

# Eagle Scout Court of Honor

for

Robert A. Semmens

26 May, 1996 2:00pm

VFW Post 9871

N. Ridgeville, Ohio

## AGENDA

Opening

Flag procession & Pledge of Allegiance

Invocation

Candle-lighting ceremony

Confirmation of Candidacy

Eagle Scout Charge & Reply

*The Eagle Scout Trail*

Presentation of Eagle Scout Award

Letters of Congratulation

Address by new Eagle

Closing

Benediction

Flag Procession

Reception

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## **Adult Participants**

**MC** of Court of Honor ..... Greg Coghlan  
**CHAPLAIN** ..... Jack Uber  
**CHARGE Administrator** ..... Vince Farrell Sr.  
**ADVancement CHAIRman** ..... Jim White  
**Committee Chairman** ..... Martin Thompson  
**NARRATOR:** .....

## **Scout Participants**

**TROOP EAGLE:** .....  
**Eagle Honor Guard**.....

Senior **Patrol Leader** ..... Alex Wilson  
American Flag.....  
Troop Flag.....  
Scout Oath Candles.....  
Scout Law (1-6) Candles.....  
Scout Law (7-12) Candles.....  
Scout Candle .....  
Tenderfoot Candle ..... Tommy Habenicht  
Second Class Candle..... Rich Thompson  
First Class Candle .....  
Star Candle.....  
Life Candle.....  
Eagle Candle .....

## Opening Ceremony

MARTIN: On behalf of Boy Scout Troop 175 I welcome you here today to this Eagle Scout Court of Honor for Robert Semmens. I would now like to take this time to introduce to you the following special guests here today. *Introduce Troop leaders, past & present; other Scout leaders, VFW members, Troop Eagles, and any others.*

I would now ask Mr. Jack Uber from the VFW to give the invocation.

MR. UBER: *Gives his own invocation.*

MARTIN: I would like to call forward Senior Patrol Leader Alex Wilson to lead us in the presentation of the colors and the Pledge of Allegiance.

ALEX: Please rise for the presentation of the 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!

Please be seated.

MARTIN: I would now like to turn the program over to Greg Coghlan, our Scoutmaster and Chairman of this Court of Honor.

GREG: By the authority vested in me by the National Council, Heart of Ohio Council, and Great Frontier District, Boy Scouts of America, I declare this Eagle Scout Court of Honor for Robert Semmens now open and in session.

## Candle-Lighting Ceremony

GREG: To earn the higher progress awards in Scouting, a young man has to spend a great deal of time and effort. Therefore, the occasion which recognizes his accomplishments should be something special. Today, we shall follow a pattern which I am going to call "Lighting the Eagle Trail." *Lights are turned out except for a single candle in a holder.*

When a boy becomes a Scout there should be instilled within him something that we will call the Spirit of Scouting. This lighted candle represents that Spirit. Because the Spirit of Scouting embodies the fine principles of the Scout Oath and Law, it becomes a shining beacon of inspiration. Alone, this light may be feeble, but when multiplied by the more than three and a half million boys in Scouting, it can become very powerful indeed.

After a boy has entered Scouting, the Scout Law that he has promised to obey is put into effect as the occasion demands. And so, one by one, using the flame from this Spirit of Scouting, we light the symbols that stand for the parts of the Scout Law. There are twelve points - all important and meaningful. Each is an important foundation stone in the building of strong character. A Scout is trustworthy, . . . , reverent. *Candles are lit as each point is said by troop Scouts.*

In the three points of the Scout Oath, he promises upon his honor to do his best to do his duty, first, to God and his country (*light appropriate candle*); second, to other people, by helping them at all times (*light appropriate candle*); and third, to himself, by keeping himself physically strong, mentally awake and morally straight (*light last candle*). You see how the light from this Spirit of Scouting is now beginning to grow and become brighter.

Now, far away, loom the hazy outlines of the Eagle summit flanked by the lesser peaks that represent Star and Life. Yes, to the newcomer they're a long way ahead, but they'll come a lot closer as the light of the Spirit of Scouting continues to spread.

One begins by becoming a Scout, and so we light the Scout symbol that stands at the foot of the Eagle trail. *Light Scout candle.* Once inspired by the Spirit of Scouting, he won't stay a Scout long. By putting a few simple skills behind him, he very shortly climbs to tenderfoot. *Light Tenderfoot candle.* At that point the

trail becomes harder and he must prove himself a hiker and know how to take care of himself if he is injured. We'll now light the Second Class candle which proves he is a hiker. *Light Second Class candle.* And then, even though the requirements are a bit stiffer, he keeps climbing until finally along the trail he receives his First Class Award. Thus we light the milestone that represents the First Class Scout. *Light First Class candle.* But he must not stop here because beyond this first summit the trail to Eagle still leads on.

A broad field of merit badges awaits him. He needs six to advance above First Class. Probably a lot sooner than he thought possible, he finds himself standing on the Star ridge. Thus through leadership and achievement, he conquers the first of the three peaks along the Eagle Trail. *Light Star candle.*

The requirements for Life are almost identical to those for Star, but require more effort in the areas of merit badge skills, leadership and service. With just this little bit of extra work, the Scout finds himself standing ever closer to the peak. *Light Life candle.*

To advance the last step to the summit, the Scout must excel in all areas but most especially leadership. The service project he undertakes shows his ability to carry out plans for the good of his community by utilizing the talents of others. Once this is mastered, the Scout is ready to wear the Rank of Eagle Scout. *Light Eagle candle.*

*Lights are turned on. Candle-lighters sit down.*

**GREG:** I now ask the Eagle Honor Guard to escort Eagle Candidate Robert Semmens to the stage.

The Eagle Scout Progress Award we are presenting here today, represents accomplishments in Scouting skills - 21 merit badges including 12 specifically required ones; in teamwork as a member and leader of his troop or patrol; and in Scout Spirit represented by living the Scout Oath and Law.

The Eagle Scout Progress Award is achieved by only about one percent of all boys in Scouting in the United States. It represents ability to be of service to others in times of life saving emergencies.

It represents an understanding of community and nation, and a willingness on the part of the wearer to help others. It stands for a job started by a boy when he joins Scouting to a job finished. Not finished in that he is done in Scouting, but now prepared to return to Scouting what Scouting has given him.

The Eagle Scout Progress Award stands for strength of character. It is also a symbol of what a young man has done, but more importantly, it represents what the young man will be in the future as he grows to manhood.

### **Confirmation of Candidacy**

GREG: I would now like to call forward our Troop Advancement Chairman Jim White, who sat on Bob's Board of Review to present the technical requirements for the rank of Eagle Scout and verify Bob's completion thereof.

JIM: Not every boy, nor every Scout, can qualify for the high rank of Eagle because -

The physical requirements are strenuous as set forth in the required merit badges.

The mental standards are high and require much more than average perseverance.

An even more important requirement for the Eagle Progress Award is the personal character of the Scout as reflected in his right attitudes toward God and the ideals of Scouting. These are reflected in his cooperation and service to others in his church, in the home, school and his community. You must have a very high degree of spirit of cheerful service to others, which is one basis of good citizenship.

Our investigation reveals that Eagle Scout Candidate Robert Semmens has met these requirements for the personal character and good citizenship, in addition to the technical requirements.

## **Eagle Scout Charge**

GREG: Having ascertained that Bob is worthy of this high honor, we are about to proceed with the Eagle Scout Charge. Before we do, I would now ask all Eagle Scouts here today to come forward and join me in a semicircle behind the Candidate. *They do.*

I now ask Mr. Vince Farrell, long time area Scouter, to come forward and give the Eagle Scout Charge.

MR. FARRELL: Eagle Scout Candidate Robert Semmens, I charge you to enter this Eagle Scout brotherhood, holding without reservation ever before you the ideals of honor and service. By the repetition of the Eagle Scout Promise before your brother Scouts, you will become an Eagle Scout. Though the words you use may be similar to those by which you joined Scouting, today they will mean more to you than they could have meant at any time in the past. When you pledge your sacred honor, you will be sealing your eternal loyalty to the code of the Eagle Scout, with the words that closed the Declaration of Independence.

## **Eagle Scout Reply**

MR. FARRELL: To seal this loyalty to the Code of an Eagle Scout, I ask that you raise your right hand in the Scout Sign and repeat 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 the rank of Eagle Scout. - On my honor - I will do my best - to make my training and example - my rank and influence - count strongly - for better Scouting - and for better citizenship - in my troop - in my community - and in contacts with other people. - To this - I pledge my sacred honor.

May the oath you have taken remain graven on your heart always.

GREG: 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.

GREG: I now ask NARRATOR to come forward and read *The Eagle Scout Trail*.

NARRATOR:

*The Eagle Scout Trail*

The Eagle Scout, whose notable achievement  
We honor here tonight, has just completed  
A long, long Trail.

He started months ago as a Tenderfoot, the  
Gateway to the Trail, With Scout Good Turns  
And Slogan, "Be Prepared."

Then Second Class and First, with the outdoor life,  
The open roads with nights beneath the stars,  
And service to community and troop.  
Now pinnacles of Star and Life were scaled,  
On one hand learning skills and pioneering,  
While following the daily Scout ideals.  
Of service in the home, the church, the school -  
Not merely winning many merit badges,  
But living out the Scout Oath and Law.

And yet the Eagle Scout who stands before us  
Has not attained the summit. No, instead he's  
Really just embarking on a trail much greater -  
That of Scouting Leadership, and, with the  
Spirit of a true American, is ready to defend  
Our Way of Life.

## **Eagle Award Presentation**

GREG: Will the Eagle Honor Guard please escort the parents of our new Eagle forward.

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 Robert Semmens, I express the confidence that you will honor Scouting with your life and service, as today Scouting honors you.

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 Bob is the 16th Eagle in our Troop's 20 year existence. Unfortunately, you do not get to keep this plaque - it will be prominently displayed in the back of our meeting hall here at the VFW. *(He presents him with the plaque & shakes his hand.)*

GREG: I should note that Bob's name has not yet been added, since the Troop is still working on getting more slots made, due to the fact that the original has filled up.

GREG: I now ask the Eagle Honor Guard to escort the parents of our new Eagle back to their seats.

### **Letters of Congratulations**

GREG: I would now like to introduce the Mayor of North Ridgeville, Deanna Hill, who has a presentation to make.

GREG: Now, a few members of Troop 175's Adult Committee will read some of the letters we have received for Bob.

*Troop Scouters come up to read Letters of Congratulation.*

GREG: Bob has also received letters from other famous people. These and the ones just read will be on display after the Ceremony.

### **Address by New Eagle**

GREG: I now present to you Eagle Scout Robert Semmens, who has a few words to say.

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

## Closing

GREG: I now ask Mr. Uber to give the Benediction.

MR. UBER: *Gives his own Benediction.*

GREG: Our Senior Patrol Leader, Alex Wilson, will now lead us in the closing flag ceremony.

ALEX: Please stand. Color Guard Front and center! *They take their places.*

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

GREG: With the authority vested in me by the National Council of the Boy Scouts of America, I now declare this Eagle Court of Honor closed. Would the Eagle Honor Guard please escort Bob and his parents out.

Please join us for refreshments in the back of the hall.