



VETERAN CORPS, 69TH REGIMENT, INC.  
 THE FIGHTING SIXTY NINTH  
 PO BOX 48 MASSAPEQUA PARK  
 NEW YORK 11762  
 TELEPHONE (516) 662-9917  
 E-MAIL THE69VETERANS@GMAIL.COM  
 REGIMENT WEB SITE

|                 |                     |
|-----------------|---------------------|
| <b>BULLETIN</b> | <b>OCTOBER 2017</b> |
|-----------------|---------------------|

**Veteran Corps Meetings Schedule:**

**Executive Board:**

**Executive Board will meet on the  
 2<sup>nd</sup> 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  | 10/10/17 | Tuesday | 7:30pm |
| Regular Membership**  | 10/15/17 | Sunday  | 1:00pm |
| ** Note Sunday Membership Meeting: 10/15/ 2017. We will be visiting the soldiers of the battalion to present our Scholarship Program. Those interested in participating call me at (516) 935-5988 or better at email <a href="mailto:tomandlilfitz2@verison.net">tomandlilfitz2@verison.net</a> |          |         |        |
| Exec – Board of Officers  | 11/14/17 | Tuesday | 7:30pm |
| Regular Membership  | 11/19/17 | Sunday  | 1:00pm |
| Exec – Board of Officers  | 12/12/17 | Tuesday | 7:30pm |
| Regular Membership  | 12/19/17 | Sunday  | 1:00pm |

**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.*



Tom Fitzsimmons

**COMMANDER’S REPORT:**

➤ **Membership Meetings:**

**As I have stated in previous copies of the Bulletin we would experience some problems with our membership meetings. This continues this month as we will be forming teams to visit the various companies of the battalion. The purpose for this is to present to them our Scholarship Program. As far as the lead situation is concerned, I have been informed the plan is being worked on to correct the problem. A light at the end of the tunnel...my description is a small light at the end of a long tunnel. In the meantime we will continue to function as best as we can.**

➤ **Our Scholarship Program:**

**I have requested assistance with implementation of our scholarship program; the first step is to meet with Active Battalion. The letter I sent which describes the scholarship program:**

Subject: Veteran Corps, 69<sup>th</sup> Regiment, Inc. Scholarship Program

Gentlemen,

I am asking for your assistance in moving forward with our Scholarship Program. I have been trying to put this together for quite some time. For it to work I will need some input from the Company Commander and 1SG of each unit in the battalion. That input consists of helping promote the program, identify the applicants and signing verification on the application of the individuals’ membership qualifications.

To give you a better idea of our intentions, I present the following:

Each year the Veteran Corps, 69<sup>th</sup> Regiment will provide in September (planned) but NLT December funding toward a Educational Assistance Award. We will provide individual awards in the amount of \$2,000.00 each and will give up to five(5) awards each year for a total not to exceed \$10,000.00 each year. This fund is maintained by the contributions of our members, their friends, religious and fraternal organizations and many others.

If there are more than five (5) applicants within the battalion we will initiate a roster and assign a number to each application. That number will start with #1 and continue to match the number of applications. Those numbers will be placed in a raffle drum and the first 5 numbers to be picked out will be awarded \$2,000.00 each. The drawing if necessary will be at the convenience of the Veteran Corps. If there are less than five (5) applications, those monies will be returned to the Family Support Fund. There must be five (5) members of the Board of Directors present for the drawings. We will invite two (2) members of the active battalion to the drawings if they so desire.

With LTC Makay's permission we wish to attend your individual drill assemblies on Saturday, 14 October 2017 at a time designated by CPT Clifford.

Thomas J. Fitzsimmons  
Commander  
Veteran Corps, 69<sup>th</sup> Regiment, Inc.

➤ **Makin Day Dinner:**



As you know by now we will be having the Makin Day Dinner at a location outside of the armory. Although there have been other social events at outside locations, this is the first time for the Makin Day Beefsteak Dinner. We will need your support for this to be a success. So far the response has been less than expected.

2ND BATTALION, 165TH INFANTRY LANDING DURING BATTLE

OF **MAKIN ISLAND**; Public Domain, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=141992>

- **Mark your calendar for Friday, November 3<sup>rd</sup> 2017**
- **Make checks payable to Veteran Corps, 69<sup>th</sup> Regiment Inc.; Mark your calendar - Makin Day Dinner. It is less than 3 weeks away!**

**We must provide a roster of those attending 72 hours (10/31/17 deadline) prior to dinner. So please do not delay with your response by 10/24/17. Again, an invitation form attached to this newsletter.**

2ND BATTALION, 165TH INFANTRY LANDING DURING BATTLE OF **MAKIN ISLAND**;  
Public Domain, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=141992>

➤ **Logan/Duffy Match:**

The match was held on Saturday, September 16 at Camp Smith, Cortland Manor, NY. We are happy to inform you that the 69<sup>th</sup> Rifle Team was victorious again this year and the Logan/Duffy Bowl is returning to 68 Lexington Avenue. Our congratulations to the team. I might mention that there were four former battalion Commanders present for the match. Eight members of the Veteran Corps attended The Victory Dinner at West Point.



Veteran Corps Members



69<sup>th</sup> Rifle Team / T. Fitzsimmons



➤ Joyce Kilmer – Dedication Ceremony – 10/18/2017:

Just to inform everyone the following dedication to Joyce Kilmer is happening due to the tenacious efforts of Jack Hallanan our 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Commander. Jack has coordinated with the Kilmer family, the NJ Turnpike Authority and the Service area people. The following LOI is the culmination of two years of planning. Our thanks to Jack.

On the Northbound lanes of the NJ Turnpike between exits 8A and 9 near New Brunswick, there is a service area named for Joyce Kilmer. His name appears over the entrance and, in the public dining area near the travel and hotel brochures, there are several items framed and mounted to describe him to travelers. There is his famous poem “Trees”, a few pictures of trees, and a brief bio that does not mention he was Killed in Action in WWI.

The Veteran Corps, in conjunction with the NJ Turnpike Authority and the operators of the food concession, BMS Host, has arranged for the mounting of the Kilmer material such as his portrait photograph and another in his Army uniform, the poem “Rouge Bouquet”, the story behind the poem, and a photo of the burial of the members of Company E being buried on St. Patrick’s Day 1918 and for whom the poem was written. Another panel will have the DUI and the poem “A Soldiers Prayer in France”. These will be prominently mounted on the wall of the entrance vestibule of the rest area visible to all as they enter.

A suitable ceremony at the site is planned for 1100 hours on 18 October 2017 and members of the Kilmer family are expected to attend.

Members of the Veteran Corps are invited and encouraged to attend this ceremony. We will be in view of the public so the dress code will be business attire and Veteran Corps Caps.



**Geoffrey Slack  
Colonel(Ret)**

**THE LIAISON OFFICER’S REPORT  
(EDITION 13 – OCTOBER 2017)**

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

With the heaviest battalion training over for the year (October is largely squad tactics and sustainment ops at Home Station and Camp Smith) I think this is a good time to feature 3 Soldiers over the next 3 months to let all of us who have been away from the 69<sup>th</sup> for a while know who serves now and why. This month features a junior Soldier, November will feature a sergeant, and December will feature a young officer. In a time of persistent combat and from a generation widely described as tardy in growing up I thought it would be interesting to get to know what makes current 69<sup>th</sup> Soldiers join and serve. Let me introduce Specialist Romerro Harriott of Company B.



Romerro immediately impresses you as a very fit, lean, athletic, and handsome young man. He was unsure why he was sent to talk to me so of course he was reticent to begin talking to some old guy asking personal questions; who could blame him. However, as we spent 2 hours chatting I think he became proud that he was selected to talk through me to you. I found it a rewarding experience. Romerro grew up in Bushwick, Brooklyn then moved with his family to West Hempstead where he attended high school graduating in 2012. I asked him what influenced him to join the Army and he immediately said “my Dad.” His father, clearly a great and positive role model told him to consider his future and work to make himself a man in this world (*sound familiar?*). Romerro did his research and realized the Guard had real benefits for education and advancement. He joined in December of 2015. He had to overcome an initial block due to asthma and went through lots of tests before being allowed to head to Fort Benning and Basic Training in February of 2016. His determination to get in despite an easy out speaks volumes about his character. Upon his return to the 69<sup>th</sup> after Initial Entry Training he was assigned as a rifleman in Company B in Farmingdale. He was just promoted last month to Specialist (E4) and was assigned as an M249 SAW gunner (Squad Automatic Weapon – sort of modern version of the old BAR). He missed the JRTC event but caught the recent Australia mission which he found both challenging and interesting.

This young man is already experiencing what most of us faced in our time in the Guard: civilian work conflicts. Romerro is a manager in a MacDonaldd’s Restaurant (made manager in 2 1/2 years of the 5 he’s worked there) and he struggles to get his senior manager to give him the time he needs to be successful in the 69<sup>th</sup> (*again, sound familiar?*) Still, he loves the Guard and B Company. He told me he finds his sergeants to be all excellent men who demand his best, lead from the front, and provide mentorship in deed and word. His immediate goal is to become a sergeant himself. He has already taken 30 college credits at Nassau Community College so when I asked if he was interested in becoming an officer he looked puzzled and said “*No, I think becoming a Staff Sergeant or even a Sergeant First Class would be amazing.*” You have to know the sergeants of the 69<sup>th</sup> today to really understand why a young man would view becoming one of them a life goal. They are dynamite leaders. Romerro has other big goals. He has been mentored by his sergeants to take the upcoming State Trooper test this month. He is also working to be considered for a full-time (AGR) position in the Guard (*I sure hope he gets one of those opportunities*).

As I got to know Romerro I found that he has a great sense of humor. I asked if he has a serious lady friend and he said with a twinkle in his eye “*No, but I do like the way I look in my Army Service Uniform!*” (Dress Blues). I laughed because who among us didn’t stand in front of the mirror in our blues once upon a time. Getting serious I asked him what in his short Army career has not met his expectations. He said “*I want to deploy to a war. I joined to fight and I have trained hard. I expected to have deployed already.*” I doubt there is any among us who fail to understand his yearning to test himself in battle. I told him to be careful what he wishes for.

I will close by saying that I think Specialist Romerro Harriott is more similar than dissimilar to the young men I’ve known in the 69<sup>th</sup> over the years. The real question is how similar is he to average American men at this time in our history? In this I fear that Romerro is in a true minority. From a good family, young, strong, fit, educated, determined, fiercely patriotic, and ready to fight anyone our country asks him to fight. I think this young man exceeds every standard an American to bring to our Army. He is one of the 69ths many great young Soldiers. Come in and watch him and his young peers march on Saint Patrick’s Day in their blues. Every one of them looks as lean and tough as Romerro. You will be very proud!

Yours in a common cause,  
Geoff Slack



**NYC TUNNEL TO TOWERS MARATHON:**

The Veteran Corps wishes to congratulate the members of Charlie Company for their participation in the Tunnel to Towers Marathon; We are proud of you.



**Annual Membership Dues 2017 = \$10.00  
and 50/50 Drawings**

As of this printing about 85% of our members are in good standing as paid up to the current year of 2017. If you have not sent in your dues as yet, please do so now. Also I would like to thank those who participate in the 50/50 drawings. The combined income from both the dues and the 50/50 contribute towards the cost of providing you with the Bulletin.



**50/50 - Drawings:**

| Month          | 1 <sup>st</sup> Place | 2 <sup>nd</sup> Place |
|----------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| September 2017 | Donna Urso-Vuolo      | John Mansfield        |



**Letters, Emails, and Conversations:**

- **John Walsh:** John who cannot attend our meetings stays in touch via the Amechie and emails. He must think I am old because most of the emails relate to senior citizen jokes. The sad part is I relate to most of them. Keep them coming.

- **Sean Flynn**: Had the opportunity to meet and speak to the former battalion commander at the Logan Duffy Match. I also had the opportunity to thank him for his very generous contribution towards the Shooting Team Program. Again, thank you, Sir.
- **Dennis Hearn**: Our present day Recording Secretary and former member of the 69<sup>th</sup> Rifle Team still competes in rifle, pistol and shotgun activities. Dennis was very generous in contributing to the Battalion Shooting. I may also enter here that as a former member of the 69<sup>th</sup> Rifle & Pistol Team I make a yearly contribution in their support.
- **Sandy Tychnowitz**: Sandy, who is the widow of Andy Tychnowitz, a long-time member of the 69<sup>th</sup> and also a very active member of the Veteran Corps, now resides in Florida. She sends a letter telling of how she misses visiting the guys here. She also sends a generous contribution in memory of Andy. I hope we are in action by St. Patrick's Day and you can join the festivities if we have them.
- **James Williams**: Jim, who is a former member of Co A back in the late 50's and early 60's, has sent a contribution to the Family Support Fund. We wish to thank you as our Scholarship Fund is getting started.
- **Bert Prol**: Bert who now reside in North Carolina and who was instrumental in having our armory designated as a National Landmark send a contribution to the Family Support Fund. Thank you, Bert.

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**IN MEMORIAM:**

James F. Bond                      107-43 112th Street                      C Company                      9/21/17  
   Richmond Hill, NY 11419

**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>

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**SERVICE OFFICER'S SICK REPORT:**

**Maurice Savage  
John Marino  
Harry Snyder**

**3 McCartney Drive, Albany, NY 12211-2315  
1078 N. Broadway, N. Massapequa, NY 11758  
1119 Harper Ave., Woodlyn, PA 19094-1209**

**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 for the commander is: [tomandlilfitz2@verizon.net](mailto:tomandlilfitz2@verizon.net)**



**REGIMENTAL HISTORICAL EVENTS:**

**Submitted by Bert Cunningham – Regimental Historian**

**69<sup>th</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Meet at Mills**

**By Bert Cunningham**

During the Civil War they opposed each other on battlefields across the south. At Camp Mills, in the north, they were joining together as part of the new 42<sup>nd</sup> Rainbow Division to prepare for the battlefields of France. But lingering hard feelings soon surfaced between the Old 69<sup>th</sup> and Alabama's Old 4<sup>th</sup>.

The War Department sought to avoid such distractions from occurring between National Guard units with legacies linked to the "late war," which concluded 51 years earlier, by renumbering all Guard units. The Old 69<sup>th</sup> became the 165<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment and the 4<sup>th</sup> Alabama became the 167<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment.

When the 167<sup>th</sup> arrived at Mills in early September, 1917, all was OK at first. Albert Ettinger recalled in his book "A Doughboy with the Fighting Sixty-Ninth," that since the 165<sup>th</sup> was at Mills already "our band played them into Camp with the Regimental Air of 'Garry Owen' with the good-fellow strains of 'Hail! Hail! The Gang's All Here.'"

Comradeship with the men of the 4<sup>th</sup> was "great," Ettinger wrote until some Alabama "hometown newspapers arrived deploring the fact that the Old 4<sup>th</sup> Alabama and the 69<sup>th</sup> New York were brigaded together" in the 42<sup>nd</sup>. The newspapers reviewed how "both units clashed in several important engagements in which the two regiments almost wiped each other out."

"Only the history buffs of either outfit knew about this," Ettinger wrote, "but after reading those articles, the boys from Alabama became unfriendly."

Some fist fights resulted from provocations on both sides. One was so big, Military Police had to break it up with fixed bayonets. Even the *Brooklyn Eagle* reported on some of the dust ups.

Father Patrick Duffy, Regimental Chaplain, and senior officers of both the 165<sup>th</sup> and 167<sup>th</sup> were credited with eventually calming things down.

As Ettinger put it, “As we left Camp Mills for France, men of the 69<sup>th</sup> and the 4<sup>th</sup> Alabama were not very good buddies. However, as we got into combat, we came to appreciate each other and became good comrades, even though we were in different brigades.”

A review of some of the battle maps of the 42<sup>nd</sup> in France proves that observation to be true.

At the Battle of the Ourcq, in July, 1918, elements of the 165<sup>th</sup> and 167<sup>th</sup> were next to each other during fierce combat at Meurcy Farm; the same is true during September 12-October 1 St. Mihiel Offensive. On November 7, 1918, the last day both units were in battle, as armistice negotiations were underway, the 165<sup>th</sup> and 167<sup>th</sup> combined to attain strategic highpoint objectives overlooking Sedan, which was a key junction held by the Germans. The French were given the opportunity to retake Sedan since it was where they capitulated to Germany in 1870 to end another bygone war.

Whatever divided the Old 69<sup>th</sup> and the 4<sup>th</sup> Alabama during the “late war” was forgotten as the 165<sup>th</sup> and 167<sup>th</sup> fought together in the Great War.



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

**TOM FITZSIMMONS – COMMANDER**  
[tomandlilfitz2@verizon.net](mailto:tomandlilfitz2@verizon.net)



**Makin Day Dinner – Event Invitation and Details – NEXT PAGE!**



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 ORGANIZED 1874 INCORPORATED 1918

## ***Makin Day Dinner – Friday, November 3, 2017***

***The Veteran Corps, 69<sup>th</sup> Regiment, Inc.  
 Is sponsoring the  
 74<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Invasion of Makin Island  
 With a Traditional “Beefsteak” Dinner***

***Location: Masonic Hall – 71 West 23<sup>rd</sup> Street, New York, NY 10010***

***Cost: \$75.00 per person; Note Active Unit – Ranks E1-E4 = \$35.00***

***Event Details:***

- Cocktails will commence at 1900
- Dinner will be served at 2000
- Open bar till end of dinner
- Dress – Semiformal, Jacket with tie

**IMPORTANT: RSVP Mandatory – The Masonic Hall (venue where the dinner will be held) requires a roster of the attendees 72hrs prior to the event (Tuesday, October 31<sup>st</sup>). That is their security standards; therefore if you are bringing a guest we must have the guests’ names in full prior to Oct. 31<sup>st</sup>. Also if you plan to pay at the door, please forward your attention to attend so we have your name on the roster. Best option for all concerned is that you fill out the RSVP form and mail in your check ASAP.**

**RSVP: NLT Friday, October 24, 2017**

***Checks payable to:  
 Veteran Corps, 69<sup>th</sup> Regiment  
 P.O. Box 48  
 Massapequa Park, NY 11762  
 (516) 662-9917***

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***Fighting Sixty Ninth Makin Day Dinner 2016 - RSVP Info (please print)***

***Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Rank: \_\_\_\_\_***

***Number attending: \_\_\_\_\_ Total Amount enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_***

***Guest Names: \_\_\_\_\_***