

VETERAN CORPS. 69TH REGIMENT, INC.
THE FIGHTING SIXTY NINTH



ORGANIZED 1874 - INCORPORATED 1918

PHONE: (212) 686-6556

68 LEXINGTON AVE

NEW YORK, NY 10010

MAILING ADDRESS:

PO BOX 48

MASSAPEQUA PARK, NY 11762

E-MAIL ADDRESS: THE69VETERANS@GMAIL.COM

WEB ADDRESS: WWW.THE69THVETERANSCORPS.COM

BULLETIN

MARCH 2016

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**

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

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.**

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

**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 4 months:

Meeting	Date	Day	Time
Exec – Board of Officers	3/8/16	Tuesday	7:30pm
St. Patrick’s Day	3/17/16	Thursday	10:00am
Regular Membership Schedule Meeting	3/29/16	Tuesday	7:30pm
Exec – Board of Officers	4/12/16	Tuesday	7:30pm
Regular Membership Schedule Meeting	4/17/16	Sunday	2:00pm

★ ★

Annual Membership Dues 2016 = \$10.00

Please make every effort to make sure your membership dues are current for 2016! Those who have paid their respective dues and have not received their membership cards as yet will receive them with the April Bulletin.



IMPORTANT!!

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

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

As stated in previous Bulletins, we were having some problems with our mail delivery. This new address will in fact assist us in being able to pick up mail in a timelier manner. Please make note of it for future use.

★ ★

50/50 - Drawings:

Month	1st Place	2nd Place
January	Edmond Boullianne	Charles Hummel
February	Edward G. Dunn, Jr.	Douglas Kelly

★ ★

COMMANDER'S REPORT:

THE FOLLOWING IS A DRAFT OF THE ADMINISTRATION OF OUR FAMILY SUPPORT FUND:

In July 2004, the Veteran Corps opened a separate banking account that would assist the families and our soldiers who were being deployed to Iraq and later Afghanistan. The monies collected for this would be named the "Family Support Fund". We formed a committee from our members to develop an SOP to oversee this Fund. Not knowing how much money we could raise or even not able to predict how much would be needed, it was decided that our prime purpose would be to help those who were wounded, injured or suffered a sickness that was caused by their deployment and were hospitalized in the United States. We decided to provide transportation, lodging and meals for their immediate families while they were hospitalized. None ended up being hospitalized in our local areas and some were as far off as San Antonio, Texas. We would also provide a monetary memorial contribution to the next of kin to those who made the ultimate sacrifice.

By November of that year we had about \$16,000.00 in the Fund from contributions made mostly by our members and their friends. Then the first incident happened and the contributions came at a rapid pace. We received contributions from civic organizations, fraternal organizations, private citizens and many generous Veteran Corps members. We fulfilled our commitment and provided necessary funds to all the wounded until they were fully recovered.

As for those who made the ultimate sacrifice along with the Memorial Remembrance we have provided transportation to the Gold Star families to our Memorial Services and Memorial Plaque Dedications. Some these were for people from Louisiana we paid for overnight stays.

Other expenses incurred were for three Bronze Memorial Plaques, two are mounted in our armory and one is in the armory in Houma, LA in honor of their eight soldiers who were attached to the 69th and KIA while serving in Iraq under our colors. Also Twenty-Two-Floral Memorial Wreaths were provided for gravesite memorial services on the tenth anniversary of the deaths of those who served.

Not a nickel has ever been spent unless it was directly related to the soldiers of Operation Iraqi Freedom and their families. We did not fill refrigerators, fill oil tanks, or pay mortgages. That was not our purpose, ours was to take care of the Soldiers who were wounded or KIA and their families, and that we did.

Again, through the generous contributions, the Fund far exceeded what we ever expected it to. With all of the expenses explained above we have distributed in the area of \$190,000.00. We also have a little more than \$120,000.00 in the Fund at this time. Presently there are about eighteen members actively in the battalion that served in Iraq.

We have met with a lawyer to explain what we would like to include in a revised SOP related to the Family Support Fund.

We propose to form a new committee by replacing the two vacancies that exist on the present day committee. We would like to have a Veteran Corps member who is not an elected Veteran Corps Officer or Board Member.

The Fund would have the following objectives:

1. A minimum of \$50,000.00 will be maintained in the Fund at all times.
2. Five \$2,000.00 Scholarships every year for the qualifying Children /Grandchildren of members who served with the 69th in OIF.
3. That the new SOP considers providing a member who served with the battalion in OIF or a present day member of the active battalion one time grant due to personal hardship not to exceed \$2,000.00.
4. That we host a one time reunion for the soldiers that served in Task Force Wolfhound and in Afghanistan. Some are in touch with others but many are not. It has been eleven years since their return and I'm sure they would welcome this.
5. To authorize such other expenses as determined by the Fund, provided such expenditures are related to the above referenced purposes.

The Veteran Corps, Sixty-Ninth Regiment Inc. is a non-profit with a 501 © (19) IRS tax code. Contributions to the Fund are considered Tax Exempt.

I would appreciate any remarks any current dues paying member can offer.

tomandlifitz2@verizon.net

HOR: Tom Fitzsimmons
3727 Stokes Avenue
Bethpage, NY 11714-4122



EDITOR'S NOTE: APOLOGIES FOR TYPO ON ST. PATRICK'S DAY SUMMARY - DAY AND YEAR! (ERROR DUE TO CUTTING / PASTING FROM PRIOR BULLETIN)



Upcoming Activities – St. Patrick’s Day – 2016! Thursday – 3/17/16:

Once again we will be participating in the St Patrick’s Day Parade. And again as a reminder, I will mention our participation in the parade. We must remember that we are part of our 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 – MEMBERS ONLY!



Although our ranks are getting smaller we will not invite people who have not served in the 69th to join us in the parade. On the other hand, I ask that if you are a member of the Veteran Corps, that you march with us and not with other elements associated

with the Regiment. We ask that you dress in an appropriate manner, jeans & white sneakers are not appropriate nor are partial military uniforms. Signs, posters or photographs will not be displayed. Remember that you served with this Regiment.

Make this present day Regiment proud of you.

EVENTS OF THE DAY – Please make every effort to join! –

See Details – Below

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

St Patrick's Day – Schedule:

➤ **MASS:** Those who wish to attend the Memorial Mass :

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

Time: 0730 hrs

Assemble: Northeast Corner of 51st St and 5th Avenue

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

Place: 44th Street West of 5th Avenue

Time: 1030 hrs

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

➤ **ARMORY:** Those who will attending our activities:

Place: 69th Infantry Armory
68 Lexington Avenue

Armory Drill Shed: Brief Ceremony, Change of Command, Promotions, Decorations and Awards, Regimental Cocktail

Veteran Corps Dinner – cost \$15.00/person:
Mural Room (downstairs)

- Corned Beef and Cabbage Dinner w/ potatoes and carrots
- Two bottles of beer / soda, or one liquor drink

Come and join your fellow Veterans on this day!



Letters and Conversations:

In last month's Bulletin I described the process of preparing and distributing that issue. I made the remark "I wonder if anyone reads it" I also asked if anyone was interested in taking over the job. Now for a big surprise, no one offered to do it.

- **Greg Haven:** LTC® Haven a past commander of the battalion now resides in Delaware. He emailed me and says he reads it all the time. It keeps him associated with the battalion.
- **Bert Cunningham:** Bert who is a contributor to this month's Historical segment informs me he reads it all the time.
- **Dick Beyrer:** Dick, who hails from Mahopac, is a former member of C-1-69 and is instrumental in a contribution to the Family Support Fund each year. He emailed with a message "Doing a fine job, keep it going".
- **Gerald Steakin:** Jerry, what can I say except thank you again. As you have read in my remarks what a success the Fund is. It is contributions like yours that made it a success. With the mailing address, we have had a couple of instances of mail that was addressed correctly (MSG, PO Box98) being returned to the mailer as being an incorrect address. We then added the 139 Whitewood (Dennis Hearn's home). We have now opened a new P.O. Box that will service us better. By the way, I'm two years older than you. It's true "Old age is not for weaklings"!
- **Harry Snyder:** Always enjoy reading your notes. Sorry you are not feeling well. You are in our prayers and hoping for a turn in your medical problems.
- **Annebell Brennan:** Thank your for your very generous contribution to the Veteran Corps. All of our past members are remembered in prayer at our monthly meetings. Again, Thank you and I hope all is well.
- **Carl P. Petrone:** Carl writes telling me he remembers a John Walsh, sorry Carl not the same one. My John was in the Regiment in the mid 1930's and was in college when they were activated. As we were not at war all Police, Firemen, college students, and men with large families were not activated. I remember the John Walsh you are referring to, a great guy and I can picture him right now. I remember your CO Fred Sickels, a lieutenant in the NYFD. I don't remember the McCarthy you mentioned. Happy St Patrick's Day!





SERVICE OFFICER'S SICK REPORT:

Maurice Savage	3 McCartney Drive, Albany, NY 12211-2315
Tom Gordon	Gino Merli Veterans Center, 401 Penn Ave, Scranton, PA 18503
John Marino	1078 N. Broadway, N. Massapequa, NY 11758
Harry Snyder	1119 Harper Ave., Woodlyn, PA 19094-1209
Jack Munday (Makin Vet)	85 Misha Lane, Sanford, NC 27330

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, Maseqpequa Park, NY 11762

Other contact information: Email address for the commander is: tomandlilfitz2@verizon.net



REGIMENTAL HISTORICAL EVENTS:

In order to add some interesting facts about the history of the Regiment, Jack Hallanan suggested we add this section to the Monthly Bulletin. This month's presentation is provided by Bert Cunningham, Regimental Headquarters Historian and Custodian of the Regiment artifacts.

**THE MEXICAN BORDER CAMPAIGN
ONE YEAR TO WORLD WAR ONE FOR THE 69TH**

ONE HUNDRED YEARS AGO, IN SPRING 1916, WORLD WAR I HAD BEEN UNDERWAY SINCE AUGUST, 1914. THAT FEBRUARY, THE TEN-MONTH BATTLE OF VERDUN, WHICH WOULD CRYSTALIZE THE BRUTALITY OF TRENCH WARFARE, HAD BEGUN. MILLIONS OF CASUALTIES WOULD BE SUFFERED BEFORE THE WAR'S END IN NOVEMBER, 1918.

"OVER HERE," PRESIDENT WOODROW WILSON, SEEKING A SECOND TERM, HAD KEPT AMERICA OUT OF WAR. PUBLIC ANGER STILL RAGED OVER THE AMERICAN LIVES LOST WHEN THE BRITISH LUXURY LINER LUSITANIA WAS SUNK IN MAY, 1915 BY A GERMAN U-BOAT OFF IRELAND. PUBLIC OPINION, HOWEVER, STILL RAN AGAINST THE U.S. GETTING INVOLVED "OVER THERE."

INTERNAL POLITICAL TROUBLE IN MEXICO, BREWING FOR TWO YEARS, WOULD CAUSE A U.S./MEXICAN BORDER PROBLEM THAT WOULD RESULT IN THE 69TH REGIMENT BEING FEDERALIZED FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE THE SPANISH/AMERICAN WAR IN 1898 AND SINCE ITS NEW LEXINGTON AVENUE ARMORY OPENED IN 1906.

IN MARCH, 1916, PONCHO VILLA, VIEWED AS BOTH A REVOLUTIONARY AND A BANDIT, RAIDED COLUMBUS, NEW MEXICO AND LEFT 17 AMERICANS DEAD. THIS OCCURRED AFTER 18 AMERICAN ENGINEERS WERE KILLED EARLIER IN MEXICO.

VILLA'S RAID CAUSED GREAT CONCERN FOR THE SAFETY OF U.S. BORDER TOWNSPEOPLE AND WAS AN AFFRONT THAT COULD NOT BE TOLERATED. HE ALSO THREATENED THE MEXICAN GOVERNMENT'S STABILITY.

A U.S./MEXICAN AGREEMENT ALLOWED GENERAL JOHN J. PERSHING, IN COMMAND OF 12,000 FEDERAL TROOPS, TO PURSUE BANDITS INTO MEXICO. THE "PUNITIVE EXPEDITION" RESULTED IN BLOODY CLASHES THAT CAUSED THE DEATHS OF 12 U.S. TROOPS WITH 23 MORE TAKEN PRISONER. BUT VILLA WAS NOT CAPTURED.

TO STRENGTHEN THE BORDER DEFENSE, PRESIDENT WILSON CALLED UP NATIONAL GUARD UNITS FROM TEXAS, NEW MEXICO AND ARIZONA. EVENTUALLY, THE ENTIRE NATIONAL GUARD WOULD BE ACTIVATED, INCLUDING THE 69TH AS PART OF NY STATE'S SIXTH DIVISION, TO PATROL THE BORDER AND FREE UP PERSHING'S REGULAR ARMY TROOPS FOR POSSIBLE MILITARY ACTION.

IN JUNE, 1916, FAMILY, FRIENDS, 69TH VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR AND SPANISH AMERICAN WAR ACTIVATION, CLERGY AND ELECTED OFFICIALS PROVIDED A GRAND SEND OFF FOR THE MEN OF THE FAMED FIGHTING SIXTY-NINTH. THEY MARCHED DOWN THE ARMORY STEPS AND PASSED CHEERING THROUGS ALL THE WAY TO THE WESTSIDE FOR

THE NY CENTRAL RAILROAD TRAINS THAT WOULD TAKE THEM TO CAMP WHITMAN IN BEEKMAN, NEW YORK FOR BORDER CAMPAIGN TRAINING.

NEXT MONTH: THE 69TH IN TEXAS



Invitation - Message from Vice Commander – CSM (ret) Jose A. Flores:

Members of the Veteran Corps,

Many of you know CSM (ret) Tom Fitzsimmons has served as the Battalion CSM and 42nd Division CSM. Since 2003, Tom has also served as the Commander of the Veteran Corps. During his tenure he has led the development of the Family Support Fund and coordinated our efforts in the support of the members of the active Battalion. His efforts have been tireless in responding to members’ cards and letters, recognizing members’ contributions to the Veteran Corps, and coordinating activities with the commander of the Active Battalion and Regimental Headquarters. Maintaining the traditions of the Veteran Corps – Fighting 69th, while addressing newer needs of the membership, has been his top priority.

What most members of the Veteran Corps may not be aware of is that Tom also is a key member of the Wantagh American Legion and volunteers his time to support that organization in its activities. LTC (ret) Ken Kelly, who is past member of Division Headquarters, is the current Commander of the Wantagh American Legion. The Wantagh American Legion has planned an event on Saturday, April 2, 2016, to recognize Tom’s contribution to **both** organizations. Members of the Veteran Corps are invited to attend this event honoring Tom and his commitment and service over the years.

As Vice Commander of the Veteran Corps, it is my pleasure to invite members of the Veteran Corps to this event and ask that you make every effort to join in this recognition celebration. It promises to be an evening of camaraderie and an opportunity for us to gather and share a meal with dinner and dancing / entertainment.

DAY / DATE/ Time: *Saturday, April 2nd 2016; 6:00PM to 10:00PM*
PLACE: *Wantagh American Legion, 3484 Park Avenue, Wantagh, NY 11793*
MENU: *Deluxe Buffet; Open bar 4hrs*
ENTERTAINMENT: *Live Band*
COST: *\$45.00 per person – check payable to “Wantagh American Legion” – may mail to Wantagh American Legion attention Ken Kelly or give check to J. Flores*

RSVP: *CSM® Jose Flores by 3/25/16 917-239-3370*

Take a moment to make your reservation for this event. If you cannot make it to the event, but would like to send a message of acknowledgement – please forward to me and I will make sure Tom gets it.

CSM(ret) Jose A. Flores - Vice Commander



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

TOM FITZSIMMONS – COMMANDER
tomandlilfitz2@verizon.net