

**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.*



Tom Fitzsimmons

COMMANDER'S REPORT:

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 we be 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



	<p><u>Upcoming Activities:</u></p> <p><u>– St. Patrick’s Day –</u></p> <p><u>Friday, March 17, 2017</u></p>
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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.

- **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

