

EAGLE CEREMONY

JOHN A. FLESHER

DECEMBER 12, 2010

Call To Order And Welcome

Committee Chair Terri Szabo

This Eagle Scout Court of Honor is now called to order. Good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen. My name is Terri Szabo, and as committee chair of Troop 175, it is my privilege to welcome you to this Eagle Scout Court of Honor for John Flesher.

At this time I would like to call forward Nolan Larsick, our Senior Patrol Leader for the presentation of the Colors. Would everyone please stand.

(Audience stands. Nolan to podium)

Presentation Of Colors

Senior Patrol Leader Troop 175 Nolan Larsick

Scouts, Atten-SHUN

Color Guard, present the colors! Scout Salute !

(Wait for the flags to be brought up front)

Please now join me in saying the Pledge of Allegiance

I Pledge Allegiance to the flag
Of the United States of America
And to the republic for which it stands,
One nation, under God, indivisible,
With liberty and justice for all.

Color Guard, Post the Colors !

(wait for them to do so)

Two !

Please remain standing.

Would all Scouts and Scouters present please raise your hand in the Scout Sign and join me in saying the Scout Oath, followed by the Scout Law.

On my honor, I will do my best:
To do my duty to God and my country,
And to obey the Scout Law;
To help other people at all times;
To keep myself
Physically Strong, mentally awake and morally straight

A Scout is Trustworthy, Loyal, Helpful, Friendly, Courteous, Kind, Obedient, Cheerful, Thrifty, Brave, Clean, Reverent

Two.

Please be seated.

(Nolan may be seated)

Recognition of Special Guests

Committee Chair Terri Szabo

At this time, we would like to recognize all the Eagle Scouts here with us today. Will all the Eagles in the audience please stand?

(Wait for them to do so and lead applause.)

Thank you. Please be seated.

We would also like to recognize our special guests with us here today. (IF ANY)

At this time, will the Eagle Escort please escort John up to the front and face the audience.

(John steps up to center stage in front of Eagle statue)

Now, Committee Member _____ will help us understand the Scout Law better.

John Wayne Explains the Scout Law

Committee Member

John Wayne, the famous actor and a great American, passed away many years ago. One of his last public appearances was at a dinner. The purpose of the dinner was to benefit a land purchase for a Scout Reservation called The John Wayne Outpost Camp.

At this dinner, Wayne recited the Scout Law as we did just a few minutes ago. Then he did something unusual. He said the twelve points of the Scout Law are "nice words". "Trouble is" he continued, "We learn them so young we sometimes don't get all the understanding that goes with them. I take care of that in my family. As each boy reaches Scout age, I make sure he learns the Scout Law. Then I break it down for him, with a few things I've picked up in more than half a century since I learned it."

Then Wayne proceeded to explain the importance of the Scout Law, breaking it down for the guests at the dinner, much like he would have for his grandson.

A Scout is trustworthy. The badge of honesty. Having it lets you look back any man straight in the eye. Lacking it, he won't look back. Keep it at the top of your list.

A Scout is loyal. The very word is life itself, for without loyalty, we have no love of person or country.

A Scout is helpful. Part sharing, part caring. By helping each other, we help ourselves, not to mention mankind. Be always full of help- the dying man's last word.

A Scout is friendly. Brotherhood is part of that word. You can take it in a lot of directions- but make sure and start it with brotherhood.

A Scout is courteous. Allow each person his human dignity, which means a lot more than saying "Yes ma'am" and "Thank you, sir." It reflects an attitude that later in life you "wish you honored more...earlier in life." Save yourself that problem. Do it now.

A Scout is kind. This one word would stop wars and erase hatreds. But it is like your bicycle. It's just no good unless you get out and use it.

A Scout is obedient. Start at home, practice it on your family, enlarge it to your friends, share it with humanity.

A Scout is cheerful. Anyone can put on a happy face when the going is good. The secret is to wear it as a mask for your problems. It might surprise you how many others do the same thing.

A Scout is thrifty. Means a lot more than putting pennies away and it's the opposite of cheap. Common sense covers it just about as well as anything.

A Scout is brave. You don't have to fight to be brave. Millions of good, fine, decent folks show more bravery than heavyweight champs just by getting out of bed every morning, going out to do a good day's work, and living the best life they know how against a lot of odds. Brave. Keep the word handy everyday of your life.

A Scout is clean. Soap and water help a lot on the outside. But it's the inside that counts, and don't you ever forget it.

A Scout is reverent. Believe in anything you want to believe in, but keep God at the top of it. With Him, life can be a beautiful experience. Without Him, you're just biding time.

Up next is _____ to tell us about the Eagle in history.

The Eagle in History

Committee Member

The use of the eagle to represent Scouting's best is very appropriate. The eagle is, of course, our national bird, adorning our coins, several state flags and the Great Seal of the United States.

But the symbolism of the eagle goes back much farther in time. In fact, the eagle has symbolized humankind's best since the dawn of recorded history.

The eagle has long been a symbol of good triumphing over evil. The ancient Greeks depicted the eagle holding a serpent in its claws, much as the American eagle holds arrows and an olive branch. So too the Eagle Scout battles evil in the world with the good in himself.

Armies from ancient Rome to nineteenth-century Europe have marched under eagle standards. Sioux warriors adorned their war bonnets with eagle feathers. In the twentieth-century, an army of Eagle Scouts, more than a million strong, has gone out to build a better world for themselves and their fellow men.

Many cultures, watching the eagle fly toward the sun, have associated the bird with their sun gods. To the Assyrians, for example, the eagle represented the sun god Ashur; and

in early Christianity, the eagle represented the ascension of Christ into heaven. Today the Eagle Scout continues to fly high, his gaze always fixed on his goals.

For countless centuries, the eagle has represented victory and valor, grace and beauty. The Eagle Scout represents those things as well as the values embodied in the Scout Oath and Law.

The eagle is a rare creature. When you see one flying, you can't help but stop and watch its graceful, exuberant soaring. The Eagle Scout is a rare creature too. Just watch him fly.

Next, _____ will tell us about the Requirements of an Eagle Scout.

The Requirements of an Eagle Scout

Committee Member _____

We are here today to honor a young man as he becomes an Eagle Scout. As we do, it's important to reflect on what it means to be an Eagle Scout.

The 1938 *Handbook for Scoutmasters* put it this way:

The badges which accompany his advancement and which the Scout wears on his uniform are **not** to show that he has "passed certain tests." There should be no past tense

implied. On the contrary, each badge cries out “ I can, right now, and here!”

So what can the Eagle Scout do? Lets tak a look at some of the things he has done in preparing to be an Eagle Scout.

In terms of badges, he has earned the Scout badge, and the ranks of Tenderfoot, Second Class, First Class, Star, Life and finally Eagle. Along the way, he earned 12 required merit badges and nine elective merit badges, served in troop leadership positions for a total of 16 months, and spent at least 12 hours on service projects, not including the many hours he spent on his Eagle Scout service project. In all, he has completed approximately 325 different requirements.

So what have these requirements taught him? Who **is** the Eagle Scout?

First and foremost, of course, he is an outdoorsman. He knows how to camp, swim, hike, use woods tools, build a fire and find his way with a map and compass. He's spent at least 20 days and nights camping out in a tent he pitched on a site he selected. Many of those times he planned his own menu and cooked his own food.

The Eagle Scout is comfortable with nature. He can identify local animals and plants, including poisonous plants. He understands the causes of water, land and air pollution. He's spent eight hours studying a 10 acre plot of land and reported what he saw.

He embodies the Scout motto, “Be Prepared”. He knows how to treat fractures, head injuries, hypothermia, convulsions, frostbite, knows what to do for fires, explosions, desert emergencies, motor vehicle accidents, mountain accidents, food poisoning, gas leaks, earthquakes, floods, tornados, hurricanes, atomic emergencies and avalanches.

The Eagle Scout is a good citizen. He’s been to a city council meeting and knows how the city government is organized. He’s studied the city budget. He knows who his U.S. Senators and Representative are and has written a letter to one of them. He’s read the Declaration of Independence and the U. S. Constitution.

He knows how to manage his money and understands the benefits of putting his money in savings bonds, mutual funds or common stock. He can find foreign-currency exchange rates in the newspaper.

He’s a good family member. He knows what things are important to the members of his family and has talked to his family about finances, drug abuse and growing up. He’s done a safety inspection of his home and reviewed his family’s escape plans.

All of these things he did in order to earn the merit badges required for Eagle. Beyond those he earned nine elective merit badges , which introduced him to such subjects as

So what **is** an Eagle Scout? Well, to quote that old Handbook for Scoutmasters again, he is a young man “who is qualified to help others as well as take care of himself”. His badge is not a “decoration, but rather a symbol of knowledge and ability.”

_____ will now take us along John's trail to Eagle.

The Eagle Trail

Committee Member _____

So today we gather here to mark the end of a long journey, a journey up the trail to Eagle.

_____ years ago, John joined our troop.

As a new scout, his first task was to learn about Scouting's ideals: the Oath and Law, the motto and slogan. By pledging to live by those guidelines, he became a full-fledged Scout and earned the Scout badge.

(John stands behind the Scout rank card).

His new badge did not stay on his uniform long, however. He quickly worked through the Tenderfoot requirements, memorizing the Oath and Law, going on his first campout, and learning basic first aid skills. He was now a Tenderfoot Scout.

(John stands behind the Tenderfoot rank card).

As he continued to be active in the troop, he learned about nature and orienteering and knot-tying. He participated in a service project and in a program on the dangers of alcohol, drugs, and tobacco. Doing these things and more earned him the Second Class Badge

(John stands behind the 2nd class rank card).

Soon, a year has passed. He had been on _____ campouts and many hikes. He had mastered all the basic skills of Scouting. On _____, he became a First Class Scout.

(John stands behind the 1st class rank card).

At this point, he paused for a well-deserved rest. The path ahead was less clear than the path he had been following. Now he had to make some choices: what merit badges to earn, what troop office to hold, where to spend his service hours. With hard work and persistence, though, he made the decisions, completed the requirements, and earned the Star rank

(John stands behind the Star rank card)

The next rank seemed no harder than Star. But he had already done most of the easy merit badges; now he had to earn badges like: _____ He worked hard as a troop leader, completed more service hours, and became a Life Scout – one step away from Eagle

(John stands behind the Life rank card).

The going got pretty tough now. He could no longer put off those really hard badges. And now he not only had to participate in a service project, but he had to plan and lead such a project. Now, finally, his Eagle project done, his merit badges earned, he stands poised at the pinnacle of Scouting.

(John steps onto the stage and stands besides the Eagle sign).

Troop 175 Advancement Chair Meme Robinson will now review Chris' Eagle Scout Rank requirements.

Review of Eagle Rank Criteria

Meme Robinson, Advancement Chair

The awarding of the Eagle Badge is an important and serious occasion, the climax and the goal for which a Scout works for many years. It is an occasion for pride and joy, and a time for serious contemplation. It is the culmination of the efforts of the various leaders of this Troop. The Eagle Award is the highest and most coveted rank in Scouting; the last major step in the advancement program. Less than 1 out of 50 scouts (or 2%) in the United States reach the rank of Eagle. At this point, we trust you have achieved our purpose in building of character, training of leadership, and the practice of service.

To become an Eagle Scout, a scout must earn a minimum of 21 merit badges including 12 of which are required. He must serve actively in a troop leadership position for a period of six months after achieving the rank of Life Scout. While a Life Scout, he must plan, develop, and carry out a service project helpful to a religious institution, school, or community in a manner worth of a Eagle Scout. He must demonstrate, through the testimony of character references and otherwise, that he lives by the principles of the Scout Oath and Law in his daily life. Finally, he must appear before a Board of Review.

Chris has been an active member of Troop 175 for _____ years. He has earned a total of _____ merit badges and has served as Senior Patrol Leader,_____. He is also a_____ member of the Order of Arrow.

John's Eagle project was creating a fire circle here at Dover Congregational Church.

As Advancement Chair of Troop 175, it is my pleasure to report that after a thorough review of his qualifications, John Flesher has qualified for the rank of Eagle Scout and is entitled to receive the Eagle Scout Award.

We would like to ask Eagle Scout _____ to come forward for the Eagle Charge.

The Eagle Charge

John, I have the honor of giving you the Eagle Scout Charge on this occasion of your elevation to the highest rank in Scouting.

Congratulations! You've made it. You've climbed the Eagle mountain. I applaud your achievement.

But now it's time to look toward the future, toward those other mountains out on the horizon.

How are you going to climb them? The same way you climbed the Eagle mountain. Just remember the things you learned on your way to Eagle, and you will be able to climb any mountain, to overcome any obstacle.

Do you remember when you first looked up at the Eagle mountain? How high it seemed back then. But you took that first step along the trail and began climbing. One step at a time, you followed the trail blazed by others. Then, when that path faded away, you blazed your own trail, a trail that others are now following.

And finally, always keeping your eye on the goal, you reached the top.

You have many mountains waiting to be climbed. Some may seem insurmountable, but they can all be conquered. Just set your goal, take that first step, follow the blazed trail until it's time to blaze your own, and always keep your eye on the goal.

Good luck and good climbing!

I would like to ask John's Scoutmaster, Greg Coghlan to come forward for the Eagle Scout Oath.

The Eagle Scout Oath

Scoutmaster Greg Coghlan

Will all the Eagle Scouts present please join us on stage for the Eagle Scout Oath.

Chris, would you and your fellow Eagles please give the Scout Sign and repeat the Eagle Scout Oath after me:

I reaffirm my allegiance
To the three promises of the Scout Oath
 I thoughtfully recognize
 And take upon myself
The obligations and responsibilities
 Of an Eagle Scout.
 On my honor I will do my best
To make my training and example,
 My rank and my influence
Count strongly for better Scouting
 And for better citizenship
 In my Troop,
 In my community,
And in my contacts with other people,
 To this I pledge my sacred honor.

Two !

Our fellow Eagles may be seated.

The Presentation of the Eagle Scout Award

Greg Coghlan, Scoutmaster

Will the Eagle Escort bring the parents of the Eagle candidate forward.

John, by the authority vested in me by the National Court of Honor of the Boy Scouts of America, it is my privilege to pronounce you an Eagle Scout,, and it is with distinct honor and pleasure that I present you with the Eagle Scout Award, which I will ask your mother to pin over your heart.

I now ask your father to present you with the Eagle Scout Certificate signed by the Chief Scout Executive and the President of the United States.

No one will ever know the unnumbered acts of self-sacrifice and helpfulness from John's mother which have helped lead us to this day. As a symbol of what his mother helped make possible, the court now asks John to present his mother with a miniature Eagle pin.

John, your father has stood by you over the years and has offered his encouragement and assistance. As a symbol of what he has contributed to your attainment of this award, the court now asks you to present him with a miniature Eagle pin.

I now present to you Eagle Scout John Flesher

(Lead applause)

Presentation of Plaque, Neckerchief, and Gift

Troop 175 Scoutmaster Greg Coghlan

John, on behalf of the Scouts, adult leaders, and other Eagle Scouts of Troop 175, I now present you with our Troop's Eagle Scout Honor Roll Plaque. This, along with our original plaques, contain the names of all the Eagle Scouts from our Troop. I should note that John is the 37th Eagle in our Troop's 33 year existence. Unfortunately, you don't get to keep this plaque – it will be prominently displayed in the back of our meeting hall at the VFW.

(He presents him with the plaque and shakes his hand)

However, we felt bad about presenting you with a plaque that you can't keep. So, the Troop has arranged for something that you can keep, and wear as part of your uniform.

(Present him with the Eagle Neckerchief)

The Troop has also purchased a small gift for you.....

(Present him with other gift)

May I congratulate you, John, and remind you that Scouting should now become an even greater tie between son and parents, binding you even more closely together as a family. To you Eagle Scout John, I express the confidence that you will honor Scouting with your life and service, as today Scouting honors you.

I now ask our Eagle Escort to convey John's parents back to their seat.

Letters Of Congratulations

Committee Member _____

As has been stated before, earning the Eagle Award is an honor and a privilege not all obtain. Others, outside our troop understand this.

(If any are present)

Some of our honored guests here today have some presentations they would like to make.

Guests come forward and read their letters, presenting them to John

John has also received letters from other people who could not join us today. At this time, I would like to ask a few members from the Troop Committee to come forward and read some of them.

They choose a few interesting, short ones and read them.

In addition to these, the other letters we have received will be on display during the Reception after the Ceremony.

Committee members reading letters:

Scoutmaster's Remarks

Greg Coghlan, Scoutmaster

BLAH, BLAH, BLAH

I now present to you Eagle Scout John Flesher, who has a few words to say.

The Eagle's Remarks

Eagle Scout, John Flesher

Gives a short speech thanking all who helped him get to this stage, or anything else he wishes to say.

Also presents Mentor's pin(s)

Committe Member _____

will now read a poem titled "The Eagle Scout."

The Eagle Scout

The Scouts gave you a challenge, and
You've met it faithfully, my friend.
But it's quite hard to understand
Just all it will mean in the end.

An Eagle Scout, you've reached the top,
Or have you only just begun?
I'm betting that you will not stop
With so much glory to be won.

For life holds out a challenge too,
A mountain high for you to scale,
And with the training Scouts gave you,
There's really no such word as "fail".

And so as you press on ahead,
You'll find it's made much work like play,
And as the tasks before you spread,
They'll find you ready, so I'll say.

Congratulation, Eagle Scout,
The world before you now is spread.
Scouts taught you much what life's about,
Prepared you well for what's ahead.

Closing

Committee Chair Terri Szabo

Thank you all for coming today to share in the celebration of John's Scouting achievements. After the ceremony is over, I invite you to attend, on behalf of John and his parents, a reception in the fellowship hall.

I now declare this Eagle Scout Court of Honor adjourned. Please remain standing for the retiring of the Colors.

Senior Patrol Leader –Nolan Larsick
Color Guard, front and center !

(Wait for them to assemble)

Scouts, Atten-SHUN! Color Guard, retire the Colors! Scout Salute!

(The flags are removed from the flag holders and taken to the back)

TWO!