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

**17 CANNON AVENUE**

**STATEN ISLAND, NY 10314**

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

**March 2018**

|  |
| --- |
| 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**

2018

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Date | Event | Location | Time | Remarks |
| 3 March | Blazing Star Post Meeting | Gold Star Post | 1000 | Saturday |
| 8 March | Richmond County Council Meeting | North Shore Post | 1100 | Mariners Harbor |
| 16 March | Poppy Distribution | Philips 66 Refinery | 1100-1300 | Friday |
| 27 March | Vietnam Vets Welcome Home Breakfast | Excelsior Grand | 0900 | RSVP 718-816-2133 |
| 7 April | Blazing Star Post Meeting | Gold Star Post | 1000 | Saturday |
| 12 April | Richmond County Council Meeting | Labetti Post | 1100 | Brian Wallace |
| 5 May | Blazing Star Post Meeting | Gold Star Post | 1000 | Saturday |
| 5-6 May | District 2 Convention | Middletown, NY |  |  |
| 10 May | Richmond County Council Meeting | North Shore Post | 1100 | North Shore |
| 12 May | Poppy Distribution | Shoprite | 0900-1500 | Saturday |
| 18 May | Poppy Distribution | SI Ferry | 0700-1000 | Friday |
| 18 May | Annual KWVA Dinner Dance | Staaten | 1930-2330 | $60.00 pp |
| 19 May | Oceanview Ceremony | Oceanview Cemetery | 1100 |  |
| 19 May | SI Welcomes Our Heroes | Gold Star Post | 1330 |  |
| 26 May | Travis Memorial Day Mass & Ceremony | Travis | 0900-1100 |  |
| 28 May | Forest Ave Memorial Day Parade | Forest Ave | TBA |  |
| 2 June | Blazing Star Post Meeting | Gold Star Post | 1000 | Saturday |
| 9 June | Poppy Distribution | Stop and Shop | 0900-1500 | Saturday |
| 10 June | Poppy Distribution | Stop and Shop | 0900-1500 | Sunday |
| 14 June | Richmond County Council Meeting | Ollis Post | 1100 | Ollis |
| 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. Dues Renewal Reminder:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Curry, Albert | Unpaid | 12/31/2017 | ***EXPIRED*** |
| Maloney, Brian T | Unpaid | 12/31/2017 | ***EXPIRED*** |
|  |  |  |  |
| Robinson, James A | Unpaid | 6/6/2017 | ***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. 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/>

11. 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

12. 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. Call 718-226-4325 for an application.

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 (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.

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

home are:

**Navy Gunner's Mate 2nd Class William F. Hellstern** USS Oklahoma, Pearl Harbor, Dec. 7, 1941.

**Navy Machinist's Mate 2nd Class Lorentz E. Hultgren** USS Oklahoma, Pearl Harbor, Dec. 7, 1941.

**Navy Seaman 1st Class Henry G. Tipton** USS Oklahoma, Pearl Harbor, Dec. 7, 1941.   
**USMCR Pfc. Joe Lukie** Co K, 3rd Bn, 2nd Marine Regt, 2nd Marine Division Tarawa Nov. 20, 1943.  
**USMC 2nd Lt. Harvel L. Moore** Co K, 3rd Bn, 2nd Marine Regt, 2nd Marine Division Tarawa Nov. 20, 1943.

**Army Staff Sgt. Leo J. Husak** Co A, 1st Bn, 309th Infantry Regt, 78th Infantry Division, Hürtgen Forest Jan. 30, 1945. **Army Cpl. Leonard V. Purkapile** Co E, 2nd Bn, 35th Infantry Regt, 25th Infantry Div Unsan North Korea, Nov. 28, 1950.

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. Senator Savino and The New York Conference of Italian-American State Legislators Announces 2018 Scholarship

 The New York Conference of Italian-American State Legislators is now accepting applications for college scholarships for the 2018-2019 school year. Two Academic and Two Athletic Scholarships are offered in the amount of $3,000 each. The winners will receive their awards at this year’s Italian American Day on June 4th, in Albany and recipients must be present to accept them. Requirements for the Academic Scholarship are the student’s grade point average, higher education interest and goals, community involvement and individual need. Students who apply for the Athletic Scholarship have to demonstrate athletic involvement, achievements and interest in continuing those activities in college. The Conference of Italian American State Legislators has awarded these scholarships for 15 years. The dream to pursue a higher education should not be marred by the inability to pay, and it is truly my honor to commend such well deserving students from my

district. To obtain an application, please call District Office at 718-727-9406. Applications are due no later than April 13th, 2018.

6. GREETINGS FROM THE VFW NATIONAL HOME. The home was established on January 7 1925 when a local farmer donated the land to the MOC to be used as a home for widows and children of fallen military members. The VFW stepped in when the project became too big for the MOC. The home now accepts complete families to reside at the home.

The VFW National Home for children offers a once in a lifetime opportunity for honorable discharged veterans, active duty military, or descendants in to our program, Families can accomplish significant life goals by participating in our program which offers:

Case management services to help set up family plans and goals.

Educational, recreational, and enrichment opportunities.

Community resources and counseling

Free housing and daycare

If you meet a family in need, please encourage them to call the Military & Veteran Family Helpline at 800-313-4200 or visit vfwnationalhome.com/help. The friendly staff at the National Home for Children will help determine if this program is right for them and their family. Currently there are 137 residents on campus including 86 children and 18 veterans living on campus. 56% of our resident families are couples. There are 6 states currently represented on campus: CO,HI, MI, NC, TX, WY. The national Home has been serving all 50 states in the past 93 years.

**Items of Interest**

 Rules for Work

1. Never give me work in the morning. Always wait until 4:00 and then bring it to me. The challenge of a deadline is refreshing.

2. If it's really a rush job, run in and interrupt me every 10 minutes to inquire how it's going. That helps. Or even better, hover behind me, advising me at every keystroke.

3. Always leave without telling anyone where you're going. It gives me a chance to be creative when someone asks where you are.

4. If my arms are full of papers, boxes, books, or supplies, don't open the door for me. I need to learn how to function as a paraplegic and opening doors with no arms is good training in case I should ever be injured and lose all use of my limbs.

5. If you give me more than one job to do, don't tell me which is the priority. I am psychic.

6. Do your best to keep me late. I adore this office and really have nowhere to go or anything to do. I have no life beyond work.

7. If a job I do pleases you, keep it a secret. If that gets out, it could mean a promotion.

8. If you don't like my work, tell everyone. I like my name to be popular in conversations. I was born to be whipped.

9. If you have special instructions for a job, don't write them down. In fact, save them until the job is almost done.

No use confusing me with useful information.

10. Never introduce me to the people you're with. I have no right to know anything. In the corporate food chain, I am plankton. When you refer to them later, my shrewd deductions will identify them.

11. Be nice to me only when the job I'm doing for you could really change your life and send you straight to manager's hell.

12. Tell me all your little problems. No one else has any and it's nice to know someone is less fortunate. I especially like the story about having to pay so much taxes on the bonus check you received for being such a good manager.

13. Wait until my yearly review and THEN tell me what my goals SHOULD have been. Give me a mediocre performance rating with a cost of living increase. I'm not here for the money anyway.