



**Minutes of Meeting of April 5, 2025  
Bailey's Bar and Grille, Townsend, MA**

**View Our Chapter Website at [www.screamingeaglesne.org](http://www.screamingeaglesne.org)**

**Attending:** Present: President Bob Morrissey, SAA William "Blink" Blankenburg, George LeBlanc and Associate Member Brenda Fitzgerald and their friend H.P. Marshall, Greg d'Arbonne, Ed O'Reilly, Tom McGall, John Mastro,, Matt Callahan, Robert Botschafter and his guests (grandson) Nick Fayad , and recording clerk/Zoom Administrator Cathie Clark.

**Sick Call:** We enjoyed a successful Zoom connection, but our VP Tony Payne was unable to attend online for some unknown reason. And Bill Frowein, our member from the 82<sup>nd</sup> who attended last month, is reportedly down with a cold.

The Meeting was called to order at 1:30 p.m. preceded by an invocation from Brenda Fitzgerald and followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. The last Meeting Minutes were from March. A paper copy of the DRAFT was circulated to those present to read. Bob elaborated on selected sections and the draft was accepted unanimously as read with no corrections.

**Treasurer's Report:** Our Treasurer was not present, excused due to a scheduling conflict. Bob reported that Kevin says all member dues have been paid.

**Old Business:**

**Lifetime Membership:** At the last meeting, it was voted to re-open Lifetime Membership until April 15. Bob instructed those still wishing to convert to Lifetime status and have already paid, to merely send a check for \$81 before tax day.

**Snowbird:** Bob reported in detail his personal experience – good and not-so. Attending with him from the New England Chapter were John Mastro and wife, Fran, Blink and wife Diane. He spoke at length about the 17-year-old Florida State ROTC cadet (at right) Ortiz-Perez who sat at the table with a very mild voice – until she was giving LOUD commands to the Honor Guard like a true drill sergeant. Last thing we heard is that there WILL be Snowbird next year!



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**National Reunion:** Orlando in August – no one is excited about that (TOO HOT!!!). Next year's event in Nashville should be more enthusiastically attended by SENE.

**Week of the Eagle:** Because the Division is deployed, the date was changed from the 17th-23<sup>rd</sup> of May to the 9<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> of June. We can't have it without them!

**Hamburger Hill Reunion:** It is again being held at the same time as the start of the battle, this year on May 12 and it is incorporated with that of the National Rakkasan Association.

**Annual Cookout:** Saturday, July 19th, 2025, 12 noon, 1200 hours, Fort Devens at the Clear Path Veterans Facility. Member Matt Callahan is our intermediary for our use of the facility and he updated us on the status of our request to use it. His boss, retired lieutenant colonel Gary Soldato, served in the 101<sup>st</sup> and is very enthused about our being there. He put the word out to everyone he knows, because there's a few other people that work there that are 101st, and he's trying to make it a little bigger. He was talking about music, but our guys can't hear each other when there's music. He even floated the idea of getting the Guard to bring an aircraft out, but you need a 60-day notice for that, and the fields are going to be in use by that time, between soccer and lacrosse or whatever. But Matt's waiting for Gary to give him an update. At the very least, there's a chance Clear Path will either supply some food, or all of it.

We are still allowed to bring our own food and Bob has made it clear he wants to do the grill duty even though Clear Path has a chef, and people who can work. It turns out the day we're having our cookout is the only Saturday the Museum is open. It's only open once a month on Saturday, the 19th. So we could have a tour to ourselves. There's a pretty good exhibit from the SMAJ, our deceased member Bob Delia, in there also — his uniform and some other stuff. He donated a whole lot of stuff to the museum, especially his very impressive dress blues.

Our customary raffles should be allowed, as are alcoholic beverages, but we need to keep a lid on that. Gary is trying to show his appreciation and making it more of a special event for us. There will be more details revealed at our May meeting.

Also, Randy Underhill from the National Chapter, has told us that he wants to come to the cookout. He's waiting on finding out from his wife what her vacation plans are to go up to Niagara Falls. Right now, we believe he's on the bandwagon, and he's going to come. His lengthy resume was passed around for review. Wow.

**250th UNITED STATES ARMY BIRTHDAY OBSERVANCE CEREMONY:** Saturday June 14<sup>th</sup> 6:15-9:00 p.m. Greg d'Arbonne is the AUSA Co-Chair for the Boston area and reported that the plan to hold the event at Gillette did not work out due to the low numbers. The West Point Association wants to do something the same night, and it was suggested we join

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forces with them at the Wayside Inn in Sudbury, which is a good place. Please put the date on your calendars – Greg will be following up with us in May to see who wants to attend and where the event will be held.

**New Business:**

**T-Shirts.** Bob reported he has in stock XL and L and a couple of Mediums. They are \$18. If you need new ones, email him NOW, not the night before the Cookout. He may not have time to order more before then.

**AUSA Membership.** Greg reported that if anyone is interested, lifetime membership for the Association of the United States Army is \$250, as opposed to the regular \$480. The reduced price reflects the Army's \$250 a person. This is a limited time offer until the 5<sup>th</sup> of October.

**Award Medals.** Greg reported that, after several years' discussion, the Expert Infantryman's Badge and the Combat Infantry Badge are differentiable starting on March 27 by the CIB's gold wreath instead of the EIB's silver wreath. Similarly, the Combat Medical Badge will have a gold wreath around the stretcher. The Expert Soldier Badge (with a hand grenade on it) will have a gold wreath instead of silver. All are now authorized for wear and available at the PX (or wherever you get yours).

Our next meeting is on Saturday, May 10 at Bailey's, with lunch at noon.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 1:57.

Airborne All The Way!"

Respectfully submitted,  
SAA William Blankenburg