

VETERAN CORPS, 69TH REGIMENT, INC.

THE FIGHTING SIXTY NINTH

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REGIMENT WEB SITE

BULLETIN

FEBRUARY 2017

Veteran Corps Meetings Schedule:

Executive Board:

Executive Board will meet on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 1930 Hours

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.

Meeting	Date	Day	Time
Exec – Board of	2/14/17	Tuesday	7:30pm
Officers			
Regular Membership	2/19/17	Sunday	2:00pm
Exec – Board of	3/14/17	Tuesday	7:30pm
Officers			
St. Patrick's Day	3/17/17	Friday	Mass and
			Parade Only
Exec – Board of	4/11/17	Tuesday	7:30pm
Officers			
Regular Membership	4/16/17	Sunday	2:00pm

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.





COMMANDER'S REPORT:

Tom Fitzsimmons

It seems that we just recently celebrated the start of the New Year of 2017 and I am already giving out the information for St Patrick's Day. As traditional with the 69th Infantry it is designated as their Unit Day and they invite us to join them in this celebration. Part of that celebration is attending a Mass at St Patrick's Cathedral for a Memorial Mass for the fallen of the Regiment. Next they provide the escort for the Grand Marshall on the parade up 5th Avenue. Upon returning to the armory an awards and decorations ceremony is conducted. This is where it changes from all previous years for us. Due to a lead condition that has contaminated parts of the armory the following rules will be followed:

- DMNA (State Headquarters) has issued orders that for their safety, civilians will not be permitted to enter the armory on this St. Patrick's Day.
- The Veteran Corps is considered a civilian organization and therefore we will not enter the armory prior to the parade nor will be we allowed to the post parade events that will be very limited even to the active battalion soldiers.

This has caused LTC Makay, the battalion commander some concern. Last year he received the command on St Patrick's day and as he looked forward to a great day this year. More on St. Patrick's Day later in this Bulletin.

A Special Invitation – to Veteran Corps members:

100th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION OF WORLD WAR I THURSDAY – April 6th 2017



Duffy Square - New York City

On Thursday, April 6th 2017 during the mid-day there will be an Anniversary Ceremony in remembrance of our participation in World War I. This ceremony is scheduled to be held at Duffy Square. Mark your calendar and try to make this ceremony. More information in the March Bulletin. This event will be by invitation only and members of the Veteran Corps have been invited to attend. If you wish to attend please notify me at (516) 935-5988 or tomandlilfitz2@verizon.net. I will mail you an invitation. Your attendance is encouraged and will be appreciated





Geoffrey Slack Colonel(Ret)

THE LIAISON OFFICER'S REPORT (EDITION 8 – FEBRUARY 2017)

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

There is quite a bit of intense activity within the active battalion this month. It is regaining its breath after the intense but successful JRTC rotation this past August while working relentlessly toward setting conditions for its partnership with the Australian military this summer. More on all of this next edition.

I wish to share with you a brief insight into the second of 3 locations of the 69th; the Farmingdale "super" armory. Many of us, perhaps most, remember our old "cold war" armories scattered across Long Island – fondly perhaps - but also with an honest understanding that those facilities had sadly deteriorated. They are gone now and I admit that when I pass the Bay Shore armory I never fail to hear my long ago friends voices behind the abandoned windows.

The Farmingdale Armory is worth seeing. It is a state of the art military facility on a grand scale. Whereas I was at times embarrassed to greet a new Soldier at the old armories and see the dismay on their faces at the garbage pails positioned to catch the water dripping through the roof, now they are welcomed to a facility as good as or perhaps better than a young Soldier might find on any active duty base in our Army. This facility sits on 14 acres of land and contains the armory, the battalion's principle motor pool, a NY State maintenance facility, and a 2 story parking garage along with various other secondary facilities. Aside from Companies B (line), D (heavy weapons), and F/427BSB (attached support) of the 69th it also is the home of other USAR, Marine Reserve, and Naval Reserve units. Frankly, it hardly looks like an armory from any era so much as it looks like a major corporate center. It is professionally run and when I stopped outside of the gate to take a picture the security team immediately approached to do ask why. I was impressed!

Going into the armory I was "ground guided" by Staff Sergeant Michael Palopoli of F Company. This young professional made it plain to me that like the other 69th leaders of the companies stationed in Farmingdale he was proud of his Army home and made sure I saw what is had to offer. I asked him to give me the same tour he would give to a new private and off we went. The dining facility and cafeteria are state of the art. The theater is huge and beautiful. Big, ultra-modern classrooms are available throughout the building and there are even well-appointed break rooms are where Soldiers can relax when time permits. The gymnasium is competitive with private gyms. Sadly, the Soldiers are not permitted to use them when not on drill status (the only confusing policy I observed). The orderly rooms would make an ambitious

corporate executive jealous. Big, well organized and equipped, and clearly places of great unit pride. Truthfully, even the locker rooms and latrines would shock some of us old Soldiers. Gone are the dingy, broken lockers and barely functional commodes of the old days. A First Sergeant could walk into any of his (and perhaps soon her) company areas and honestly say "you found it sparkling when you arrived, leave it that way when you leave" without any Soldier rolling their eyes in disbelief.

I will close by relating what SSG Palopoli told me when I asked him how his "Man/Train/Equip the Force" battle was going out there on Long Island. He said, "Sir, we have the Soldiers we need to go to war. They want to go to school and they anticipate going to war if they have not gone already. Our equipment is exactly the same as you would find in the active Army and it's in tremendous shape. And, our training is tough, realistic, and (with a grin) practically non-stop. We are not worried about anything the Army requires of us."

As I drove away I couldn't help but think...who could ask for more? I felt very proud.





FARMINGDALE ARMORY

SSG PALOPOLI, ORDERLY ROOM

Yours in a common cause,

Geoff Slack geoffslack@aol.com







Upcoming Activities:

- St. Patrick's Day -

Friday, March 17, 2017

Once again we will be participating in the St. Patrick's Day Parade. We must remember that we are part of the Regiment's history and traditions and our conduct should reflect the honor and pride in this exhibition before the citizens of New York.

RULES: Marching with the Veteran Corps

We ask that those who march with the Veteran Corps dress in the appropriate manner. White sneakers and jeans are not appropriate nor are any partial military uniforms. Signs, posters, or photographs will not be displayed. Remember that you have served with this Regiment. Make this present day Regiment proud of you.

> Events of the day: NOTE CHANGE - Only two separate events:

If you cannot make both of them please try to attend one.

o MASS: Those who wish to attend Mass:

Place: St. Patrick's Cathedral, 51st Street and 5th Avenue

Time: 7:30AM

Assemble: Northeast Corner of 51st Street & 5th Avenue

 PARADE: Those members who wish to proudly march with the Veteran Corps:

Place: 44th Street West of 5th Avenue

Time: 10:30AM

Assemble: Under the direction of CSM(ret) Jose Flores

IMPORTANT CHANGE - POST PARADE ACTIVITIES - CANCELLED:

This issue of the Bulletin is being mailed a little later than expected. Recently we were informed of a lead contamination situation in the armory and that we would not be allowed to enter the armory on St. Patrick's Day. Efforts were made to find an alternate site without success.





Annual Membership Dues 2017 = \$10.00

Please make every effort to make sure you send in your annual dues for 2017!

IMPORTANT!!

VETERAN CORPS – MAILING ADDRESS –
MEMBERSHIP DUES AND 50/50 PAYMENTS –
SEND TO:

VETERAN CORPS, 69TH REGIMENT, INC. P.O. BOX 48 MASSAPEQUA PARK. N.Y. 11762



50/50 - Drawings:

Month	1 st Place	2 nd Place
January 2017	Barbara Olney	John Crawford



Letters and Conversations:

- Robert Harren: Bob was a Platoon Leader in A Company and retired as a Major in 2nd Bde some years ago. He recently sent me a Christmas card along with a note taking a trip down memory Lane. He recalls his time with the A-Men and Bob Haney's skits. Bob now resides in LA with his daughter. It was great hearing from him and we wish to thank him for his generous contribution to the Family Support Fund.
- ➤ James E. Meyer: Jim sent an email relating to last month's history segment on Jews in the 69th as follows: "When I served in the 60's I was asked by First Sergeant Thomas Gannon to learn some Irish songs on the guitar which I did (mostly Clancy Bros. and Dubliners). I am Jewish, so many members of C Company would ask what a Jewish kid is doing in the Fighting Irish and playing Irish music at our functions. My answer became well known. I would say that my family came from Ireland during the very little known Potato Knish Famine! It always went over well and I hope your readers enjoy it."
- Louis Glatt: Received a great letter from Lou today relating to the History segment in the January Bulletin relating to Jews in the 69th. He recalls his own experience of March 17, 1972 when he marched in his first St. Patrick's Day Parade and attended his first Mass at St. Patrick's Cathedral. He recalls saying to himself "What does a Jewish lad from the Bronx know about Cathedral's or being at a Mass". He decided to just follow what everyone else did and was impressed when all said to each other "Peace be with you". He recalls following everyone to the front of the Cathedral to receive the host and when Cardinal Cooke looking at his name tag said with a twinkle in his eyes that he didn't think I wanted the Host. He said it in such a kind way I still remember it today. Lou who has some medical issues and cannot attend our meetings says although he cannot be

with us in body, he is with us in spirit. Lou, I wish to thank you for your very generous contribution to the Family Support Fund.

- Kevin Maxwell: Received a letter from Kevin checking in to make sure all is going well. Kevin who lost or misplaced his Veteran Corps medal has asked if he could purchase another one. When we first issued the medal at no cost to our members the Board had decided only members would receive one and none was to be issued to non-members. On reconsideration the Board has decided that if a member loses his medal one may be purchased to replace it. So Kevin, Frank Murphy will be in touch with you and make arrangements to fill your request. Kevin will also be visiting Arlington Cemetery on St. Patrick's Day and will place floral pieces on the graves of our fallen. Pat and Kevin, Thank You.
- ➤ <u>James E. Corrigan</u>: Received a nice letter from Jim who is a professor at St. Francis College in Brooklyn. Jim who was a member of the 2nd battalion met up with other fellow alumni who were members of the A Company 1st battalion. For you old A-Men who remember Harold Kelly and Dave Moriarty, that's who he met. Jim wishes us well and he will be watching us on TV. He also informs me that he has been teaching at St. Francis for 34 years.
- Arthur R. Carney: Received your note and we wish you a happy St. Patrick's Day and thank you for your continued support of the family support fund.





IN MEMORIAM:

Edmond C. Boullianne	7088 11 th Street Apt 409 Oakdale, MN 55128 Wife: Patricia		Co C 165 th Post WWII	25 Nov 2016	
Jack L. Munday	85 Misha Lane Sanford, NC 27330	Son: Scott	Co D 165 th WWII	28 Dec 2016	
Datas D. Daille	CCCO Date Dal Mar Dr	A	Co D On dDn Doot	20 Dec 2016	

Peter P. Reilly 6662 Boca Del Mar Dr. Apt 4 Co D 2ndBn Post 29 Dec 2016 Boca Raton, FL 33433 WWII

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
Dangers past; now at last
Go to Sleep!

Joyce Kilmer HHC 165th INF (KIA 30 Jul 1918)

SERVICE OFFICER'S SICK REPORT:

Maurice Savage John Marino Harry Snyder 3 McCartney Drive, Albany, NY 12211-2315 1078 N. Broadway, N. Massapequa, NY 11758 1119 Harper Ave., Woodlyn, PA 19094-1209

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 for the commander is: tomandlilfitz2@verizon.net



REGIMENTAL HISTORICAL EVENTS:

DEFERRED This Month

Instead of our usual History segment I wish to send a message on the importance of our participation in the St. Patrick's Day Parade. This year we will not be permitted to enter the armory after the marching is over. I and other members of the Veteran Corp have, on very short notice, tried to find a location where we could have our traditional dinner. We will continue to try and will inform all if we succeed.

This being said I hope all will make an effort to join us in the parade that day. It is important that we have a strong showing as I feel some ill winds coming our way. If you are a member of the Veteran Corp, march with the Veteran Corp, it makes a difference. We may be able to impress someone by our numbers!



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

TOM FITZSIMMONS – COMMANDER tomandlilfitz2@verizon.net