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

**17 CANNON AVENUE**

**STATEN ISLAND, NY 10314**

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

**September 2022**

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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**

**MEETING INFORMATION**

We ask members who are attending meetings to bring in a non-perishable food item for the Fort Wadsworth Food Bank for military junior enlisted members and their families.

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 |
| 7 September | Blazing Star Post Meeting | Gold Star Post | 1000 | Wednesday |
| 5 October | Blazing Star Post Meeting | Gold Star Post | 1000 | Wednesday |
| 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:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Name** | **MI** | **Last Name** | **Paid\_Until** |
| James | A | Robinson | 10/31/2022 |

**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:\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. 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**

**8. The Veterans Crisis Line has a new number: Dial 988 then Press 1.** Effective July 16, Veterans have the option to [use](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.veteranscrisisline.net%2Fabout%2Fwhat-is-988%2F&data=05%7C01%7C%7C9db49686c1b1415f07cd08da6bfebdb2%7Ce95f1b23abaf45ee821db7ab251ab3bf%7C0%7C0%7C637941039721077419%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=Rc6%2FenFixImLdRak15FroJ%2FqqLGdefwqHlqms0eFUBQ%3D&reserved=0) this new shorter number to connect with caring, qualified responders for 24/7 crisis support. During a crisis, every second counts. The new, shorter number directly addresses the need for ease of access and clarity in times of crisis, both for Veterans and non-Veterans alike. This change is a result of the National Suicide Hotline Designation Act of 2020, which requires all telephone service providers in the U.S. to activate 988 by July 16, for the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline (Lifeline). Because VA administers the Veterans Crisis Line through Lifeline’s national network, access to the Veterans Crisis Line is updated by this transition. For more information, visit the [VA Suicide Prevention SharePoint](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fdvagov.sharepoint.com%2Fsites%2Fvhasuicide-prevention%2FSitePages%2F988.aspx&data=05%7C01%7C%7C9db49686c1b1415f07cd08da6bfebdb2%7Ce95f1b23abaf45ee821db7ab251ab3bf%7C0%7C0%7C637941039721077419%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=TamtWotbfAgxrst76EYI7b84TUJnmyRlg9qRp2TvYOA%3D&reserved=0).

After July 16, Veterans and their loved ones will still be able to call 1-800-273-8255 and Press 1, chat at [VeteransCrisisLine.net/Chat](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.veteranscrisisline.net%2Fget-help%2Fchat&data=05%7C01%7C%7C9db49686c1b1415f07cd08da6bfebdb2%7Ce95f1b23abaf45ee821db7ab251ab3bf%7C0%7C0%7C637941039721077419%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=kkFC4fSnvtUS3QLW7Z05J4OKqCuS1otAX8OIhMfZYqI%3D&reserved=0), and text 838255 to reach responders.

**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)

**Bottom of Form**

General

1. **SI University Hospital Military Appreciation Program.** This year, Staten Island University Hospital, in addition to its parking Sticker Program, will b indtroducing a new Military Discount Card.

Discount Card:

* Card discounts: 20% in Cafeteria, 10% in Gift Shop (excludes Lotto and Newspapers), $1.00 off per day TV/Telephone Service.
* The discount card is to be used only by the person whose picture is on the card. If this condition is violoated the card will be confiscated and not replaced.
* The card must be presented each time this benefit is issued.
* If you discount card is lost a $25.00 replacement fee will be charged.
* If the card is broken or damaged it will be replaced free of charge. Old card must be surrendered.

Parking Stickers:

* The stickers will allow for a maximum of 12 visits of free parking annually. The maximum is set to ensure compliance with regulatory requirements. The use, just affix a sticker to the parking ticket and hand it to the parking attendant.
* Unfortunately, lost, stolen or damaged stickers cannot be replaced. Be sure to keep them in a safe place.

Military Discount Cards and Parking Stickers may be obtained as follows:

Security Services – North Site

475 Seaview Avenue

Staten Island, NY 10305

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday 2:00pm – 3:30pm.

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](mailto: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. Donald M. Born, 19,** Co G, 2nd Bn, 19th Inf Regt, 24thInfantry Division, Chinju, South Korea, July 30, 1950.   
**Army Pvt. Carl G. Dorsey, 19,**Co I, 3rd Bn, 22nd Inf Regt, 4th Infantry Division, Grosshau, Germany, Dec. 4, 1945. **Navy Fireman Controlman 1st Class Hubert P. Clement, 30,**USS Oklahoma, Pearl Harbor, Dec. 7, 1941.  
**Army Sgt.1st Cl James A. Coleman, 22,** Co I, 3rd Bn, 19th Inf Regt, 24thInf Div, Hwachon, South Korea, April 25, 1951.   
**Army Air Forces Staff Sgt. George B. Walker, 25,** 306th Bomb Group, Stalag Luft 6 POW Camp, April 28, 1944.

**Army Pfc. Lowell D. Smith, 24,**Co F, 2nd Bn, 157th Inf Regt, 45th Infantry Div, Reipertswiller, France, Jan. 21, 1945.

**USMCR Pvt. Fay G. Teter, 17,**Co A, 1st Bn, 6th Marine Regiment, 2nd Marine Division, Tarawa Atoll, Nov 1943.  
**USMCR 2nd** **Lt. Gordon E. Thompson, 22,**Marine Fighting Squadron 224, Guadalcanal, Aug. 31, 1942.

**Army Pfc. Arthur L. Pierce, 26,**803rd Engineer Bn, Cabanatuan POW Camp, July 19, 1942.  
**Army Pfc. Arthur C. Barrett, 27,**31st Infantry Regiment, Cabanatuan POW Camp, July 19, 1942.  
**Army Cpl. Alton Christie, 18,** Co B, 1stBn, 21st Infantry Regt, 24thInfantry Division, Osan, South Korea. July 5, 1950. **Army Air Forces 2nd Lt. Peter Timpo, 24,** 98th Bomb Group, 9th Air Force, Operation Tidal Wave, Aug. 1, 1943.

**Army Pfc. Willard H. Brinks, 24,** Co K, 126th Inf Regt, 32nd Infantry Division, Papua New Guinea, Nov. 22, 1942.

**Army Pvt. Myron E. Williams, 29,** Co L, 3rd Bn, 12th Inf Regt, 4th Infantry Division, Hürtgen, Germany, Nov. 16, 1944.  
**Army Air Forces Cpl. Merle L. Pickup, 27,** 308th Bomb Group, China to Chabua, Assam, India, May 1944.

**Army Pfc. Harry J. Hartmann, Jr., 19,** Co E, 2ndBn, 8th Cav Regt, 1stCav Div, POW Camp #5, March 31, 1951.

**Army Pfc. David N. Owens, 27,**Co E, 2nd Bn,12th Inf Regt, 4th Infantry Division, Hürtgen, Germany Nov. 22, 1944.  
**Army Sgt. Charles Garrigus, 24,** HQ Co, 1st Bn, 32nd Inf Regt, 7th Inf Div, Chosin Reservoir, No. Korea, Dec. 1, 1950.   
**Army Cpl. Tommie T. Hanks, 27,** Co E, 2nd Bn, 24th Inf Regt, 25th Infantry Division, Anju, North Korea, Nov. 26, 1950.

**Army Pvt. Felix M. Yanez, 19,** HQ Co, 19th Inf Regt, 24th Infantry Div, Taejon, South Korea July 16, 1950.

**Army Air Forces Sgt. Herald R. Boyd, 25,**100th Bomb Group, 8th Air Force, over Berlin, Germany, Feb. 3, 1945.

**Navy Seaman 2nd Class John G. Bock, Jr., 18,** USS Oklahoma, Pearl Harbor, Dec. 7, 1941.

**Navy Fireman 2ndClass Edward E. Casinger, 21,** USS Oklahoma, Pearl Harbor, Dec. 7, 1941.

**Navy Shipfitter 2nd Class Claude R. Garcia, 25,** USS West Virginia, Pearl Harbor, Dec. 7, 1941.

**Army Air Forces Sgt. Elvin L. Phillips, 23,** 44th Bomb Group, 8th Air Force, Operation Tidal Wave, Aug. 1, 1943

**Army Cpl. George T. Grimes, 19,** A Co, 1st Bn, 34th Inf Regt, 24th Infantry Division, Taejon, South Korea, July 16, 1950. **Army Air Forces 1st Lt. Roy C. Harms, 26,**93rd Bomb Group, 8th Air Force, Operation Tidal Wave, Aug. 1, 1943.

**Army Air Forces Staff Sgt. Walter Nies, 23,** 2nd Bomb Group, 15th Air Force, Stalag Luft 6 POW Camp, May 28, 1944.   
**Army Pvt. David S. Whipple, 23,**20th Air Base Group, Cabanatuan POW camp, July 26, 1942.  
**Army Cpl. David N. Defibaugh, 18,** C Co, 3rd Engr Combat Bn, 24th Infantry Div, Taejon, South Korea, July 20, 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.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 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**

**How I'd hack your passwords**

**An Internet security expert explains just how vulnerable your online accounts are. He also provides tips on making passwords more secure.**

[**What to do if your identity is stolen**](http://www.bing.com/search?q=what+to+do+if+your+identity+is+stolen&form=MSMONY)

* Your partner, child or pet's name, possibly followed by a 0 or 1 (because they're always making you use a number, aren't they?).
* The last four digits of your Social Security number.
* 123 or 1234 or 123456.
* "password."
* Your city, or college, football team name.
* Date of birth -- yours, your partner's or your child's.
* "god."
* "letmein."
* "money."
* "love."

Statistically speaking, that should probably cover about 20% of you. But don't worry: If I didn't get it yet, it will probably only take a few more minutes before I do. **3 tips to avoid credit card scams**

Hackers, and I'm not talking about the ethical kind, have developed a range of tools to get at your personal data. And the main impediment standing between your information remaining safe, or leaking out, is the password you choose. (Ironically, the best protection people have is usually the one they take least seriously.)

One of the simplest ways to gain access to your information is through the use of a [**brute-force attack**](http://www.bing.com/search?q=%22brute+force+attack%22&form=msmony). This is accomplished when a hacker uses a specially written piece of software to attempt to log into a site using your credentials. A few years ago, Insecure.org published a [**top-10 list**](http://sectools.org/crackers.html) of password crackers.

So, how would one use this process to actually breach your personal security? Simple. Follow my logic:

* You probably use the same password for lots of stuff, right?
* Some sites you access, such as your bank or work VPN, probably have pretty decent security, so I'm not going to attack them.
* However, other sites, such as an e-mail greeting-card site, an online forum you frequent or an e-commerce site you've shopped at, might not be as well-prepared. So those are the ones I'd work on.
* So, all we have to do now is unleash a password cracker such as [**THC Hydra**](http://www.thc.org/thc-hydra/) on their server with instructions to try, say, 10,000 different user names and passwords (or 100,000 -- whatever makes you happy) as fast as possible.
* Once we've got several login-plus-password pairings, we can then go back and test them on targeted sites.
* But wait: How do I know which bank you use and what your login ID is for the sites you frequent? All those cookies are simply stored, unencrypted and nicely named, in your Web browser's cache. (Read [**this post**](http://onemansblog.com/2007/02/02/protect-your-privacy-delete-internet-usage-tracks/) to remedy that problem.)

And how fast [**could this be done**](http://geodsoft.com/howto/password/cracking_passwords.htm)? Well, that depends on three main things: the length and complexity of your password, the speed of the hacker's computer and the speed of the hacker's Internet connection.

Assuming the hacker has a reasonably fast connection and PC, below is an estimate of the amount of time it would take to generate every possible combination of passwords for a given number of characters. After generating the list, it's just a matter of time before the computer runs through all the possibilities -- or gets shut down trying.

|  | | |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Password length** | **All characters** | **Only lowercase characters** |
| 3 characters | 0.86 second | 0.02 second |
| 4 characters | 1.36 minutes | 0.046 second |
| 5 characters | 2.15 hours | 11.9 seconds |
| 6 characters | 8.51 days | 5.15 minutes |
| 7 characters | 2.21 years | 2.23 hours |
| 8 characters | 2.10 centuries | 2.42 days |
| 9 characters | 20 millenniums | 2.07 months |
| 10 characters | 1,899 millenniums | 4.48 years |
| 11 characters | 180,365 millenniums | 1.16 centuries |
| 12 characters | 17,184,705 millenniums | 3.03 millenniums |
| 13 characters | 1,627,797,068 millenniums | 78.7 millenniums |
| 14 characters | 154,640,721,434 millenniums | 2,046 millenniums |

Pay particular attention to the difference between using only lowercase characters and using all possible characters (uppercase, lowercase and special characters like @#$%^&\*). Adding just one capital letter and one asterisk would change the processing time for an eight-character password from 2.4 days to 2.1 centuries.

Remember, these are just for an average computer, and these assume you aren't using any word in the dictionary. If Google put its computers to work on it, it'd finish about 1,000 times faster.

Now, I could go on for hours and hours more about all sorts of ways to compromise your security and generally make your life miserable, but 95% of those methods begin with compromising your weak password. So, why not just protect yourself from the start and sleep better at night?

Believe me, I understand the need to choose passwords that are memorable. But, if you're going to do that, how about using something that no one is ever going to guess and doesn't contain any common word or phrase in it.

Here are some password tips:

* Randomly substitute numbers for letters that look similar. The letter "o" becomes the number 0 -- or, even better, an "@" or "\*" (for example, m0d3ltf@rd instead of modelTford) .
* Randomly throw in capital letters (Mod3lTF0rD).
* Think of something you were attached to when you were younger, but don't choose a person's name. Every name plus every word in the dictionary will fail under a simple brute-force attack.
* Maybe a place you loved, a specific car, an attraction from a vacation or a favorite restaurant?
* You really need to have different user name and password combinations for everything. Remember, the technique is to break into anything you access just to figure out your standard password, then compromise everything else. This doesn't work if you don't use the same password everywhere.
* Since it can be difficult to remember a ton of passwords, I recommend using [**RoboForm**](http://www.roboform.com/) for Windows. It will store all of your passwords in an encrypted format and allow you to use just one master password to access all of them. It will also automatically fill in forms on Web pages, and you can even get versions that allow you to take your password list with you on your PDA, phone or a USB key. To download it without having to navigate RoboForm's website, try this [**direct download link**](http://onemansblog.com/roboform-download-link).
* For Mac users I recommend [**1Password**](http://agilewebsolutions.com/products/1Password) (though RoboForm does also offer a Mac version). And I should also note that both of these applications have companion versions for iPhones and Android devices, so you can sync your passwords and take them everywhere you go.
* Once you've thought of a password, try Microsoft's [**password strength tester**](https://www.microsoft.com/athome/security/privacy/password_checker.mspx) to find out how secure it is.

Another thing to keep in mind is that some of the passwords you think matter least actually matter most. For example, some people think that the password to their e-mail box isn't important because "I don't get anything sensitive there." Well, that e-mail box is probably connected to your online banking account. If I can compromise it, then I can log on to the bank's website and tell it I've forgotten my password and have it e-mailed to me. Now, what were you saying about it not being important? Oftentimes, people also reason that all of their passwords and logins are stored on their computer at home, which is safe behind a router or firewall device. Of course, they've never bothered to change the default password on that device, so someone could drive up and park near the house, use a laptop to breach the wireless network and then try passwords from [**this list**](http://www.phenoelit-us.org/dpl/dpl.html) until they gain control of your network -- after which time they will own you.

I realize that every day we encounter people who exaggerate points in order to move us to action, but, trust me, this is not one of those times. There are 50 other ways you can be compromised and punished for using weak passwords that I haven't even mentioned. I also realize that most people just don't care about all this until it's too late and they've learned a very hard lesson. But why don't you do me, and yourself, a favor and take a little action to strengthen your passwords and let me know that all the time I spent on this article wasn't completely in vain.

Please, be safe. It's a jungle out there.

*John Pozadzides is the CEO of Woopra, one of the world's leading real-time Web analytics companies, and an expert in Internet architecture, infrastructure and security systems.*