



**Minutes of Meeting of April 1, 2023
Bailey's Bar and Grille, Townsend, MA**

View Our Chapter Website at www.screamingeaglesne.org

Attending: Present were: President Bob Morrissey, Treasurer Kevin Farrell, and John Mastro (all three via Zoom connection), SAA William Blankenburg, Former President Tom McGall, Honorary Member LTC Gregory d'Arbonne, members Ed O'Reilly, and Don Miller, George LeBlanc and Guest Brenda Fitzgerald, and WebAdmin/Zoom facilitator Cathie Clark.

The only member reporting on the sick call list was VP Tony Payne.

The meeting was called to order at 1:20 PM.

President Bob thanked everyone for coming.

Minutes of the January meeting were read by Blink. Motion made to accept with small edits. Motion seconded and passed.

Old Business:

Greg d'Arbonne was asked to report on the SMAJ graveside ceremony last weekend.

He started by thanking both Bob Morrissey and Kevin Farrell for travelling long distance to be there. It was greatly appreciated. The family of Bob Delia was very appreciative. His sister who is 88 years old and his sister-in-law who is 98 attended via the Zoom call and enjoyed it. (Note: Our next article for *The Screaming Eagle* goes into detail about the gravesite ceremony and a pre-production FINAL draft of it is posted on our MEMBERS ONLY webpage.)

Bob Hodges, who had been SMAJ's driver in the late 1970s when he was Sergeant Major at Fort Devens, came up from Arkansas to fulfill his last driving duty, that of conveying SMAJ's ashes to the cemetery. David McCallister and Ralph Metivier, who served with SMAJ in Vietnam, folded the flag over the SMAJ's grave. They handed it to Bill Blankenberg, then Bill presented it to Terry Delia, the one child of SMAJ who was in attendance. The next day, Bob Hodges brought the urn back because they could not put SMAJ in the ground on Sunday because the DPW didn't want to pay overtime. So, it finally was put in the ground, Bob Hodges placed a SMAJ coin and a P38 on the box, and Ralph, Dave, and Greg folded another flag from SMAJ's house that had his name on it (suspected retiree flag) and folded it over the grave. They saluted one more time and left. The next day Greg delivered the flag to the Fort Devens Museum, where it will be displayed with the SMAJ's other paraphernalia.

Greg went back to the grave on Wednesday to check it out and found the sod had been replaced perfectly. The last remaining task is to have the date of death engraved on the headstone. He

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thanked everybody who came, saying “It meant a lot to me that so many people came but it meant a lot more to Bob’s sister, sister-in-law, and his nephews and nieces who were on the Zoom seeing so many people who remembered him in this way, so they thanked all of us.”

President Bob reported that he sent an email when he got home to everyone. He thought the service was outstanding and thanked Greg for all his hard work, which we know – and he agreed – was in accordance with The Ranger Creed.

Website Report: Cathie states that the website home page has been updated with the details from Greg and a couple of photos: one of the cemetery gravestone and the other his official military portraits from decades ago. She has many photos to sort out along with a video portion of the singing of the Army Song. At the time of her report, the funeral home obituary was not yet published but she will add it soon. Greg asked if anyone wanted a copy of the gravesite program and Cathie stated that she had it and has posted a document link to it on the website.

National Membership: Bob states he is in top of applications to National. Greg sent his several months ago, but hasn’t had a response, presumably because things are moving slow. He is not losing out on the hard copy of the Magazine because he is receiving SMAJ’s mail. Bob will follow up. As for Matt Callahan and his application to National, Blink said he gave Matt a copy of the Magazine and invited him to be here today to sort out whatever issues arose from his application, but he could not. Blink will call him again.

New Business:

Next Meeting: Saturday, May 6 at Bailey’s at noon. President Bob is working until 1:00 that day, so he will be attending either by speakerphone or Zoom, calling the meeting to order at 1:30. This will be our last meeting for the Summer. We will resume meetings in September.

Week of the Eagles 2023: May 19-25 is Week of the Eagles at Fort Campbell KY. Blink was planning to go, but most of the Division is deployed and so he decided not to this year. If anyone is interested, they still will have all the displays and usual events.

Annual Cookout: The date is Sunday, July 23, rain or Shine at Blink’s house in Townsend MA at 12 noon. He invites donations of Raffle prizes. If there is a specialty beverage you like, bring that. Bob will send out an email. Logo apparel is at Blink’s house now – in gong through SMAJ’s house, there are some that he would have been happy to donate. Apparently, the suppliers of this merchandise attended the Memorial Luncheon. Greg shared that if anyone wants 2003 calendars, SMAJ’s house is full of them. Everyone chuckled at that.

Help Needed from the Prez? Bob asked if anyone needed help with anything from him. Nobody spoke up.

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Zoom: In use for this meeting, but limited to 30-minute session. Cathie is doing her best for us, but she uses it rarely and the system changes every time she enters it, so the learning curve never ends. Greg uses it all the time for his business and is paying for a reasonable plan -- Bob wants to talk about this.

Member Updates:

Fort Campbell Helicopter Tragedy: Greg wanted us to know that one of his friends was a helicopter pilot in the 101st and he contacted him after the horrible accident the other day. His friend is now a flight instructor at Fort Ruckert, and he knew all of those who were killed – they were in the next door company to him -- he said they were doing a test flight that evening. Somehow the two helicopters crashed into each other. It was a night operation flight. Horrible!

Blink will be driving in May down south and will visit President Bob Morrissey in SC. The welcome mat will be out!

Treasurer's Report was given, motion made to accept, motion passed.

Snowbird: Tom McGall asked about how it was at Snowbird. Bob and Blink attended, had a good time. Imbided a little. Bob has a couple of pictures he will send to Cathie. Cocktail glasses in-hand will be cropped out for reasons of decorum.

Motion made to adjourn at 1:52 p.m.

Airborne All The Way

Respectfully Submitted;

Robert Morrissey
President