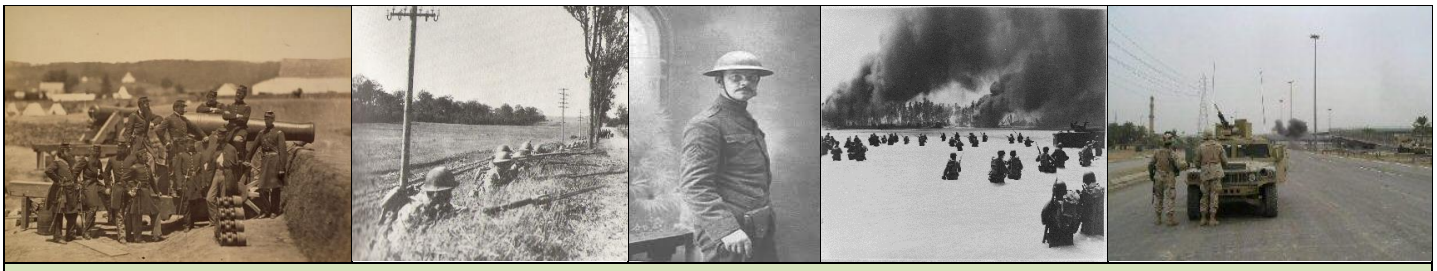

THE 69TH INFANTRY - A RICH HERITAGE:
PROUD TO SERVE - FROM CIVIL WAR, WWI, WWII TO IRAQ AND CURRENT DAY READINESS
[PHOTO CREDITS - WIKIPEDIA; 69TH BATTALION]

VETERAN CORPS BULLETIN

JANUARY - MARCH 2020

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, 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 2nd Tuesday of each month at 1900 Hours
All members are invited and encouraged to join us!

★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★

IMPORTANT NOTICE:

Sunday Membership Meetings – 2020 SCHEDULE:
Until further notice membership meetings will be held 3 times a year!
Location to be announced prior to meeting.

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SCHEDULE – Upcoming Events:			
Exec – Board of Officers	3/10/20	Tuesday	1900
St Patrick's Day – Unit Day - Mass / Parade / After Parade Gathering	3/17/20	Tuesday	See details in Bulletin
Exec – Board of Officers	4/14/20	Tuesday	1900
Exec – Board of Officers	5/12/20	Tuesday	1900
Unit Memorial Day/ Membership Meeting	5/17/20	Sunday	TBD
Exec – Board of Officers	6/09/20	Tuesday	1900

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REGIMENT WEB SITE: WWW.THE69THVETERANSCORPS.COM

★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★

From Jose A. Flores, CSM (ret)
Commander, Veteran Corps 69th Regiment

March is upon us and I look forward to our traditional VC activities for St. Patrick's Day. We generally follow the same schedule each year – outlined below is a summary of the day's events:

St Patrick's Day Unit Activities:

March 17th, 2020 – Tuesday – Mass & Parade Information:

- **07:30am - St. Patrick's Cathedral Mass:**
  - Veteran Corps members wishing to attend mass must report to the corner of **East 50th Street and 5th Avenue no later than 07:30.** After mass, the regiment will regroup and proceed to the parade gathering location.
- **10:30am Parade – Report to Location:**
  - Veteran Corps members planning on marching in the parade must report to **East 44th Street and 5th Avenue no later than 10:30.**
  - 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.

NOTE: It is important that we uphold the traditions and history of our Veteran Corps during the day's festivities. We represent all members of the Veteran Corps and should be dressed accordingly. **Any member not dressed appropriately will be excused from marching.**

- **Post Parade – Unit Day Celebration:** Details of the plans for where VC members will gather for the post parade activities will be shared with VC members prior to marching. Other members that are unable to march in the parade may contact me at 917-239-3370 or another board member to get the details.

Looking forward to large turnout of VC members that are able to march and join fellow members and comrades at this honored traditional event!

★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★

Other Updates:

- **Executive Board Meetings:** All members are welcome and encouraged to join our meetings (see the schedule on page 1).

- **2020 VC Agenda:** As noted in the December 2019 Bulletin, priorities for our Executive Board and organization include the following:
  - Increasing membership
  - Increasing # of members with up-to-date membership dues paid
  - Continuing support of the Active Battalion – Family Support Program, Scholarship Program, and other yearly activities
  - Increase fund-raising efforts / donations
  - Increase out-reach to VC members

  To meet our goals for 2020, we need active involvement of each and every Veteran Corps member. It is only with the support and involvement of you – our members from year to year that we have been able to continue the work and carry on the traditions established so many years ago. Let's make 2020 a successful year. Updates on the progress of these goals will be provided in future bulletins.

  Send your ideas to our email address – **THE69VETERANS@GMAIL.COM**

- **Armory** – Lead Removal Project: The clean-up work continues, but we have not received any timeline on when it will the completed.

★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★

Active Battalion: NCO Induction Ceremony – Saturday, February 8, 2020 – Camp Smith

30 new NCOs stood under the NCO Arch and were welcomed to the ranks!

The CSM Butcher - shared other photos of the Active Battalion training below:

ACO training in Puerto Rico – conducting reflexive fire drills

SGT Diaz at Ranger School

SSG Ortiz (left), SSG Perez (right) after winning BDE Best Warrior Competion

★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★

New York National Guard – NYNG: Dedication Ceremony for the NYNG Fallen Heroes Memorial Wall – Thursday, February 27th, 2020 – Camp Smith

I also had the privilege of representing the Veteran Corps, along with Col Slack at this dedication ceremony. See The Liaison Officer's report below.

CSM Butcher; CSM J. Flores (Ret)

CSM Butcher; LTC Whalen – Battalion Commander, Col. Slack (Ret)

★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★

Col Geoffrey Slack (Ret)

THE LIAISON OFFICER'S REPORT (EDITION 23 – MARCH 2020)

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

First, my apologies for dropping off from my effort to tell my version of the O4/5 deployment of the 69th; I've been attending to a pretty sick parent over the fall and winter and that has been my priority. CSM Flores has asked me to restart and I will next month. Before then, please permit me to share this recent event.

This past Thursday, February 27th, 2020, a memorial wall was unveiled at Camp Smith to all of the fallen heroes from New York State who gave "*their last full measure of devotion"* in the conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan. From the Veterans Corps and the active battalion there was a fine representation in attendance and from the Veterans Corps a beautiful wreath was laid at the memorial by our team. The ceremony was well done by the staff of Camp Smith and was powerfully represented by the Adjutant General whose remarks were quite moving.

I must confess to experiencing once again the sense of loss and pain that comes with these ceremonies. That said, there were quite a few Gold Star families who attended and absolutely nothing I felt matters a bit compared to what they were experiencing. I spoke at length with Mrs. Von Ronn whose son Kenny lost his life in C24, the Bradley Fighting Vehicle in which we lost 6 magnificent Louisianans and Kenny, the New York Medic. She is a pillar of strength despite her obvious sadness. Our Louisiana brothers are not part of this wall and I understand why they are not. Only we, from the original Task Force Wolfhound, understand and recognize the totality of the bond that exists between the men who fought under the green flag of the old 69th. That bond can simply can never be fully understood by anyone who was not part of the Task Force. By the way, back in 2004, by unanimous consent, the men who made up this deployment decided to use the term Task Force rather than battalion in full recognition of all of our valiant attachments.

Thus it is that for all of us from Old Task Force Wolfhound the memorial wall in the Lexington Avenue Armory, which encompasses all of the deceased from the WTC, Task Force Wolfhound and subsequent deployments to Afghanistan will always be "our" 69th memorial wall. That does not minimize in any way what must be our pride and pain in equal measure for the honor New York affords our treasured fallen there at Camp Smith. While I grow old with all that implies I see that our old friends and comrades who populate both the wall at Camp Smith and on the armory drill floor remain the handsome, brave young men they were when we all saw them last. God keep them all.

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

★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★

Letters, Emails, and Conversations:

Tom Fitzsimmons, Past Commander

- **Francis X. Pastore: (oops)** Going through my files recently and found a card from Frank (dated Sept 2019). Not sure if I answered it so here I go. Frank sent in a card advising us of his change of address. He sends his best wishes to all with special mention of 1SG Julie Alfonso and Carlos Acha. Julie passed away on March 20, 2011 and we miss him dearly and Carlos is now a lives in Texas.

- **Charles O'Neill:** Charlie is a former Company Commander of C Company and has come to assist us with some legal issues in the past. He has again made a generous contribution to the Family Support Fund. We appreciate his continued support.

✪ **William Finan:** I had the opportunity to give Bill a call who served as our Recording Secretary for over 20 years. Bill has some health issues as many of us seniors have. I have known Bill since 1949 when he joined A Company. It was great talking to him and hope to see him making the Veteran Corps meetings again.

✪ **Ruth Neidinger:** Ruth whose husband Al was the 1SG of B Company sends in a contribution to the Family Support Fund in his memory. Thank you, it is much appreciated. I often think back to the days when we would have 50 to 60 at our Sunday meetings. I often have fond memories of Jimmy Martin and the Gas Stove Team that Al, Jack, and Teddy were part of. Jimmy would get mad at me for calling them the Gas Stove Gang.

✪ **Dick Beyrer, Friendly Sons of St. Patrick, Putnam County:** Dick is a former of C Company and a member of the Friendly Sons of St. Patrick. This group of Irish Americans continues to support the Family Support Fund with a very generous contribution as they done for the past 15 years! Thank you for your continued support.

✪ **Dennis Hearn:** A longtime member of the Veteran Corps, and once a member of the Regimental Rifle team, continues to contribute to the present Day Team in memory of his long-time friend Richard Low who was also a Rifle Team member.

✪ **Edward M. Kneafsey:** Ed a long time contributor to our financial need has made a generous contribution to our General Fund. Thank You Ed, much appreciated!

✪ **Pete Perrine** - A LETTER FROM A FORMER MEMBER OF THE 69TH – Pete sent the following message:

Hello, I hope this letter finds the 69th Well!

Just started my 10th year in Kuwait. Living and working as a U.S. Military Security Contractor. Looking forward to celebrating my 52nd birthday on St. Patrick's Day with a trip to Dublin. I remember fondly St. Patrick's Day of the years past that I marched with the Active Battalion in the St. Patrick's Day parade and the honor during my first year with them of carrying the colors of the Veteran Corps. I hope to return to France in the coming months to once again visit the sites of both World Wars and pay my respects to the fallen in the cemeteries there. It's always a privilege to visit Olse-Aisns American Cemetery and Memorial and pay my respects to Sgt Joyce Kilmer and his fellows.

Best Wishes to All -
Pete Perrine, SPC, B Co. (Detachment) Middletown, NY, 69th NY 1989-1091

✪ **Other contributions:**

Due to limited space I will also mention other contributors to our various funds:

- Family Support Fund: James E. Breheny, Tom Fitzsimmons
- General Fund: John Andonie, Gloria Buttner, John P.Maher, George Pietramala, Edward Cooke, William M. Higgins, Thomas Mc Inerney, Bert Prol, Ken Rudzewick, James Williams

★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★

ANNUAL DUES and 50/50 Drawings:

Annual Membership Dues 2020 = $10.00

Timely submission of your dues is needed; take the time now to check if you are up to date – if not submit your 2020 dues today! Dues and the 50/50 drawings support Veteran Corps activities and the cost of publishing our Bulletin.

50 / 50 Drawings:

Month	1st Place	2nd Place
January 2020	Vincent Molinini	Jasper Perez
February 2020	Gerald F. Stokin	Family Support Fund

★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★

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.

Captain John O'Connor	**(Info not provided)**	
John Joseph Woods	**(Info not provided)**	
SSG Paul Moylet	**B Company**	**28 February 2020**

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

★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★

SERVICE OFFICER'S SICK REPORT:

✪ **Frank Trombino – HHC Co 1967 – 1970; his email address: Ftrombino@verizon.net.**

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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NOTE - SUBJECT TO CHANGE	
July 2020	▪ 7/08/20 – Tuesday – Executive Board Mtg
August 2020	▪ 8/11/20 – Tuesday – Executive Board Mtg
September 2020	▪ 9/08/20 – Tuesday – Executive Board Mtg
October 2020	▪ 10/13/20 – Tuesday – Executive Board Mtg
November 2020	▪ 11/6/20 – Friday – Makin Day Dinner ▪ 11/10/20 – Tuesday – Executive Board Mtg
December 2020	▪ 12/08/20 – Tuesday – Executive Board Mtg ▪ 12/13/20 – Sunday – Membership Mtg – Holiday Gathering

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Again – March 17th, 2020 – Tuesday – St. Patrick's Day – Looking forward to seeing all Veteran Corps members that can participate – join us!

Take a look at the upcoming events of meetings and other Veteran Corps activities – come to an Executive Board meeting! Any and all ideas on items to include in our bulletin, website and fund-raising activities are needed – you can send your suggestions to the Executive Board via our email.

Jose A. Flores,
Commander