



101st Airborne Division Association

**Minutes of Meeting of January 4, 2020  
Bailey's Bar & Grille, Townsend MA**

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

**Attending:** Treasurer Bob Morrissey, VP Tony Payne, Doug "PT" Barnum, John Mastro, Ed O'Reilly, Bill "Blink" Blankenburg, Rob Botschafter, Denny Drewry, George LeBlanc, new members Kevin and Bill Farrell, and Webmaster/Meeting Recorder Cathie Clark. We also welcomed guests Don Miller and wife, and friends of members Bill Towson, and Matt Callahan.

The meeting was called to order by Treasurer Morrissey (in President Tom McGall's absence) at 1305 hours in the function room area. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited and an original composition prayer was read by Tony Payne.

We postponed our official business meeting agenda to honor our special guest, Brigadier General (Ret.) Paul "Greg" Smith, Director of Veterans' Affairs, Massachusetts National Guard. Read his bio here: <https://www.nationalguard.mil/portals/31/Features/ngbgomo/bio/2/2221.html>. General Smith was introduced by Treasurer Morrissey who turned it over to Blink Blankenburg for additional information about how he met the General and how he came to join us today.

General Smith began his talk by asking if there were any NCOs present and several hands went up. He proceeded to acknowledge the value of NCOs to him in his many years of service, which started in 1979. He continued to describe just two of his many experiences: (1) as a linguistics instructor teaching peacekeeping skills in the Republic of Paraguay under the State Partnership Program, and (2) Commander, Joint Task Force - Massachusetts, during the Boston Marathon Bombings.

General Smith is an excellent public speaker: polished, engaging, and organized, relating his experiences in a most personal way without use of any notes. Many of today's attendees came especially to hear him speak and were riveted by his recollections. The takeaways from his talk were the value of solid training in handling of unforeseen emergencies and the integrity and trust that are generated by the wearing on your uniform of the American flag. If you ever get a chance to see General Smith speak, we highly recommend that you do so!

We thanked General Smith profusely for spending the time with us, and a President's Certificate of Appreciation and a New England Chapter t-shirt were presented by Treasurer Morrissey.

At 1415 hours, business matters commenced as the Minutes of the December 7 meeting were read and accepted.

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**New England Chapter**

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**February Meeting:** The next meeting was proposed to be held the second Saturday of February at Bailey's. A vote was taken, and it passed. So we will see you-all on February 8. The question was raised about meeting at the 401 in Hampton NH so our furthestmost NH and Maine members can join us for new year business discussions. We will ask President McGall to inquire of the new owners if our May 2 meeting could be held there.

The meeting was adjourned at 1430 hours. See you on February 8 at Bailey's!

Airborne all the Way!

Respectfully submitted,  
Bob Morrissey, Treasurer