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

**17 CANNON AVENUE**

**STATEN ISLAND, NY 10314**

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

May 2020

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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 May 2020 | Blazing Star Post Meeting | Gold Star Post | 1000 | Cancelled |
| 9 May 2020 | Poppy Distribution | Shop Rite | 0900-1500 | Cancelled |
| 15 May 2020 | Poppy Distribution | Staten Island Ferry | 0700-1000 | Cancelled |
| 15 May 2020 | Poppy Distribution | Bayway Refinery | 1100-1300 | Cancelled |
| 16 May 2020 | Poppy Distribution | Stop & Shop | 0900-1500 | Cancelled |
| 17 May 2020 | Poppy Distribution | Stop & Shop | 0900-1500 | Cancelled |
| 23 May 2020 | Memorial Day Ceremony | Oceanview Cemetery | 1300 | Cancelled |
| 30 May 2020 | SI Tuna Club Bass Tournament | Great Kills Marina | TBA | To Be Determined |
| 6 June 2020 | Blazing Star Post Meeting | Gold Star Post | 1000 | To Be Determined |
| 11 July 2020 | Blazing Star Post Meeting | Gold Star Post | 1000 | To Be Determined |
| 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 |

**Coronavirus/COVID-19 Update**

1. The response is as follows: If your Post County Council, District and Department cannot be elected Officers as required by the COVID-19 Virus the Current Officers shall remain in their current Position until new officer can be elected. In essence if you are an Officer in the Post County Council, District and Department you will stay in place until a proper election in compliance with the National By-Laws can be held or further order from National Headquarters.

2. Information regarding scams on stimulus payments and other COVID type scams.  Go to [USPIS.gov](http://USPIS.gov) and then to COVID scams.

3. Updated from the CDC:

New Symptoms. Signs and symptoms of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) may appear two to 14 days after exposure. This time after exposure and before having symptoms is called the incubation period. Common signs and symptoms can include:

* Fever
* Cough
* Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing

Other symptoms can include:

* Tiredness
* Aches
* Chills
* Sore throat
* Loss of smell
* Loss of taste
* Headache
* Diarrhea
* Severe vomiting

The severity of COVID-19 symptoms can range from very mild to severe. Some people may have only a few symptoms, and some people may have no symptoms at all. People who are older or who have existing chronic medical conditions, such as heart disease, lung disease, diabetes, severe obesity, chronic kidney or liver disease, or who have compromised immune systems may be at higher risk of serious illness. This is similar to what is seen with other respiratory illnesses, such as influenza. Some people may experience worsened symptoms, such as worsened shortness of breath and pneumonia, about a week after symptoms start.

**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:

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Tse, Tony |  |  |  | Current Until | *6/30/2020* | 61 |
|  | Robinson, James A |  |  |  | Current Until | *4/30/2020* | 0 |
|  | Pizzini, Denny |  |  |  | Current Until | *5/31/2020* | 31 |
|  | Long, Derek M |  |  |  | Current Until | *4/30/2020* | 0 |
|  | Lewis, Daniel M |  |  |  | Current Until | *6/30/2020* | 61 |

**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.

**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 (driver’s

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:

USMC Pvt. Jack R. Stambaugh, 20, Co B, 1st Bn, 6th Marine Regt, 2nd Marine Division, Tarawa Atoll, Nov. 22, 1943.

Army Pfc. Anthony F. Mendonca, 28, Co A, 106th Infantry Regt, 27th Infantry Division, Saipan, June 28, 1944.

Army Sgt. Billy V. Rodgers, 19, Co A, 1st Bn, 32nd Inf Regt, 7th Inf Div, Chosin Reservoir, North Korea Dec. 2, 1950.

Army Pvt. Wayne M. Evans, 21, Btry G, 59th Coast Artillery Regt, Corregidor Island. May 6, 1942.

Army Sgt. Lloyd A. Alumbaugh, 21, 7th Medical Bn, 7th Infantry Div, Chosin Reservoir, North Korea. Nov. 28, 1950.

Army Cpl. Charles E. Hiltibran,19, HQ Co, 1st Bn, 32nd Inf Regt, 7th Inf Div, Chosin Reservoir, North Korea, Dec. 2, 1950.  
Army Pfc. Louis N. Crosby, 18, Co A, 1st Bn, 32nd Inf Regt, 7th Inf Div, Chosin Reservoir, North Korea. Dec. 1, 1950. Army Pfc. Bill F. Hobbs, 20, Hvy Mortar Co, 31st Inf Regt, 7th Inf Div, Chosin Reservoir, North Korea Nov 30, 1950.

Army Cpl. Ralph S. Boughman, 21, Co B, 1st Bn, 32nd Inf Regt, 7th Inf Div, Chosin Reservoir, North Korea, Dec. 2, 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.

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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.

**Items of Interest**

**USS *Alaska* (CB-1)**



**USS *Alaska* (CB-1)** was the lead ship of the *Alaska* class of large cruisers which served with the United States Navy during the end of World War II. She was the first of two ships of her class to be completed, followed only by *Guam*; four other ships were ordered but were not completed before the end of the war. *Alaska* was the third vessel of the US Navy to be named after what was then the territory of Alaska. She was laid down on 17 December 1941, ten days after the outbreak of war, was launched in August 1943 by the New York Shipbuilding Corporation, in Camden, New Jersey, and was commissioned in June 1944. She was armed with a main battery of nine 12 in (300 mm) guns in three triple turrets and had a top speed of 33 kn (61 km/h; 38 mph). *Alaska* participated in operations off Iwo Jima and Okinawa in February–July 1945, including providing anti-aircraft defense for various carrier task forces and conducting limited shore bombardment operations. She shot down several Japanese aircraft off Okinawa, including a possible Ohka piloted missile. In July–August 1945 she participated in sweeps for Japanese shipping in the East China and Yellow Seas. After the end of the war, she assisted in the occupation of Korea and transported a contingent of US Army troops back to the United States. She was decommissioned in February 1947 and placed in reserve, where she remained until she was stricken in 1960 and sold for scrapping the following year.

**Notable Crew Member: John Byrnes**