



# Veteran Corps, 69th Regiment, Inc.

  
*The Fighting Sixty Ninth*

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New York 11762

Telephone 516-662-9917

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**BULLETIN**

**September 2017**

## **Veteran Corps Meetings Schedule:**

### **Veteran Corps 69<sup>th</sup> Regiment Mission Statement**

*The mission of the  
Veteran Corps 69<sup>th</sup>  
Regiment is to pre-  
serve and expound the*

*history and tradi-  
tions of the Regi-  
ment, to*

*provide a venue to  
inform and foster*

*camaraderie among  
veterans of the 69<sup>th</sup>,  
and to assist the  
Commander of the  
active unit with the  
morale and welfare  
of the soldiers and  
their families.*

### **Executive Board:**

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

★ ★

### **NOTE:**

**All members are invited to attend Exec Board meetings. Veteran Corps members may participate with sharing ideas and suggestions, but will not be able to vote at these meetings; updates are presented at the general membership Regular Scheduled Meetings.**

★ ★

**Regular Scheduled Meetings –  
SCHEDULE CHANGE 2017 - See next page**

**REGULAR SCHEDULED MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS – 2017 –  
NOTE CHANGES!**

Please give your attention to the following schedule of meetings.

Listed below are the both the Executive Board and Regular Membership meetings for the next 4 months:

<b>Meeting</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Day</b>	<b>Time</b>
Exec – Board of Officers	9/12/17	Tuesday	7:30pm
Regular Membership Meeting	9/17/17	Sunday	Cancelled
Exec – Board of Officers	10/10/17	Tuesday	7:30pm
Regular Membership Meeting	10/15/17***	Sunday	1:00pm
Exec – Board of Officers	11/14/17	Tuesday	7:30pm
Regular Membership Meeting	11/19/17	Sunday	1:00pm

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**\*\*\* Note Time and Location Change of meeting Wolfe Tones Pub  
37 East 29th Street**

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**DUES AND 50/50 CHANCE BOOKS:  
ANNUAL DUES FOR 2017 - \$10.**

As of this printing about 75% of our members are in good standing as paid up to the current year of 2017. If you have not sent in your dues as yet, please do so now. Also I would like to thank those who participate in the 50/50 drawings. The combined income from both the dues and the 50/50 contribute towards the cost of providing you with the Bulletin.

If you have a change of address or are not receiving the Bulletin via email and would like to.

Email me at [secretary69vets@verizon.net](mailto:secretary69vets@verizon.net)

Dennis Hearn

Corresponding Secretary 69th Veterans Corps 516-662-9917

## **COMMANDER'S REPORT:**

### **Membership Meeting:**

The Membership Meeting on September 17, 2017 is cancelled. The reason being that a large portion of the Board of Officers will be attending the Logan Duffy Match at Camp Smith, NY on that weekend.

### **Makin Day Dinner:**

As you know by now we will be having the Makin Day Dinner at a location outside of the armory. Although there have been other social events at outside locations, this is the first time for the Makin Day Beefsteak Dinner. We will need your support for this to be a success.

Mark your calendar for Friday, November 3<sup>rd</sup> 2017

Better yet, fill out invitation attached to this newsletter and mail in with payment.

Make checks payable to Veteran Corps, 69<sup>th</sup> Regiment Inc. earmark Makin Day Dinner. It is only 7 weeks until dinner.

We must provide a roster of those attending 72 hours prior to dinner. So please do not delay with your response. Again, An invitation form attached to this newsletter.

FYI you all know how disappointing it is that we cannot have the Makin Dinner in the armory. But no one is more disappointed than the Battalion Commander, LTC Donald Makay. He has his staff designated to helping us make the dinner a huge success. His support of the Veteran Corps is demonstrated by his continued messages to the soldiers of the active battalion to join the Veteran Corps. This support has not gone unnoticed and is appreciated by the Veteran Corps.

### **Logan/Duffy Match:**

The match is scheduled for Saturday, September 16 at Camp Smith, Cortland, NY. We will provide you with the results of the match in the October Bulletin. A major portion of the Board of Officers will be attending the Match and will be at Camp Smith for the weekend. All members of the Veteran Corps are invited to attend the Rifle Match and the victory dinner at West Point Saturday evening. Cost of dinner is \$45.00.

### **Joyce Kilmer:**

Just to inform everyone the following dedication to Joyce Kilmer is happening due to the tenacious efforts of Jack Hallanan our 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Commander. Jack has coordinated with the Kilmer family, the NJ Turnpike Authority and the Service area people. The following LOI is the culmination of two years of planning.

Our thanks to Jack.

On the Northbound lanes of the NJ Turnpike between exits 8A and 9 near New Brunswick, there is a service area named for Joyce Kilmer. His name appears over the entrance and, in the public dining area near the travel and hotel brochures, there are several items framed and mounted to describe him to travelers. There is his famous poem "Trees", a few pictures of trees, and a brief bio that does not mention he was Killed in Action in WWI.

The Veteran Corps, in conjunction with the NJ Turnpike Authority and the operators of the food concession, HMS Host, has arranged for the mounting of the Kilmer material such as his portrait photograph and another in his Army uniform, the poem "Rouge Bouquet", the story behind the poem, and a photo of the burial of the members of Company E being buried on St. Patrick's Day 1918 and for whom the poem was written. Another panel will have the DUI and the poem "A Soldiers Prayer in France". These will be prominently mounted on the wall of the entrance vestibule of the rest area visible to all as they enter.

A suitable ceremony at the site is planned for 1100 hours on 18 October 2017 and members of the Kilmer family are expected to attend.

Members of the Veteran Corps are invited and encouraged to attend this ceremony. We will be in view of the public so the dress code will be business attire and Veteran Corps Caps.



## LETTERS AND CONVERSATIONS

( Emails count as LETTERS )

**Bill Finan:** Bill who is a long time member of the Veteran Corps and was for

over 20 years our Recording Secretary continues making contributions to the various projects we are involved in. Bill, thank you for the very generous contribution you have made to help support the battalion Rifle and Pistol Team.

**John Walsh:** John who as a young man was a member of the regiment in the 1930's prior to WWII. We have great phone conversations and he is my main provider of email humor. He has very fond memories of his days with the regiment.

But now I wish to say thank you for your generous contribution to the Family Support Fund.

**Ann Brennan:** Ann who is a frequent donor to the Veteran Corps in memory of her husband the late LTC Edward Brennan who served with the regiment in WWII.

Thank you Ann and I hope all is well with you.

**Richard J. Adams:** Hello Dick, It seem like yesterday that I would see you walking around the second floor of the armory. There are still a few guys around from those

days. Thank you for your generous contribution to the Family Support Fund.

**Daniel Flynn:** Dan we really appreciate your very generous contribution to the Family Support Fund. This fund is used exclusively for the benefit of the soldiers of the active battalion, in some cases for the veterans of OIF and Gold Star parents.

**Hudson Valley Hi-Power Rifle Club:** We have received a generous contribution to the Veteran Corps in memory of the late 1SG Julian B. Alfonso. Since we do support the shooting teams of the battalion we have asked them if we could use their contribution for that purpose. At a recent meeting I made a proposal that any funds we collect and provide to the battalion for the shooting teams be made in the name of "Julian B. Alfonso Memorial Fund".

## THE LIAISON OFFICER'S REPORT: GEOFF SLACK

(EDITION 12- September 2017)

Dear fellow 69<sup>th</sup> veterans, families, and supporters of the 69<sup>th</sup> Infantry,

Happy late summer everyone! Sorry for missing my column in August but I had not yet had a chance to catch up with Lieutenant Colonel Makay after his return from Australia for his comments when the August edition was going to print. I did spend a bit of time with him while attending the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the Rainbow Division this past Sunday in Garden City so here goes...

Despite the immense complexity of the Australian mission the 69<sup>th</sup> again enjoyed a huge success. With only 17 relatively minor casualties (considering that at the JRTC there were hundreds of heat related problems) all returned home safely – no minor accomplishment. Lieutenant Colonel Makay related two major themes the battalion wrestled with in his comments: tactics and mission command (C2 for us old guys). Let's look at mission command first.

The battalion was a small but key part of an enormous multi-national (combined) and multi-service (joint) exercise. The 69<sup>th</sup> would automatically have failed if it could not perform mission command within this complex environment. Mission command success rests on the battalion commander and his staff alone. The companies can't help with this task. Part of any success depends on how the battalion is perceived and again, all perceptions begin with the battalion commander and his top people. The Australian's loved the 69<sup>th</sup>! Why? Because the 69<sup>th</sup> approached this exercise as a "learning organization" and performed as a loyal, attentive, and determinedly subordinate part of the Australian brigade rather than US Army snobs (my choice of words alone here). Lieutenant Colonel Makay expressed that he admired some mission command techniques and equipment that perhaps our Army could benefit with by adopting. So, in short, the 69<sup>th</sup> succeeded at the altar of mission command. It wasn't AT Fort Drum in 1993 that's for sure.

Now for tactics. As you might imagine, this is the "meat" the 69<sup>th</sup> is now well known for within the National Guard. Due to its 100%+ assigned strength and combat/training record over the last 13 years the 69<sup>th</sup> is considered a Tyrannosaurus Rex of an infantry battalion. It is big, tough, single-minded, and led by veterans. Going up against a US Marine and US paratrooper training adversary was just what the 69<sup>th</sup> wanted in this exercise. The battalion defended on the beach against a Marine landing! (You guys who did that in reverse on Makin, Saipan, and Okinawa have to be laughing or maybe shuddering here!) I pressed Lieutenant Colonel Makay to provide me an anecdote from his personal observations of that defense and he told me how stubborn B Company was and how they stalled the Marines badly. He described brilliant successes in the battalion's tactics within each company but space sadly precludes me from telling each story. To summarize, the old 69<sup>th</sup> did well...again.

As a personal aside - if any of you wish to get an insight into our long standing and vital US Army relationship with the Australian's let me strongly recommend *Ghost Mountain Boys* which tells the nightmarish and sadly heroic story of the US 32 Infantry Division's (National Guard) campaign with the Australian's on New Guinea during WWII. Not a 69<sup>th</sup> story but an infantry story. The 69<sup>th</sup>'s successful operation with the Australian's was vitally important to "re-blue" our commitment with Australia in these troubling times in Asia. Don't think our allies and our potential adversaries, world-wide, weren't watching. The National Guard is now integral to every commitment our nation makes.

I, for one, now hope the 69<sup>th</sup> takes some sort of break! They have earned it.

Yours in a common cause,

Geoff Slack

geoffslack@aol.com



## **HISTORY by Burt cunningham**

Vets Corps Newsletter Article – September, 2017

### **Tenting at Camp Mills**

Now the 165<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment U.S. Army, the Old 69<sup>th</sup> left New York on August 20<sup>th</sup> from the East 34<sup>th</sup> Street ferry slip to board a Long Island Rail Road train in Long Island City for the quick run to Camp Albert L. Mills near Garden City, Long Island.

Named after a Spanish-American War hero, Camp Mills was being set up on a 120-acre tract on the vast, nearly treeless expanse in central Nassau County called the Hempstead Plains.

The 165<sup>th</sup>, the first NY National Guard unit selected to go to war, was also the first of the 26 federalized National Guard units from across the country that formed the 42<sup>nd</sup> Infantry “Rainbow” Division to arrive at Mills.

An advance Pioneer party was assigned to begin setting up the unit’s cantonment area. Pvt. Albert M. Ettinger wrote: “We found an area of farmland inhabited only by rabbits and skunks...we lost no time pitching our pup tents.”

When the full unit arrived, pyramid tents for company headquarters, squad barracks, mess and medical use, as well as one for Fr. Francis Patrick Duffy, Regimental Chaplain, to celebrate Mass – and weddings – were ready.

Fr. Duffy later wrote: “We are tenting tonight on the Hempstead Plains, where Colonel [Edward] Duffy of the Old 69<sup>th</sup> encamped in 1898, when getting ready for service in the Spanish American War. It is a huge regiment now – bigger I think than the whole Irish Brigade ever was in the Civil War.”

The 165<sup>th</sup> was at its full wartime strength, set by the War Department, of 3600 officers and enlisted, which included transfers from the 7<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup> and 71<sup>st</sup> NGNY Rgts.

Joyce Kilmer, the famed poet, came to the 165<sup>th</sup> from the 7<sup>th</sup> Rgt, but not as part of the formal transfer. He had requested assistance from Fr. Duffy in early August to get in. After meeting Kilmer, Fr. Duffy obliged remarking that “for the sake of the regiment to have a poet and historian who will confer upon us the gift of immortality” he’d be “glad to have him.”

Major William J. Donovan, 1<sup>st</sup> Bn commander, had been transferred in from Brigade before the Rgt left New York. Duffy said of him: “He is cool, untiring, strenuous, a man that always uses his head.”

While at Mills, the 165<sup>th</sup>, now part of the 83<sup>rd</sup> Brigade of the 42<sup>nd</sup>, underwent fundamental rifle and bayonet training, drilling, and lots of strenuous physical activities that included long hikes and boxing. The more advanced training for the trenches and the new Pershing strategy of “open warfare” would take place in France.

Before the Old 69<sup>th</sup> would ship out for France, however, there would be some interesting “interactions” between them and the Old 4<sup>th</sup> Alabama, now the 167<sup>th</sup> Infantry Rgt, due to lingering Civil War rivalries. Troubles with some of the men transferred in from Brooklyn’s 14<sup>th</sup> Rgt would also flare up.. Stay tuned!



**IN MEMORIUM:**

**Eugene Goldner**

**Wife Norma: P.O. Box 603**

**HHC 69<sup>th</sup>**

**8/22/2017**

**Dingsman Ferry, PA 18328-0603**

I might mention here that Gene was a members of the 69<sup>th</sup> as an enlisted man and then went to OCS and was commissioned a 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt many years ago. He served in the 69<sup>th</sup> in the 2<sup>nd</sup> battalion and went on active duty and served in Viet Nam while on that tour of duty. He returned home and eventually while serving in the NYARNG was assigned as Commander of the 106Inf in Brooklyn. But he was always active in the Veteran Corps and was out commander in 1984. May he RIP

**ROUGE BOUQUET:**

**Go to Sleep; Go to Sleep**

**Slumber well where the shells screamed and fell,**

**Lay your rifles on the muddy floor**

**You will not need them anymore**

**Now at Last, Peace at Last,**

**Go to Sleep!**

**Sgt. Joyce Kilmer      KIA 30 Jul 1918      165<sup>th</sup> Old 69<sup>th</sup>**

**SERVICE OFFICERS SICK REPORT:**

Maurice Savage      3 Mc Cartney Drive, Albany, NY 12211-2318  
John Marino      1078 N Broadway, N. Massapequa, NY 11758  
Harry Snyder      1119 Harper Ave., Woodlyn, PA 19094-1209  
John Chalker      95A Haven Ave., Port Washington, NY 11050

(John Had his foot operated on to relive the pain from the I.E.D. wound he received in Iraq) [chalk69th@yahoo.com](mailto:chalk69th@yahoo.com)

*May we join in Prayer that our sick have a*

*Speedy and Complete Recovery*

In case of illness or death of a member, please call our Service Officer, Frank Sherry at (516) 536-6756 or leave a message on our answering machine at (212) 585-6556 on a timely manner. If known please list the Company and dates of service in the Regiment.

Please direct all correspondence to:

VETERAN CORPS, 69<sup>TH</sup> REGIMENT

P. O. BOX 48

MASSAPEQUA PARK, NY 11762

I wish to thank all who assisted in the preparation and distribution of the Bulletin.

**TOM FITZSIMMONS – COMMANDER**

[tomandlilfitz2@verizon.net](mailto:tomandlilfitz2@verizon.net)



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*The Fighting Sixty Ninth*

PO Box 48 Massapequa Park

New York 11762

Telephone 516-662-9917

# ***Makin Day Dinner ~ Friday November 3, 2017***

***The Veterans Corps, 69<sup>th</sup> Regiment, Inc.***

***is sponsoring the***

***74<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Invasion of Makin Island***

## ***With a Traditional "Beefsteak" Dinner***

\*\*\*\*\*

*Location : Masonic Hall, 71 West 23<sup>rd</sup> Street, New York, NY 10010*

*Cost: \$75.00 Per Person ~ Active Unit~ Ranks E1 thru E4 = \$35.00*

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**\* Cocktails will commence at 1900 hours**

**\* Dinner will be served at 2000 hours**

**\* Open Bar until end of dinner**

**\* Dress: Semiformal, jacket with tie**

\*\*\*\*\*

***RSVP: NLT Friday, October 24, 2017***

Checks payable to: Veterans Corps 69<sup>th</sup> Regiment

P.O. Box 48, Massapequa Park NY 11762

516-662-9917

NOTE: The Masonic Hall (venue where the dinner is held) requires us to provide a roster of the attendees 72 hours prior to the event (Tuesday, October 31st). That is their security standards therefore if you are bringing a guest we must have the guest's names in full prior to Oct 31st. Also, if you plan to pay at the door, please forward your intention to attend so we have your name on the roster. Best option for all concerned is that you fill out the invitation and mail in your check ASAP.

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### ***Fighting Sixty Ninth Makin Dinner 2017- RSVP Info (please print)***

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Rank** \_\_\_\_\_

**Number attending:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Total Amount Enclosed** \_\_\_\_\_

**Guest Names** \_\_\_\_\_