



VETERAN CORPS, 69TH REGIMENT, INC.
THE FIGHTING SIXTY NINTH
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BULLETIN	NOVEMBER / DECEMBER 2016
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Veteran Corps Meetings Schedule:

Executive Board:

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

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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.**

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Meeting	Date	Day	Time
Exec – Board of Officers	12/13/16	Tuesday	7:30pm
Regular Membership	12/18/16	Sunday	2:00pm
Exec – Board of Officers	1/10/17	Tuesday	7:30pm
Regular Membership	1/15/17	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.***



Tom Fitzsimmons

COMMANDER’S REPORT:

On Friday, November we joined together for our Annual Makin Day Beefsteak Dinner. It was well attended by members of the Active battalion, members of the Veteran Corps and invited guests. There were no Makin Day Veterans present as LTC® Scooter Barclay who usually attends had a busy summer of traveling could not attend this year. Another Makin Veteran not present was our Senior Veteran Corps member Jack Munday who at 98 years of age and lives in North Carolina who was a steady for years and he was missed. I did have the opportunity to fulfill a promise I had made to him; when the toasts were being made I raised my glass and said “To Jack Munday, our senior Veteran Corps member, a belated Happy 98th Birthday” and 100 glasses were raised to honor him.



With no Makin Veterans present, LTC Makay, the battalion commander, asked if I would say a few words on their behalf. I started off by speaking of all the World War II veterans and how I really got to know them through the Veteran Corps.



Then I spoke of Scooter and his wonderful career and his deep feelings for the 69th and his pride of being a member of the Veteran Corps. Next was Jack Munday, I had a copy of the book he wrote “The Time of My Life”. About 1/3 of his book relates to the five years he spent with the 165th (old 69th) during WWII. Although as all the veterans of that era that lived through the great depression and spent their young adult years serving in a terrible war but still had a great sense of humor. I ended up my presentation by speaking about a series of recent emails with a former post WWII member of the 69th. Miguel Hernandez was a member of A Company from 1953 until his honorable discharge in 1963. It shows that members who have left the active unit can still bond with it, in some cases 50 or 60 years later.

NOTE: A reminder that Sunday, December 18, 2016 will be a busy one. We will conduct our elections. A slate has been presented by the Nominations Committee and nominations may be made from the floor. There will be an installation of officers immediately after the ballots are counted and then we will also have our Christmas Party. Wives/guests are invited to the Party. Ladies of the Auxiliary are certainly invited.

Up the front stairs and through security (painfully effective) and you are where you were a long time ago – standing awed within the central foyer with the spectacular brass 69 at your feet and the power and beauty of the armory stretching out in every direction including vertically. Every light is on, trash is nonexistent, and she gleams. The showcases contain flags no more but they have been professionally redone to tell the story of the Regiment from its inception to the present. So well done are these cases that you immediately feel the power of the history of our great Regiment. Turn left, you face the Duffy Room, still deep in its own shadows of heavy wood paneling and dark hues in paint but radiant. The commander’s office as well as the XO’s office and the Regimental Headquarters (General Healy Room) are breathtaking. Clean, doted over, and powerfully historic. Out and back down the hall towards 26th Street and you find the “new” Garryowen Club. Officer’s club no longer it is truly the “all ranks” club many of us dreamed of long ago. If you have not seen this room in many years you would be stunned. Anywhere else in Manhattan only the very wealthy could sip a beer in such a place. Every inch of the ground floor has been renewed by the tender attentions of the superintendent, the active battalion, the Veterans Corps, and the Regimental Headquarters.

Lastly, the Drill Shed. You would laugh my friends, the big old flags from the Nicks era still hang at the back. This is the one place I think most would say is still as they remember it. That said, it is no longer the dark place of a few decades ago. It is clean and well lit. There is a powerful memorial to the fallen of Iraq and Afghanistan in one corner. Sad but proud. Many of us loiter there and remember dear friends and hard times.

I cannot leave this edition without taking you downstairs for a moment to the General Anderson (Veterans Corps) Room and the Mural Room. I think it safe to say that you would find almost nothing has changed. Though they have benefited from a lot of restorative care both places seem timeless. More on our beloved armory another time. I wish each of you could visit her again.

Yours in a common cause,

Geoff Slack
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Annual Membership Dues 2017 = \$10.00

Start the New Year right - please make every effort to make sure you send in your annual dues for 2017!

HAPPY NEW YEAR

IMPORTANT!!

**VETERAN CORPS – MAILING ADDRESS –
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SEND TO:**

**VETERAN CORPS, 69TH REGIMENT, INC.
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REGIMENTAL HISTORICAL EVENTS:

Submitted by Tom Fitzsimmons

Battle of Fredericksburg – December 1862

As we approach the anniversary date of the Battle of Fredericksburg that took place on 11-15 December 1862, we must be reminded that this is where the 69th Regiment, as part of the Irish Brigade, was committed into action on 13 December 1862 in a section of the city named "Marye's Heights". After many unsuccessful attempts by other Union forces, the soldiers of the Irish Brigade were committed to the battle.

Due to the poor condition of their respective flags and awaiting delivery of new ones, General Meagher ordered all in the Irish Brigade to place a sprig of "*green boxwood*" in their caps. Their attack was repulsed and their losses so great that it was really the end of the Irish Brigade. But due to the bravery of the soldiers, the Irish were finally recognized as true Americans. This battle is still a factor in our history and traditions. General Meagher for the first time added champagne



to Irish whiskey, our Regimental Toast. The boxwood sprig is still worn on St Patrick's Day by the soldiers of the battalion, the Regimental Headquarters, and the Veteran Corps. We still mention General Lee's statement referring to us as "That Fighting 69th". We also had a member of B Company, namely Timothy Donahue, who was awarded the Medal of Honor for carrying a wounded officer off the field of battle and getting wounded as well while performing that duty.

Some months ago, A Veteran Corps member James Downey, a Virginia resident stated that he would like to go to Fredericksburg on 11 December and place a wreath at the wall at the battlefield. I thought it was a great idea and provided him with the names of other Veteran Corps members living in that area. So on Sunday, 11 December 2016, the following members will place a wreath either at the wall or at the Irish Brigade Monument. Those attending will be James Downey, Kevin Maxwell, Tony Daddato Jr., Mike Guiry and a guest and a friend of the Regiment, COL(ret) John Cope former Chief of Staff, 42nd D.

Garryowen and Glory!

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

TOM FITZSIMMONS – COMMANDER
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