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

**17 CANNON AVENUE**

**STATEN ISLAND, NY 10314**

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

**November 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 |
| 6 November | Blazing Star Post Meeting | Gold Star Post | 1300 | Wednesday |
| 8 November | Poppy Distribution | SI Ferry | 0700-1000 |  |
| 8 November | Poppy Distribution | Bayway Refinery | 1100-1300 |  |
| 9 November | Poppy Distribution | Stop and Shop | 0900-1500 |  |
| 10 November | Poppy Distribution | Stop and Shop | 0900-1500 |  |
| 4 December | Blazing Star Post Meeting | Gold Star Post | 1300 | Wednesday |
| 4 January 2020 | Blazing Star Post Meeting | Gold Star Post | 1000 | Saturday |
| 1 February 2020 | Blazing Star Post Meeting | Gold Star Post | 1000 | Saturday |
| 7 March 2020 | Blazing Star Post Meeting | Gold Star Post | 1000 | Saturday |
| 4 April 2020 | Blazing Star Post Meeting | Gold Star Post | 1000 | Saturday |
| 2 May 2020 | Blazing Star Post Meeting | Gold Star Post | 1000 | Saturday |
| 6 June 2020 | Blazing Star Post Meeting | Gold Star Post | 1000 | Saturday |
| 11 July 2020 | Blazing Star Post Meeting | Gold Star Post | 1000 | Saturday |
| 1 August 2020 | Blazing Star Post Meeting | Gold Star Post | 1000 | Saturday |
| 2 September 2020 | Blazing Star Post Meeting | Gold Star Post | 1300 | Wednesday |
| 7 October 2020 | Blazing Star Post Meeting | Gold Star Post | 1300 | Wednesday |
| 4 November 2020 | Blazing Star Post Meeting | Gold Star Post | 1300 | Wednesday |
| 2 December 2020 | Blazing Star Post Meeting | Gold Star Post | 1300 | Wednesday |

**1. Free Breakfast Seminar for Veterans at the Historic Old Bermuda Inn** Thursday, November 14, 2019, at 10:00am

At The Historic Old Bermuda Inn - 301 Veterans Road West **Seating is Limited and RSVP is Required. To reserve your seat, please call Ivy Branding Group at 718-356-2867 or send an e-mail to**[Christine@ivybrandinggroup.com](mailto:Christine@ivybrandinggroup.com?subject=Salute%20to%20Veterans)

**2.** The K of C Gov. Dongan 4th Degree Assembly will once again sponsor a bus to a National Veterans Cemetary on the day of action for the Wreaths Across America Program. The date this year is Saturday, December 14, 2019. The

destination has not been finalized as of yet but it will likely be Calverton National once again this year (90%). Departure will be from somewhere on S.I. at approximately 0800 and anticipated return to S.I. approximately 1700 ( give or take an hour ). These final details are still marked officially TBD but I'm sure it will be close to last years arrangements. And yes, the invitation is extended to members of the Veteran's community here on S.I. and there families with the same financial considerations; request the attendee to participate in a 50/50 raffle and or free will offering(modest) / pass the hat to cover miscellaneous expenses. Participants will again be advised to bring their own provisions for the day as they may see fit.

**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:

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Eans, Ernest** | **UnPaid** | ***6/30/2019*** | **EXPIRED** |
|  | **Gomes, Dannyel** | **UnPaid** | ***6/30/2019*** | **EXPIRED** |
|  | **Nelson, Eric** | **UnPaid** | ***5/31/2019*** | **EXPIRED** |
|  | **Santiago, Luis A** | **UnPaid** | ***4/30/2019*** | **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. Monique L. Rada Engagement and Community Services Coordinator

NYC Department of Veterans’ Services [1 Centre Street, Suite 2208](x-apple-data-detectors://1/0) [New York, NY 10007](x-apple-data-detectors://1/0) [917-628-8487](tel:917-628-8487) [mrada@veterans.nyc.gov](mailto:mrada@veterans.nyc.gov)

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.

##### 3. Iranian Hackers Have Set Up a Fake Jobs Website. U.S. military officials warned troops this week that Iranian hackers have set up a fake jobs website for veterans that targets service members who are considering a transition back to civilian life. A National Guard Bureau memorandum dated 2 OCT warns service members to stay away from the website called “**Hire Military Heroes**,” which appears to offer them assistance finding a job outside theDefense Department via a web application that visitors are encouraged to download. However, the app actually drops malicious malware and spyware into the users’ computer system, according to the document issued by the guard’s Defensive Cyber Operationsoffice.

Defense officials have determined the website targets service members close to leaving the military. Officials believe the Iranian hackers hope to gain access to Pentagon information technology systems by targeting those individuals. “They’re targeting active service members looking for jobs with the promise of offering assistance for civilian employment once their service ends,” the memo states. “The hackers are hoping one of their targets would use a DOD system to download and run the malware.” Officials have determined the chances that the group of the hackers, known as Tortoiseshell, successfully gains access to Defense Departmentsystems is unlikely, but nonetheless issued the guidance this week labeling the matter a high risk.

The Cisco Talos Intelligence Group, which monitors cyber threats, first warned of the website’s existence last week. The group notedthe website’s name was “strikingly close” to that of a legitimate site run by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce aimed at assisting veterans find employment, [www.hiringourheroes.org.](https://urldefense.com/v3/__https:/gcc01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http*3A*2F*2Fwww.hiringourheroes.org*2F&data=02*7C01*7CDyer.Lane*40DOL.GOV*7Cc1b0a5e52ed741a2d8a208d757f44ce2*7C75a6305472044e0c9126adab971d4aca*7C0*7C0*7C637074579078547344&sdata=K*2F*2Fy94UrEr96W86JiOJRldJ4yRlow3h*2BDuDrzDBIAJY*3D&reserved=0__;JSUlJSUlJSUlJSUlJSUlJQ!D8pBFpVJtWk!sqyC0BHEvuPS_0_PLU3jlHVdYBxLvGGvxO5DpQI9lf9G8_Uct-LPYuqePyaTpvDgKi1KWFg$)“Americans are quick to give back and support the veteran population, therefore, this website has a high chance of gaining traction on social media where users could share the link in the hopes of supporting veterans,”Cisco Talos researchers wrote in the analysis of the fake website. The Cicso Talos researchers characterized the use of the fake websiteas a “massive shift” in behavior for the Tortoiseshell group, which has been accused of hacking several Saudi Arabian IT providers duringthe summer.

Defense officials said the group has not gained access to DOD systems as of 4 OCT. A spokesperson said the guidance was issued this week as a precautionary matter. If downloaded, the fake application would give hackers the ability to see a variety of information in the infected system, according to Cisco Talos. “The attacker can then see information on the system, the patch level, the number of processors, the network configuration, the hardware, firmware versions, the domain controller, the name of the admin, the list of the account, etc. This is a significant amount of information relating to a machine and makes the attacker well-prepared to carry outadditional attacks,” the company’s researchers wrote in a report.

Also Friday, Microsoft announced hackers linked to the Iranian government attempted to hack into 241 email accounts including of U.S. government officials, media members, prominent Iranian expatriates and one U.S. presidential campaign. In a blog post on theMicrosoft website, Tom Burt, the company’s vice president for customer security and trust, wrote four accounts had been hacked, but he declined to identify them. Microsoft identified the group responsible for the email hacks as Phosphorous. It said the attempts to gain access to email accounts occurred in August and September.

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:

**Marine Corps Pfc. Robert J. Hatch**, 21, Co D, 1st Bn, 6th Marine Regt, 2nd Marine Div, Tarawa, Nov. 22, 1943.

**Army Pfc. Jasper V. Marquez,** 21, Co L, 3rd Bn, 38th Infantry Regt, 2nd Infantry Div. Kunu-ri, North Korea, Jan 1951. -- **Army Sgt. William C. Holmes,** 21, Hvy Tank Co, 32nd Inf Regt, 7th Inf Div. Iron Triangle, North Korea Sep 21, 1951.

**Navy Seaman 2nd Class Everett G. Windle,** 20, USS Oklahoma, Pearl Harbor, Dec. 7, 1941.

**Navy Coxswain Layton T. Banks,** 20, USS Oklahoma, Pearl Harbor, Dec. 7, 1941.

**Navy Fireman First Class Bethel E. Walters,** 25, USS West Virginia, Pearl Harbor, Dec. 7, 1941.

**Marine Corps Sgt. Jerome B. Morris,** 22, Co B, 1st Bn, 6th Marine Regt, 2nd Marine Div, Tarawa, Nov. 22, 1943.

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.

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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 |  |

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. Now you can shop online at the PX.  For more information on the Veterans online shopping benefit, please go to  <https://www.shopmyexchange.com/community> and click on Veteran info.

7. Starting Jan 1, all dept of VA service-connected disabled vets, purple heart Recipients, former prisoners of war and primary veteran caregivers will be able to shop at commissaries and exchanges on base and use certain morale welfare and recreational facilities. Service-connected disabled and other vets can use their Veterans health ID card to gain access to the installation and to shop. Most installations have installed systems capable of scanning the vets health ID card and the balance will have the capability by Sept of 2020. The expansion of MWR programs extends to MWR programs that are “revenue generating facilities such as golf courses. If you do not have a Vet health id card such as zero percent rated disabled vets will be provided a letter from the VA indicating they are eligible for these benefits. The letter with a drivers’ license, passport or other authorized forms of ID will allow access to the facilities. Veteran caregivers will be handled in a similar manner.

**Items of Interest**

**When the first period kids entered the room they discovered that there were no desks. 'Ms. Cothren, where are our desks?' She replied, 'You can't have a desk until you tell me how you earn the right to sit at a desk.' They thought, 'Well, maybe it's our grades' 'No,' she said. 'Maybe it's our behavior.' She told them, 'No, it's not even your behavior.'   
And so, they came and went, the first period, second period, third period. Still no desks in the classroom. Kids called their parents to tell them what was happening and by early afternoon television news crews had started gathering at the school to report about this crazy teacher who had taken all the desks out of her room.  The final period of the day came and as the puzzled students found seats on the floor of the desk-less classroom. Martha Cothren said, 'Throughout the day, no**

**one has been able to tell me just what he or she has done to earn the right to sit at the desks that are ordinarily found in this classroom. Now I am going to tell you.' At this point, Martha Cothren went over to the door of her classroom and opened it. Twenty-seven U.S. Veterans, all in uniform, walked into that classroom, each one carrying a school desk. The Vets began placing the school desks in rows, and then they would walk over and stand alongside the wall. By the time the last soldier had set the final desk in place those kids started to understand, perhaps for the first time in their lives, just how the right to sit at those desks had been earned. Martha said, 'You didn't earn the right to sit at these desks. These heroes did it for you. They placed the desks here for you. They went halfway around the world, giving up their education and interrupting their careers and families so you could have the freedom you have. Now, it's up to you to sit in them. It is your responsibility to learn, to be good students, to be good citizens. They paid the price so that you could have the freedom to get an education. Don't ever forget it.' By the way, this is a true story. And this teacher was awarded the Veterans of Foreign Wars Teacher of the Year for the State of Arkansas in 2006. She is the daughter of a WWII POW.**