



**Note: Our meeting schedule for both Board and Membership meetings are going to be somewhat different due to the lead clean-up period. We may go to a lighter schedule and also make an effort to continue our Sunday meetings at an alternate location. Stay tuned for updates.**

**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>,  
and to assist the  
Commander of the  
active unit with the  
morale and welfare  
of the soldiers and  
their families.*



**Tom Fitzsimmons**

## **COMMANDER'S REPORT:**

I wish to thank all the members that participated in our annual St. Patrick's Day activities. For those who attended the Mass, I thank you for this is where we have an opportunity to remember the fallen of our great Regiment. As for the parade, the turnout was very good and better than some previous years even considering the fact there would not be an organized gathering after the parade. Albeit, there were quite a few that assembled at a local establishment after the parade and raised a few jars to celebrate the day. John Gundy was especially popular that day as he was authorized to spread a few nickels on the bar to provide those in attendance with some liquid refreshment.

We were also honored to have six Veterans of the 2 Regiment, Irish Defense Force join us for the day. They attended the Mass and also marched with us in the parade. They also joined us after the parade and were hosted by John Gundy and Jose Flores on two other occasions to celebrate their most welcomed visit to New York. There was some exchanging of mementos between us and I hope we have started a friendship that could last forever.

Now I must address the operations of the Veteran Corps until the armory is cleared of the lead contamination. The search for alternate locations is difficult. Some have been offered but certainly not an easy trip for many of our dedicated members who have attended the meetings at the armory over the years. The ideal location may be a place close to the armory. This is what is probably what will happen in the next few months. The meeting in April was cancelled due to Easter and Passover religious commitments by many. The May monthly meeting will be our usual gathering at Calvary Cemetery for our annual Memorial Ceremony. An effort to find a location in the area of the cemetery to have a meeting and a collation that day is being checked out. The third Sunday in June is Father's Day and we will probably schedule a meeting for the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of June at local establishment close to the armory. With only Board meetings scheduled for July and August we hope to have more information regarding our membership meetings in the future.

All I can say now is to hang in there and we will survive.

### **Special Recognition:**

For years the Veteran Corps has had a problem seating guests at any of our functions. This year we purchased 14 tables and 120 chairs. It was costly but we must thank Major Joe Whaley who assisted us by providing the funds to cover half of the cost. The Veteran Corps thanks you Sir.





**Upcoming Activities:**

**- Memorial Day - Veteran Corps Ceremony**

**Sunday, May 21, 2017**

The third Sunday in the month of May the Veteran Corps, Sixty-Ninth Regiment gathers at Calvary Cemetery to offer our remembrance to our former members who have passed away since May 2016. As we read their names a flag is posted in front of the Veteran Corps Memorial Monument in remembrance of them. We usually then go to the armory and place a Memorial Wreath in remembrance and honor of all who have ever made the Ultimate Sacrifice in the service of the Sixty-Ninth. This year we may not be able to honor the fallen at the armory. Due to a lead contamination in the armory the State Headquarters has put restrictions on civilians allowed into the armory. (We are not veterans of the 69<sup>th</sup>, we are civilians).

I ask that every member of the Veteran Corps make an effort to join us for this Memorial Day Ceremony. It is important that we make a strong showing to honor those who served before us and with us that we have not forgotten them.

**DAY/ DATE: SUNDAY, MAY 21<sup>ST</sup> 2017**  
**TIME: 11:30 AM**  
**LOCATION: MAIN GATE OLD CALVARY CEMETERY,  
34-02 GREENPOINT AVENUE, WOODSIDE,  
QUEENS (1 BLOCK SOUTH OF L.I.E.)**

**NOTE: The Memorial Ceremonies should be concluded by 12:30 PM.**

**Calvary Cemetery - Gravesite Sprucing: Sunday - 4/30/17**

Special thanks to the members who came to assist in cleaning up the gravesites....T. Fitzsimmons, J. Flores, J. Gundy, D. Hearn, F. Sherry.





**Geoffrey Slack  
Colonel(Ret)**

## **THE LIAISON OFFICER'S REPORT (EDITION 9 – APRIL 2017)**

(PHOTOGRAPH'S: [WWW.THE69THVETERANSCORPS.COM](http://WWW.THE69THVETERANSCORPS.COM))

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

This submission completes my “Tour de Force” of the 3 armories of the active battalion. I want to thank the leadership and the wonderful Soldiers who made my small journey thoroughly enjoyable!

It was a pouring down cold rain as I swung onto Camp Smith and Manitou Mountain was shrouded in the dark clouds so familiar to many of us. For any infantryman or sustainment Soldier of the 69<sup>th</sup> Infantry who has trained at Camp Smith those cold dark woods dripping rain are likely only one small step less miserable a memory than Fort Drum. Thankfully, the woods were not my goal this day.

As I entered the new security gate complex it was immediately clear the 21<sup>st</sup> Century has arrived at this installation. Up the same old drive to the top of the hill and you find yourself in an entirely new world. There is now another “super armory” sitting in all its modern splendor across a few acres right at the top of the hill. Unlike some other new armories in New York this one is a cross between a ski chalet, a corporate headquarters and a Hampton’s mansion. It fits the rustic look of this small plateau in the Hudson Valley yet it is a thoroughly modern and well-appointed military facility. The rest of “greater” Camp Smith is largely as most of you remember it though huge changes are slated for the near future.

Entering the armory and heading up to the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor I was deeply impressed by the gleaming beauty of this facility. Home to the Headquarters of the 53<sup>rd</sup> Troop Command and a number of other significant military units the building has the look of a general officers home. I wasn’t here to be a tourist with those units so I headed into the 69<sup>th</sup>’s “Charlie Company” and was greeted by three fine looking and very young Staff Sergeants: SSG Joseph Machulski, SSG Masami Yamakado, and SSG Andrew Rodriquez. All three are company AGR (full time) Soldiers along with SFC Christopher Maher who could not join us for the tour.

The orderly room is new, roomy, and ultra-modern. It radiates the pride and cockiness of a great infantry rifle company. Captain Andrew Prior and 1SG Goodridge, both exceptionally experienced leaders, have established a command post that ensures you recognize that this corner of this giant facility contains the “grunts” of the Hudson Valley. As I commented to the sergeants about their fine new facility SSG Yamakado passed a comment under his breath that I asked him to







**REGIMENTAL HISTORICAL EVENTS:**

**100<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY REMEMBRANCE OF WORLD WAR I  
THURSDAY – April 6<sup>th</sup> 2017**

**On Thursday, April 6<sup>th</sup> 2017, the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our entrance into WWI, a ceremony was held at Father Francis Duffy Square in remembrance of all who served in WW I. Father Duffy Square**

**dedicated to the famous Soldier/Chaplain of the 165<sup>th</sup> Inf (old 69<sup>th</sup>) was a fitting place to remember those who served in the “War to end all Wars”. The event was hosted by the Father Duffy Coalition who have been very active in upholding the dignity of that location. I would like to mention and congratulate Bruce Meyerson, a member of the Veteran Corps and also actively involved with the Father Duffy Coalition for the outstanding effort he has made in preserving the square and organizing this day of dedication. The Veteran Corp was in attendance and provided the floral wreath for the dedication.**



*A Quote from Father Francis Duffy, 1919*

*“Men pass away, but institutions survive. In time we shall all go to join our comrades who gave up their lives in France. But in our own generation, when the call came, we accepted the flag of our fathers, we have added to it new glory and renown-and we pass it on”.*



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

**TOM FITZSIMMONS – COMMANDER  
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