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

**17 CANNON AVENUE**

**STATEN ISLAND, NY 10314**

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

**August 2025**

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| --- |
| BLAZING STAR POST 1574 CONTACT NUMBERSBruce Lieberman, Commander - 718-494-4759, nycpapa@gmail.comPaul Dietrich, Quartermaster - 718-698-5269, paul@the-dietrichs.comWilliam 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 2025**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Date** | **Event**  | **Location**  | **Time** | **Remarks** |
| 2 Aug 2025 | Blazing Star Post Meeting | Gold Star Post | 1000 | Saturday |
| 6 Sep 2025 | Blazing Star Post Meeting | Gold Star Post | 1000 | Saturday |
| 4 Oct 2025 | Blazing Star Post Meeting | Gold Star Post | 1000 | Saturday |
| 1 Nov 2025 | Blazing Star Post Meeting | Gold Star Post | 1000 | Saturday |
| 6 Dec 2025 | Blazing Star Post Meeting | Gold Star Post | 1000 | Saturday |

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.

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

**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, Mike Marra.

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

4. 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

5. 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.

6. NYS veterans’ benefits advisor (VBA) for Staten Island: Rapcelies Almonte, email address Rapcelies.Almonte@veterans.ny.gov. She will be available M-F from 8-4.

7. Timothy H. Graham, Executive Director/Chief Executive Officer, Tel: (212)-686-7800 Ext. 7100

Email: Timothy.Graham@va.gov**,** N.Y. Harbor VA Healthcare system, 423 E. 23rd Street, New York, NY 10010

8. New Veteran Liaison at Brough Hall - Billy Beale, Phone 1-718-816-2062 email = bbeale@statenislandusa.com

9.  For anyone having difficulties with the VA the White House has a hotline manned 24/7, 855-948-2311.

10. VA award letters can be obtained from the NY VA regional office at 245 west Houston Street, New York, NY 10014 or phone 800-827-1000.

11. S.I. Veterans Discount Cards S.I. B/P Vito Fossella and President S.I.E.D.C Michael Cusick’s office contact Mr. Aanonson at 718-477-1400 or Olivia 347-937-4432.

12. Northwell Health military liaison office Mr. Kelly Cell 516-306-6612 and Mr. Kaplan. 516-821-5140.

**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 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. Present card 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:** Maximum of 12 visits of free parking annually. Stickers expire in one year. 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 are 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 , VIP invitation to hospital events.

Provide proof of service to complete registration. 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.)

## Complete form and send proof of service to Alutz@rumcsi.org or by mail to: Alex Lutz, Attn: VIP Program, Richmond University Medical Center, 355 Bard Avenue, Staten Island, NY 10310. Upon approval, your VIP Program card will be sent to you in the mail. Present it at the hospital or any of our primary care sites to enjoy the benefits. Available to members of military who are active, retired, or reservist. Benefits are non-transferrable and VIP card must be provided to access the program’s 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:

Identifications:

[World War II Army Air Forces Staff Sgt. Clifford E. Keeney](https://www.dpaa.mil/News-Stories/ID-Announcements/Article/4219118/airman-accounted-for-from-world-war-ii-keeney-c/)

[World War II Army 2nd Lt. Charles S. Atteberry](https://www.dpaa.mil/News-Stories/ID-Announcements/Article/4219181/soldier-accounted-for-from-world-war-ii-atteberry-c/)

[World War II Army Air Forces Staff Sgt. Raymond A. Kaudelky](https://www.dpaa.mil/News-Stories/ID-Announcements/Article/4221955/airmen-accounted-for-from-wwii-kaudelky-r/)

[Korean War Army Pfc. Elijah Trannon Jr.](https://www.dpaa.mil/News-Stories/ID-Announcements/Article/4193794/soldier-accounted-for-from-korean-war-trannon-e/)

[Korean War Army Cpl. Oscar L. Sprague](https://www.dpaa.mil/News-Stories/ID-Announcements/Article/4193802/soldier-accounted-for-from-wwii-sprague-o/)

[Vietnam War Army Master Sgt. Donald P. Gervais](https://www.dpaa.mil/News-Stories/ID-Announcements/Article/4193937/soldier-accounted-for-from-vietnam-gervais-d/)

[Vietnam War Air Force Tech. Sgt. Donald K. Springsteadah](https://www.dpaa.mil/News-Stories/ID-Announcements/Article/4225863/airman-accounted-for-from-vietnam-war-springsteadah-d/)

[Vietnam War Air Force Tech. Sgt. Willis R. Hall](https://www.dpaa.mil/News-Stories/ID-Announcements/Article/4226504/airman-accounted-for-from-vietnam-war-hall-w/)

[Vietnam War Air Force Staff Sgt. Henry G. Gish](https://www.dpaa.mil/News-Stories/ID-Announcements/Article/4225872/airman-accounted-for-from-vietnam-war-gish-h/)

[Vietnam War Air Force Col. Walter A. Renelt](https://www.dpaa.mil/News-Stories/ID-Announcements/Article/4225769/pilot-accounted-for-from-vietnam-war-renelt-w/)

[World War II Army Air Forces 1st Lt. Morton Sher](https://www.dpaa.mil/News-Stories/ID-Announcements/Article/4228413/pilot-accounted-for-from-world-war-ii-sher-m/)

[Korean War Army Cpl. Howard A. Troup](https://www.dpaa.mil/News-Stories/ID-Announcements/Article/4231416/soldier-accounted-for-from-korean-war-troup-h/)

[World War II Army Air Forces 2nd Lt. Dwight M. Holmes](https://www.dpaa.mil/News-Stories/ID-Announcements/Article/4238195/airman-accounted-for-from-world-war-ii-holmes-d/)

[World War II Navy Carpenter’s Mate Second Class William R. Burns](https://www.dpaa.mil/News-Stories/ID-Announcements/Article/4238533/uss-glennon-sailor-accounted-for-from-world-war-ii-burns-w/)

[World War II Army Air Forces 2nd Lt. Frank A. Johnstone](https://www.dpaa.mil/News-Stories/ID-Announcements/Article/4241418/pilot-accounted-for-from-world-war-ii-johnstone-f/)

[World War II Army Pvt. Kenneth L. Kramer](https://www.dpaa.mil/News-Stories/ID-Announcements/Article/4238471/soldier-accounted-for-from-world-war-ii-kramer-k/)

[World War II Army Pvt. Ira Warren](https://www.dpaa.mil/News-Stories/ID-Announcements/Article/4238165/soldier-accounted-for-from-world-war-ii-warren-i/)

[World War II Army Air Forces Pvt. Bennett H. Waters](https://www.dpaa.mil/News-Stories/ID-Announcements/Article/4238155/airman-accounted-for-from-world-war-ii-waters-b/)

[World War II Army Air Forces Tech. Sgt. John M. Larkins](https://www.dpaa.mil/News-Stories/ID-Announcements/Article/4238149/airman-accounted-for-from-world-war-ii-larkins-j/)

[World War II Army Air Forces Cpl. Lester H. Libolt](https://www.dpaa.mil/News-Stories/ID-Announcements/Article/4238205/airman-accounted-for-from-world-war-ii-libolt-l/)

[Korean War Army Sgt. Ray Johnson](https://www.dpaa.mil/News-Stories/ID-Announcements/Article/4240764/soldier-accounted-for-from-korean-war-johnson-r/)

[Korean War Army Cpl. George C. Hagie](https://www.dpaa.mil/News-Stories/ID-Announcements/Article/4240745/soldier-accounted-for-from-korean-war-hagie-g/)

[Korean War Army Cpl. Donald E. Nickel](https://www.dpaa.mil/News-Stories/ID-Announcements/Article/4240798/soldier-accounted-for-from-korean-war-nickel-d/)

[Korean War Army Pfc. John R. Stovall](https://www.dpaa.mil/News-Stories/ID-Announcements/Article/4238161/soldier-accounted-for-from-korean-war-stovall-j/)

[Korean War Army Pfc. Harold B. Dulyea](https://www.dpaa.mil/News-Stories/ID-Announcements/Article/4238142/soldier-accounted-for-from-korean-war-dulyea-h/)

Updates:

[World War II Army Air Forces 1st Lt. George F. Bradbury](https://www.dpaa.mil/News-Stories/ID-Announcements/Article/4187326/airman-accounted-for-from-world-war-ii-bradbury-g/)

[Korean War Air Force Capt. Howard E. O’Dell](https://www.dpaa.mil/News-Stories/ID-Announcements/Article/4192377/airman-accounted-for-from-korean-war-odell-h/)

[World War II Army Air Forces Sgt. Arthur B. Van Kleeck](https://www.dpaa.mil/News-Stories/ID-Announcements/Article/4221974/new-york-airman-accounted-for-from-wwii-van-kleeck-a/)

[World War II Army Air Forces Pfc. Norman R. Thomas](https://www.dpaa.mil/News-Stories/ID-Announcements/Article/4233474/airman-accounted-for-from-world-war-ii-thomas-n/)

[Korean War Army Pfc. Jack M. Cash](https://www.dpaa.mil/News-Stories/ID-Announcements/Article/4233348/soldier-accounted-for-from-korean-war-cash-j/)

[Korean War Army Cpl. Paul E. Hoots](https://www.dpaa.mil/News-Stories/ID-Announcements/Article/4231727/soldier-accounted-for-from-korean-war-hoots-p/)

[World War II  Army Pvt. 1st Class Leon R. Karwacki](https://www.dpaa.mil/News-Stories/ID-Announcements/Article/4232056/soldier-accounted-for-from-world-war-ii-karwacki-l/)

[World War II Army Air Forces Pfc. Lee I. Clendenning](https://www.dpaa.mil/News-Stories/ID-Announcements/Article/4231994/airman-accounted-for-from-world-war-ii-clendenning-l/)

[World War II Army Air Forces 2nd Lt. Nathaniel L. Hightower Jr.](https://www.dpaa.mil/News-Stories/ID-Announcements/Article/4231485/airman-accounted-for-from-world-war-ii-hightower-n/)

[World War II Army Pvt. Erwin H. Schopp](https://www.dpaa.mil/News-Stories/ID-Announcements/Article/4231355/soldier-accounted-for-from-world-war-ii-schopp-e/)

[World War II Army Tech. Sgt. Joseph R. Moore](https://www.dpaa.mil/News-Stories/ID-Announcements/Article/4233393/soldier-accounted-for-from-world-war-ii-moore-j/)

[Korean War Army Sgt. Elwyn D. Nordyke](https://www.dpaa.mil/News-Stories/ID-Announcements/Article/4231585/soldier-accounted-for-from-korean-war-nordyke-e/)

[World War II Army 2nd Lt. William B. Bucey](https://www.dpaa.mil/News-Stories/ID-Announcements/Article/4244063/soldier-accounted-for-from-world-war-ii-bucey-w/)

[World War II Army Pvt. Kenneth L. Kramer](https://www.dpaa.mil/News-Stories/ID-Announcements/Article/4244327/soldier-accounted-for-from-world-war-ii-kramer-k/)

[World War II Army Capt. Paul E. Pearson](https://www.dpaa.mil/News-Stories/ID-Announcements/Article/4241542/soldier-accounted-for-from-world-war-ii-pearson-p/)

[World War II Army Pvt. Henry J. Smith](https://www.dpaa.mil/News-Stories/ID-Announcements/Article/4243315/soldier-accounted-for-from-world-war-ii-smith-h/)

[World War II Army Air Forces 1st Lt. Wylie W. Leverett](https://www.dpaa.mil/News-Stories/ID-Announcements/Article/4241428/pilot-accounted-for-from-world-war-ii-leverett-w/)

[Korean War Army Pfc. William A. Wheeler](https://www.dpaa.mil/News-Stories/ID-Announcements/Article/4243034/solider-accounted-for-from-korean-war-wheeler-w/)

**Note: To view details of each service member, click on their hyper link.**

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. Veterans’ yoga – 12 noon – 1pm every Wednesday

**Items of Interest**

**Easy and Healthy snack ideas while traveling:**

* Trail Mix: Make your own with unsalted nuts, dried fruit and a few dark chocolate chips. It’s full of protein and healthy fats.
* Fresh fruit: Apples, bananas and oranges are easy to carry and don’t need to be refrigerated. Applesauce pouches and other fruit or vegetable purees are another portable option. Add a handful of nuts, a peanut butter packet or a cheese stick for extra protein.
* Cut veggies: Pack sliced carrots, bell peppers or celery sticks in a small container. Hummus makes a great dip.
* Whole grain crackers and peanut butter: This combo provides fiber, healthy fats and protein to keep you full longer.
* Beef or turkey jerky: Choose low-sodium options with no added sugar.
* Greek yogurt cups: Great if you have a cooler. Go for plain or low-sugar versions and add granola for extra crunch.
* Hard-boiled eggs: Easy to make ahead and high in protein.
* String cheese or cheese cubes: A good source of calcium and protein that travels well.
* Granola bars: Look for bars with simple ingredients and less than 8 grams of added sugar.
* Popcorn: Air-popped or lightly salted popcorn is a great whole grain snack when you want something crunchy.

**Tips for success**

* Pack snacks in reusable containers or zip-top bags before you head out.
* Bring a refillable water bottle to stay hydrated.
* Don’t skip meals—snacks should be small bites between meals to keep you going.
* Not very hungry? Stick with a single item. Need more? Pair two food groups for a bigger snack.
* Customize your options with a [packed treat](https://www.nutrition.va.gov/Recipes/Snacks/GrabGoSnacks.asp) from home.