



**THE 69<sup>TH</sup> INFANTRY - A RICH HERITAGE:  
PROUD TO SERVE - FROM CIVIL WAR, WWI, WWII TO IRAQ AND CURRENT DAY READINESS**

[PHOTO CREDITS - WIKIPEDIA; 69TH BATTALION]



## VETERAN CORPS BULLETIN JANUARY / FEBRUARY 2025

### 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>, to assist in the welfare of 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 meetings will be held  
on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of each month at 1900 Hours**



**SCHEDULE – 2025 Executive Board of Officers Meetings /  
Calendar of Events: [Subject to Change]  
Members are invited to attend –  
reach out to a board member if interested**

March	3/11/2025	August	8/12/2025
April	4/8/2025	September	9/9/2025
May	5/13/2025	October	10/14/2025
June	6/10/2025	November	11/11/2025
July	7/8/2025	December	12/9/2025

**Other VC Events - 2025**

St Patrick's Day	3/17/2025 (Monday) – details in bulletin
Unit Memorial Day	May 2025 – Date - TBD



**Message from the Commander**  
**Col John M. Gundy (Ret)**  
The69veterans@gmail.com



Greetings,

**ST PATRICK'S!**

**St Patrick's Day Parade 2025 is on!!**

While some details are still being ironed out by the Active Battalion and the Parade Committee, we do know that the 69<sup>th</sup> Veterans will form up in the vicinity of 5<sup>th</sup> Ave and Forty-Third Street. We were also informed that the Active Bn will conduct a short ceremony in the 7th Regiment Armory after the parade. We will provide updates as details of that operation are received.

We do know, however, that the 69<sup>th</sup> Veterans will eventually wind up at **Wolfe Tone's Pub** on 29<sup>th</sup> Street ...between Park and Madison.

Additionally, we have contacts who are working to secure the 69<sup>th</sup> Veterans more TV airtime. Assuming these efforts prove to be fruitful, please follow the dress code and dress for the parade as if you expect to be on Television!

**Please check the Parade information page in this bulletin.**



**WHEEL OF NAMES IS ALIVE AND WELL!!**

Going forward we hope to have drawings at least bi-annually. Consequently, the next drawing will be in June of this year. Proceeds assist with off-setting Bulletin processing costs. Please submit your \$10, \$20, \$20 chances by:



- Zelle - [the69veterans@gmail.com](mailto:the69veterans@gmail.com) or
- Mail – to the 69<sup>th</sup> Veteran Corps address at: PO Box 48 Massapequa Park, NY 11762



# 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Commander's Report

**Michael DeMartino**  
**Colonel (Ret)**  
**1st Vice Commander**



## **Friends of The Veteran Corps 69<sup>th</sup> Regiment**

Friends of The Veteran Corps 69<sup>th</sup> Regiment is the former Auxiliary of the Veteran Corps. The Corps recognizes the commitment of people who are not eligible for membership in the Corps but are deemed as both honorable and valuable to the Corps.

The Board will consider the following persons for Friends membership:

1. Spouses and children of a present or former member of the Corps.
2. Unaffiliated individuals who have demonstrated a clear commitment to the Corps, financially or otherwise. Such individuals shall be granted membership to the Friends of the Veteran Corps 69<sup>th</sup> Regiment by a unanimous vote of the Board.

If any present member knows of anyone who may qualify and is interested in becoming a member of the Friends of the Veteran Corps 69<sup>th</sup> Regiment, please contact someone on the Board or send an email to THE 69<sup>th</sup> VETERANS@GMAIL.COM, with the individual's name and how they may qualify for membership.

Friends of the Veteran Corps 69<sup>th</sup> Regiment may participate in activities approved by the Board such as the Makin Island Remembrance Dinner, the Commander's Reception, the Saint Patrick's Day Parade and Reception, the Memorial Day Ceremony and any other activities approved by the Board.



### **Fundraising Update:**

The CSM Thomas J. Fitzsimmons Educational Assistance Scholarship Program

When the Battalion deployed to Iraq in 2004, the 69<sup>th</sup> Regiment Veterans Corps, with CSM Thomas J. Fitzsimmons as the Commander, initiated a Family Support Fund. The purpose of this Fund was to assist the soldiers of the Battalion and their families during their deployment. An SOP governs how the Fund's assets are to be used. The SOP was amended in 2017/2018 to provide funding for Educational Assistance Awards to soldiers of the Battalion and soldiers of attached units. These awards were initiated by CSM Fitzsimmons and are now called the CSM Thomas J. Fitzsimmons Educational Assistance Scholarships. Soldiers of the Battalion and attached units who apply for the Scholarships must be enrolled in a post-secondary

undergraduate degree granting program at an institution of higher learning (2-year or 4-year college) or a non-degree granting post-secondary school (trade or technical school) or other post-secondary program licensed by New York State. The Veteran Corps initially offered five \$2,000 Scholarships and this year the Veteran Corps along with the 69<sup>th</sup> Regimental Headquarters are offering eight \$5,000 scholarships. These awards are traditionally presented at the Awards Ceremony on St. Patrick's Day.

The funding for these scholarships comes from donations from members of the Veteran Corps and members of the 69<sup>th</sup> Regimental Headquarters, their friends, religious and fraternal groups and business and corporate organizations.

Any donations to the Family Support Fund can be sent to the Veteran Corps, 69<sup>th</sup> Regiment, Inc., P.O. Box 48, Massapequa Park, New York, 11762. Please indicate in the note/memo section of your check and/or PayPal/Zelle on-line transactions: Family Support Fund. Zelle: Chase: [THE69VETERANS@GMAIL.COM](mailto:THE69VETERANS@GMAIL.COM)

**Keep in mind, all contributions to the 69<sup>th</sup> Veterans are federally tax deductible.**



**Annual Membership Dues = \$20.00**

Annual dues of twenty (\$20) will be for all new and current members of the Corps. Send in your 2025 membership dues today!

Lifetime Membership is also available according to the following Lifetime Dues chart:

35 years of age or younger = \$500.00	51 to 64 years of age = \$300.00
36 to 50 years of age = \$400.00	Over 65 years of age = \$ 200.00

**Members will become eligible for Lifetime Membership after two (2) consecutive years of membership in the Corps.**



**Fitz's Memorial Corner:**  
**The69veterans@gmail.com**

*Submitted by the Bulletin Staff*



**TOM FITZSIMMONS**

**A recent letter from our dear friend and 69<sup>th</sup> Veteran...**

February 8, 2025

To the Veterans Corps of the 69<sup>th</sup> Regiment,

Usually you would see me at the Armory or coming to the meetings late.

Serving in the Military, we are familiar with obeying orders, from our Commanders. Well, it is the same when you serve the Church.

My Cardinal, Timothy Dolan, gave me orders to work in St. Louis with a group of priests and Brothers.

I want you to know I miss Makin Dinners, Dining Out Ceremonies, gathering at the cemetery praying for our fallen comrades, marching in St. Patrick's Day Parade and the fellowship we shared in the club.

I may have moved, yet you are always carried in my heart and prayer, along with our fallen comrades.

"Lord, hold our soldiers in your loving hands. Protect them as they protect us. Bless them and their families for the selfless acts they perform for us and the Veterans for the great work they are still doing and bless and help our sick members."

Garryowen and Glory  
God Bless,  
Your Chaplain Major Samuel Taylor.  
*Chaplain Major Samuel Taylor*



**SERVICE OFFICER'S SICK REPORT:**

- **Eddie Dunn**
- **Jorge Vasquez**
- **Billy Hall**
- **Lenny Scoria**

**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: [THE69VETERANS@GMAIL.COM](mailto:THE69VETERANS@GMAIL.COM)



**March 17<sup>th</sup>, 2025 (Monday) – Mass & Parade Information:**

➤ **07:30 - St. Patrick's Cathedral Mass:**

- Veteran Corps members wishing to attend mass must report to the corner of **East 50<sup>th</sup> Street and 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue no later than 07:30.** After mass, the regiment will regroup and proceed to the parade gathering location.



➤ **10:30 Parade – Report to Location:**



- ❖ Veteran Corps members planning on marching in the parade must report to **East 43<sup>th</sup> Street and 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue no later than 10:30; we generally join the parade at 11:00.**

**GENERAL COMPORTMENT / DRESS CODE:**

**IMPORTANT - Requirements for Participation – Strictly Enforced:**

- Only members of the Veteran Corps are permitted to march with the Veteran Corps.
- **Dress Code:**

***We represent all members of the Veteran Corps and should be dressed accordingly. Any member not dressed appropriately will be excused from marching.*** Veteran Corps members are encouraged to wear their VC cap.

**Business casual is required (shirt, slacks, shoes)**

- NO t-shirts
- NO jeans
- NO sneakers
- NO baseball caps



***VC Post Parade Gathering Reception –***

***Wolfe Tone's Pub -  
37 E 29th St, New York, NY 10016  
(between Park Ave & Madison Ave)***



# “THE FIGHTING SIXTY NINTH”

## “BLAST FROM THE PAST”

Please submit your old photos:

[The69veterans@gmail.com](mailto:The69veterans@gmail.com) or  
JM Gundy, PO Box 401, Fanwood, NJ 07023

### BLAST FROM THE PAST - FIGHTING SIXTY- NINTH (NTC 1998)



BN MEMBERS



ALPHA COMPANY OF THE FIGHTING SIXTY-NINTH



### THE “SECOND BATTLE” OF FREDERICKSBURG 2012





# VETERAN BUDDY CHECK

**Connections are important – take a moment – pick up the phone and check in on a Veteran Buddy!**



**Keep our VC Traditions!**

**Looking forward to seeing many 69<sup>th</sup> Vets on the marching line for the St. Patrick's Parade and at the Wolfe Tone's Pub for reception!**

