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

**17 CANNON AVENUE**

**STATEN ISLAND, NY 10314**

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

**March 2019**

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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**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Date | Event | Location | Time | Remarks |
| 2 March | Blazing Star Post Meeting | Gold Star Post | 1000 | Saturday |
| 6 March | Property Tax Exemption Enrollment | CYO Mt Loretto | 1000-1200 | Sen Lanza |
| 6 April | Blazing Star Post Meeting | Gold Star Post | 1000 | Saturday |
| 4 May | Blazing Star Post Meeting | Gold Star Post | 1000 | Saturday |
| 17 May | Poppy Distribution | SI Ferry & Refinery | 0700-1300 |  |
| 18 May | Poppy Distribution | Stop & Shop | 0900-1500 |  |
| 19 May | Poppy Distribution | Stop & Shop | 0900-1500 |  |
| 25 May | Poppy Distribution | ShopRite | 0900-1500 |  |
| 27 May | Memorial Day Ceremony | Oceanview Cemetery | 1100 |  |
| 1 June | Blazing Star Post Meeting | Gold Star Post | 1000 | Saturday |
| 13 July | Blazing Star Post Meeting | Gold Star Post | 1000 | Saturday |
| 3 August | Blazing Star Post Meeting | Gold Star Post | 1000 | Saturday |
| 4 September | Blazing Star Post Meeting | Gold Star Post | 1300 | Wednesday |
| 2 October | Blazing Star Post Meeting | Gold Star Post | 1300 | Wednesday |
| 6 November | Blazing Star Post Meeting | Gold Star Post | 1300 | Wednesday |
| 4 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. 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.

3. Dues Renewal Reminder:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Balistreri, Sal | 2/28/2019 | ***10*** |
| Curry, Albert | 12/31/2017 | ***EXPIRED*** |
| DiPietrantonio, Rosa | 1/31/2019 | ***EXPIRED*** |
| Garriga, Jose A | 12/31/2018 | ***EXPIRED*** |
| Griffo, Arnold P | 1/31/2019 | ***EXPIRED*** |
| Hayes, Matthew T | 5/9/2018 | ***EXPIRED*** |
| Ivan, Peter C | 4/30/2019 | ***71*** |
| Johnson, Khadijah L | 5/2/2018 | ***EXPIRED*** |
| Krigel, Adam C | 10/31/2018 | ***EXPIRED*** |
| Krishna, Ash | 6/18/2018 | ***EXPIRED*** |
| Maloney, Brian T | 12/31/2017 | ***EXPIRED*** |
| Moore, Thomas | 12/31/2018 | ***EXPIRED*** |
| Ruggiero, Blenda C | 6/29/2018 | ***EXPIRED*** |
| Santiago, Luis A | 4/30/2019 | ***71*** |
| Sheinwald, Abe | 3/30/2018 | ***EXPIRED*** |
| Treadaway, Ann M | 1/31/2019 | ***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. DD Form 214 website. http://vetrecs.archives.gov. If you need assistance, contact the post service officer, Doug Encarcion.

3. 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>

4. 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>.

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

6. 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

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

8. John Bartow, Assistant VSO, Veterans of Foreign Wars 518-626-5687.

9. 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/>

10. 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

11. 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 Pvt. Winfred L. Reynolds,** 32nd Inf Regt, 7th Inf Division, Hwach’on Reservoir, South Korea, April 26, 1951.

**Army Cpl. Carlos E. Ferguson,** 3rd Bn, 23rd Inf Regt, 2nd Inf Division, Soyang River, May 18, 1951.

**Army Master Sgt. Charlie J. Mares,** 1st Bn, 34th Inf Regt, 24th Inf Division, Kwonbin-ni, South Korea, July 31, 1950. **-- Army Sgt. George R. Schipani,** 3rd Bn, 8th Cav Regt, 1st Cav Division, Korea, Nov. 2, 1950.

**Army Cpl. James C. Rix,** 7th Cav Regt, 1st Cav Division, South Pyongan Province, North Korea, Nov. 30, 1950.

**Army Air Forces Tech. Sgt. Alfred R. Sandini,** 341st Bomb Group, French Indochina, Feb. 15, 1944.

**Navy Electrician's Mate 3rd Class William A. Klasing,** USS Oklahoma, Pearl Harbor, Dec. 7, 1941.

**Navy Fire Controlman 1st Class Edward J. Shelden,** USS Oklahoma, Pearl Harbor, Dec. 7, 1941.

**Navy Seaman 1st Class Kirby R. Stapleton,** USS Oklahoma, Pearl Harbor, Dec. 7, 1941.

**Navy Seaman 1st Class John A. Karli,** USS Oklahoma, Pearl Harbor, Dec. 7, 1941.

**Navy Seaman 1st Class Kenneth H. Sampson,** USS Oklahoma, Pearl Harbor, Dec. 7, 1941.

**Marine Corps Pvt. Waldean Black,** USS Oklahoma, Pearl Harbor, Dec. 7, 1941.

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. 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.

6. If you are receiving compensation from the VA, National Grid offers a residential reduced rate for disabled Veterans regardless of what your percentage is.

National Grid Rate Application (Discount Rate for Eligible Residential Customers)

PLEASE PRINT IN INK, SIGN AT THE BOTTOM OF THE PAGE AND RETURN THIS APPLICATION TO:

NATIONAL GRID ATTN: Consumer Advocacy 1 Metrotech Center, 13th Fl Brooklyn, NY 11201

Last Name: First Name:

Street Address: Apartment #: City: NY ZIP: Tel. #

National Grid Customer lD or Account #:

Social Security Number:

Please check the program from which you now receive assistance:

Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP)

Medicaid

Food Stamps

Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (Family Assistance)

Safety Net Assistance - Public Assistance

Supplemental Security Income (SSl)

Veteran's Disability Pension

Veteran's Surviving Spouse Pension

Child Health Plus

- Eligibility Requirements

Please attach a photocopy of ONE of the following:

Public Assistance identification Card, Medicaid Card, Food Stamp Card, award letter from SSI, award letter from HEAP, award letter from the Veteran's Administration, or Child Health PIus Card.

I certify that the above information is correct. I agree that National Grid may contact the Nassau or Suffolk County Social Services Agencies, NYC Community Development Agency, NYC Department of Social Services, the Veteran's Administration or any other related agency to verify the information I am submitting.

Signature: Date:

**Items of Interest**

**Reality Check**

Rome, 210 BC

Petronius,

We trained hard. But it seemed that every time we were beginning to form up into teams, we would be reorganized. I was to learn later in life that we tend to meet any new situation by reorganizing and a wonderful method it can be for creating the illusion of progress while producing confusion, inefficiency and demoralization.