



VETERAN CORPS, 69TH REGIMENT, INC.
THE FIGHTING SIXTY NINTH
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BULLETIN	AUGUST 2016
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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 1930 Hours**

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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.**

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**Regular Scheduled Meetings –
SCHEDULE CHANGE 2016 - See next page**

**REGULAR SCHEDULED MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS – 2016 –
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 2 months:

Meeting	Date	Day	Time
Regular Membership Meeting	8/30/16	Tuesday	7:30pm
Exec – Board of Officers	9/13/16	Tuesday	7:30pm
Regular Membership Meeting	9/18/16	Sunday	2:00pm

★ ★



Tom Fitzsimmons

COMMANDER'S REPORT:

In last month's bulletin I mentioned our meeting schedule would be discussed by the board members and recommendations would be entertained in ways to improve attendance at meetings. After some discussion it was recommended to return to the previous meeting schedule:

- **Board of Officer meetings** = 12 monthly Tuesday evening meetings
- **Regular Membership meetings** = 9 monthly Sunday (3rd Sunday of each month) afternoon meetings; plus 1 meeting on St. Patrick's Day each March; No meetings held during July and August

This will be presented to the membership at the August 30th meeting. It has also been proposed that we could set up a system either telephonic or better yet video conferencing that those not physically present maybe able to take an active part in the meetings.

With summer coming to a close next month we must start to address some of the activities we will be involved in. With the Logan/Duffy Rifle Match only one month away, we will have to know who plans to attend. There is additional information on the match in the activities segment of this copy of the bulletin. Close behind the rifle match we have to prepare for the Makin Day Dinner that is scheduled for Friday, November 4th, 2016.

I also expect to attend the battalion training meeting in September and give a presentation on the Veteran Corps, what we are, who we are, and what we do.

I hope to have the new SOP on the family support fund completed so it can be presented to the Board of Officers and ratified by the membership on our August 30th meeting.

Reminder: Tuesday, August 30, 2016 at 7:30 pm is a membership meeting. I hope to have as many as possible to attend that meeting as there will be subjects that will be presented and will be voted on that night. Refreshment will start being served at 6:45 pm prior to the meeting.

I would also like to thank the many who have responded with their very favorable remarks about the recent additions of the historical and liaison officer's segments to the bulletin. We appreciate your interest in those topics and I get the pleasure of informing Jack Hallanan and Col Geoff Slack of your remarks.

Please enjoy the rest of the summer!

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**Geoffrey Slack
Colonel(Ret)**

THE LIAISON OFFICER'S REPORT (EDITION 3)

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

Let me begin with a quick update on the active battalion's progress at the Joint Readiness Training Center: the battalion has performed magnificently! That said, I've had to glean bits and pieces of their activities from Facebook and a quick email from LTC Flynn, the battalions last commander and current brigade executive officer. He was gracious in writing me two days ago. First, there were no serious casualties (remarkable because there usually are). Second, every level of command achieved their overall goal of determining weaknesses in deployment readiness.

Some of you have expressed to me privately that looking for weakness seems odd. Why is it so important to find and thus "hang out dirty laundry?" I forget sometimes how hard we all worked "in the old days" to hide our problems and present a winning face to higher command levels and the active Army evaluators. I will admit that before the 2004 deployment of the 69th I did everything I could to hide the battalion's "warts". I think everyone did. All that changed when the 69th went to the National Training Center (the JRTC's twin in the desert of southern California) in 2004. There we found great weaknesses throughout the battalion only to realize that we were out of time to fix anything. Our next stop was Iraq. We would have to actually fight as were, with what we had, and despite our faults. It was a sobering realization. The entire National Guard and the active Army faced the same problem. To paraphrase the (then) Secretary of the Army, you fight with the Army you have. One can't be glib here. It was tremendously difficult to go to war in such a fashion when men's lives were at stake.

I just recently read a wonderful history of the New York militia experience at the First Battle of Bull Run; the classic "come as you are" battle. No one was ready. The 69th went to war as amateurs, fought as amateurs, and retreated (skedaddled) with an Army of amateurs. Only then did the 69th and the Army begin to learn how to organize and fight effectively. I was painfully reminded, as I read that book, of how many similarities there were between the 69th of 2004 in Iraq and the 69th of 1861 in Virginia. The vicious fights of late 2004 taught the battalion the skills it should have had before it left the United States.



UPCOMING EVENTS! GET THE WORD OUT

Veteran Corps Activities



LOGAN DUFFY RIFLE MATCH

SEPTEMBER 9-11, 2016

LOGAN DUFFY RIFLE MATCH

September 9-11, 2016

The Logan/Duffy Rifle Match is scheduled for the weekend of 9-11 September 2016. This traditional match between 1-69Inf and the 1-182Inf dates back to the mid 1930's. It is scheduled to be fired in Massachusetts with the 182nd hosting it this year as we hosted it last year at Camp Smith.

This has always been a good time and the comradery between the two units lasts a lifetime. Members of the Veteran Corps who wish to attend will as usual, do so at their own expense.

MAKIN DAY DINNER – NOVEMBER 4, 2016 (FRIDAY)



2ND BATTALION, 165TH INFANTRY LANDING DURING BATTLE OF MAKIN ISLAND: Public Domain, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=141992>

HOLD THE DATE!

MORE INFORMATION TO FOLLOW –

NEXT BULLETIN!

OTHER ACTIVITIES



SATURDAY –
OCTOBER 1, 2016

NOTRE DAME UNIVERSITY VS SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY FOOTBALL GAME - SATURDAY, OCTOBER 1, 2016:

Mike Guiry has informed me that he is planning to reserve tickets for the Notre Dame / Syracuse Football Game to be held at Met Life Football Stadium, East Rutherford, NJ on the above mentioned date. The seating is in the end zone, upper tier and the cost is \$55.00 per ticket with a slight mailing charge. Time of game TBD. **ONLY 2 tickets left!!!!**

	<p>This is open to anyone who wishes to attend. Please contact Mike ASAP with your intentions so he can secure the desired number of tickets. Tailgate Party to be determined upon number of attendees.</p> <p>Contact Info: Mike Guiry, (504) 786-2360 email address: Mguiry@aol.com</p>
<p><u>256 BCT OIF II/III REUNION</u></p> <p>NOVEMBER 18-19, 2016.</p>	<p><u>256 BCT OIF II/III REUNION SCHEDULED FOR 18-19 NOVEMBER 2016:</u></p> <p>The Veteran Corps, 69th Regiment has been asked to assist in getting the word out on the planned 256 BCT-OIF II/III reunion. In addition to this Bulletin I ask that those of you that can, please assist with the use of Facebook.</p> <p>Scheduled Events:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ <u>Friday, 18 November 2016:</u> 2000-2300 Generations Hall Party with Open Premium Bar and Live DJ 2300-UTC Same as above with Cash Bar ➤ <u>Saturday, 19 November 2016:</u> 1199-1600 Tail-gating/picnic at Jackson Barracks Museum and surrounding area. <p>Tickets can be purchased now at the link below: Cost is \$60.00/80.00 https://www.eventbrite.com/e/256-bct-oif-iiiii-reunion-tickets-24355670466?aff=es2</p> <p>The Facebook page is “256 BCT Redeployment 10-year Reunion” The Official reunion website will be www.louisianatigers.org</p>



Letters and Conversations:

- **James Downey:** By the time you read this you will already be wearing your Legion Cap. I spoke to Frank Murphy today and he told me he already mailed the Cap to you. Thank you for your idea of placing a wreath at the wall in Fredericksburg on the anniversary next December in remembrance of that battle. I will send you a list of some of our Virginia members and friends. I have already spoken to a couple of them and they like your idea and will be happy to join you.
- **Sheila Savage Maguire:** Sheila is the daughter of LTC(ret) Maurice MO Savage. Although he was never a member of the 69th he has always been a close friend. He always marched with us on St Patrick’s Day but due to a stroke he has been unable to do so recently. Sheila’s sent a note thanking us for our prayers for his recovery.



DONOVAN AS A MAJOR WITH THE FIGHTING 69TH IN FRANCE IN 1918.

SOURCE:

[HTTPS://EN.WIKIPEDIA.ORG/WIKI/WILLIAM_J._DONOVAN](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/William_J._Donovan)

WILLIAM JOSEPH DONOVAN – Part 2:

Germany, March 1919 – Army of Occupation

Donovan, who had recovered from his leg wound by January, took his evening stroll with Father Duffy. He now walked with a slight limp. The two men sauntered along the road paralleling the Rhine, which wound ahead through the gorge of the Sieben-gebirge mountain range near Bonn. The ruins of the Drachenfels castle looked down upon them and vineyards terraced along the mountainsides.

War had brought Donovan and Duffy together as close as brothers. They would often tease each other, as they did again on this evening's walk, over who had the most news stories about him back home (both had a lot). Donovan thought Father Duffy was as close to a saint as he would ever see, a man of God who had braved dangers as great as any infantryman to minister to his flock on the battlefield. Father Duffy thought Donovan was the bravest leader he ever met. The Chaplain maneuvered to have the higher headquarters make Donovan, who had just been promoted to Colonel, the commander of the Irish Regiment. Duffy also mounted an intensive lobbying behind the scenes to have Donovan awarded the Medal of Honor for the controversial battle at Landres-et-Saint-Georges. Duffy collected many affidavits from regimental officers and senior enlisted members attesting to the bravery of Donovan during the battle. He submitted them to the AEF headquarters but the army said no and instead Pershing awarded Donovan an Oak Leaf Cluster (2nd award) to add to the Distinguished Service Cross he had earned in a previous encounter.

New York, December 8, 1922

Donovan squeezed into his Colonel's uniform which he could still do at the age of 40, to attend a ceremony at his old regiment's armory in New York City. Father Duffy had not given up on his lobbying to have his friend awarded the Medal of Honor and the stars now lined up in Donovan's favor. As Army Chief of Staff, Pershing had become more liberal about awarding the medal. Republican Warren Harding was in the White House. Donovan's patron, Wadsworth, chaired the Senate's Military Affairs Committee and had been pestering the War Department to bestow Medals of Honor on members of the regiment. John Weeks, Harding's War Secretary, approved the award 4 years after the armistice.

Some four thousand WWI Veteran's crowded into the armory. When Major General Robert Lee Bullard draped the Medal of Honor around Donovan's neck they broke into a long and loud cheer. Donovan was now he only man to be awarded the Army's top three decorations in the World War. His face flushed, he pivoted on his heels and called the regiment to attention. He unsnapped the ribbon from his neck and presented the medal to the unit. "It doesn't belong to me" he said quietly " It belongs to the boys who are not here, the boys who are resting under the white Crosses in France or in the cemeteries of New York, also to the boys who were lucky enough to come through". He left the medal with the armory where it is still displayed in the battalion commander's office.

Donovan is the only person to receive the four highest awards presented by the United States. The Medal of Honor, The Distinguished Service Cross, The Distinguished Service Medals and the National Security Medal.



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

TOM FITZSIMMONS – COMMANDER
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