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

**17 CANNON AVENUE**

**STATEN ISLAND, NY 10314**

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

July 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

**VFW Post #1574 Zoom Meeting on July 11 2020 10:00AM**

Comrades,

Our next meeting will be held on July 11, 2020 @ 1000hrs via Zoom. Please see the attached link.

[www.appdirectory.online/Zoom](http://www.appdirectory.online/Zoom)

Here is the link to download zoom, recommend you download prior to the meeting.

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/72054120466?pwd=ajEwYlA4eTFyYkxzTVJTSDc2c3FXZz09>

Meeting ID: 720 5412 0466

Password: 9rGtwS

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Date | Event | Location | Time | Remarks |
| 11 July 2020 | Blazing Star Post Meeting | Gold Star Post | 1000 | Zoom Meeting |
| 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 |

**Membership**

REMINDER >>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>MEMBER CONTACT INFORMATION<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<REMINDER

IF ANY OF YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION (ADDRESS, PHONE NUMBER, EMAIL ADDRESS) CHANGES, PLEASE NOTIFY US AS SOON AS POSSIBLE IN ORDER TO MAINTAIN COMMUNICATIONS FOR MEETINGS AND IMPORTANCE ANNOUNCEMENTS.

REMINDER >>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>MEMBER CONTACT INFORMATION<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<REMINDER

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. Post Member Major Adam Scher has been selected for promotion to Lieutenant Colonel. Congratulations Adam!

3. Dues Renewal Reminder:

Sedutto, Joseph C current until 8/31/2020

**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:

**Army MSG James Hart, Jr., 25**,Co C, 1st Bn, 32nd Inf Regt, 7th Inf Div, Chosin Reservoir, North Korea, Dec. 2, 1950.

**Army 1LT Anthony R. Mazzulla, 26,** Co B, 1st Bn, 32nd Inf Regt, 7th Inf Div, Chosin Reservoir, No. Korea, Dec. 2, 1950.

**Army Cpl. Billie Joe Hash, 18**,HQ Btry, 57th FA Bn, 7th Inf Div, Chosin Reservoir, North Korea, Dec. 6, 1950.

**Army Pfc. John J. Sitarz, 19**, Co L, 3rd Bn, 110th Inf Regt, 28th Inf Div, Hürtgen Forest, Germany, Nov. 2. 1944.

**Army Cpl. Pete Conley, 19,** Co K, 3rd Bn, 31st Inf Regt, 7th Inf Div, Chosin Reservoir, North Korea, Dec. 12, 1950.

**Navy Radioman 3rd Class Thomas E. Griffith, 20,** USS Oklahoma, Pearl Harbor, Dec. 7, 1941.

**Army Sgt. Stanley L. DeWitt, 18,** Medical Det, 57th FA Bn, 7th Inf Div, Chosin Reservoir, North Korea, Dec. 6, 1950.

**Navy Radioman 3rd Class Irvin F. Rice, 22,** USS Oklahoma, Pearl Harbor, Dec. 7, 1941.

**Navy Seaman 1st Class Wesley E. Graham, 21,** USS Oklahoma, Pearl Harbor, Dec. 7, 1941.

**Navy Fire Controlman 3rd Class Robert T. Stout,** 21, USS Oklahoma, Pearl Harbor, Dec. 7, 1941.

**Marine Corps Pfc. John M. Fahy,** 19, Co D, 1st Bn, 6th Marine Regt, 2nd Marine Div, Tarawa, Nov. 22, 1943.

**Army MSG James L. Quong,** 30, Co D, 1st Bn, 32nd Inf Regt, 7th Inf Div, Chosin Reservoir, North Korea, Dec. 2, 1950.

**Army Cpl. Francis J. Rochon,** 21**,** Co C, 1st Bn, 23rd Inf Regt, 2nd Inf Div, Changnyeong, South Korea, Sept. 1, 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.

6. Recently received thank you note:

Dear Mr. Dietrich,

Thank you for the award received from Blazing Star post of the Veterans of Foreign Wars for the Teacher of the Year (nominated by Diane Hesterhagen). I am both honored and humbled to receive this recognition. I am so proud to educate our children for the future and especially to teach them about Americanism and Patriotism and about our veterans. Thank you for the gift cards! Stay safe and healthy during these trying times.

God Bless You,

Sincerely,

Mrs. Dawson

**Items of Interest**

**USS Jouett (CG-29)**

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| --- | --- |
| [USS Jouett (CG-29) underway in 1992](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:USS_Jouett_(CG-29)_underway_in_1992.jpeg) | |
| Motto: | Eternal Vigilance |

**USS Jouett (DLG-29)** was a Belknap-class [cruiser](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cruiser) laid down 25 September 1962 by Puget Sound Naval Shipyard, Bremerton, Washington; launched 30 June 1964; sponsored by Mrs. S. J. Ervin, Jr., wife of the Senator from North Carolina; and commissioned 3 December 1966, Captain Robert S. Hayes in command. She was named after RADM James Edward Jouett. Upon completion of fitting out in February 1967, Jouett was assigned to Cruiser-Destroyer Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet, and operated out of her homeport, San Diego. Reclassified as a guided missile cruiser, CG-29, on 30

June 1975, Jouett was decommissioned and stricken from the Navy Register on 28 January 1994 at San Diego. Transferred 30 March the same year to the Maritime Administration, she was laid up at the Suisun Bay, CA reserve.

On 10 August 2007, she was towed to the Pacific to perform her last service; she was sunk as a target ship as part of Operation Valiant Shield 2007. The ships bell is currently found outside the entrance to the Navy Entomology Center of Excellence NAS JAX. The bell is on loan from the Navy History and Heritage Command.

Unit Awards

**USS Jouett (DLG-29)**

**Navy Unit Commendation:** 8-FEB-1968 29-JUN-1968

**Meritorious Unit Commendation:** 05-SEP-1972 05-MAR-1973

**Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal:** 14-OCT-1969 29-OCT-1969 J KOREA (1 OCT 66 - 3 JUN 74)

**Vietnam Service Medal:** 15-FEB-1968 23-MAR-1968; 15-APR-1968 18-MAY-1968; 02-JUN-1968 01-JUL-1968  
03-SEP-1969 08-OCT-1969; 17-NOV-1969 04-DEC-1969; 11-DEC-1969 12-JAN-1970; 30-OCT-1970 25-NOV-1970  
18-DEC-1970; 01-JAN-1971 03-JAN-1971; 12-JAN-1971 18-JAN-1971; 30-JAN-1971 04-FEB-1971;

10-FEB-1971 17-FEB-1971; 24-FEB-1971 28-FEB-1971; 07-MAR-1971 08-MAR-1971; 11-MAR-1971 14-MAR-1971  
16-SEP-1972 26-OCT-1972; 04-NOV-1972 13-DEC-1972; 22-DEC-1972 19-JAN-1973; 03-FEB-1973 22-FEB-1973

**Viet Nam Campaign Medal**

**USS Jouett (CG-29)**

**Navy Unit Commendation:** 02-AUG-1990 01-NOV-1990

**Meritorious Unit Commendation:** 13-NOV-1979 08-FEB-1980; 16-JAN-1987 02-FEB-1987

**Navy "E" Ribbon:** 01-JAN-1976 30-JUN-1977; 01-JAN-1982 30-JUN-1983

**Navy Expeditionary Service Medal:** 25-NOV-1979 28-JAN-1980 Iran/Indian Ocean (21 NOV 79 - 20 OCT 81)

**Southwest Asia Service Medal:** 05-AUG-1990 04-NOV-1990

**Humanitarian Service Medal:** 11-SEP-1979 12-SEP-1979 Boat People (21 JUL 79 - 30 JUN 84)

**Notable Crew Member: John Damiani**