



VETERAN CORPS, 69TH REGIMENT, INC.  
**THE FIGHTING SIXTY NINTH**  
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**BULLETIN** **MAY 2018**

**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 1930 Hours**



**IMPORTANT NOTICE:**

**Sunday Membership Meetings – CHANGED SCHEDULE: Until  
 further notice membership meetings will be held 3 times a year:  
 St. Patrick’s Day, May – VC Memorial Day and December (TBD);  
 Location of meetings – TBD – confirm with Board Member**



Meeting	Date	Day	Time
Full Membership Meeting; Veteran Corps Memorial Day	5/20/18	Sunday	10:30am
Exec – Board of Officers	6/12/18	Tuesday	7:30pm
Exec – Board of Officers	7/10/18	Tuesday	7:30pm
Exec – Board of Officers	8/14/18	Tuesday	7:30pm



Tom Fitzsimmons

**COMMANDER’S REPORT:**

Our activities with the battalion is quiet at this time and the email traffic almost non-existent, so we will take a deep breath and prepare for the rest of this calendar year. We have not been asked for any support for the Shooting Teams and their participation in the TAG matches. If such an event took place we surely hope they did as well as they usually do.

The other two activities we will be involved with are the Logan Duffy Match and the Makin Day Dinner later this year.

We had our Board Meeting last month on Tuesday, April 10<sup>th</sup>. One member (not a board member) of the Veteran Corps was in attendance. All members are invited to attend the Board Meetings on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month at 7:30PM.

**SOLDIER / NCO OF THE YEAR:**

We take great pride in announcing that both SPC Ilya Titov (A Company] and SGT Quinten Davis (HHC) were selected as Soldier and NCO of the Year for the New York Army National Guard. It is a great credit to the battalion that both soldiers in the same unit came out number one in their individual category. Next step is that they will compete in a Regional Selection Board. Our congratulations go out to both of these young soldiers!



**VETERAN CORPS MEMORIAL DAY: SUNDAY - MAY 20<sup>th</sup>, 2018**

As in the past, the Veteran Corps, Sixty Ninth Regiment will again gather at Calvary Cemetery to conduct a Memorial Service in remembrance to our former members who have passed away since May 2017. As we read out their names a flag will be placed in front of our monument in remembrance of them. We will not be going to the armory due to difficulty with access to the building. We will place a Memorial Wreath at the Veteran Corps Monument in remembrance of all the fallen of the 69<sup>th</sup> who have made the Ultimate Sacrifice serving with the 69<sup>th</sup>.

Again, I am asking for maximum attendance. We boast of our traditions and longevity but many fail to give a few hours on a Sunday morning in May. The assembly is at 11:30 AM and the ceremony will be over by 12:30PM. So I am asking that all take a few moments to remember those who have served and are not with us any longer. Some day, although I hope in the distant future the Veteran Corps Commander will be asking someone to place your flag in remembrance. Details are as follows:

DAY/DATE: SUNDAY, MAY 20, 2018  
 TIME: 11:30 AM  
 LOCATION: MAIN GATE, OLD CALVARY CEMETERY  
 34-02 GREENPOINT AVENUE  
 WOODSIDE, QUEENS, NY

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

Former Members of the 69 <sup>th</sup> who will be Flagged are:		
Raymond Gallagher Lawrence Flynn (Hon) John Walker Eugene Goldner	Anthony Hayden Richard Low Michael Mahoney James F. Bond	Albert Vernile Edward P. Shalvey James Breheny Harry Snyder



***“In Flanders Fields” - By: Lieutenant Colonel John McCrae, MD (1872-1918) Canadian Army***

During WWI a doctor in the Canadian Army was tasked to perform a funeral service for a fellow officer who he knew. Like our Joyce Kilmer he wrote this very popular poem. As our Memorial Day is coming you will see many American veteran organizations offering poppies as a symbol of remembrance of the fallen. I thought this poem is appropriate for our Bulletin.

***“In Flanders Fields”***

***In Flanders fields the poppies blow  
 Between the crosses row on row,  
 That mark our place; and in the sky  
 The larks, still bravely singing, fly  
 Scarce heard amid the guns below.***

***We are the Dead. Short days ago  
 We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,  
 Loved and were loved, and now we lie  
 In Flanders fields.***

***Take up our quarrel with the foe:  
 To you from failing hands we throw  
 The torch; be yours to hold it high.  
 If ye break faith with us who die  
 We shall not sleep, though poppies grow  
 In Flanders fields.***





**Geoffrey Slack  
Colonel(Ret)**

## **THE LIAISON OFFICER'S REPORT (EDITION 17 – MAY 2018)**

**Dear fellow 69<sup>th</sup> veterans, families, and supporters of the 69<sup>th</sup> Infantry,**

**I diverge from what you normally see in this column to say “Thank you and Bon Voyage” to Colonel Charles T. Crosby who is about to retire. He is one of our old 69<sup>th</sup> comrades and a dear friend to many of us.**

**Colonel Crosby is among the men I respect most from among the many brilliant leaders it has been my honor and privilege to have served with. Why do I take the time to provide you insights into the career of this great “69<sup>th</sup> Man” within this report? Because of his brilliant performance with the 69<sup>th</sup> when it mattered most – on our last real battlefield in Iraq. Permit me to expand...**

**Then Major Crosby was sent to the battalion as an unknown officer (to me) just as we began to leave Kuwait and stream into Iraq and into the darkness of combat. We had an untested team and we knew, deep in our hearts, that tough times were looming right ahead. Major Crosby, as our executive officer would have to play his position well or our entire operation – beginning with our very new staff and out to the companies – could never become synchronized and efficient. His stern, determined, and highly skilled leadership of our staff set a standard of professionalism that helped calm the entire battalion. As we began to take casualties it was his staff that launched helicopters, coordinated reinforcements, and calmed the airwaves. Our remote headquarters up in Al Taji, controlled a battlefield so vast no radio net could span it all yet creative solutions established by Major Crosby linked even our most far flung platoons into a battalion whole so that no mother's son was ever alone and unsupported.**

**I believe that Major Crosby is alone among all of the other field grade officers of the 256<sup>th</sup> “Louisiana Tiger Brigade” to which we were attached in being awarded a “V” device for valor in 2004-2005. While on patrol in Baghdad Major Crosby's truck element came under intense light machine gun and small arms fire and one of his men was shot in the stomach and went down in the middle of the street, unable to move. With utter disregard for himself Major Crosby left cover and pulled the young man to safety while bullets flew thick around him. The young Soldier is alive today. On another occasion, Major Crosby led a raid to capture/kill a senior enemy officer. While his infantry cleared the building Major Crosby controlled the operation from outside. When the enemy officer leapt from an upper window and tried to escape along a narrow ledge Major Crosby calmly shot him and he fell through a sidewalk awning to the ground. Those who were there still tell the story in awe! Crosby merely shrugs.**



