



## Grand Marshal Brigadier General John Thomas Digilio

Brigadier General Digilio grew up in Bay Shore, graduating from Bay Shore High School in 1962. He has earned BA and MBA degrees. He was commissioned a Second Lieutenant in 1967 from LaSalle University's artillery ROTC program. He entered active duty in 1969. In 1970, he was transferred to the 95th Evacuation Hospital, 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, 244<sup>th</sup> Medical Group, a Contingency Force Pool unit under the 44th Medical Brigade (Airborne), XVIII Airborne Corps (Fort Bragg, NC). 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 was retired as a Brigadier General in 1999. In his 32 years of military service, he held command positions approximately 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*, inducted in the New York State Senate Veterans Hall of Fame, and the Bay Shore High School Hall of Fame.

In 2016, General Digilio was awarded Papal Knighthood as Grand Cross in the Order of St Gregory the Great; and in 2017, he was granted the hereditary Title of Nobility as Baron of the Apostolic Palace. In 2019, he received the *Benemerenti* Medal. His honorific recognitions are: Knight Grand Cross, Papal Equestrian Order of St. Gregory the Great

Knight Grand Cross, *Ordo Supremus Militaris Templi Hierosolymitani* (Sovereign Military Order of the Temple of Jerusalem.) Knight Grand Cross, Order Valiant of St. George, Knight Grand Cross, Order of the Star of Ethiopia,

Grand Cross, *Real Confraria de São Teotónio* (Royal Confraternity of St. Teotonio), Portugal.

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; and 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, the Disabled American Veterans; and life associate member of the Marine Corps League.

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.