of Events for 2017:

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Date | Event | Location | Time | Remarks |
| 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 |

Calendar of Events for 2018

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Date | Event | Location | Time | Remarks |
| 6 January | Blazing Star Post Meeting | Gold Star Post | 1000 | Saturday |
| 3 February | Blazing Star Post Meeting | Gold Star Post | 1000 | Saturday |
| 3 March | Blazing Star Post Meeting | Gold Star Post | 1000 | Saturday |
| 7 April | Blazing Star Post Meeting | Gold Star Post | 1000 | Saturday |
| 5 May | Blazing Star Post Meeting | Gold Star Post | 1000 | Saturday |
| 2 June | Blazing Star Post Meeting | Gold Star Post | 1000 | Saturday |
| 7 July | Blazing Star Post Meeting | Gold Star Post | 1000 | Saturday |
| 4 August | Blazing Star Post Meeting | Gold Star Post | 1000 | Saturday |
| 5 September | Blazing Star Post Meeting | Gold Star Post | 1300 | Wednesday |
| 3 October | Blazing Star Post Meeting | Gold Star Post | 1300 | Wednesday |
| 7 November | Blazing Star Post Meeting | Gold Star Post | 1300 | Wednesday |
| 5 December | 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. New Member. WELCOME!!!

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| Hayes, Matthew T |
| Johnson, Khadijah L |
| Lewis, Daniel M |

2. Dues Renewal Reminder:

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Krigel, Adam C | Current Until | 6/26/2017 | ***EXPIRED*** |
| Robinson, James A | Current Until | 6/6/2017 | ***EXPIRED*** |
| Ruggiero, Blenda C | UnPaid | 3/17/2017 | ***EXPIRED*** |
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3. Members, YOUR post is rated well at National Headquarters. Best of the Best Nationally for support of local reserve unit, also recognized for support of military service programs and Patriots Pen writing contest for children. If you have children or grandchildren in grades 6,7,8, we want them in our next years writing contest, if they do well, they can compete at national level for large prizes, if not we recognize winners at local level with checks and plaques. If you have children or grandchildren in High school, we have another program called voice of democracy where they can compete for scholarships at the national level(if they do well). Need info, the topics are already out there, give them something to do over the summer, get them involved.

**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, Doug Encarcion.

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 – <http://www.veteranscrisisline.net/ThePowerof1.aspx>.

6. Online Health Care Application.[www.vets.gov](https://www.vets.gov/).  or call 877-222-VETS (8387).

7. Veterans Representative on Staten Island. Matthew Basile, Borough Hall, Room G-15 and at CSI Campus Center, Room 216. **(646) 799-2743** or emailing [**mbasile@veterans.nyc.gov**](mailto:mbasile@veterans.nyc.gov). Also at NYC Department of Veterans' Services  
1 Centre Street, Suite 2208, New York, NY 10007, DVS General Phone: (212) 416-5250

8. [Vets.gov](http://vets.gov/) Connects Veterans to Services.

9. 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.

10. 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/>

**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. 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 Pvt. Gene J. Appleby**, 30, Co A, 508th Parachute Infantry Regt, Groesbeek, the Netherlands, Sept. 17, 1944.

**Army Cpl. Billie J. Jimerson**, 19, Co C, 1st Bn, 24th Infantry Regt, 25th Inf Div, Anju, North Korea, Nov 28, 1950.

**Navy Seaman 1st Class George A. Coke**, 18, USS Oklahoma, Pearl Harbor, Dec. 7, 1941.

**Navy Gunner's Mate 1st Class Arthur C. Neuenschwander**, 33, USS Oklahoma, Pearl Harbor, Dec. 7, 1941.

**Army Cpl. Leslie R. Sutton**, 24, Battery C, 99th Field Artillery Bn, 1st Cavalry Div, Unsan, North Korea, Nov. 2, 1950.

**Machinist’s Mate 1st Class Earl R. Melton**, 24, USS Oklahoma, Pearl Harbor, Dec. 7, 1941.

**Army Air Forces Pvt. Harold S. Hirschi**, 29, 19th Bombardment Group, Cabanatuan POW camp, Nov. 19, 1942.

**Air Force Col. Patrick H. Wood**, 36, over North Vietnam, Feb. 6, 1967.

**Marine Corps Pfc. Ray James,** Co F, 2nd Bn, 8th Marine Regt, 2nd Marine Div, Tarawa, Nov. 20, 1943.

**Marine Corps Pvt. Archie W. Newell,** Co C, 2nd Tank Bn, 2nd Marine Div, Tarawa, Nov. 20, 1943.

**Marine Corps Pfc. George B. Murray,** Co B, 1st Bn, 2nd Marines Regt, 2nd Marine Div, Tarawa, Nov. 20, 1943.

**Army Staff Sgt. Gerald L. Jacobsen,** 134th Infantry Regt, 35th Infantry Div, Saint-Lô, France, July 15, 1944.

**Army Air Forces 1st Lt. George W. Betchley,** 2nd Bombardment Gp, over southwest Poland, March 22, 1945.

**Army Pfc. Albert E. Atkins,** Co E, 2nd Bn, 187th Airborne Infantry Regt, Mae-Bong, South Korea, May 23, 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. 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.

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5. Thanks to Vietnam veteran, and longtime advocate Lee Covino—and the leadership of Minority Leader Steven Matteo, a deal was reached with Mayor de Blasio to include a long-overdue exemption from ballooning school taxes for veteran homeowners. Highlights of the deal that was reached include:

**Caps on Maximum Allowable Exemption.** The amount budgeted by NYC Council earlier this year for the fully-implemented school tax exemption in FY 2018 was $41 million. The final amount adopted in the FY 2018 is $25 million, which represents a cost reduction resulting from caps in the maximum allowable amount exempted. The average annual

tax reduction per household will be $595, with a maximum additional benefit of $1,157. The NYC Veterans Alliance stated in today's hearing concern that these caps may limit the exemption in the face of rapidly rising school taxes; the response from NYC Council is that the caps are designed to rise in proportion to increases in school taxes. While not ideal, these limitations were a critical deciding factor in the inclusion of the exemption in this year's budget.

**Implementation.** The exemption will go into effect on July 1, 2017. Veteran homeowners who already signed up for the Alternative Tax Exemption by March 15 of this year will be able to claim exemption from school taxes on their tax bill for the entire fiscal year. Veteran homeowners not currently signed up, but who meet eligibility criteria for the Alternative Tax Exemption and apply before March 15, 2018, will be able to take advantage of the exemption from school taxes for fiscal year 2019.

**5-Year Sunset.** Another compromise to reach a final deal on the exemption is the expiration or sunset date of June 30, 2022. This can be seen as a limitation to the exemption, but it also represents an opportunity for renegotiation of the limits going into effect this year. If our community can show maximum participation and that tax savings are going back into our local economy—and if we keep holding our public officials accountable--we could have another larger win in five years.

**Final Passage of Intro. 1304A and Preconsidered Intro.** Following the deal to include the Alternative Exemption in the FY 2018 Budget, additional wording specifying the maximum exemption caps and sunset must be added to legislation passed to put this into effect. A public hearing on the full bill wording was held this morning, and passage is expected sometime next week.

**Items of Interest**

"Sometimes, when I reflect on all the beer I drink, I feel ashamed. Then I look into the glass and think about the workers in the brewery and all of their hopes and dreams. If I did not drink this beer, they might be out of work and their dreams would be shattered. I think, it is better to drink this beer and let their dreams come true, than be selfish and worry about my liver." Babe Ruth

"When I read about the evils of drinking, I gave up reading." Paul Horning

"24 hours in a day and 24 beers in a case. Coincidence? I think not". H. L. Mencken

"When we drink, we get drunk. When we get drunk, we fall asleep. When we fall asleep, we commit no sin. When we commit no sin, we go to heaven. So, let's all get drunk and go to heaven." George Bernard Shaw

"Beer is proof that God loves us and wants us to be happy." Benjamin Franklin

"Without question, the greatest invention in the history of mankind is beer. Oh, I grant you that the wheel was also a fine invention, but the wheel does not go nearly as well with pizza." Dave Barry

Remember "I" before "E," except in Budweiser. Professor Irwin Corey

“To some it is a six-pack. To me, it is a Support Group. Salvation in a can.” Leo Durocher

One night at Cheers, a TV Sitcom, Cliff Clavin said to his buddy, Norm Peterson: "Well, ya see, Norm, it's like this ... A herd of buffalo can only move as fast as the slowest buffalo.  And when the herd is hunted, it is the slowest and weakest ones at the back that are killed first. This natural selection is good for the herd as a whole, because the general speed and health of the whole group keeps improving by the regular killing of the weakest members. In much the same way, the human brain can only operate as fast as the slowest brain cells. Excessive intake of alcohol, as we know, kills brain cells.

But, naturally, it attacks the slowest and weakest brain cells first. In this way, regular consumption of beer eliminates the weaker brain cells, making the brain a faster and more efficient machine. That's why you always feel smarter after a few beers".