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

**17 CANNON AVENUE**

**STATEN ISLAND, NY 10314**

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

**October 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 |
| 1 October | Blazing Star Post Meeting | Gold Star Post | 1000 | Saturday |
| 30 October | Poppy Distribution | ShopRite Richmond Ave | 0900-1500 | Sunday |
| 4 November | Poppy Distribution | SI Ferry | 0700-1000 | Friday |
| 4 November | Poppy Distribution | Bay Way Refinery | 1100-1300 | Friday |
| 5 November | Blazing Star Post Meeting | Gold Star Post | 1000 | Saturday |
| 5 November | Poppy Distribution | ShopRite Veterans Rd | 1100-1500 | Saturday |
| 5 November | Poppy Distribution | ShopRite Hylan Blvd | 1100-1500 | Saturday |
| 6 November | Poppy Distribution | ShopRite Veterans Rd | 0900-1500 | Sunday |
| 6 November | Poppy Distribution | ShopRite Hylan Blvd | 0900-1500 | Sunday |
| 3 December | Blazing Star Post Meeting | Gold Star Post | 1000 | Saturday |

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.

9. New Benefits Advisor: Our new NYS veterans’ benefits advisor (VBA) for Staten Island is Rapcelies Almonte. She joins the agency after serving veterans at the Department of Labor office on Staten Island as a Disabled Veterans' Outreach Program specialist. Her email address is [Rapcelies.Almonte@veterans.ny.gov](mailto:Rapcelies.Almonte@veterans.ny.gov). She’ll be available M-F from 8-4 except for when she is shadowing another VBA during her training or performing outreach in the community.

**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 be introducing 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 Accounting Agency has not announced any new identifications or burial updates.

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**

**SCAM ALERT – BEWARE**

Don't fall this very sophisticated debit card scam. Here's how it goes: got a call, the caller ID was my bank. The guy says he's from the fraud dept, calling about my debit card ending in ----(the 4 correct numbers), and asks if i'd been traveling, reports 2 suspicious charges that happened at out-of-state stores (Lowe's and Walmart). I said nope, wasn't me. He says they'll send me a new card. He knows my address. He knows all my phone numbers. He sends a verification code to my cell and asks me to read it to him. THEN HE ASKS FOR MY PIN NUMBER, so he can deactivate it. That's where I said "no." But he has an answer for my suspicions: he says look at the number I'm calling from, it matches the number on the back of your card. It does! But still, then I said let me call you back and he hung up! I reported this to my bank's fraud dept, who said WE WOULD NEVER ASK FOR YOUR PIN NUMBER. (And immediately cancelled my card.) They also said this is the new scam, they're hearing about it a lot. I knew also right away because as I was on the call... I checked with my identity protection service because I would have gotten an alert from my service before this call ever came.