



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

## BULLETIN

SEPTEMBER 2016

### Veteran Corps Meetings Schedule:

#### Executive Board:

Executive Board will meet on the  
2<sup>nd</sup> 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.

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Meeting	Date	Day	Time
Regular Membership	9/18/16	Sunday	2:00pm
Exec – Board of Officers	10/11/16	Tuesday	7:30pm
Regular Membership	10/16/16	Sunday	2:00pm
Makin Day Dinner	11/4/16	Friday	7:00pm
Exec – Board of Officers	11/8/16	Tuesday	7:30pm
Regular Membership	11/20/16	Sunday	2:00pm

**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:**

**Elections for the year of 2017:** It is not too early for us to start considering our Corps elections for Officers and the Board of Directors positions for the year of 2017. As a reminder Corps Officers are elected for a one (1) year term and Board Members for a three (3) year term. Some of the terms of office may change with the new Constitution and By-laws being drawn up at this time. Until that is voted on by the membership we will go with the present system.

The positions of the OFFICERS are the Commander, Sr. Vice Commander, Jr. Vice Commander, Recording Secretary and Treasurer. The Board of Directors consists of nine members with three (3) of them up for election each year.

Presently some of our Board of Directors have additional duties ie. Frank Murphy serves as Chairman of the Board, Frank Sherry as our Service Officer and Food Service Officer for our meetings, Pete Vesey as our Nominations Officer, Ed Dunn as a member of the Family Support Fund Committee and Geoff Slack as our Liaison Officer with the active battalion. I believe that all members of the Board of Directors provide us with a solid organization with their recommendations and contributions which leads to a positive thinking organization.

But I also will ask for those who do not have additional tasks to help us by providing us with the following appointed positions at this time. Since John Gannon became ill I have been reading the opening and closing prayer at our meetings. This calls for a member of the Board to accept the position of Chaplain.

The next is a position as Quartermaster. As I watch now we have Veteran Corps Caps, Baseball Hats, Veteran Corp Golf Shirts, Veteran Corps Crests and Lapel Pins, Challenge Coins and most recently sweaters. All of these items are for sale and I think one person should be responsible for the inventory and distribution of all the items. So I will be seeking out a member of the Board to undertake this task.

As for the elections, all positions are open for nomination from the floor at the November meeting. Requirements for nomination include paid up membership and attendance at meetings during the past year.

**Attendance at Meetings:** As you will note with the meeting schedule posted at the beginning of the Bulletin, we are going back to our old schedule. We tried, but it was not working out. I know Sunday meetings can be difficult for some but we have better attendance at those meetings. So set September 18<sup>th</sup> aside for the meeting.





**Geoffrey Slack  
Colonel(Ret)**

## **THE LIAISON OFFICER'S REPORT (EDITION 4)**

Dear fellow 69th veterans, families, and supporters of the 69th infantry,

A few days ago I had the pleasure of meeting with Lieutenant Colonel Don Makay to ask him for his comments, not only about the 69<sup>th</sup>'s experience at the Joint Readiness Training Center (JRTC) but also about his first 6 months in command and his view of the future. As always, this wonderful gentleman gave me his time and his unvarnished perspectives. Understand me when I tell you that as a past wartime commander of the Fighting 69<sup>th</sup> my questions are never totally innocent. I know how hard the task of preparing a big battalion for potential combat is. I am professionally interested in knowing how the old 69<sup>th</sup> is doing and I know you are too. The short answer is that it is doing well.

To wrap up my comments about the 69<sup>th</sup>'s performance at the JRTC I asked LTC Makay to tell me what he felt he needed to improve. What used to be called Command and Control is now called Mission Command and he wants an already fine staff and leadership team to run up to a razor's edge of efficiency. He wants "the line" - the grunts in the squads and platoons to approach every training exercise as if a real living enemy is lurking right around every bend in the road and in every window. He wants his "Sustainers", the folks we used to refer to as – "the guys in the rear with the gear" to stay violent and focused in mindset because they have to be. The insurgent wars of today mean that the places between combat units are always the most dangerous. This is the normal place the Sustainers must traverse to bring up supplies and perform maintenance. In short, this implacable commander wants it all and he wants it now. Silently, to myself, I said "Thank God the 69<sup>th</sup> has this man at the helm."

Finally, we talked about where he believes he needs to go over the next 6 months – his first full year in command. He reflected for a moment then articulated a thoughtful plan which took into account the 69<sup>th</sup>'s recent high operations tempo, the always too short autumn, the constraints of a New York winter, and the few precious months of spring to prepare the unit for a major deployment to Australia. It is a brilliant plan and again in my mind I was saying "hard to believe this guy spent his entire career in the regular Army, it's not – "beat 'em 'til they get it right." Yes, he knows how to train a battalion but he also knows that the men and women of the 69<sup>th</sup> have civilian careers, college demands, families and other pressing obligations.

Over the fall and winter I am going to write about the "guts & sinew" of the 69<sup>th</sup> – the men, women, squads, platoons, companies, armories, motor pools, and staff of the battalion. The spring we will reserve for exploring the heavy training events then on to Australia. Thanks for sticking with me and this humble column.

Yours in a common cause,  
Geoff Slack  
geoffslack@aol.com



**LOGAN DUFFY RIFLE MATCH**  
**September 9-11, 2016**

The Logan/Duffy Rifle Match was held Saturday, 9/10/16 in Ft Devens, Massachusetts with the 182<sup>nd</sup> hosting it this year. This traditional match between 1-69Inf and the 1-182Inf dates back to the mid 1930's.

**Congratulations to 1-69<sup>th</sup> Infantry Rifle team for winning the competition!**

Top shooters from the 69th, both from HHC, were:

- SSG Matt Melendez with (366)
- CPT Mike Sicinski (358)



**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 this Bulletin.**



**IMPORTANT!!**

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

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



**50/50 - Drawings:**

**Next Drawing at September's Membership Meeting**





UPCOMING EVENTS! GET THE WORD OUT

Veteran Corps Activities

MAKIN DAY DINNER –  
NOVEMBER 4, 2016 (FRIDAY)



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

See Invitation at end of Bulletin!

**OTHER ACTIVITIES**

256 BCT OIF II/III  
REUNION

**NOVEMBER 18-19,  
2016.**

256 BCT OIF II/III REUNION SCHEDULED FOR 18-19 NOVEMBER 2016:

The Veteran Corps, 69<sup>th</sup> Regiment has been asked to assist in getting the word out on the planned 256 BCT-OIF II/III reunion. In addition to this Bulletin I ask that those of you that can, please assist with the use of Facebook.

**Scheduled Events:**

- Friday, 18 November 2016:  
2000-2300 Generations Hall Party with Open Premium Bar and Live DJ  
2300-UTC Same as above with Cash Bar
- Saturday, 19 November 2016:  
1199-1600 Tail-gating/picnic at Jackson Barracks Museum and surrounding area.

Tickets can be purchased now at the link below: Cost is \$60.00/80.00

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/256-bct-oif-iiiii-reunion-tickets-24355670466?aff=es2>

The Facebook page is “256 BCT Redeployment 10-year Reunion”  
The Official reunion website will be [www.louisianatigers.org](http://www.louisianatigers.org)



**Letters and Conversations:**

- **Art Carney:** Art sends a letter congratulating us on the revised format of the “Bulletin”. (Mary Quinn, volunteer, is responsible for the revised format). He enjoys COL Slacks column and was especially interested in John Walsh’s article. Art wonders if John remembers his father Austin “Gus” Carney, 1SG D Company and his Uncle Jim Gaffney 1SG of B Company. Both were discharged before WWII due to their age when the Regiment was called to active duty. Art also mentions Artie Carroll, WWII Veteran of the Regiment and was a close friend of mine.
- **Timothy Hoy:** Received a dues payment from Major Timothy Hoy along with a change of address. He thanks the Veteran Corps for all that it does for the Regiment. Glad to hear you are closer to home and look forward to seeing you at the Makin Day Dinner.

**If you had any doubts to the reason we changed our mailing address the following may make you understand. We had quite a few letters mailed to us with the correct address and returned to sender as being undeliverable due to improper address. We decided to change our Post Office and we were informed that any mail sent to the old address would be forwarded by them to our new address for one year. Please give your attention to the dates on the following letters.**

- **Bill Halter:** Bill sent his dues to us in February. Upon being notified that his dues were overdue he mailed another check. His first check was forwarded to us and we received it last week. Dennis tore it up.
- **Walter T. Hulse:** Walter, Thank you for your response to update your records. I notice that you originally mailed that card to us on March 28<sup>th</sup>, we received it last week. The Pony Express was much faster.
- **Jeffrey Acebo:** Hello Jeff, hope is all well in Florida. Thank you for your response to update your membership records. I noticed by the date mailed on the envelope, it was mailed on February 23 and we received it last week.
- **Francis X. Pastore:** I notice that your date of mailing was February 23<sup>rd</sup>; we received your update information last week. I sincerely hope all is well at this time. Frank whose mailing address is Council Bluffs, IA and USPS date stamp is from Ohama, NE. The note on the back of the response card reads: “My wife Carmela and I were planning to come for St. Patrick’s Day. Due to a bout with pnemomia and a stay in the hospital followed by a fall on the ice which resulted in a fractured left arm we will not be able to attend. My prayers are for the 69<sup>th</sup>, Hope to see you all next year”. Frank, I hope both Carmela and you are fully recovered and our prayers go out to you.





**SERVICE OFFICER’S SICK REPORT:**

Maurice Savage	3 McCartney Drive, Albany, NY 12211-2315
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, 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:**

Stay Tuned for next month’s edition – nothing this month due to Makin Day Dinner Info and lack of space.



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 4, 2016*

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

<b>Location:</b> <i>“Fighting Sixty Ninth” Armory          68 Lexington Avenue, New York, NY, 10010</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <i>Cocktails will commence at 1900 hours</i></li> <li>▪ <i>Dinner will be served at 2000 hours</i></li> <li>▪ <i>Open Bar until end of dinner</i></li> </ul>
<b>Cost:</b> <i>\$65.00 per person          Active Unit-Ranks E1 thru E4 = \$30.00</i>	<b>Dress:</b> <i>Semiformal, Jacket with tie.</i>

**RSVP: NLT Friday, October 21, 2016**

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

***NOTE:*** *In an effort to avoid any last minute seating problems we ask that you respond as early as possible. Please detach the following section below and forward the information required with your check. Also, please provide the names of any guests you wish to invite along with payment for their dinner.*

\*\*\*\*\*

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

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

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

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