



**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
SEPTEMBER / OCTOBER / NOVEMBER
2021**

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:

Until Further Notice:
Executive Board meetings will be held via conference calls
on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 1900 Hours

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

IMPORTANT NOTICE:

Sunday Membership Meetings – 2021 SCHEDULE:
Due to pandemic, until further notice membership meetings are suspended.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

**SCHEDULE – Executive Board Meetings:
Subject to Change**

Exec – Board of Officers	11/09/2021	Tuesday	1900
Exec – Board of Officers	12/14/2021	Tuesday	1900

Note – Makin Day Dinner – Rescheduled to 12/3/2021



Message from the Executive Board – Passing of V. C. Commander CSM (ret) Jose A. Flores

It is with deep regret and sadness that we announce the passing of our colleague and friend, Jose A. Flores, CSM (ret) - Commander, Veteran Corps 69th Regiment on October 7, 2021. Jose bravely faced and tackled an aggressive cancer diagnosis and passed away approximately 100 days from the onset of first symptoms. We are all devastated by this loss.



Jose's life is a testament of a life of service to his country and NYS. He served in the US Army in the South Republic in Vietnam as Infantry Squad Leader from 1968 to 1971; he then joined the New York Army National Guard as 1SG to CSM from 1972-2006. His commitment to service ran concurrently with his work in the NYPD from 1973 to 1993 – climbing the ranks from Police Officer to Detective and continued after retirement to join the New York County District Attorney's Office as Supervising Investigator with promotion to Deputy Chief – a position he held at the time of his passing.

1st Vice Commander Jack Hallanan and the Executive Board is committed to continuing the work and priorities set by Commander Flores – he was a staunch advocate and supporter of the scholarship and family support fund – which promotes and assists the soldiers in the active Battalion. At some point in the future we hope to have a celebration of his life. Any condolence cards may be mailed to the Veteran Corps address and we will make sure his family gets them – ***Veteran Corps, 69th Regiment, Inc., P.O. Box 48, Massapequa Park, NY 11762***

A life of service and well-lived. May Jose rest in peace. Our condolences are offered to his family, friends and colleagues.



UPCOMING EVENTS



- **Makin Day Dinner – December 3, 2021 – Details to follow**
- **Logan Duffy Match – November 6, 2021 (Saturday):**

The Logan Duffy Match was held at Camp Smith, NY on Saturday, 06-Nov-2021. The 69th hosted this year's match between the 1-69 IN NYARNG and the 1-182 IN MAARNG. This match dates back to the 1930's. The only time it was discontinued was when the units were deployed for active duty service.



Congratulations to the 69th Rifle Team who won the match!

The 69th will remain the custodian of the cherished Logan/Duffy bowl in their Armory for the next year. The Veteran Corps presented the top shooter from each team with a High Shooter plaque. 1st Vice Commander Jack Hallanan and BN CSM Zeller presented the "top shot" award during Saturday night's (6/Nov) Logan Duffy awards dinner to SFC Melendez (pictured left).



➤ **VC Scholarship Fund – Fundraising Update:**

We wish to thank all who have responded to our request for contributions to our scholarship fund. Due to your generosity we have been able to **double our awards** and ensure that we will be able to continue the program in future years. Those wishing to contribute to the fund can send in a donation to the Veteran Corps, 69th Regiment and earmark the check to the Thomas Fitzsimmons scholarship fund.

These scholarships are awarded exclusively to the enlisted members who are currently serving in the 1st BN 69th Infantry. Selections for awards will start in January 2022. 5 awards of \$5,000.00 each will be awarded to the soldiers on their unit day – St. Patrick’s Day 2022.



ACTIVE BATTALION UPDATE:

- Submitted by COL Joseph Whaley, Battalion Commander (Past Commander)



COL JOSEPH WHALEY

For the past three months the Battalion has supported multiple lines of effort in a dynamic and ever changing environment. Consistently answering the call and maintaining a high level of readiness and professionalism has been nothing short of amazing given our current environment. I am truly proud of the Officers, Non-commissioned Officers, and Soldiers that continue to be the heartbeat of the “Fighting 69th”.

Lexington Avenue Armory remains the main command post for JTF South in support of the COVID-19 response, supporting the NYC and Long Island regions. The battalion has over 150 Soldiers on orders, many remaining since the initial activation of March 2020. These Soldiers are primarily operating vaccination sites within the JTF South area of responsibility.

All Companies conducted a decentralized Annual Training at local training areas such as Camp Smith Training Site and/or Fort Dix, NJ. With minimal attendance due to the previous COVID-19 and Washington D.C. activations, Company Command team creatively build training plans focused on individual Soldier tasks, field craft, and team building exercises in preparation for the upcoming deployment in 2022. Some highlights include Individual Weapons qualification, crew serve qualification, patrol base operations, situational training exercises, aviation operations, and physical training. The hard work conducted throughout Annual Training have set the conditions for next year’s training plan.

Our September IDT proved to be a memorable one. Over 100 Soldiers from the battalion voluntarily conducted a 9.11 mile road march to the World Trade Center to commemorate the 20th anniversary of Sep 11. After returning to the armory, we conducted a wreath laying ceremony at the Fighting 69th memorial, reciting Joyce Kilmer’s poem the Rouge Bouquet.

As we head into the new training year, the battalion has shifted its focus to the planning and preparing for the upcoming deployment. The Battalion has once again received a notification of sourcing that we will deploy starting in June 2022. This mission will lead us to Somalia, Kenya and Djibouti in the Horn of Africa. Essentially it will be one of the largest Battalion deployments New York State has ever had. The 69th will deploy in its entirety along with 2 additional companies from NY state to comprise the 1000-man mission. Operational Security precludes me from going into depth about the mission but google Al-Shabaab and you will see them very active

in the region we are going to. Al Shabaab Attacks Somali Military Base, Recaptures Central Town was an article published in Reuters 3 weeks ago. The Veteran's Corps has always been there for the active unit during these mobilization periods and now more than ever the unit will once again rely on your support. Family readiness is dreadful because of COVID restrictions as well as the lead abatement restrictions. The active unit will absolutely need the support we have become accustomed to during Ground Zero, OIF II, Afghanistan deployment and now The Horn of Africa. My full time staff will begin the very tedious job of setting the table for success. This starts with creating the deployment roster which is hard enough during normal times. We will task organize the outside forces and integrate them within the Battalion around January and continue the road to war plan. In June we will start the premobilization process at Ft Bliss, TX and sometime in Sept 2022 we will deploy to Africa. We have had several planning sessions with Red Dragon the unit getting ready to deploy now and understand the ever changing environment we will deploy to.

I am confident that the Soldiers of the 69th will continue to work hard, hone their skills, and be consummate professionals as they represent this great battalion. This is bittersweet for me personally as it is my last official function before the Change of Command on October 24th in which I will turn over the reins to LTC Shawn Tabankin. This is truly the pinnacle and dream of every young Officer in the Battalion and there is nothing more I wish to do personally. The Army has been amazing to me since I first wore the uniform in June of 1993 and the friends and comrades I gained along the way will be friends for life. Please support the active Battalion as you have so many times in the past as they will need it now more than ever before!

Garryowen, Wolfhound 6



Letters, Emails, and Conversations:



Tom Fitzsimmons, Past Commander

➤ **Frederick L. Balbach:**

The following is a copy of a letter directed to the Commander (we are sharing to highlight the contribution of CSM Flores throughout the years):

“Dear Command Sergeant Major Flores,

Perhaps you will remember me from my years with the 69th Infantry. It has always been my belief that the Regiment literally saved my life. One hot New York City summer afternoon, sweating bullets, I stumbled into the 42^d Infantry Headquarters to ask for information concerning an uncle of mine. “Luck of the Irish,” I met CSM Fitzsimmons in the elevator and asked for directions. I told him what my intentions were and he directed me.

The Sergeant Major asked my uncle’s name and I answered James Joseph McIntyre. We chatted some more and he then he asked: “And what about you? Would you be interested in joining the New York National Guard?”

I said, “I think I would be too old, being 40 years.”

He remarked "But you just told me you had been in the Navy for eight years. Current regulations mean that 40 minus 8 is 32 and that qualifies you to enlist and into the same unit as your uncle served: The Fighting 69th Infantry." He said, "I'll take you right down to the recruiter!" The next morning I was at MEPS and in.

From that point on my life continued to change. I met and was mentored by 1SG Medina, PSG Cabassa, CSM Cruzado, you and many others who were instrumental in getting me trained and confident in the Army.

What a stroke of fate! I went on to the Army Intelligence Corps, retired from USAR, and the Defense Intelligence Agency and later was a Senior Instructor at the Defense Strategic Debriefing Course, Fort Huachuca, AZ.

I contend all that was possible based on the training and experience gained in the 69th Infantry."
SFC(ret) Frederick L Balbach

- **Frank Hagen:** Frank sent an email asking how things were going with the Veteran Corps and also asking for me and my family. I responded all was well and hoped all was well with his family. He responded that all was well and he is looking forward to attending the armory on next St Patrick's Day. We are looking forward to seeing him.

- **Edward G. Dunn Jr.:** I had reached out to Ed on a personal matter and he responded with positive information too me. He then called asking how everything went. We also spent quite a bit of time talking about the battalion and the Veterans Corps. Ed who was very involved in drafting the SOP for the Family Support Fund still has an interest in its operation.

- **Kevin Maxwell:** Kevin "Just Checking In" called asking how all was going with the Veteran Corps. As a strong contributor to the battalion Rifle Team he was interested in the preparation of the Logan Duffy Rifle Match. I did not know at that time the Match had been postponed with a possible rescheduled date in November. Kevin and I used to talk about the different (Liquor) we consumed the great St Patrick's Day parties at the armory. Today we talk about the doctors we visit and the medications we take.

- **Walter McNulty:** Walter has made a generous contribution to the Scholarship Fund in memory of his wife Mary Anne. Let us express our sincere condolences on your loss. We ask the members of the Veteran Corps to remember her in our prayers. Thank you for remembering us in your time of sorrow.

★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★

ANNUAL DUES and 50/50 Drawings:



Annual Membership Dues = \$10.00

Make sure your membership is up-to-date. Plan ahead and pay for 2022 before the end of the year! Members have the option to pay for membership for multiple years!
Dues and the 50/50 drawings support Veteran Corps activities and the cost of publishing our Bulletin.

★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★

50 / 50 Drawings:

Month	1 st Place	2 nd Place
September 2021	Arlene Trombino	Frank Hagen
October 2021	John Casserly	Jim Stickney

★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★

SERVICE OFFICER’S SICK REPORT:

➤ **Edward J. Cooke**

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

★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★



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.

➤ **CSM (ret) Jose A. Flores**

7 October 2021

- US Army – Vietnam Inf Squad Leader 1968-1971; 1972-2006 - NYARNG – 1SGT C-Company 1/69; CSM 71st Inf and Training Command – Camp Smith, NY
- 2015 – “Distinguished Member” – 69th Regiment
- 1973 – 1993: NYPD; 1993 – 2021: NY County District Attorney’s Office

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

★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★

Stay healthy and stay safe!

Wishing each veteran and their family a Happy Thanksgiving!