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

**17 CANNON AVENUE**

**STATEN ISLAND, NY 10314**

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

**April 2024**

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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**

**IN MEMORIAM**



**Denny Pizzini**

**March 16, 1935 — March 3, 2024**

Denny Pizzini, Sculptor and Civil War Historian, 88, passed away peacefully on Sunday, March 3, 2024. He was born in Brooklyn in 1935 to Angeles Martinez of Madrid, Spain and Umberto Pizzini of Riva Del Garda, Italy, both immigrants who loved this country dearly.  This love and pride was passed on to their highly creative son and avid history buff.  He served towards the end of the Korean War on a U.S. Strategic Air Command Base as a staff Sergeant and Crew Chief of a B-36 in the 70th Bomb Squadron. It was there that he gained first-hand experience painting popular "pin-up girls" onto B-36 bombers. Returning home to New York City with no aircraft noses to paint, he transformed his favorite pin-up girls into sculptures, creating a handful for friends and family.   After serving he took over the family printing business with his brothers. Denny moved his family into his dream home on Staten Island that he designed and helped build at the end of 1965 just as the Verrazano Bridge was opened.  He loved nature and as a teenager camped on Staten Island.  He would take his bicycle on the Brooklyn Ferry before the bridge was built and spent many days at the beach there as well. In the late 90's, Denny resumed his sculpture-making with his signed edition "dennydolls" ©.  Denny loved living on Staten Island and truly loved helping his friends and neighbors when he could.  He was a member of the Southshore Artist’s Group, VFW Post 1574 - The Blazing Star Post and a member of The Colonial Club since the 1960's. His passion for history led him to form an historical reenactment artillery battery, Winslow’s Battery D.  For more than 40 years he attended historical reenactments, competed with artillery and presented to school groups.  Community was so important to him and so were the arts.  He also loved the Opera, to travel and loved to dance, especially the Lindy.  He was a loving husband and father.  He recently celebrated 61 years of marriage to his love, Julieta.  Denny is survived by his wife, Julieta; son, Gregory; daughter, Denise; grandchildren, Darby, Emiko and Noriko; Brother, Pierre; Nieces and nephews and extended family in Spain.

**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 2024**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Date** | **Event** | **Location** | **Time** | **Remarks** |
| 6 April 2024 | Blazing Star Post Meeting | Gold Star Post | 1000 | Saturday |
| 13 April 2024 | Vietnam Veterans Day Ceremony | Tottenville High School | 1300 |  |
| 4 May 2024 | Blazing Star Post Meeting | Gold Star Post | 1000 | Saturday |
| 11 May 2024 | District 2 Convention | Wappingers Falls, NY |  |  |
| 21 May 2024 | Poppy Distribution | SI Ferry | 0700-1000 | Tentative |
| 21 May 2024 | Poppy Distribution | Bayway Refinery | 1100-1300 | Tentative |
| 23 May 2024 | Ice Cream Social | Capodonno Academy |  |  |
| 24 May 2024 | Poppy Distribution | ShopRite Richmond Ave | 0900-1500 | Tentative |
| 24 May 2024 | Poppy Distribution | Stop & Shop Amboy Rd | 0900-1500 | Tentative |
| 25 May 2024 | Poppy Distribution | ShopRite Hylan Blvd | 0900-1500 | Tentative |
| 25 May 2024 | Poppy Distribution | ShopRite Veterans Rd | 0900-1500 | Tentative |
| 26 May 2024 | Poppy Distribution | ShopRite Hylan Blvd | 0900-1500 | Tentative |
| 26 May 2024 | Poppy Distribution | ShopRite Veterans Rd | 0900-1500 | Tentative |
| 1 June 2024 | Blazing Star Post Meeting | Gold Star Post | 1000 | Saturday |
| 6 July 2024 | Blazing Star Post Meeting | Gold Star Post | 1000 | Saturday |
| 3 Aug 2024 | Blazing Star Post Meeting | Gold Star Post | 1000 | Saturday |
| 7 Sep 2024 | Blazing Star Post Meeting | Gold Star Post | 1000 | Saturday |
| 5 Oct 2024 | Blazing Star Post Meeting | Gold Star Post | 1000 | Saturday |
| 2 Nov 2024 | Blazing Star Post Meeting | Gold Star Post | 1000 | Saturday |
| 7 Dec 2024 | 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:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| First Name | MI | Last Name | Paid Until |
| Sal |  | Balistreri | 4/30/2024 |
| Erica | H | Cano | 4/30/2024 |
| Michael | A | Gomez | 6/30/2024 |
| Daniel | M | Lewis | 6/30/2024 |
| Michael |  | Marinaccio | 5/31/2024 |
| Ann | M | Treadaway | 3/31/2024 |
| Matthew |  | Valdez | 5/31/2024 |

**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. VBA Representative Staten Island Vet Center Wednesdays by appointment only (718) 816-4499. All services are free. Staten Island Vet Center, US Dept of Veterans Affairs; Readjustment Counseling Services, 60 Bay Street, SI, NY 10301 Tel: (718) 816-4499 x 7747 Cell: (929) 359-2449 Fax: (718) 816-6899

6. VA New York Harbor Healthcare System COVID-19 vaccinations for Veterans and VA health care personnel. Call for an appointment 1-877-877-9267 at the following locations: Manhattan VA Medical Center - Brooklyn VA Medical Center - St. Albans Community Living Center - Staten Island Community VA Clinic.

7. Assistance to sign up for COVID-19 vaccine: Contact the NYC Department of Veterans’ Services 1 Centre Street, Suite 2208, NY, NY 10007 at 212-416-5250. Also call NYC Vaccine hotline directly 1-877-VAX-4NYC (1-877-829-4692).

**8. The Veterans Crisis Line: Dial 988 then Press 1.** 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. NYS veterans’ benefits advisor (VBA) for Staten Island: Rapcelies Almonte, email address [Rapcelies.Almonte@veterans.ny.gov](mailto:Rapcelies.Almonte@veterans.ny.gov). She will be available M-F from 8-4.

**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.** Parking Sticker Program and Military Discount Card.

**Discount Card:**  Discounts: 20% in Cafeteria, 10% in Gift Shop (excludes Lotto and Newspapers), $1.00 off per day TV/Telephone Service. Card to be used only by person whose picture is on card. Card will be confiscated and not replaced if misused. Card to be presented each time benefit is issued. Lost cards replaced with $25.00 fee. Broken or damaged cards replaced free of charge. Old card must be surrendered.

**Parking stickers:** The round green stickers are no longer valid. They have been replaced by square white stickers with a bar code on them. They still allow for a maximum of 12 visits of free parking annually. Affix a sticker to the parking ticket being careful not to cover the bar code on the parking ticket and scan it to exit the parking lot. Lost, stolen or damaged stickers cannot be replaced.

**Military Discount Cards and Parking Stickers** may be obtained at 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. Active, retired, or reservist veteran of the United States military are eligible for benefits through the program when visiting Richmond University Medical Center or primary care sites across Staten Island. <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.)

## Complete form and submit proof of service by email or mail to receive personalized VIP card. Card will be mailed to you. Once you receive your card present it at hospital or one of primary care sites to enjoy benefits. Available to members of 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. 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 announced five burial updates and seventeen new identifications for service members who have been missing and unaccounted-for. Returning home for burial with full military honors are:

**Army Tech Fifth Grade Clifford H. Strickland, 25,** 803rd Engr Bn, Philippine Islands died while a POW, July 29 1942.

**Army Pvt. James B. McCartney, 22,** Co B, 1st Bn, 222nd Inf Regt, 42nd Infantry Division, Germany, March 1, 1945.

**Army Pfc. Raymond U. Schlamp, 28,** Co G, 2nd Bn, 11th Infantry Regt, 5th Infantry Division, September 1944.

**Navy Fire Controlman 2nd Class Lawrence J. Overley, 21,**USS Oklahoma, Pearl Harbor, Dec. 7, 1941.  
**Navy Seaman 2nd Class Cecil H. Thornton, 21,** USS Oklahoma, Pearl Harbor, Dec. 7, 1941.  
**Navy Radioman Third Class Starring B. Winfield, 22,** USS Oklahoma, Pearl Harbor, Dec. 7, 1941.  
**Army Sgt. Richard G. Hammond, 24,**Co A, 601st Tank Destroyer Bn, Feb. 17, 1943.  
**Army Pvt. Harold O. Poulter, 23,** Co G, 2nd Bn, 318th Infantry Regt, 80th Infantry Division, Feb. 8, 1945.  
**Navy Seaman 2nd Class Michael Malek, 17,**USS Oklahoma, Pearl Harbor, Dec. 7, 1941.  
**USAAF 1st Lt. Richard J. Kasten, 24,** 44th Bomb Group, Jan. 21, 1944.  
**USAAF 2nd Lt. Robert L. E. Porter, 23,** 445th Bomb Group, 8th Air Force, Feb. 24, 1944.  
**Army Cpl. Julius G. Wolfe, 20,** Co B, 149th Engr Combat Bn, Omaha Beach, June 6, 1944.  
**USAAF Staff Sgt. Jackson M. Barbour, 19,** 91st Bomb Group, Eighth Air Force, Dec. 20, 1942.  
**Army Pfc. Noah C. Reeves, 26,** Co F, 2nd Bn, 28th Infantry Regt, 8th Infantry Division, Dec. 6, 1944.  
**USAAF Tech. Sgt. Paul F. Eshelman Jr., 21,** 98th Bomb Group, 9th Air Force, Aug. 1, 1943.  
**Army Corporal Ray K. Lilly, 18,** L Co, 3rd Bn, 8th Cav Regt, 1st Cavalry Division, Korea, died while a POW, Jan 1951.

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. FREE Veteran and Veteran family chair Yoga every Wed from 12 Noon to 1PM at the Gold Star Post 1365 American Legion post at 17 Cannon Ave, SINY 10314. Come, relax and enjoy.

6. Travis Avenue – For members who use Travis Avenue to get to meetings. Construction on a crucial infrastructure project to improve conditions along an oft-flooded portion of Travis Avenue is expected to begin this spring, five years later than initially anticipated. The Travis Avenue elevation project, which will raise a 970-foot section of Travis Avenue between Victory Boulevard and Mulberry Avenue, aims to provide the area with much-needed flooding relief. The city’s Economic Development Corporation (EDC) now saying it’s targeting April of this year. Road closures will be required to complete the construction, with the city planning to communicate how exactly the closures will impact traffic flow a month before the work begins, according to the EDC. The project is expected to be completed by September 2025. The Travis Avenue elevation project is part of the city’s Raised Shorelines Citywide initiative, which works to mitigate the impacts of rising sea levels and erosion in low-lying areas.

7. Staten Island FerryHawks Veterans’ Salute Game - On Sunday, July 14th we will be having our Veterans’ Salute Game. We will start the day with a moment of silence for our country’s heroes and continue with our Color Guard Ceremony, National Anthem performance, and the first pitch. During the game, the players will salute our Veterans and we will honor selected Veterans as our Harbor Hero of the game. Be sure to arrive for gates opening at 3:00pm to be one of the first people in park, to receive a Military themed bobblehead presented by Tunnels to Towers Foundation! We are creating a ticket link with our Veterans’ Salute Committee in support of Blue Star Families. We are working with leaders from USIVO, NAMI, AmeriCorp Seniors, the American Legion, Four Chaplains, and Rolling Thunder to build out the night. Tickets through this link will cost $15 (before taxes and fees) with $5 of each ticket sold going to support Blue Star Families. Kelly Amberger, Group Sales & Experiences, Staten Island FerryHawks.

8. Food Pantry for Active-Duty Personnel – Please continue to donate non-perishable food items for our active duty service men and women.

9. Veterans’ yoga – 12 noon – 1pm every Wednesday except third Wednesday 1230pm – 1pm.

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| |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **16th Annual Vietnam Veterans' Day Ceremony** | | |

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| |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | ****You're Invited: 16th Annual Vietnam Veterans' Day Ceremony**** ****Saturday, April 13, 2024**** ****1pm********Tottenville High School****   Senator Andrew Lanza invites you to Tottenville High School on **Saturday, April 13th at 1pm** to recognize the sacrifices of those who served in the Vietnam War at the **16th Annual Vietnam Veterans’ Day Ceremony.**  In 2008, Senator Lanza and former Assemblyman Titone authored a law designating March 29th as Vietnam Veterans’ Day in the State of New York. On March 29, 1973, the last 2,500 troops were withdrawn from South Vietnam, thus ending military involvement in one of the longest wars in our Nation’s history.  Due to the unpopularity of this war, the men and women who survived and the 58,195 brave souls who fought and died, were never given the proper respect and gratitude they deserved for serving their country. Of the names listed on the Vietnam Memorial Wall, 4,120 are from the Great State of New York. **Senator Lanza hosts the annual celebration of Vietnam Veterans Day to properly thank our veterans who fought bravely in Vietnam.**  Any questions please call (718)-984-4073  **~ Refreshments will be served ~** **~ No RSVP required, All are welcome ~** | | |

**Items of Interest**

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