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

**17 CANNON AVENUE**

**STATEN ISLAND, NY 10314**

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

**June 2022**

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| --- |
| BLAZING STAR POST 1574 CONTACT NUMBERSAl Porto, Commander - 718-578-1242, albert.porto38@gmail.comPaul Dietrich, Quartermaster - 718-698-5269, paul@the-dietrichs.comWilliam Alcock, Adjutant - 718-698-1923 |

**Calendar Events**

**MEETING INFORMATION**

We have to ask members who are attending meetings in person to be fully vaccinated.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81420797054?pwd=MDQ3L0ViWjJiQWJ3Y1U3ajExUUxKdz09>

Meeting ID: 814 2079 7054

Passcode: 809161

One tap mobile

+16465588656,,81420797054#,,,,\*809161# US (New York)

+13017158592,,81420797054#,,,,\*809161# US (Washington DC)

Dial by your location

        +1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

        +1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)

        +1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

        +1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

        +1 669 900 9128 US (San Jose)

        +1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

Meeting ID: 814 2079 7054

Passcode: 809161

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/u/kBvD2xfrv>

**Schedule of Meetings and Events for 2022**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Date | Event  | Location  | Time | Remarks |
| 4 June | Blazing Star Post Meeting | Gold Star Post | 1000 | Saturday |
| 5 June | Poppy Distribution | ShopriteHylan Blvd | 0900-1500 | Al PortoJoe Cassar |
| 5 June | Poppy Distribution | ShopriteVeterans Rd | 0900-1500 | Paul DietrichBruce LiebermanSebastian Ventura |
| 6 July | Blazing Star Post Meeting | Gold Star Post | 1000 | Wednesday |
| 6 August | Blazing Star Post Meeting | Gold Star Post | 1000 | Saturday |
| 7 September | Blazing Star Post Meeting | Gold Star Post | 1000 | Wednesday |
| 1 October | Blazing Star Post Meeting | Gold Star Post | 1000 | Saturday |
| 5 November | Blazing Star Post Meeting | Gold Star Post | 1000 | Saturday |
| 3 December | Blazing Star Post Meeting | Gold Star Post | 1000 | Saturday |

**Membership**

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

IF ANY OF YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION (ADDRESS, PHONE NUMBER, EMAIL ADDRESS) CHANGES, NOTIFY US ASAP 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. Dues Renewal Reminder:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **First Name** | **Middle Initial** | **Last Name** | **Paid Until** |
| Richard |   | Briones | 5/31/2022 |
| John |   | Deluca | 5/31/2022 |
| Adam | C | Krigel | 6/30/2022 |

**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%3A%5CUsers%5CAlbert%5CDocuments%5CVFW%5CNewsletters%202011%5Cwww.va.gov%5Chealtheligibility%5Cvfw) or call 1-877-222-8387.

2. DD Form 214 website. http://vetrecs.archives.gov. For assistance, contact post service officer, Doug Encarnacion.

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

5. 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

6. VA New York Harbor Healthcare System is providing COVID-19 vaccines to Veterans and VA health care personnel. Veterans must schedule an appointment by calling 1-877-877-9267. The vaccine is being administered at the following

locations by appointment only: Manhattan VA Medical Center - Brooklyn VA Medical Center - St. Albans Community Living Center - Staten Island Community VA Clinic.

7. Any eligible Veteran who needs help signing up for the vaccine can contact the NYC Department of Veterans’ Services

1 Centre Street, Suite 2208, New York, NY 10007 at 212-416-5250. They can also call the NYC Vaccine hotline directly at 1-877-VAX-4NYC (1-877-829-4692).

**Get Vaccinated for COVID-19 – Protect yourself, your family and your community**

**Employment and Education**

1. Looking for a job? Need quality employees? USE VETJOBS! [www.vetjobs.com](http://svarialce.vfwemail.org:81/CT00004002MzA1OTA1NDk%3D.HTML?D=2011-08-26)

**Bottom of Form**

General

1. SI University Hospital's Military Appreciation 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. Richmond County Medical Center VIP Program for US Military

## Enroll in Our Military VIP Program. Are you an active, retired, or reservist veteran of the United States military? If so, we invite you to enroll in the Richmond University Medical Center VIP Program. Members of our military are eligible for unique benefits through the program when they visit Richmond University Medical Center or our primary care sites across Staten Island. It’s our way of thanking you for your service to our country. <https://www.rumcsi.org>

## Benefits of the VIP Program

* Same day scheduling at RUMC Immediate Care/Primary Care/Walk In Center sites
* Free parking at the main hospital (valet or token)
* Free patient room television and/or telephone service, when admitted
* 24/7 VIP behavioral/mental health issues hotline
* Complimentary private maternity room, based on availability
* 20% discount at Lori’s Gifts, located in the main lobby
* 10% discount at hospital cafeteria and Starbucks
* Reduced rates for special events (Annual gala, golf outing, etc.)
* VIP invitation to hospital events (lunch and learns, ribbon cuttings, etc.)

## How It Works: Complete the form below and also submit proof of service by email or mail to receive your personalized VIP card. Your card will be mailed to you. Once you receive your VIP program card present it at our hospital or one of our primary care sites to enjoy your benefits.

## Eligibility: The VIP program is available to members of our military who are active, retired, or reservist. Benefits are non-transferrable and the VIP card must be provided to access the program’s benefits.

Registration is not complete until proof of service is also provided. Valid proof of military service includes:

* Valid driver’s license with veteran designation
* DD214 or VA healthcare card
* A current veteran’s organization membership card (VFW, American Legion, etc.)

Proof of service can be sent to Alutz@rumcsi.org or sent by mail to: Alex Lutz, Attn: VIP Program, Richmond University Medical Center, 355 Bard Avenue, Staten Island, NY 10310

## Using Your Lifelong Benefits. When you are approved, your VIP Program card will be sent to you in the mail. Once you receive it, you can present it at the hospital or any of our primary care sites to enjoy the benefits. Questions? Please call 844.934. CARE.

3. The Defense POW/MIA Office announced the identification of remains and return home of the following personnel:

**Army Pfc. William J. Sharp, 18,** Co C, 1st Bn, 27th Inf Regt, 25th Infantry Div, Hwanggan, South Korea July 24, 1950. **Army Pvt. Walter G. Wildman, 20,** Co M, 12th Inf Regt, 4th Infantry Div, Hürtgen Forest, Germany, Nov.13, 1944.
**Army Pfc. Jack E. Lilley, 19,**HQ Co, 1st Bn, 34th Inf Regt, 24th Infantry Div, Taejon, South Korea, July 20,1950.
**Army Air Forces 1st Lt. Newell F. Mills Jr., 21,**355th Fighter Group, over Geesthacht, Germany, April 7, 1945.

**Navy Seaman 1st Class John R. Melton, 23**, USS West Virginia, Pearl Harbor, Dec. 7, 1941.
**Army Cpl. Lawrence L. Brown, 21**, Co M, 3rd Bn, 9th Infantry Regt, 2nd Inf Division, POW Camp #5 Nov. 26, 1950.

**Army Pfc. Merl W. Holm, 22,** Co K, 3rd Bn, 126th Infantry Regt, 32d Inf Division, Papua New Guinea, Nov. 26, 1942.
**Army Air Forces Staff Sgt. Adolph Olenik, 19,** 98th Bomb Gp, 9th Air Force, Operation Tidal Wave, Aug. 1, 1943.
**USMCR Cpl. Jack S. Brown, 22,**Co G, 2nd Bn, 24th Marine Regt, 4th Marine Division, Saipan, July 8, 1944.
**Army Air Forces Staff Sgt. William O. Wood, 25,**93rd Bomb Gp, 8th Air Force, Operation Tidal Wave, Aug. 1, 1943. **Army Air Forces 2nd Lt. David M. Lewis, 20,**98th Bomb Gp, 9th Air Force, Operation Tidal Wave, Aug. 1, 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 |  |

**Items of Interest**

**Willowbrook native and Blazing Star member promoted to Army lieutenant colonel in military ceremony in Washington, D.C.**



Lt. Col. Adam Scher, right, poses with Assemblyman Michael Cusick (D-Mid-Island) after Scher's promotion ceremony. (Courtesy/Assemblyman Michael Cusick (D-Mid-Island)Staten Island Advance

**By**[**Carol Ann Benanti | benanti@siadvance.com**](http://www.silive.com/staff/carolbenanti/posts.html)

STATEN ISLAND, N.Y. — Major Adam Scher, a military hero from Willowbrook, was promoted to the rank of US Army Lieutenant Colonel. The promotion took place during a ceremonial military program in Washington, D.C., a time-honored tradition in our nation’s capital that reaffirms an officer’s commitment to support and defend the Constitution.

“It was an honor for me to be in attendance of Lt. Col. Scher’s distinguished promotion,” said Assemblyman Michael Cusick (D-North Shore). “I first met Adam in 2004 when he was a cadet at West Point Military Academy. Over the years, Lt. Col. Scher has made Staten Island proud, and it’s no surprise that the United States Army finds him deserving of this title.” “With the utmost confidence, I know Adam will continue to be an inspirational leader in his new role,” Cusick added. The son of Cecelia and Harvey Scher, Adam is a graduate of PS 54, Laurie Intermediate School and Staten Island Technical High School. In 2004, he earned a bachelor of science degree in political science from the United States Military Academy at West Point. As an infantry officer, he led soldiers in combat in Afghanistan and Iraq, serving in the 101st Airborne Division, the 82nd Airborne Division, and in Germany. He previously served as an assistant professor and debate coach in the Department of Social Sciences at West Point, where he taught courses on American government. Scher went on to graduate with a master’s degree in international security policy from the Columbia University School of International and Public Affairs. At the time of his promotion, he was a White House Fellow serving as special assistant to the Program Associate Director for National Security Programs. Following the Fellowship, he will leverage the lessons learned at the Office of Management and Budget to support the Army Budget Office.

**Adam will also be the Grand Marshal for the Travis 4th of July Parade.**