

VETERAN CORPS, 69TH REGIMENT, INC.  
 THE FIGHTING SIXTY NINTH  
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**BULLETIN** **FEBRUARY 2019**

**Veteran Corps Meetings Schedule:**

**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.*

**Executive Board:**

**Executive Board will meet on the  
 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of each month at 1900 Hours  
 All members are invited and encouraged to join us!**

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**IMPORTANT NOTICE:**

**Sunday Membership Meetings – 2019 SCHEDULE:  
 Until further notice membership meetings will be held 3 times a  
 year! LOCATION TO BE ANNOUNCED!**

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Exec – Board of Officers	2/26/19*	Tuesday	1900
Exec – Board of Officers	3/12/19	Tuesday	1900
Membership Meeting	3/16/19	Saturday – St. Patrick’s Day	Location details in Commander’s Message
Exec – Board of Officers	4/9/19	Tuesday	1900

**Note: Due to weather – the Executive Board Meeting was postponed till 2/26/19.**



**COMMANDER’S MESSAGE:**

*Jose A. Flores, CSM (ret)*

The Executive Board and Board of Officers met in January and began to set our agenda for the upcoming year. A more detailed update will be provided in next month’s bulletin – I will be asking members to volunteer on different projects. The strength and continued success of our Veteran Corps is contingent on the work of the board and all members. Our meeting scheduled for February 12<sup>th</sup> was postponed to February 26<sup>th</sup> due to weather. For now – here are the upcoming events and work that is in progress for you to be aware of:

**I. Veteran Corps Scholarship Fund for the Active Battalion Members - 2019:**

The board has approved the scholarship program to continue in 2019. A total of 6 scholarships – each at \$2,000.00 – will be awarded to successful applicants from the Active Battalion. Applications were submitted and under review by the scholarship committee. Awards will be distributed to the Active Battalion member recipients during the St. Patrick’s Day ceremonies. Names of the awardees will be posted in the April Bulletin.



**II. St. Patrick’s Day – Veteran Corps Unit Day:  
Saturday, March 16<sup>th</sup>, 2019 (NYC Parade Date)**

March 16, 2019 will mark the 258<sup>th</sup> St. Patrick’s Day Parade. Some historical notes on St. Patrick’s Day (<https://www.nycstpatricksparade.org> and other websites):

- NYC St. Patrick's Day Parade was founded in 1762; the first parade was on March 17, 1762 — fourteen years before the signing of the US Declaration of Independence.
- Why is March 17th designated as St. Patrick’s Day?
  - St. Patrick was patron saint and national apostle of Ireland who is credited with successfully bringing Christianity to Ireland.
  - **March 17th** is widely accepted as the date of St. Patrick’s death in A.D. 461.

The NYC St. Patrick’s Day Parade is one of New York City’s greatest traditions and largest in the nation. Around 1851 the “Irish” 69<sup>th</sup> Regiment began to lead the marchers. Today the 69<sup>th</sup> Regiment is still the first group to lead the parade up 5th Avenue. The Veteran Corps 69<sup>th</sup> Regiment is proud to continue its long tradition in marching with the Active Battalion.

## **March 16<sup>th</sup>, 2019 – Parade Information:**

### ➤ **St. Patrick's Cathedral Mass:**

- Veteran Corps members wishing to attend mass must report to the corner of **East 50<sup>th</sup> Street and 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue** **no later than 07:30.** After mass, the regiment will regroup and proceed to the parade gathering location.



### ➤ **Parade – Report to Location:**

- Veteran Corps members planning on marching in the parade must report to **East 44<sup>th</sup> Street and 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue** **no later than 10:30.**
- General comportment and requirements for participation:
  - Only members of the Veteran Corps are permitted to march with the Veteran Corps.
  - Veteran Corp members are required to follow appropriate dress code to march in the parade. Business casual is required (shirt, slacks, shoes); no t-shirts, jeans, sneakers or baseball caps permitted. Veteran Corps members are encouraged to wear their VC cap as well.



#### **BUSINESS CASUAL MEANS**



NOTE: It is important that we uphold the traditions and history of our Veteran Corps during the day's festivities. We represent all members of the Veteran Corps and should be dressed accordingly. Any member not dressed appropriately will be excused from marching.

### ➤ **Post Parade – Unit Day Celebration:**

Due to the Armory still off-limits to non-active duty military personnel, the Veteran Corps members will hold their annual gathering at the Wolfe Tone's Irish Pub & Kitchen – located at 37 East 29<sup>th</sup> Street, NY, NY 10016 ( b/t Madison Ave & S Park Ave).



**As Commander, I am looking forward to catching up with members - finding out what is new and recounting memories of years gone by. Make the time and come on out! Please make every effort to attend the full day's activities. See you there!**





**Letters, Emails, and Conversations:**



**Tom Fitzsimmons, Past Commander**

- ⊛ **Charlie O’Neil:** Charlie, former commander of Charlie Company and long-time member of the Veteran Corps continues to participate in our programs. We wish to thank him for his generous contribution to the Family Support Fund.
- ⊛ **Edward F. Kneafsey:** Ed who is also a dedicated member of the Veteran Corps and continues to participate in our programs. We wish to thank him for his contributions especially the Family Support Fund.
- ⊛ **Daniel Flynn:** Here again we are thanking Dan for his continuous participation in our programs. We wish to thank him for his support to the Family Support Fund, the 50/50 drawings and other requests for the good of our soldiers
- ⊛ **Bert Prol:** I have recently been in contact with Bert who was instrumental in having our Armory designated as a National Landmark. We plan to put together a story of what that process was and present to the membership through the future copies of the Bulletin.
- ⊛ **John Walsh:** John and I continue to have our very interesting and enjoyable contact with each other via internet and telephone. Calls last almost an hour and are usually the best part of my day.
- ⊛ **Kevin Maxwell:** Kevin and Pat stay in contact with me to check the status of the active battalion and the Veteran Corps. I understand they plan a vacation and will drive cross country and visit friends and relatives. Sarge, their lab retriever will be going along with them just to make sure they don’t get lost.
- ⊛ **James Bradley:** Jim was kind enough to send us an article from the magazine “Reminisce” about a former member of the 69<sup>th</sup> - JA veteran of WW I. It was a one page document that is included below - enjoy reading it.



**Historical Perspective – submitted by James Bradley:**  
**A daughter’s account of her father’s service in the 69<sup>th</sup> Infantry –**  
**John A. Hrouda - WWI:**

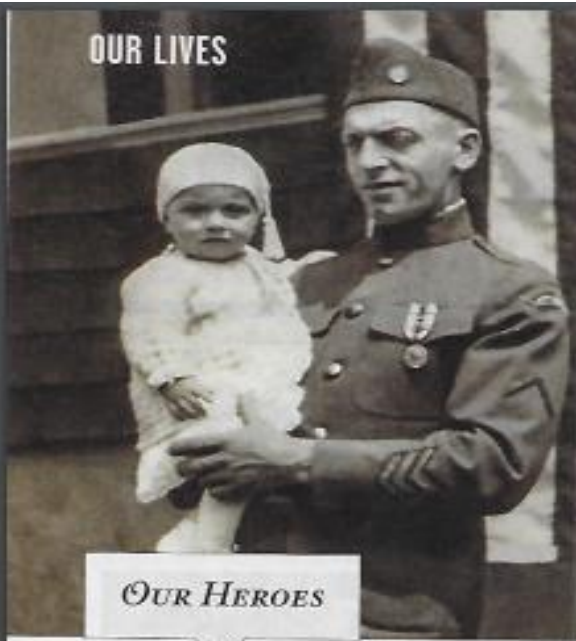
**“Marching Over There” by Margery Hrouda Zaccheo**  
**Printed in Reminisce – Feb/Mar 2019**

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CONTINUED NEXT PAGE:



OUR LIVES



OUR HEROES



**THE FIGHTING** 69th (the 165th Infantry) prepares to go to war in 1917. John A. Hrouda is by the pole, his rifle upright and a cigarette in his lips. At far left, he holds his young son on Decoration Day in 1925.

## MARCHING OVER THERE

Her father's unit charged into the heart of the war.

BY MARGERY HROUDA ZACCHEO - ULSTER PARK, NY

**M**y father, John A. Hrouda, a mechanic from Peekskill, New York, served with the 69th Regiment, known as the Fighting 69th, in World War I. The 69th was renamed the 165th Infantry Regiment when it joined the American Expeditionary Force in Europe as part of the 42nd Division.

The 42nd, whose chief of staff was a young colonel named Douglas MacArthur, was called the Rainbow Division because it was made up of National Guard units from 26 states. The 69th was out of New York, and was perhaps the country's most famous guard unit of the time, with a history dating to before the Civil War.

Some of the regiment's men, including my father, were featured on the front of a *New York Times* pictorial before they shipped out to France in August 1917.

The Rainbow Division participated in several campaigns, including the first American-led fight of the Great War, the Battle of Saint-Mihiel, in September 1918. During the offensive, the 165th Infantry advanced 11 miles, retook five French villages and captured 350 German soldiers.

My father was wounded in combat and at one point was listed as missing in action. He also suffered permanent damage from being gassed. We still have his Rainbow Division medal listing the battles in which he fought, including Champagne-Marne, Aisne-Marne, Saint-Mihiel and Meuse-Argonne. ●

### THE OLD 69TH

Civil War Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee called it the Fighting 69th after facing the unit in several key battles.

Famous WWI soldiers of the 69th include Father Francis Duffy, who ministered on the front lines, often under fire, and poet Joyce Kilmer.

Originally made up of Irish immigrants, the 69th leads the New York City St. Patrick's Day parade every year.



**A BUTTON** from John A. Hrouda's uniform identifies his unit (69) and company (B).





**IN MEMORIAM:**

**NOTE:** The Veteran Corps will list the name of any active or former member of the 69<sup>th</sup> 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.

**Major Robert J. Harren                      A Company                      Jan 2019**



**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                      165<sup>th</sup> Old 69<sup>th</sup>*



**SERVICE OFFICER’S SICK REPORT:**

🌀 **Frank Trombino – HHC Co 1967 – 1970; recovering from surgery; his email address: [Ftrombino@verizon.net](mailto:Ftrombino@verizon.net).**

**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, 69<sup>th</sup> Regiment, Inc., P.O. Box 48, Massapequa Park, NY 11762

Other contact information: Email address: [THE69VETERANS@GMAIL.COM](mailto:THE69VETERANS@GMAIL.COM)



**UPCOMING EVENTS**



- **March 16, 2019 – St. Patrick’s Day (Saturday – Mass / March / Gathering afterwards)**
- **May 19, 2019 – Unit Memorial Day (Sunday) – Event details to be provided in next month’s bulletin**