



**THE 69TH INFANTRY - A RICH HERITAGE:
PROUD TO SERVE - FROM CIVIL WAR, WWI, WWII TO IRAQ AND CURRENT DAY READINESS**

[PHOTO CREDITS - WIKIPEDIA; 69TH BATTALION]



VETERAN CORPS BULLETIN

DECEMBER 2023

Veteran Corps Meetings Schedule:

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, to assist in the welfare of veterans of the 69th, and to assist the Commander of the active unit with the morale and welfare of the soldiers and their families.

Executive Board:

Executive Board meetings will be held on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 1900 Hours

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IMPORTANT NOTICE:

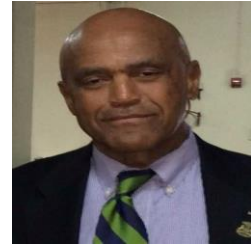
Membership Meetings – 2024 Schedule TBD

SCHEDULE – 2024 Executive Board Meetings / Calendar of Events: [Subject to Change]			
Commander’s Reception – January 2024	TBD		
Exec Board of Officers	1/9/2024	Tuesday	1900
Exec Board of Officers	2/13/2024	Tuesday	1900
Exec Board of Officers	3/12/2024	Tuesday	1900
St Patrick’s Day	3/17/2024	Sunday	
Exec Board of Officers	4/9/2024	Tuesday	1900
Exec Board of Officers	5/14/2024	Tuesday	1900
Unit Memorial Day - May	TBD	Sunday	TBD

Members are invited to attend – please reach out to a board member if interested and you will be included in our ZOOM list!!

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Message from the Commander
Col John M. Gundy (Ret)
The69veterans@gmail.com



Greetings,

Thanks to the support of the active battalion and 69 Veterans, **Makin23** was a huge success with over 100 attendees! There were a bunch of old (and not so old) guys who had not found their way to the armory in years!. Guess they finally downloaded Google Maps. We want to thank the active battalion staff and the Gas Range Gang for that stirring ceremony and excellent chow. We are still working on the profanity filter. We will get it fixed by next year...promise.

Please check out the enclosed Makin Day photos...

The Commanders Reception is coming up in early January 2024. We will send information by email as soon as it is available. We are hoping for maximum 69 Veteran support.

The next big event is St Patrick's Day 2024. As with Makin, we will endeavor to have the maximum 69Veteran support. Not to worry, our more *mature* veterans, you will be allowed to use your canes...perhaps walkers even... up 5th Avenue.

Armory Update: According to Facility Personnel from DMNA, renovations for the 68 Lexington Ave Armory are rescheduled for late 2024/early 2025. The armory must be vacated by August 2024. We will pack up the 69th Veterans belongings (mostly photos, paintings, posters, and flags) in early summer. We are working on storage location options.

Dues...Don't forget your 2024 dues. After what appeared to be an eternity, we finally raised annual dues to **\$20!!**

Meanwhile, we order, all to have a darn delightful holiday season!! We will see you at the Commander's Reception/and or/St Patrick's Day...if not sooner.

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2ND VICE COMMANDER UPDATE:

Michael Drew, Captain (Ret)
2nd Vice Commander – Veteran Corps
Mike3205959@gmail.com



MIKE DREW

Makin Day 2023 was a great success. It was great to see some prior commanders and Iraq vets like MG Andonie, Col Slack, Col Crosby and LT Col. Joe Whaley. Col. Mike Kazmierczak, the former Blacksheep 6, and Col. Chris Cerniauskas, our old S-3, made the

trip up from Georgia and Louisiana respectively. Thanks to 1SG O'Dougherty for organizing and our outstanding Gas Range crew of Frank Sherry, Gaspar Perez, Dave Perez, Efrain Diaz and the young ladies for making the night a success.

The Lifetime membership option has been approved by the board and we are currently up to 10 lifetime members. See Membership Dues section below for more details. It's up to us to support the soldiers of the active battalion and to keep the memory of fallen brothers alive.

It was great to be back in the armory for Makin. The upcoming 2024 St Patrick's Day event will be the last formal event in the armory for quite a few years. The parade will be on Sat March 16, 2024. Please make every effort to attend.

Special shout out to our very own SGT Axel Dodson. Axel was not able to be with us for Makin Day this year, but he and his brother made headlines recently for stopping an arsonist that was attempting to burn down the childhood home of Dr Martin Luther King Jr. in Atlanta GA. Well done Axel and thanks to you and Kenny for saving a national landmark from destruction...

.Garryowen....

Makin23 photos:



LTC "Bo" Bojarski / MG Andonie



Mixing the Regimental Grog



LTC "Bo" Bojarski 69th Commander



The Gas Range Ladies and their "staff"



Col (Ret) Michael DeMartino
1st Vice Commander
Chairperson – Support the Battalion Committee

Fundraising Update

The CSM Thomas J. Fitzsimmons Educational Assistance Scholarship Program

When the Battalion deployed to Iraq in 2004, the 69th Regiment Veterans Corps, with CSM Thomas J. Fitzsimmons as the Commander, initiated a Family Support Fund. The purpose of this Fund was to assist the soldiers of the Battalion and their families during their deployment. The Fund was also used to support the soldiers and their families on the Battalion’s deployment to Africa in 2022/2023. An SOP governs how the Fund’s assets are to be used. The SOP was amended in 2016/2017 to provide funding for Educational Assistance Awards to soldiers of the Battalion and soldiers of attached units. These awards were initiated by CSM Fitzsimmons and are now called the CSM Thomas J. Fitzsimmons Educational Assistance Scholarships. Soldiers of the Battalion and attached units who apply for the Scholarships must be enrolled in a post-secondary undergraduate degree granting program at an institution of higher learning (2 year or 4 year college) or a non-degree granting post-secondary school (trade or technical school) or other post-secondary program licensed by New York State. The Veteran Corps initially offered five \$2,000 Scholarships and this year the Veteran Corps along with the Regimental Headquarters are offering six \$5,000 scholarships. These awards are presented at the Awards Ceremony on St. Patrick’s Day.

The funding for these scholarships comes from donations from members of the Veteran Corps, 69th Regiment, their friends, religious and fraternal organizations and business and corporate organizations.

Any donations to the Family Support Fund can be sent to the Veteran Corps, 69th Regiment, Inc., P.O. Box 48, Massapequa Park, New York, 11762. Please indicate in note/memo section of your check and/or PayPal/Zelle on-line transactions: Family Support Fund.

Zelle: Chase: THE69VETERANS@GMAIL.COM

Keep in mind, all contributions to the 69th Veterans are federally tax deductible.



**MEMBERSHIP
RENEWAL**
Annual Dues

**Membership Dues –
2024 Fee Structure**

Annual Membership Dues = \$20.00

NEW DUES SCHEDULE

Effective **January 1, 2024** annual dues of twenty (\$20) will be for all new and current members of the Corps.

Lifetime Membership is also available (**Effective June 1, 2023**) according to the following Lifetime Dues chart:

- ❖ 35 years of age or younger.....\$500.00
- ❖ 36 to 50 years of age.....\$400.00
- ❖ 51 to 64 years of age.....\$300.00
- ❖ Over 65 years of age.....\$200.00

Members will become eligible for Lifetime Membership after two (2) consecutive years of membership in the Corps.



Fitz's Memorial Corner:
The69veterans@gmail.com



TOM FITZSIMMONS

Bulletin Staff

Makin

- Spoke to **Eddie Dunn** who could not make Makin23, however, he did send \$\$ to sponsor two soldiers. Thanks Eddie.
- We met several 69th Vets of the Iraq War area who hadn't been around in a while. Welcome. The Old Dudes are anxious to start turning over the 69th Vets leadership reins.
- Seventeen Year Recurrences
 - **Billy Hall** and **Simon Hu** showed up!!.
 - In **Billy's** case, there were rumors that he had been shot by the *young* jealous husband of a *very young* bride...Luckily for his 69th VC friends, a false rumor!!
 - We understand that Frank Sherry promised **Simon** the use of a newly restored M880 for his personal trips between 68 Lexington Ave and Camp Smith as an inducement for his Makin 2023 attendance. Understand he also promised to throw in a NYS Driver's license!
- Spoke to **Ray Doyle** who apparently found more comfort in his Mansion in the Catskills than with his 69th buddies during Makin23. Not to worry, St Patrick's Day will bring him home to 68 Lexington Ave....



SERVICE OFFICER'S SICK REPORT:

➤ Mike Guiry

➤ Lenny Scorcia

May we join in prayer that our sick have a complete and speedy 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 recording machine at (212) 686-6556 in a timely manner. If known, please list the Company and dates of service in the Regiment. Please direct all correspondence to:
Veteran Corps, 69th Regiment, Inc., P.O. Box 48, Massapequa Park, NY 11762
Other contact information: Email address: THE69VETERANS@GMAIL.COM

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IN MEMORIAM:

NOTE: The Veteran Corps will list the name of any active or former member of the 69th Infantry in the Memorial Segment. It is not necessary that they were a member of the Veteran Corps. They will also be remembered during the ceremony on our Memorial Day each year.

- ✪ John J. Smith
- ✪ William Sheridan
- ✪ Mark Woods, Sr.

- 13 June 2023
- 2023
- 23 November 2023

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 165th Old 69th

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Check in with a Veteran Buddy!
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