



VETERAN CORPS, 69TH REGIMENT, INC.
THE FIGHTING SIXTY NINTH
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BULLETIN **FEBRUARY 2018**

Veteran Corps Meetings Schedule:

Executive Board:

**Executive Board will meet on the
 2nd Tuesday of each month at 1930 Hours**

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NOTE:

**Sunday Membership Meetings – LOCATION: Until further notice
 membership meetings will be held at the Wolfe Tone’s Irish Pub -
 37 E. 29th Street, NY, NY (between Park and Madison Avenues)**

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Meeting	Date	Day	Time
Exec – Board of Officers	2/13/18	Tuesday	7:30pm
Regular Membership	2/18/18	Sunday	1:00pm
Exec – Board of Officers	3/16/18	Friday	7:00pm
St Patrick’s Day Parade	3/17/18	Saturday	10:30am
Exec – Board of Officers	4/10/18	Tuesday	7:30pm
Regular Membership	4/15/18	Sunday	1:00pm

**Veteran Corps 69th
 Regiment Mission
 Statement**

*The mission of the
 Veteran Corps 69th
 Regiment is to
 preserve and
 expound the
 history and
 traditions of the
 Regiment, to
 provide a venue to
 inform and foster
 camaraderie
 among veterans of
 the 69th, and to
 assist the
 Commander of the
 active unit with the
 morale and welfare
 of the soldiers and
 their families.*



Tom Fitzsimmons

COMMANDER'S REPORT:

➤ ANNUAL DUES / 50/50 Drawings:



**Annual Membership Dues 2018 = \$10.00
and 50/50 Drawings**

Our dues, though only \$10.00 per year, are an important part of our yearly budget. The dues supplemented by those who participate in our 50/50 drawings provide the funds that make this Bulletin possible.

➤ Armory Access - Update:

Unfortunately I have to report that the situation at the Armory with the lead contamination has not been resolved at this time. Various rumors state that the money is available and others that it is not. But whatever the story I don't think we will gain access to the Armory in any time soon.

But that does not mean we will not continue to function. The Officers and Board of Directors have and will continue to meet each month. Presently, we have the Membership Meetings at the Wolfe Tone's Irish Pub and Restaurant located at 37 East 29th Street, New York, NY. It is not the perfect location for a meeting but it is located close to the Armory where we have some street parking available to us. So for the time being we will meet there.

➤ Veteran Corps Activities:

We will, as I have stated before, continue to support some of the activities of the battalion's activities such as plaques for NCO/Soldier of the Year, provide some of the expenses for the Shooting Teams as they prepare for the TAG Matches each spring, again we will support the Rifle Team as they prepare for the Logan Duffy Match. We also provide awards and souvenirs for the Logan Duffy Match. Our contribution to the Soldiers Ball is providing 5 of the lower rank soldiers and their spouse with seating at the Ball. We will again take on the task of conducting the Annual Makin Day Dinner. If that is a success we will contribute to assist in the expenses of the Commander's Reception.

I mention these activities to you because at times I have asked for additional funds from you to support them. And as always you have delivered.

➤ **St. Patrick's Day:**

	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Veteran Corps Activity</u> <u>- St. Patrick's Day -</u> <u>Saturday, March 17, 2018</u></p>
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PARADE – Attire Requirements: We ask that those of you, and we hope that it is many, who march with the Veteran Corps dress in the appropriate manner. White sneakers and jeans are not appropriate nor are any partial military uniforms. Signs, posters or photographs will not be displayed. Remember you have served with this proud Regiment. Make this present day Regiment proud of you.

We will have some guest with us for both the Mass and the Parade and after-parade gathering at Wolfe Tone's Irish Pub and Kitchen on St. Patrick's Day. There will be 22 members of the 2 Infantry Battalion Association joining us for the day.

- **MASS: Those who wish to attend Mass:**
Place: St. Patrick's Cathedral, 51st Street and 5th Avenue
Time: 7:30AM
Assemble: Northeast Corner of 51st Street & 5th Avenue

- **PARADE: Those members who wish to proudly march with the Veteran Corps:**
Place: 44th Street West of 5th Avenue
Time: 10:30AM
Assemble: Under the direction of CSM (ret) Jose Flores, 1st Vice Commander.
Note he will request anyone who does not meet our dress code or standards of the Veteran Corps to leave the formation.

- **After the parade:**
Place: Wolfe Tone's Irish Pub and Kitchen – 37 East 29th Street (between Park and Madison Avenue)
We will continue our St Patrick's Day celebration. It may get a little crowded but that's OK, no one will have room to fall down. Our Officers and Board of Directors have agreed with me that we do something for ourselves. We have been continually asked to support different projects with funding. So for the first three hours at Wolfe Tone's Pub – for those Veteran Corps members who are in good standing (dues are paid up-to-date), the Veteran Corps will cover food and drink. Non-member guests will be asked to pay a modest fee for attendance.

➤ **Scholarship Fund:**

We will be awarding 5 enlisted members of the battalion with \$2,000.00 scholarships on St. Patrick's Day. The Veteran Corps will award these scholarships from the Family Support Fund. The Fund is now solvent but will need additional funding as time goes by. Soldiers of the active battalion who are enrolled in a school to advance their education are eligible for nomination. The current plan is to award 5 \$2,000.00 scholarship awards on an annual basis.



Geoffrey Slack
Colonel(Ret)

THE LIAISON OFFICER’S REPORT **(EDITION 15 – FEBRUARY 2018)**

Dear fellow 69th veterans, families, and supporters of the 69th Infantry,

This is the last entry in my series featuring a few of the young people who now make up the Fighting 69th. We began with Specialist Romero Harriot in C Company, we went over to B Company to meet SGT Joe Ruyack, and I will finish now with First Lieutenant Taylor Maningo, the battalion S1 in HHC. In March I will take a close look at the spring seasons field training program. It promises to another very busy year for the battalion.

Taylor and I had met at a few 69th social events previously and my initial impression was that she is a serious and dedicated young Army professional. My interview with her confirmed my impressions. As a woman in today’s Army she is not a new phenomenon as there have been women in our Army, unofficially then officially, for centuries and in growing numbers since WWII. What is fairly new is that women are now increasing in numbers within the ranks of the combat arms units. Within the next year it is nearly certain that the 69th will have women assigned as 11 Bravo’s in both the enlisted and officer ranks. You may have a differing opinion but Congress and the Army have made their decisions to place women in the infantry and it will be the responsibility of the 69th to get on with this mission successfully. None of us can doubt that the 69th will dedicate itself to this task as it has to every task it has ever received.

So, why would any woman want to accept an assignment in a “line” battalion you might ask? In Taylor’s case she accepted her assignment because she wanted to serve in the finest unit within the New York Army National Guard and jumped at the opportunity. As a battalion, very few organizations in the Guard exceed the 69th in historical grandeur, mission difficulty, and personal risk. Some men accept assignment in the 69th with trepidation thus it is all the more impressive when women seek to serve in the **Fighting** 69th (I stress the word “Fighting” from personal experience).

Born in 1988 and growing up in Holtsville, NY Taylor came to understand and appreciate her grandfather’s military service. He had served as the commander of a tank company in Patchogue, Long Island (now long gone) and was her inspiration towards the military. He epitomized the dedication and professionalism through service that built in Taylor’s character as a child. Her father further encouraged her spirit of public service and while in college at SUNY Potsdam she used her biology degree education to join several EMT squads supporting the local communities, the college, and the ROTC program. Upon graduation in 2011 she went to work as a surgical technician at Canton/Potsdam Hospital and was on her way to a successful civilian career. It was not enough. She decided to join the Army and while assigned to the 27th Brigade she attended Basic Training at Fort Jackson in 2014 then Federal OCS at Fort Benning in 2015. Initially branched as a

Medical Service Officer she altered her branch to The Adjutant General Corps in order to be able to serve in a wider variety of Army assignments and units. Returning to the 27th Brigade she was assigned as the Strength Management Officer. She would next have gone to the Officer Basic Course had not an early mentor, Major April Bennet, not challenged her with delaying that important school to deploy with the 27th to the Joint Readiness Training Center (JRTC). Major Bennet knew that this priceless experience of personal deprivation and professional pressure must be part of her early Army experience. Taylor accepted this challenge and immersed herself in the mission and came away a respected team member within the brigade. Returning from JRTC Taylor was deployed to Korea for a month as her teams S1. I trust the reader understand what a whirlwind tempo of military schooling and experience Taylor had encountered this early in her career.

Her next assignment came in April 2017 when she was posted to the 69th as a primary staff officer (S1). At first she was a bit concerned that her assignment might be met with some resistance due to her gender but was reassured to find out that the previous S1 had also been a pathfinding female officer. What she did find a bit unsettling was that only approximately 8 other female soldiers were in the battalion and all in Fox Company (the support company in Farmingdale). She found herself in the middle of preparation for the training deployment to Australia then on to execute that mission. It has now been 10 months since she's had this assignment and I asked Taylor for her impressions of the 69th and her perception of her acceptance within the battalion. I was pleased to hear her response. She describes the 69th as a tough, professional, and learning organization where merit is demanded and rewarded. She said that from time to time she encounters bias from individuals but treats that bias as coming from a single person and not the battalion. Her finest comment clearly indicates her character and commitment: "My staff sections job is to care for the people of this unit every day, every drill, and always." She went on to describe the 69th as a place where "A tall African American NCO and a short white female officer can lead a very diverse, multicultural, and critical staff section with success for the people of the 69th Infantry." (I hope that makes you as proud as it did me.)

In closing I asked Taylor to give me an idea where she wanted her career to head. She said she was determined to grow professionally in the Army, in her civilian career (Surgical Technician in Brentwood, NY) and in her personal life which has largely been on hold to support her Army assignments. She is open to just about anything the NYARNG throws her way as long as she is challenged with tough assignments and leadership roles.

Lieutenant Maningo is, in my opinion, a patriot of the highest order. She is not a "blood and guts" infantry killer type and doesn't feel she needs to be. She is looking to make a positive difference in every assignment and... she is proud to be a member of the 69th. As always, I find myself in awe of these young people coming up in the 69th today. I hope you are too.

Yours in a common cause,
Geoff Slack
geoffslack@aol.com



LT Maningo with SSG Melton,
Her NCOIC in the S1 Section



LT Maningo with Tom Fitzsimmons at the Logan-Duffy Dinner



Letters, Emails, and Conversations:

- **Sandy Tychnowitz:** Received a letter from Sandy reliving her days of functions at the Armory. She remembers attending with her late husband Andy and feels that she grew up in the Armory. Her letter indicates her sad feelings about the Armory not being available to us due to the lead contamination. She does recall many fond memories and the people involved in those good times. Barney Kelly, John Gundy, Lee Ortiz, many others and even Fitzy. Sandy, great hearing from you, and stay warm down in Florida. Will be thinking of you on St. Patrick's Day.
- **Scooter Barclay:** Received a call from Scooter last week informing us that he enjoyed his (First) cruise but did miss attending the Makin Day Dinner. He is scheduled to go to Vietnam this summer but has every intention of being at the Makin Day Dinner in Nov 2018. His main request is that he be seated at a table with the soldiers and not on the dais. He also sends his best regards to Colonel Slack and many of the soldiers he met at Ft. Hood in 2004.
- **Richard H. Glass:** Richard sends in his dues along with a donation to our General Fund. Thank you Richard, it is greatly appreciated.
- **William Higgins:** I recently had the opportunity to return a call to William. He joined the 165th in September 1947 and was assigned to H Company. He enrolled in I believe what was called the 10 series as part of the ESMA program and received a commission. He was then assigned to M Company. He did leave the National Guard and enlisted in the Air Force and retired from that service. Returning to the civilian world and relocating in Ft Worth, Texas. Not really feeling at the top of his game right now so I have placed him on the Sick List. I ask that all of you keep him and all that are listed on the Sick List in your prayers and kind thoughts.

