

Eagle Scout Court of Honor

For

William M. Konko

Sunday June 14, 1998 2:00 pm

Washington Avenue Christian Church

301 Washington Ave.

Elyria, Ohio

AGENDA

Opening

Flag procession & Pledge of Allegiance

Invocation

The Eagle Trail

Confirmation of Candidacy

Presentation of Eagle Scout Award

Letters of Congratulation

Eagle Scout Charge

Address by new Eagle

Closing

Flag Procession

Benediction

Reception

Eagle Scout Court of Honor

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Adult Participants

MC of Court of Honor Greg Coghlan

CHAPLAIN

CHARGE Administrator

NARRATOR

COMMITTEEMAN

Scout Participants

TROOP EAGLE:

Eagle Honor Guard.....

Senior Patrol LeaderGreg Manke

American Flag.....

Troop Flag.....

Scout Candle

Tenderfoot Candle

Second Class Candle.....

First Class Candle

Star Candle.....

Life Candle.....

Eagle Candle

Opening Ceremony

Chairman and Narrator enter and take their place

The honor guard escorts the candidate, then his parents to their seats>

SPL: Please rise for the presentation of our country's colors... Color guard, present the colors! Scout salute!

The color guard processes to the front.

Color guard, post the colors.

Color Guard places the flags in the holders, then steps back.

Please join me in the Pledge of Allegiance. I Pledge Allegiance... To!

Color guard, retreat!

Color guard takes its seat

Please be seated.

SPL: Welcome to Troop 175's Eagle Court of Honor for Will Konko. At this time I would like to introduce CHAIRMAN, chairman of this Court of Honor."

CHAIRMAN Thank you, SPL. I now call upon CHAPLAIN who will lead us in our invocation."

CHAPLAIN: *Gives his own invocation.*

CHAIRMAN: Before opening this Eagle Court of Honor, I have been asked to recognize a few groups of people. Would all the past and present Troop adult leaders, committee members, and members of the board of review please stand at this time? *Pause while they stand.*

We would like to take this time to thank you all for your time and efforts you have all given this troop and its Scouts. We appreciate your sense of commitment to

these young men and all that you have done to make them and this Troop a success. Please except our thanks!

Lead applause. You may be seated.

CHAIRMAN: I would now ask that all Eagle Scouts please stand at this time?

Pause for them to stand. Before us stands an elite group of men. As you may have noticed when I requested they stand, I did not say current and former Eagle Scouts. This is because there is no such thing as a former Eagle. Once you become an Eagle you are one the rest of your life! You become a part of a very special fraternity. One that is as old as scouting itself Let us honor this special group with a round of applause!"

Leads applause. Congratulations to you and thank you! You may now be seated.

CHAIRMAN: I would now like to take this time to introduce to you the rest of the special guests here today. *Introduce other Scout leaders, VFW members, and any others.*

CHAIRMAN: With the power invested in me. by the Boy Scouts of America, I now declare, on this day, June 14th, 1998, this Eagle Court of Honor, for Troop 175, open!

Lights candle & Takes Seat

Narrator to the lectern.

The Eagle Trail

NARRATOR: Will Eagle candidate William M. Konko please come forward?

Candidate comes forward, stops at the bottom of first step, and faces candles.

NARRATOR: This is the voice of the Eagle, the Eagle whose heights you have struggled hard to reach. We remember well when you first came to the base of the cliff, and how you looked up with ambition and determination. Look back for a moment; look down the cliff you have climbed; look at the experiences you have encountered in your ascent. These experiences should not be forgotten. You should profit by making sure adverse experiences do not occur again. Experience is a valuable teacher, if you heed its teachings.

We remember when you took your first step upon the trail that leads upward. With that first step you began to grow physically, mentally, and morally. You started living the Scout Oath and Law. All the while you were on the trail, we watched you study and saw you learn by doing. First you were only a Scout. *Light Scout candle.*

Then, your brother Scouts, called you a Tenderfoot ... and they were right! You were indeed a Tenderfoot Scout! *Light Tenderfoot candle.*

Soon, you reached the first ledge and you were greeted by a large group of Second Class Scouts! *Light Second Class candle.*

Some, like you, were stopping to catch their breath before continuing along the trail. You began to study more, you worked harder, and almost before you knew it you came to another ledge the ledge where the First Class Scouts dwell. *Light First Class candle.*

There you found a tempting green meadow by a crystal-clear stream, bathed in the sun. Here you were tempted to remain. Yes, you could have remained there to live in First Class glory, but your ambition stirred you on. We remember your advancement to Star Scout. *Light Star candle.*

NARRATOR: The trail from First Class to Star rank was not as difficult as it had seemed. This spurred you on, and again you climbed farther. The trail was

steeper and less worn. Fewer Scouts seemed to be headed in your direction. You looked down and saw the crowds below you. You looked up and saw a few above you and, with that same determination with which you started your climb, you continued up the trail. Not long after, you earned the badge of Life rank. *Light Life candle.*

The heart badge was then placed upon your uniform. You will never forget your thoughts at that moment. This feeling has been experienced by all Scouts reaching the ledge of Life Scout: "Now I am close to the Eagle. I will carry on." The trail became tougher, but more interesting. The original principles, the Scout Oath and Law, now had a fuller meaning. Your understanding of them was greater.

Yes, we have watched your character unfold and become more manly. We have watched your leadership expand into a valuable asset. We have watched your mind develop and your wisdom increase. We have watched all these things in you and now that you are on the threshold of your goal we welcome you, for you have done your climbing in a true Scout-like manner."

"This is the voice of the Eagle!

Narrator takes his seat

Chairman returns to lectern, and Scouts take their seats.

Candidate to stage center and turns to face audience.

Confirmation of Candidacy

CHAIRMAN: The Awarding of the Eagle badge is a very important and serious occasion, the climax and the goal for which a Scout works many years, an occasion for pride and joy, at time for serious contemplation. It is the culmination of efforts of the various leaders of the Scout. The Eagle award is the highest and most coveted rank in Scouting; the last major step in the advancement program. Fewer than 2 percent of all Scouts in the United States reach the rank of Eagle. At this point, we trust you have achieved our purpose in the building of character, training of leadership, and the practice of service.

The requirements for the Eagle rank are as follows:

- a. Earn 21 merit badges including 12 which are required.
- b. Serve actively in a troop leadership position for a period of 6 months after becoming a Life Scout
- c. Plan, develop, and carry out a service project worthy of an Eagle Scout.
- d. Appear before a board of review of prominent persons and satisfy them that you have done your best to understand and live up to the Scout Oath and Law, and in all ways, qualify for the Eagle Scout Award.

Careful examination has been made by the court as to the qualifications of this applicant for the Eagle Scout Award. Would COMMITTEEMAN Troop Committee Representative, please come forward to hear the board's findings?

COMMITTEEMAN comes forward to stage.

CHAIRMAN: Proficiency in the various crafts and skills prescribed for Eagle rank has been checked, and the records of merit badges earned by the Scout have been approved and certified by the counselors appointed by the court. The Scout has qualified on the basis of merit badge achievement. Eagle candidate Will Konko has earned a total of ____ merit badges.

A project of worthy magnitude was undertaken and completed. The candidate submitted a detailed plan, recruited and supervised assistants, then presented an extensive report upon completion of the project.

The applicant has demonstrated his capacity and willingness to exert leadership ability in activities that are constructive and worthwhile in this community. The record has been checked in troop leadership, school affairs, and in other fields of work and service. He has demonstrated loyalty to God and country. We believe him qualified to receive the rank of Eagle Scout."

COMMITTEEMAN: Thank you for your report. On behalf of the troop committee, I accept your findings.

COMMITTEEMAN returns to seat.

CHAIRMAN takes seat

NARRATOR to the lectern

Voice of the Eagle, Part II

NARRATOR: This is the voice of the Eagle. I speak for the Eagle Scouts of this council. We challenge you to accept the responsibilities as well as the honor of the Eagle Award. These responsibilities are as follows: An Eagle Scout is to live with honor. His honor is sacred; it is the foundation of all character. An Eagle Scout will live so that he reflects credit upon his home, church, school, friends, and self. May the white of your badge remind you to live with honor.

An Eagle is to be loyal. "To thine own self be true, and it must follow, as the night the day, thou canst not then be false to any man." Neither pain nor profit, pride nor personal loss shall sway his loyalty. The blue on your badge is the emblem of loyalty.

An Eagle is to be courageous. Courage gives all character force and strength. With trust in God and Faith in his fellowman, he faces each day unafraid and seeks his share of the world's work to do. Let the red of your badge remind you of courage.

Finally, an Eagle Scout is service-oriented. Extend a helping hand to those who toil along the Scouting Trail you have completed, just as others aided you. The daily Good Turn must take on a new meaning and better the life pattern of service. Protect and defend the weak and helpless; comfort the unfortunate and oppressed. Uphold the rights of others as well as your own. Remember leadership is founded upon real service."

NARRATOR takes his seat

Chairman to the lectern

CHAIRMAN: In recognition of these obligations, I ask you to reaffirm the Scout Oath.

Candidate recites Scout Oath

Eagle Award Presentation

CHAIRMAN: Will the Eagle applicant escort his parents to the stage? *He does so.*

CHAIRMAN: By the authority vested in me by the National Court of Honor, Boy Scouts of America, it is my privilege and pleasure to pronounce you an Eagle Scout, with all the rights and privileges thereunto appertaining.

No words of this Court of Honor could do justice to the devotion and patient perseverance with which his Leaders and parents have helped this Eagle Scout toward worthy manhood. In recognition of this, it is very fitting that this young man receive his Eagle Scout Progress Award from the hand of his mother. I now ask the mother of our new Eagle to pin the Eagle Award on his chest. (*she does so*)

As a rich dividend of fatherly advice and guidance along the trail to the Eagle Rank, I will ask the father now to present his son with the Eagle Scout certificate from the National Council. (*he does so*)

No one will ever know the unnumbered acts of self-sacrifice and helpfulness from the mother of this Eagle Scout, which have led to this moment. As a symbol of what this mother has made possible, the court will now ask the Eagle Scout to present his mother with the miniature Eagle Scout lapel pin. (*he pins it on her lapel*)

As a thanks for the fatherly advice and guidance along the trail, the court will now ask the Eagle Scout to present his father with the Eagle Father's tie clasp. (*he gives it to his father*)

Chairman gives the new Eagle the Scout Handclasp, shakes hands of parents. Parents return to their seats.

May I congratulate you 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 Will Konko, I express the confidence that you will honor Scouting with your life and service, as today Scouting honors you.

CHAIRMAN: The time has come Eagle Scout Will Konko, for you to complete the trail you began years ago. Please come forward and light the Eagle candle.

Wait as candidate lights candle.

CHAIRMAN: Now I would ask Troop 175 Eagle Scout TROOP EAGLE to come forward for a special presentation.

TROOP EAGLE: On behalf of myself and all of the other Eagle Scouts of Troop 175, I wish to welcome you into this elite group. I now present you with our Troop's Eagle Scout Honor Roll Plaque, This contains the names of all the Eagle Scouts from our Troop. I should note that Will is the 21st Eagle in our Troop's 21 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 & shakes his hand.)*

Letters of Congratulations

CHAIRMAN: As has been stated before today, earning the Eagle Award is an honor and a privilege not all obtain. Others, outside our troop understand this. We would now like to convey their thoughts to Will, by reading some special letters received by them.

Troop Scouters come up to read Letters of Congratulation.

CHAIRMAN: Will has also received letters from other famous people. These and the ones just read will be on display during the Reception after the Ceremony.

Eagle Scout Charge

CHAIRMAN: I now ask **CHARGER** to come forward and give the Eagle Scout Charge.

CHARGER: I have the honor to give you the Eagle Charge on the occasion of your elevation to the highest rank in Scouting.

The Boy Scouts of all nations constitute one of the most wholesome and significant influences in the world's history. You have been counted worthy of this high rank in the Boy Scouts of America. All who know you rejoice in your achievement.

Your position, as you well know, is one of honor and responsibility. You are a marked man. As an Eagle Scout, you have assumed a solemn obligation to do your duty to God, to country, to your fellow Scouts, and to mankind in general. This is a great undertaking. As you live up to your obligations you bring honor to yourself and to your brother Scouts.

Your responsibility goes beyond your fellow Scouts; it extends to your country and your God. America has many good things to give you and your children after you; but these good things depend for the most part on the quality of her citizens. Our country has had a great past. You can help make the future still greater.

I charge you to undertake your citizenship with solemn dedication. Be a good leader, but lead only toward the best. Lift up every task you do and every office you hold to the high level of service to God and your fellow men. So live and serve that those who know you will be inspired to their finest living. We have too many use their strength and their brains to exploit others and to gain selfish ends. I charge you to be among those who dedicate their hearts and hands to the common good.

Build America on the solid foundations of clean living, honest work, unselfish citizenship, and reverence for God. Then whatever others may do, you will leave behind you a record of which you may be justly proud.

CHARGER returns to his seat.

Address by New Eagle

CHAIRMAN: I now present to you Eagle Scout Will Konko, who has a few words to say.

WILL: *Gives a short speech thanking all who helped him get to this stage. Or anything else he wishes to say.*

Closing

CHAIRMAN: Attainment of a worthy goal has been realized here today. One, that no matter how much is said about it, or how eloquently stated, cannot be properly justified with words. Years from now, when the medals and patches have been put away and everything seems to have changed, one thing, one very special thing will remain You will still be an Eagle Scout. I now declare this Eagle Court of Honor closed.

CHAIRMAN: Our Senior Patrol Leader, Greg Manke, will now lead us in the closing flag ceremony.

MANKE: Would everyone please rise for the retiring of the colors. Scouts, Attention!

Color Guard Front and center! *They take their places.*

Color Guard, retire the colors! Scout Salute! *They take the flags out of the hall.*

Two!

CHAIRMAN: I now call upon CHAPLAIN to adjourn this Eagle Court of Honor with a benediction.

CHAPLAIN: *Gives his own Benediction.*

CHAIRMAN: Please be seated. Will the honor guard please escort Will and his parents to the reception area?

On behalf of Troop 175 I would like to thank everyone who took the time to be with us today, especially: *List VIPs.*

I would also like to encourage everyone to join us for refreshments _____.