



**THE 69<sup>TH</sup> 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

### JANUARY / FEBRUARY 2023

### 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 preserve and expound the history and traditions of the Regiment, to provide a venue to inform and foster camaraderie among veterans of the 69<sup>th</sup>, to assist in the welfare of 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:**

**Until Further Notice:**  
Executive Board meetings will be held on the **2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday** of each month at **1900 Hours**

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**IMPORTANT NOTICE:**  
**Sunday Membership Meetings**  
**2023 Member meeting schedule will be published under separate cover**

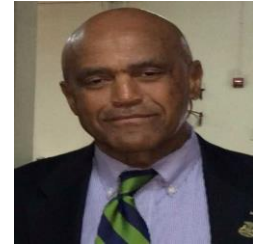
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SCHEDULE – 2023 Executive Board Meetings: Subject to Change			
Exec Board of Officers	3/14/2023	Tuesday	1900
St. Patrick's Day	3/17/2023	Friday	See info
Exec Board of Officers	4/11/2023	Tuesday	1900
Exec Board of Officers	5/09/2023	Tuesday	1900
Memorial Day	5/14/2023	Sunday	TBD
Exec Board of Officers	6/13/2023	Tuesday	1900

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



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



Greetings....

Another **St Patrick's Day** is approaching. While the active Bn continues to gallantly protect, and preserve our security as Americans, in the Horn of Africa; and will not be available to lead us up 5<sup>th</sup> Ave, we are fortunate to have the 69<sup>th</sup> Rear Detachment filling in for that march up The Avenue. Of course, The Veteran Corps 69<sup>th</sup> Regiment will turn out, *in force*, as an able complement to the Rear Detachment. Please see our St Patrick's section in this issue of the bulletin for more St Patrick's Day details.

Yes, it has been a year-plus since I signed on as Commander of the Veterans Corps 69<sup>th</sup> Regiment. While we have accomplished a number of tasks that were identified early in the year, there are numerous other tasks that must be tackled as we continue as a critical organization in support of the legacy of the Fighting Sixty-Ninth, its active members, and its veterans and families.

Along those lines, it is imperative that more *not-so-old veterans* become more active in the management of the Veterans 69<sup>th</sup> Corps. When I signed on as Commander back in January 2022, I indicated that I expected some of the *Younger Guns* to be prepared to step into the leadership position after my two-year tour as Commander. While I am not suggesting that my one-year run as Commander of this storied organization was not enjoyable, I do look forward to some younger veterans taking the leadership torch and continuing our important work of upholding the legacy of the Fighting Sixty-Ninth, supporting the Veterans, Active Members and Families.

Gary Owen!!

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We are gearing up for **St Patrick's Day 2023!!!** LTC Lilly and the 69<sup>th</sup> Regiment Rear Detachment will lead all up Fifth Avenue on 17March. We expect favorable weather for this special day which should/will result in a bumper turnout of 69<sup>th</sup> Veterans. While not at liberty to give the exact location, we have secured a venue in close proximity to the Armory for our traditional after parade festivities. Additionally, the 69<sup>th</sup> Rear Det has arranged with the NYPD to close off 26<sup>th</sup> Street

between Park Ave and Lexington for Veterans /military personnel parking...Parking will be first come/first serviced, *with identification*.

As in the past, we ask that you please dress as if you are representing **The Veteran Corps 69<sup>th</sup> Regiment, Inc** before a world TV audience, not to mention a host of local New Yorkers.... Please leave the white sneakers, the partial military garb, the blue jeans, and other colorful items of dress at home. See specific details below for attending the mass at St. Patrick's Cathedral and then formation for the parade. However, be prepared for update info via email/phone/word of mouth as things are *always subject to change*.

### **March 17<sup>th</sup>, 2023 (Friday) – Mass & Parade Information:**

➤ **07:30 - St. Patrick's Cathedral Mass:**

- Veteran Corps members wishing to attend mass must report to the corner of **East 50<sup>th</sup> Street and 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue no later than 07:30**. After mass, the regiment will regroup and proceed to the parade gathering location.



➤ **10:30 Parade – Report to Location:**



- Veteran Corps members planning on marching in the parade must report to **East 44<sup>th</sup> Street and 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue no later than 10:30; we generally join the parade at 11:00.**

□ **IMPORTANT - General comportment and requirements for participation:**

- Only members of the Veteran Corps are permitted to march with the Veteran Corps.
- Veteran Corp members are required to follow appropriate dress code to march in the parade. Business casual is required (shirt, slacks, shoes); no t-shirts, jeans, sneakers, or baseball caps permitted. Veteran Corps members are encouraged to wear their VC cap as well. ***We represent all members of the Veteran Corps and should be dressed accordingly. Any member not dressed appropriately will be excused from marching.***

**BUSINESS CASUAL MEANS**



**NO T-SHIRTS**



**NO JEANS**



**NO SNEAKERS**





**Fitz's Corner:**  
**Submitted by the Executive Board**



*TOM FITZSIMMONS*

**Thomas J. Fitzsimmons (1930-2023)**

Fitz (*aka "Mr. Sixty-Ninth"*)

Fitz was an icon in the 69<sup>th</sup>, having progressively clawed his way from Cadet to 1SGT of the historic Alpha Company, to eventually CSM of the battalion. Fitz did not stop there, as he would eventually attain the position of CSM 42<sup>nd</sup>, Rainbow Division. Along the way Fitz served as mentor to numerous enlisted men and women in the Sixty-Ninth and the 42ID as Division CSM. His mentoring assistance did not confine itself to enlisted personnel as he included numerous officers in his vast portfolio. There was one Captain and one Battalion Commander in particular, who owe their survival, in part, to the coverage provided by "Mr. Sixty-Ninth".

After his military career, Fitz was persuaded to come back home to the "Fighting Sixty-Ninth" as Commander of the Veteran Corps 69th Regiment. Just in the nick of time, as the active battalion was called into active service during the Iraq campaign. Fitz was instrumental (the lead man!) in establishing a family support fund and raising thousands of dollars in donations used to assist the families and soldiers of the 69th Battalion who were wounded in Iraq, and most notably, those who paid the ultimate sacrifice. For those of us who were fortunate enough to have shared soldiering and non-soldiering friendships, including time in the various bars in the famous 69th Armory at 68 Lex, with Fitz...what a gift!

**69th Veterans**

Condolences may be sent to his family's address:

**– 3727 Stokes Avenue, Bethpage, NY 11714**





**THE FIGHTING SIXTY-NINTH**  
***Active Battalion Update***

**Tabankin, Shawn L LTC USARMY NG NYARNG (USA)**

**Another Week in Africa**

17/Feb/23

This week's storyboard focuses on our Maintainers from H/427th led by CPT Shaw and 1SG Esquilin. As you may recall from your visit, the work they've done here is phenomenal. Our OR rates are exceptional, our recoverables (led by CW4 Solmo) earned a command visit and coins from a SETAF-AF 1-star, and the ingenuity displayed by our junior NCOs 'making it happen' out in the austere outstations is critical to our success.

In addition to maintenance, Hagar Company has also led the way with our SME and SMEE engagements with Djibouti's Bataillon d'Intervention Rapide's (BIR), as the SVAB has asked for our support to help teach sustainment and power generation tasks.

Our graduates from the USMC's Corporal Course on CLDJ where SPC Solis was the Distinguished Honor Graduate, and SPC Tejada took home the Gung Ho award. CSM Zeller took great pride in ribbing the USMC SGMs after our Army Soldiers took their top awards two classes in a row.

One last positive note: Task Force Tomahawk has begun their pre-mobilization training out in Oklahoma. I feel like that counts as the beginning of the end. Hope all is well back in NY!



**SERVICE OFFICER'S SICK REPORT:**

- |                                   |                        |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------|
| ➤ <b>LTC Nicholas Chernjawski</b> | ➤ <b>Joe Riveiro</b>   |
| ➤ <b>Andy Donahue</b>             | ➤ <b>Lenny Scorcio</b> |
| ➤ <b>Anthony Helinski</b>         | ➤ <b>John J. Smith</b> |

**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, 69<sup>th</sup> Regiment, Inc., P.O. Box 48, Massapequa Park, NY 11762**  
Other contact information: Email address: [THE69VETERANS@GMAIL.COM](mailto:THE69VETERANS@GMAIL.COM)

