



101st Airborne Division Association

**Minutes of Meeting of October 5, 2024  
Bailey's Bar and Grille, Townsend, MA**

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

**Attending:** Nine (9) members and guests were present: President Bob Morrissey, SAA William Blankenburg, Tom McGall, Tony Payne, John Mastro, Don Miller and guest Linda Magee, George LeBlanc and guest Brenda Fitzgerald, Greg d'Arbonne, Rob Botschafter and spouse Marla, guest Michelle Fayad, and recording clerk/Zoom Administrator Cathie Clark. Note: Our use of the Waldorf Room was usurped in favor of a bereavement gathering, so we were seated in the main Dining Room and Zoom could not be used under the arrangement.

Minutes of the April 6 meeting were circulated before the meeting and all had ample time to read them.

The meeting was called to order at 12:00 pm.  
Lunch had not been served.



President Bob reported on our recent new member Mr. Richard Hamilton, up in Vermont:

“A New Hampshire recruiter who belongs to the same VFW post as Greg got a hold of him, had a request from a gentleman who wanted to become a member of the 101st Paratroopers as an honorary member. We can do that right away for us, but had to talk to National about it. I did, and right away Randy Underhill, our Executive Secretary, jumped right on it. He prepared a Proclamation, he wrote a Letter from the President, and it all was sent to Greg so he could take it up there. Blink went, Donnie went, Linda went, and I suggested that maybe it would be a good idea for Blink to pin the wings on him because he's a master parachutist, he was on the Airborne and the Pathfinder committee. And I just hoped I wasn't stepping on Greg's toes with that one. He said, no problem. That goes hand-in-hand with what's on his shirt right there. So that was done, it turned out real well.

Now we have another one. His name is Taylor Larrimore -- originally born in Boston, Mass. He's a life member of this chapter, and lives in Miami, Florida. He's going to be 101 in January. He fought at the Bulge with the second 502nd. Blink had an idea that we acknowledge this gentleman too in honor of him. So Blink had a plaque made, it's sitting right over there -- please have a look at it and pass it around. We tried to set it up so that we could go to Taylor's when we went to Snowbird, and could have his family bring him up there. But he's not in that good of health that he can make it because he's on oxygen. If he doesn't take his oxygen all night, they told him he won't wake up in the morning. I've talked to him several times on the phone. He found us visiting a friend of his in the New Hampshire Soldier Home over 14 years ago.

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So he decided he wanted to be a member, so I made him a member. All World War II vets are lifetime members for free. That's how we worked it out. But he sent money anyway. So I told him not to do that anymore. But now he can barely talk because he's got GERD in his throat. And he's got one of those trach microphone. And his family, they say he's not strong enough to go over to Tampa. So when I go home, I'm going to make arrangements to go down to Miami and present him with this trophy, this plaque.

To me, this is the honor of a lifetime to do this. My dad fought in World War II, as did a lot of other people around here. What they saw and what they came home and did when they were done is why we have what we have. And I hope we can keep on having it. That's for another day.”

**Sick Call.** George LeBlanc had a little operation, he's been recovering pretty well. Ed O'Reilly, is another one. He lost his footing on his stairs and fell down and ended up with 24 stitches in the side of his face. Blink talks to him, he went over to see him. Bob has also talked to him on the phone. He's in real good spirits, but he's just not healthy enough yet to come here. For those of you who have never talked to Ed and listened to his Irish brogue, he's a great guy.

He's a plethora of knowledge on military history, U.S. history, everything. He's a naturalized U.S. citizen. He served in the U.S. Army. He was 506th and 173rd Airborne. He was a medic in Vietnam. He came here to the U.S. in the early 1960s, but we're not quite sure. He's a good member of the Chapter and in his late 70s. We're lucky to have him.

When Ed gets home, we're going to send him something from the Chapter. Just like everyone else that goes and gets sick and falls down and gets hurt, or whatever the deal is, they get something. He's in a rehab facility in Shrewsbury near his home right now. And he's hoping to eventually get moved to one of the apartment buildings that has an elevator and get a first floor room. Because he can't climb the stairs anymore the way he is. And he thanked everybody for all the stuff, all the prayers and wishes that he got from us. He's doing okay. They haven't sent him home yet, but they'll probably send him a home health care nurse, I would hope.

Kevin, our Secretary/Treasurer, he is in Israel, Tel Aviv, Egypt, and Turkey from now until the end of November with his wife. So if anybody wants to say a prayer for him. He's on Facebook, too. And also, for those of you who know him, Kevin Richardson is spending most of his time in bed because his back is so screwed up. Kevin was president of this Chapter when I joined, back in the 80s. And he spent time with the 101st in Vietnam, the 82nd, and then when he came back, he went to the 10th group at Devins. So he's seen his share and his back is all screwed up. He's another great guy.

From when I joined, there's only three of us original members left: Bob, him, and Dave Josselin, who had VFW training today.

The cookout was a real good time, a real success. We had new shirts made and sold some at the cookout. Blink has the shirts at his house. They're just like these in black and maroon. They cost more to get, so we had to charge a little bit more to get them. And we also have hats, some from Eagle Crest Coins. Blink was kind enough to hold up his hat, so we could see what they look like. They're \$10 apiece. Bob had 11 of them and all of them were sold on the spot.

In Kevin's absence, Bob made our financial report. We are in good shape. Outgoing money for September was \$15 to the Secretary of State of Mass for our non-profit status with them. And \$123.57 went to the hats. And the other order of business is we need to pay Cathie again and renew her contract for 2024-2025. It's \$700 for the year, and it's a bargain for what she does. A motion was made and seconded. All were in favor.

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Copies of the book “A Time to Honor – Vietnam War 50<sup>th</sup> Commemoration” were distributed to all who wanted one, courtesy of Blink. Those are beautiful books.

The meeting adjourned at 12:59 and lunch began being served.

Airborne All The Way!”

Respectfully submitted,  
SAA William Blankenburg