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

**17 CANNON AVENUE**

**STATEN ISLAND, NY 10314**

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

**November 2018**

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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**



James W. Smith, 97 Retired Navy chief petty officer. U.S. Navy Chief Petty Officer Ret. James W. Smith, 97, of Staten Island, N.Y., passed Wednesday evening, Oct. 10, 2018, at the New Vanderbilt Nursing Home. A native of Staten Island, Mr. Smith was the son of the late Walter and Mable Smith. With a 20-year career in the United States Navy, James served from 1939 in World War II, Korea and Vietnam and retired in 1959 with the rank of Navy chief petty officer.   
After serving his country, James then worked for the City Service Company as an office worker for 23 years until his retirement in 1983. In his spare time, James enjoyed gardening, working on his house, anything to do with maintenance and he was also an avid reader. He was a member of the American Legion Gold Star Post, where he was listed as Legion Man of the Year in 1996. Also, a member of the VFW Post Blazing Star. He served on the Travis 4th of July Committee, a member of the Fleet Reserve Association and was a trustee (17 years) and president (eight years) of the North Shore Cemetery Association (Fairview Cemetery). Mr. Smith is survived by several cousins and many close friends.

**Calendar Events**

2018

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| Date | Event | Location | Time | Remarks |
| 2 November | Poppy Distribution | SI Ferry | 0700-1000 | Tentative |
| 2 November | Poppy Distribution | Philips Refinery | 1100-1300 | Tentative |
| 3 November | Poppy Distribution | Stop & Shop | 0900-1500 | Tentative |
| 4 November | Poppy Distribution | Stop & Shop | 0900-1500 | Tentative |
| 5 November | Veterans Recognition Day | Tottenville H.S. | 0930-1115 | 718-668-8800x11161 |
| 7 November | Blazing Star Post Meeting | Gold Star Post | 1300 | Wednesday |
| 8 November | Annual Veterans Breakfast & Assembly | St Adalbert School | 0815-1100 | 718-442-2020 |
| 15 November | Salute to Veterans Information Seminar | Old Bermuda Inn | 1000-1200 | 718-356-2867 |
| 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. Blazing Star member wakes. We all will be in this situation eventually and would like our families to be comforted by the presence of fellow veterans. Please make every effort to attend.

3. We are collecting items such as snacks, microwave popcorn, jiffy pop and hard candies, etc. for fellow post member Adam Scher who is deployed to Afghanistan.

4. Dues Renewal Reminder:

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Curry, Albert | UnPaid | 12/31/2017 | **EXPIRED** | Maloney, Brian T | | UnPaid | 12/31/2017 | **EXPIRED** |
| Hayes, Matthew T | UnPaid | 5/9/2018 | **EXPIRED** | Ruggiero, Blenda C | | UnPaid | 6/29/2018 | **EXPIRED** |
| Johnson, Khadijah L | UnPaid | 5/2/2018 | **EXPIRED** | Sheinwald, Abe | | UnPaid | 3/30/2018 | **EXPIRED** |
| Krishna, Ash | UnPaid | 6/18/2018 | **EXPIRED** |  | |  |  |  |
| Leunes, Peter | UnPaid | 5/16/2018 | **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. John Bartow, Assistant VSO, Veterans of Foreign Wars 518-626-5687.

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. Go to the Security Office with proof of military/veteran status. You will be given 12 parking stamps. Place them on parking ticket and no fee.

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:

**Army Master Sgt. Charles H. McDaniel**, 32, 8th Cavalry Regt, Unsan, North Korea. Nov. 2, 1950.

**Army Sgt. James K. Park**, 20, Co I, 26th Infantry Regt, 1st Infantry Division. Hürtgen Forest in Germany, Nov. 24, 1945.

**USMCR Pfc. Paul D. Gilman**, 19, Co M, 3rd Bn, 8th Marine Regt, 2nd Marine Division, Tarawa, Nov. 20, 1943.

**Mr. George L. Ritter,** Air America Incorporated, Sayaboury, Laos, Dec. 31, 1971.

**Merchant Marine Wiper Elvis N. Spotts,** SS Cape Isabel, Betio Island, Feb. 22, 1944.

**USMC Sgt. Dwight W. Randall,** Co C, 2nd Amphibian Tractor Bn, 2nd Marine Division, Tarawa, Nov. 20, 1943.

**Navy Fireman 1st Class Angelo M. Gabriele,** USS West Virginia, Pearl Harbor, Dec 7, 1941.

**Navy Fireman 1st Class Grant C. Cook, Jr.,** USS Oklahoma, Pearl Harbor, Dec. 7, 1941.

5. 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 |  |

6. Staten Island Community TV: Veterans TV Shows are available 24 hours a day via Youtube. To view, google "Youtube, Ed Salek, In Honor of" or go to Youtube.com and search for Ed Salek, In Honor of.

7. **Free Dental Hygiene and Vision care Services at New York City College of Technology** - November 12th- New York City College of Technology (City Tech) will be hosting free dental hygiene and vision care services for veterans on November 12th, 2018. (See attached flyer for more details). Please disseminate to as many veterans who would like to take advantage of these free services.

-**Veterans Smile Day**- The Touro Dental School and the Ninth District Dental Association to offer free oral health screenings, x-rays and cleanings for veterans, military service members and their families on Thursday, November 8th from 9:00AM - 3:00PM.  **Care is limited to 150 participants, so advance registration is required by October 25th. To make an appointment, call 914-594-2700.** Please see the link below for more details.: <https://dental.touro.edu/news--events/stories/touro-college-of-dental-medicine-honors-veterans-and-their-families-with-free-dental-services-on-november-8.php>

- **2nd Annual Day of Free Dentistry for Veteran's-** In honor of Veteran’s Day, and as a special thank you to our veterans, Dental365 will be hosting our second annual Free Dentistry for Veteran's Day on Sunday, November 11th from 9am-3pm. Participating locations will be accepting walk-ins, or veterans can schedule an appointment by calling 877-759-6933. Cleanings, x-rays, full-mouth debridement, comprehensive examinations and other same-day services will be offered at the following Dental365 locations:

Bethpage, Long Island 4216 Hempstead Tpke.

Centereach, Long Island 1946 Middle Country Rd.

Tribeca, Manhattan 19 Murray St.

Forest Hills, Queens 70-09 Austin St.

Our Founder and CEO of Dental365, Dr. Scott Asnis is no stranger to the veteran community—he began his over 30-year career with a residency at the Brooklyn Veterans Administration Hospital in 1984, where he provided direct care to eligible military veterans.  More info here: <https://www.godental365.com/latest-news/giving-veterans-a-reason-to-smile-dental365-to-provide-free-dental-services-to-military-veterans/>  Dr. Asnis and our entire Dental365 team are honored to be providing these vital services to all our nation’s heroes in celebration of Veteran’s Day on November 11th. Please feel free to forward this email to a veteran that could benefit from this special day and help us spread the word!

**-VA Dental Insurance Program (VADIP**)- Veterans who are enrolled in the VA health care system and beneficiaries and their dependents of the Civilian Health and Medical Program of the VA (CHAMPVA) can enroll in the program beginning Monday, November 12, 2018, for coverage to start December 1, 2018. VADIP is insurance for Veterans who are not eligible for dental care through VA (e.g. less than 100% service connected). This insurance requires a premium and copays, Delta Dental of California and MetLife will offer private insurance coverage for enrolled Veterans and their families again this year.   More info can be obtained here: <https://www.blogs.va.gov/VAntage/53469/discounted-dental-insurance-coverage-veterans/>  Click here:<https://feds.deltadentalins.com/vadip/plans/rate1.html>  for specific information regarding registration, rates, and services for Delta Dental Insurance or call Delta Dental at 1-855-370-3303. Click here: <https://www.metlife.com/vadip/>  for specific information regarding registration, rates, and services for MetLife Dental Insurance or call MetLife at 1-888-310-1681.

**Items of Interest**

**Military Rules for the Non-Military Personnel**  
Dear Civilians,   
We know that the current state of affairs in our great nation have many civilians up in arms and excited to join the military.  For those of you who can't join, you can still lend a hand. Here are a few of the areas we would like your assistance:   
  
1) The next time you see an adult talking (or wearing a hat) during the playing of the National Anthem ... kick their ass.   
  
2) When you witness firsthand someone burning the American Flag in protest... kick their ass.   
  
3) Regardless of the rank they held while they served, pay the highest amount of respect to all veterans. If you see anyone doing otherwise, quietly pull them aside and explain how these Veterans fought for the very freedom they bask in every second. Enlighten them on the many sacrifices these Veterans made to make this Nation great. Then hold them down while a Disabled Veteran kicks their ass.   
  
4) (GUYS) If you were never in the military, DO NOT pretend that you were. Wearing battle dress uniforms (BDU's), telling others that you used to be "Special Forces," and collecting GI Joe memorabilia, might have been okay if you were still seven. Now, it will only make you look stupid and get your   
ass kicked.   
  
5) Next time you come across an Air Force member, do not ask them, "Do you fly a jet?" Not everyone in the Air Force is a pilot. Such ignorance deserves an ass kicking (children are exempt).   
  
6) If you witness someone calling the U.S. Coast Guard non military, inform them of their mistake...and kick their ass.   
  
7) Next time Old Glory (U.S. flag) prances by during a parade, get on your damn feet and pay homage to her by placing your hand over your heart. Quietly thank the military member or veteran lucky enough to be carrying her...of course, failure to do either of those could earn you a severe ass kicking.   
  
8) What Jane Fonda did during the Vietnam War makes her the enemy. The proper word to describe her is "traitor." Just mention her nomination for "Woman of the Year" and get your ass kicked.   
  
9) Don't try to discuss politics with a military member or a veteran. We are Americans and we all bleed the same regardless of our party affiliation. Our Chain of Command, is to include our commander in Chief. The President (for those who didn't know) is our CIC regardless of political party. We have no inside track on what happens inside those big important buildings where all those  representatives" meet. All we know is that when those civilian representatives screw up the situation, they call upon the military to go straighten it out. The military member might direct you to Oliver North. (I can see him kicking your ass already.)   
  
11) "Your mama wears combat boots" never made sense to me ... stop saying it! If she did, she would most likely be a vet and probably kick your ass!   
  
12) Flyboy (Air Force), Jar Head (Marines), Grunt (Army), Squid (Navy) etc, are terms of endearment we use describing each other. Unless you are a service member or vet, you have not earned the right to use them. Could get your ass kicked.   
  
13) Last but not least, whether or not you become a member of the military, support our troops and their families. Every Thanksgiving and religious holiday that you enjoy with family and friends please remember that there are, literally, thousands of sailors and troops far from home wishing they could be with their families. Thank God for our military and the sacrifices they make every day. Without them, our country would get its ass kicked.   
  
"It is the soldier, not the reporter who has given us the freedom of the press. It is the soldier, not the poet, who has given us the freedom of speech. It is the soldier, not the campus organizer, who gives us the freedom to demonstrate. It is the soldier who salutes the flag, who serves beneath the flag, and whose coffin is draped by the flag, who allows the   
protester to burn the flag."