

General John T. Digilio, Jr. '62

Brigadier General John T. Digilio, Jr., grew up in Bay Shore, graduating from Bay Shore High School in 1962. He earned BA and MBA degrees.

He was commissioned a Second Lieutenant in 1967 from LaSalle University's artillery ROTC program; entered active duty in 1969 serving as executive officer, US Army Hospital, Sierra Army Depot, CA. In 1970, he was transferred to the 95th Evacuation Hospital, China Beach, DaNang, Republic of Viet Nam. After returning from Viet Nam, he joined the New York Army National Guard. He held numerous command positions including Commander, 244th Medical Group, a Contingency Force Pool unit under the 44th Medical Brigade (Airborne), XVIII Airborne Corps (Fort Bragg, NC). In 1984 and 1992 he led troops of his command to participate in military exercises in the Federal Republic of Germany. In July 1997, Digilio lead a team of military and civilian experts to Montevideo, Uruguay to train that country's senior civilian and military personnel. He retired as a Brigadier General in 1999. In his 32 years of military service, he held command and leadership positions 50% of his service time.

General Digilio is a graduate of the U.S. Army War College, the Command and General Staff College, and the National Defense University. He has been awarded over 24 decorations and distinctions, including the Legion of Merit, Bronze Star Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, four Army Commendation Medals, Meritorious Unit Citation, Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry with Palm, the New York Army National Guard Conspicuous Service Medal, Conspicuous Service Cross, and Conspicuous Service Star.

He is the first member of the New York Army National Guard to be inducted into the Order of Military Medical Merit, U.S. Army Medical Department; and the first recipient of the Colonel Gouverneur Morris Citizen Soldier Award presented by the State of New York. In 1997, he received the prestigious Joel T. Boone Award from the Association of Military Surgeons of the United States. He is listed in *Who's Who in America* and was inducted into the New York State Senate Veterans Hall of Fame.

His Honorific Recognitions include:

Hereditary Baron of the Apostolic Palace, Holy See, Rome

Grand Cross of the Papal Order of Saint Gregory the Great, Holy See, Rome

Grand Cross of the *Ordo Supremus Militaris Templi Hierosolymitani*, Europe

Grand Cross, Royal Confraternity of Sao Teotonio, Portugal

Grand Commander of the Order of Merit, Sovereign Military Order of the Temple of Jerusalem, United States

Benemerenti Medal, awarded by Pope Francis, Rome

Grand Master Companionate of Honor – Silver, *Ordo Supremus Militaris Templi Hierosolymitani*

Grand Master Companionship of Honor – Bronze, *Ordo Supremus Militaris Templi Hierosolymitani*

He serves as the *Segretario Generale* of the Universal Archconfraternity of Papal of Knights, Dames, and Esquires; the appointed president of the Cardinal Angelo Sodano Holy Land Foundation; international Secretary General of the *Ordo Supremus Militaris Templi Hierosolymitani*, (OSMTH), the OSMTH United Nations Chief Administrative Officer in New York, Geneva, and Vienna; and the Deputy Chief of Mission to the United Nations in New York.

In addition to his military career, General Digilio spent over forty years in leadership roles in the health care field in governmental, proprietary, and nonprofit facilities and in their respective organizations.

He was the national commander of *La Société des Quarante Hommes et Huit Chevaux* (Forty and Eight) in 2003; a member of: the National Security Commission of the American Legion; the faculty of the American Legion College in the Department of New York. He is a trustee and past commander, Bay Shore American Legion Post #365, a life member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, the AMVETS, Military Order of the Cooties; Life Associate Member of the Marine Corps League, and the Disabled American Veterans. He is the chairman of the Veterans Service Organization for the Town of Islip, NY; a member of the Congressman's Veterans Advisory Board; NY State Senator's Veterans Advisory Board; and the Suffolk County Executive's Veterans Advisory Board. He is a member of the national board of the State Funeral for World War II Veterans.

General Digilio is married to the former Dianne E. Pilgrim, of Delhi, NY. They reside in Bay Shore, NY, and have three adult children and two granddaughters. In the civilian sector Digilio is the president of the Royal Air Group and president of International Integrated Logistics Systems, Inc.

His numerous community activities include Past Chairman, Board of Directors, Long Island Chapter, Arthritis Foundation; Trustee, Children's Leukemia Research Association; and past vice president of the Bay Shore Lions Club.