



101st Airborne Division Association

**Minutes of Meeting of September 18, 2021  
Bailey's Bar & Grille, Townsend MA**

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

**Attending:** President Tom McGall, Bill "Blink" Blankenburg, CSM Bob Delia, George LeBlanc (and his guest Brenda Fitzgerald), John Mastro, Kevin Richardson, and Webmaster/Meeting Recorder Cathie Clark.

The meeting was called to order at 1310 by Tom McGall.

The Minutes of the August 7 meeting were read and accepted. There was no Treasurer's Report due to the unavoidable absence of our Treasurer.

**RIP Sheldon Royal.** A dear friend of the Chapter and fellow patriot, Sheldon Royal passed away on August 27 and we have been carrying a Memoriam statement on [our website's home page](#), written by member Blink Blankenburg who knew him well. Royal is the proprietor of the [Hunter's Rendezvous](#) in Pepperell MA and there was a memorial ceremony held, in which senior member SGM Bob Delia participated. Latest word is that Sheldon's family plans to keep the business going, which was good news to the local gun owners and sportsmen. He is, and will be, sorely missed.

**Road Trip!**

Tom and Elaine McGall embarked on one of their bucket list's items: a Cross-Country trip. They left NH on July 17 and their route took them through 35 states, putting 9,500 miles on Tom's new Dodge truck. They took time for tourist attractions like Buffalo Bill's house, Custer's Last Stand but arrived on the west coast disappointed in the air quality in several states due to smoke from the CA wildfires. In California, they did find and drive upon the Screaming Eagle Highway, Route 101. This was the precursor and inspiration for our own efforts in NH (see our home page for the story).

Along the route, Tom visited and/or stayed with old comrades, some doing well and others not so much. In telling us these stories, he was somewhat overcome by emotion. We understood.

Tom was delighted to acknowledge the presence of Kevin Richardson, who he served with in Vietnam and hadn't seen in decades. We were honored to have him join us, especially considering his 2-1/2 hour drive from western MA. He shared with us that he had married a Vietnamese girl, revisited the country, adopted a niece of his wife from there who has been very successful in her life in the U.S. and of whom he is very proud.

**Cathedral of the Pines** – Bussiere ceremony. As reported previously, on August 28 a representation of members consisting of Tom McGall and Elaine, Blink Blankenburg, CSM Bob Delia, Kevin Farrell, and

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Ed O'Reilly attended a flag presentation ceremony for former member Mark Bussiere at Cathedral of the Pines in Rindge NH. We did a presentation of our own plaque to the widow Linda. She was extremely moved by the "beautiful plaque" and our attendance. In her words: "I'd like to tell you how wonderful the Chapter was at the Cathedral. What a great group of men!" It was an extreme comfort to her that we were there. She is suffering not only from her loss but also the unanswered questions about her husband's experience. She vows to keep searching for more details on how he was physically injured and traumatized. He, like many veterans, didn't want to talk about it but maintained he didn't deserve his medals.

The meeting adjourned at 1415 hours.

Wishing All and their Loved ones the Best of Health.

Airborne All The Way

Respectfully submitted,  
Tom McGall, Chapter President