



**Minutes of Meeting of March 1, 2025
Bailey's Bar and Grille, Townsend, MA**

View Our Chapter Website at www.screamingeaglesne.org

Attending: Present: President Bob Morrissey (via Zoom), SAA William Blankenburg, George LeBlanc and guest Brenda Fitzgerald, Greg d'Arbonne, Ed O'Reilly, Tom McGall, Treasurer Kevin Farrell, members Bill Farrell, Matt Callahan, Don Miller and guest Linda Magee, guest from the 82nd Bill Frowein, and recording clerk/Zoom Administrator Cathie Clark.

Sick Call: Thanks to our successful Zoom connection, our two sick guys VP Tony Payne and John Mastro were able to attend online. No one has heard from the also-ailing Ranger Rob Botschafter.

The Meeting was called to order at 1:32 p.m., followed by a prayer from pinch-hitter Chaplain from the 82nd, Don Miller and the Pledge of Allegiance. We successfully connected to Zoom. The last Meeting Minutes were from November and January. A paper copy of the DRAFTs were circulated to those present to read.

Treasurer's Report: Kevin reported our bank and CD balances and that our 2024 tax return has been filed, and also our annual Business Registration with the Commonwealth of Massachusetts's Secretary of State has been renewed. A motion was made to accept his report, and was seconded and passed.

Old Business

Membership: Treasurer Kevin Farrell reported that all members have paid for their yearly dues. President Bob brought up the topic of Lifetime Membership, discussed at the last meeting. There are now between 6 and 8 members who may wish to take advantage of that option. He made a motion to open up the Lifetime Membership option, which was seconded and passed.

Snowbird: By all reports, it went pretty well although there was some unhappiness about meal events that previously were included were now carrying a charge due to increased costs of everything from eggs to steak. In fact, the Thursday Outback-provided meal was cancelled entirely due to communications snafus and the coincident Valentine's Day staffing shortages. This year was supposed to be the last Snowbird, but it was voted to do it again in 2026. Hopefully next time prices/charges will be back to normal levels. In the end, hospitality was good, a lot of good people showed up, and all had a good time. There were plenty of snacks and prizes to go around.



At right are pictures from the Banquet. The young lady in uniform is 17-year-old ROTC Cadet Ortiz-Perez, a Freshman at Florida State. She is the child of Cuban refugees, born in Cuba herself. Blink told those present about being so impressed with her focus and comportment. He joked that she "had more ribbons and decorations than General



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Petraeus” – both from Special Forces and Ranger – but he wasn’t joking about her being a fantastic young woman with a promising future.

Bob announced what we did from the Chapter for the Snowbird people and Eddie Passant, who breaks his butt doing this thing every year, and he hasn't really had much in the way of help until last year and this year. So we gave him a Certificate of Appreciation from this Chapter, and when Bob returned home, he did another one, and mailed it down there to Eddie to give to the Florida Gulf Coast Chapter, for doing the great job that they're doing, putting up with everybody. Everyone was happy to hear that.

Also...Bob ~~raised-announced~~ another idea of expressing our gratitude suggested by Blink: to Randal “Randy” Underhill from the National Chapter, who has done a ton for us in the last couple of years. Bob and Blink have been discussing creating a plaque for Randy. We have all the information to get it done, except what it's going to cost, but they thought that maybe the Chapter should pay for this too, because what he's done has benefited everybody in this Chapter. In the last couple of years, we've had some people that got to go to the Army game, and they'll probably come up again next year, but you have to be a member of the National and us to get in. There was no vote taken on this yet, so please keep it in mind for our next meeting. Word has it that Randy may be attending our Cookout, so it would be a nice thing to do then.

New Business:

National Reunion: Orlando in August. Plans had been all set up, but the owner of the hotel (an 82nd guy!) decided he needed more money, so details are being worked out still. Randy Underhill will get back to us on that.

Week of the Eagle: Because the Division is deployed, the date was changed from the 17th-23rd of May to the 9th-15th 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. Our favorite survivor, past-President Tom McGall told us that attendance has dropped significantly over the past few years. Last year's event was attended by only 27 survivors, with only 3 of them from his outfit, Delta Company, which suffered the largest number of casualties in the battle, and since then has lost many survivors due to illness.

Annual Cookout: Now confirmed for Saturday, July 19th, 2025, 12 noon, 1200 hours, Fort Devens at the Clear Path Veterans Facility. Member Matt Callahan works there and tells us that Clear Path for Veterans is a big brick facility in the Garrison area, next to where the old Post Headquarters was. It has a full dining room and a nice big full kitchen. There's a small patio outside, so if we have some weather, we'll be fine. Bathrooms are inside. We should have a little place to ourselves. A tour of the museum downstairs can be had. As far as food preparation and bringing food, it should go the way we have done before. If we need something from them, we can work it out ahead of time. They do have a few unofficial policies. The facility is available to us at no charge. Matt Callahan is our point guy for the facility. Bob made a motion to donate \$101 to Clear Path, which was seconded and passed. Note: People coming from out of town, there's two hotels on Fort Devens: Spring Hill Suites and The Hamptons are both pretty good. They've got restaurants right here too. Don Miller

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knows a local Veteran who we might like to invite also: 101-year-old Joe Landry. He went in on D-Day and spent the whole entire war over in Europe. In fact, he just was a guest of the Belgians over for their last anniversary a few months ago. And while he was there, he stayed with the 101st Corps of War as a guest of them. Blink and Matt have known him for years. He ran a business in Shirley MA. Don was authorized to invite Joe.

250th UNITED STATES ARMY BIRTHDAY OBSERVANCE CEREMONY: Saturday June 14th 6:15-9:00 p.m. at Gillette Stadium: Greg d'Arbonne is the AUSA Co-Chair for the Boston area. He is in fund-raising mode and spoke at length about his efforts and how it would be good if the 101st sponsored a table for 10. Price for that is set at \$1,000 (\$100 per seat). All agreed that is pretty steep but Greg is predicting that some of the large corporate sponsors may donate a number of seats they can't use. He will know as the event grows closer and will let us know by email. He does know that General Perkins (4-Star, RET) will be guest speaker, and he is really interesting! Please put the date on your calendars – Greg will be following up with us in May to see who wants to attend.

George LeBlanc stated he wants to donate \$200 to our Chapter, in appreciation of treatment he has received.

Our next meeting is on Saturday, April 5 at Bailey's, with lunch at noon.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:11.

Airborne All The Way!"

Respectfully submitted,
SAA William Blankenburg

P.S. After the meeting, Bill Frowein asked to be put on our emailing list. RiggerBill82@gmail.com.