



101st Airborne Division Association

**Minutes of Meeting of June 12, 2021
The 401 Tavern, Hampton NH**

View Our Chapter Website at www.screamingeaglesne.org

Attending: President Tom McGall, Treasurer Kevin Farrell, VP Tony Payne, Ed O'Reilly, Bill "Blink" Blankenburg, SGM Bob Delia, John Mastro, Butch York, Doug Barnum (and his new Bride, Penny), and Webmaster/Meeting Recorder Cathie Clark.

The meeting was called to order at 1335 hours. No flag being present, a prayer was offered by Tony Payne. Minutes of the March 2020 meeting were read and accepted. The Treasurer's Report was also read and accepted.

President McGall acknowledged that this was our first meeting in 15 months and thanked those present for their support in attending. He also thanked Blink Blankenburg for his contributions to the Chapter — more to be revealed on this later.

Tom advised the group of a contact we had received from the widow of a former member, Linda Bussiere of Rindge, NH whose husband had passed away in February, and asked Cathie to fill in everyone on the contact. Cathie monitors the screamingeaglesne@comcast.net email account for us daily. Mrs. Bussiere reached out in frustration because she had promised her husband, Mark, to fulfill his last wishes to have a flag ceremony at Cathedral of the Pines. The funeral home was most unhelpful and basically claimed they don't coordinate military honors for the deceased. Cathie's calls for help were promptly responded to by Blink and Bob Morrissey with advice to push back on the funeral home because they can — and should — offer such help. With such advice, Mrs. Bussiere reported back to us that the situation had been reversed and that she herself had secured the Cathedral's commitment to host her and her family on August 28, 2021 at 10 a.m. and that an Honor Guard had indeed been arranged for a flag ceremony. She is very happy and is looking forward to meeting us on that date and time.

Blink suggested that we should have what we fondly refer to as a "Blankenburg" plaque prepared for the event, to be presented to Mrs. Bussiere by President McGall and possibly Cathie. This idea was unanimously approved.

A discussion ensued about our email account, how Cathie came to manage it after departure of the originator of the email account, and she voiced her lack of confidence in handling matters of this type. We assured her she did a great job, but she put out a request that anyone with Comcast capability consider relieving her of the responsibility. Nobody came forward at this time, so it was resolved that she will continue with the added support from John Mastro in proofreading and general guidance going forward. Our password-protected Members-Only page was also questioned. Do we still need it? Is it a pain for the members? At present, the password has not changed since 2017. Blink opined that password-protection

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does insure our internal communications do not fall into enemy hands, and he would vote to keep it. Butch York also added that the NH non-profit he serves, TASC, also uses password protection to differentiate public information from members-only. A question was raised about if the password could be made simpler, so Cathie explained the logic behind the letters and characters combinations that are “best-practice” and that seemed to satisfy the question. Resolution is that the password will soon be changing and new wallet-friendly Membership Cards carrying it will be distributed.

Blink brought up the subject of our Annual Cookout. We were unable to have one last year, and he likes hosting as he has been doing in his spanking-clean garage. However, he cannot accommodate us until late-August or early-September, so discussion ensued about conflicting events, among them the Bussiere ceremony, Labor Day, and the Airborne Reunion. No date was decided upon, but we will continue to explore options and announce later what we can work out. We have lost our grillmaster, Bob Morrissey to South Carolina, but we really CAN improvise. The cookouts are always such FUN.

There being no other business matters, President Tom announced that he had a presentation to make — and asked a very surprised and camera-shy Cathie to stand up. Another beautiful Blankenburg plaque was in store for her, with the inscription:

“For her ongoing hard work and dedication helping chapter members and their families and honoring those who served our country in both peace and war. Cathie is always there when we need her. Our sincere thanks. With love and respect, Your Airborne Brothers and Sisters.”



Pictures were taken — that might never see the light of day, since our publisher is the modest lady herself having a bad hair day. Cathie did gratefully acknowledge our appreciation, but insisted it is her humble honor to provide whatever she is capable of doing for us and she is amazed at the trust and confidence we have shown in her in the past.

With that, the meeting adjourned at 1420 and we were invited to linger downstairs at the bar, with adult beverages compliments of President Tom.

Airborne all the Way!

Respectfully submitted,
Tom McGall, President