

Eagle Scout Court of Honor

For

Micheal L. Tague

Sunday January 18, 2004 2:00 pm

VFW Post 9871

N. Ridgeville, Ohio

AGENDA

Opening

Flag procession

The Eagle Trail

The Requirements of an Eagle

Eagle Scout Charge

Presentation of Eagle Scout Award

Letters of Congratulation

Scoutmasters' Comments

Address by new Eagle

Closing

Flag Procession

Reception

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Adult Participants

MASTER OF CEREMONIES..... JoAnne Klinger
NARRATOR Bill Rundle
NARRATOR #2 John Volchko
CHARGE Administrator..... Jim White, III
SCOUTMASTER..... Greg Coghlan

Scout Participants

Senior Patrol Leader Justin Griffith
American Flag..... Jordan Akdogan
Troop Flag..... Sam Doll / Nick Corbin

Scout Rank Branden Heck
Tenderfoot Rank Sam Doll
Second Class Jordan Akdogan
First Class..... Cody Herman
Star Rank..... Kevin Devrient
Life Rank..... Nick Rundle

Eagle Honor Guard Randy Klinger
Eagle Honor Guard Mike Crow

Opening Ceremony

JOANNE Good afternoon. My name is JoAnne Klinger, and I'm pleased to serve as Master of Ceremonies as we honor Micheal L. Tague for attaining Scouting's highest rank, the Eagle Scout Award. This is a great moment worthy of celebration.

Before opening this Eagle Court of Honor, I would like to recognize some people. Would all the past and present Troop 175 adult leaders and committee members please stand at this time?

Pause while they stand.

This group of leaders guided Mike through his first years as a Boy Scout, up to the rank of Life. We would like to thank you for your time and efforts you have all given Mike and the other Scouts in our Troop.

Lead applause.

Thank You, you may be seated.

~~*Only do next part if any are there.*~~

~~If there are any Adult Leaders present from Troop 66 in Woolrich Pennsylvania, would you please stand at this time.~~

~~*Pause while they stand.*~~

~~We would also like to thank and recognize you for guiding Mike through the final stages of his Scouting career as a youth, during which time he finally earned his Eagle Scout rank. Thank you for the time you spend for Mike and the other Scouts of your Troop.~~

~~*Lead applause.*~~

~~Thank You, you may be seated.~~

JOANNE I would now ask that all Eagle Scouts please stand.

Wait 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.

JOANNE 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, Eagle Counselor, and any others.

JOANNE I would now ask Senior Patrol Leader Justin Griffith to come forward and lead us in our opening Ceremony.

JUSTIN Please rise for the presentation of our country's colors...

Wait for everyone to stand.

Color guard, present the colors! Scout salute!

Wait for them to get up 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 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.

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 Law.

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

JUSTIN Also please join me in the Scout Oath.

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.

Two! Color guard, retreat! Please be seated.

JOANNE By the power vested in me by the National Council of the Boy Scouts of America, I now declare this Eagle Court of Honor, for Micheal L. Tague open and in session!

The Eagle Trail

As the text is read, the Candidate walks from the back of the room to the stage, stopping at each rank. The Life Rank should be at the base of the stage, with the Eagle badge in the center of the stage.

JOANNE At this time, I would like to ask Bill Rundle, Mike's second Scoutmaster, to come forward and go through Mike's Trail to Eagle Scout.

BILL We are gathered here today to mark the end of a long journey, a journey up the Trail to Eagle.

Seven years ago, Mike joined Troop 175.

Mike moves to the end of the aisle leading up to the stage.

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. *Mike walks forward to the Scout Sign.*

His new badge didn't stay on his uniform long, however. He quickly worked through the Tenderfoot requirements, memorizing the Oath and Law, and learning about camping and basic first aid skills. He was now a Tenderfoot. *Mike walks forward to the Tenderfoot sign.*

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. *Mike walks forward to the Second Class sign.*

Soon, about a year and a half had passed since he first joined the Troop. He had been on at least 10 campouts, and many other activities. He had mastered all the basic skills of Scouting. On October 8th, 1998, he became a First Class Scout. And he truly was first class. *Mike walks forward to the First Class sign.*

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, and where to spend his service time. With hard work and persistence, though, he made the decisions, completed the requirements, and earned the Star Rank. *Mike walks forward to the Star sign.*

BILL

The next rank seemed no harder than Star. But he had already done the easy merit badges; now he had to earn badges like: Communications, Citizenship in the Community, and Canoeing. He worked hard as a Troop leader, completed more service hours, and became a Life Scout – one step away from Eagle. *Mike walks forward to the Life sign.*

The going got pretty rough 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 a project. For his project, Mike organized the remodeling of the Lock Haven Child Care center.

In addition to all of these challenges, Mike and his family had moved five hours away, and he was now a member of Troop 66 in Woolrich, Pennsylvania. He had to adjust to the new Scouts, Adult Leaders, and the operations of his new Troop.

But *finally* he persevered,; his project completed, his Merit Badges earned, he stands at the pinnacle of Scouting. *Mike walks forward to stand beside the Eagle sign.*

The Requirements of an Eagle

JOANNE But what exactly does it mean to be an Eagle? We've asked Scouter John Volchko to tell us.

JOHN We are here tonight 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 he 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? Let's take a look at some of the things he has done in preparing to be an Eagle Scout.

As we've heard, 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 9 elective Merit Badges, served in troop leadership positions for at least 16 months, and spent at least 13 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 the 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 a way with 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.

JOHN

He embodies the Scout motto, “Be Prepared.” He knows how to treat fractures, burns, hypothermia, and many other injuries that could occur while camping or doing other outdoor activities. He knows what to do for fires, explosions, motor vehicle accidents, and many other man-made accidents and natural disasters.

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

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

He’s a good family member. He knows what things are important to his family and talked with them about finances, drug abuse, and growing up. He’s done a safety inspection on his family’s home and reviewed his family’s escape plan.

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: fishing, canoeing, sailing, various crafts, electronics, and auto mechanics.

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.”

Eagle Scout Charge

JOANNE I now ask Jim White, one of our Troop's Eagle Scouts to come forward and give the Eagle Scout Charge.

JIM Before I begin, I would ask that all other Eagles present join us on the stage. *Wait for them to assemble behind the Candidate.*

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 a 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 who 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.

JIM

To seal your acceptance to the Code of an Eagle Scout, I ask that you and your fellow Eagles raise your right hands in the Scout Sign and repeat after me.

Say the following and pause after each line to allow the Eagle(s) to repeat it.

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.

Two! Your fellow Eagles may be seated.

Eagle Award Presentation

JOANNE It's now time for the highlight of our program: the presentation of the Eagle Scout award. I would ask Troop 175 Scoutmaster Greg Coghlan, Mike's first Scoutmaster, to come forward and make the appropriate presentations.

GREG Before we continue, I would ask our Eagle Honor Guard to escort Mike's parents to the stage. *Wait for him to do so.*

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 the Eagle Candidate 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)*

Scoutmaster gives the new Eagle the Scout Handclasp, shakes hands of parents.

Our Troop also has a special gift for you.

Presents gift to Mike and shakes his hand.

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

Letters of Congratulations

JOANNE As has been stated before, earning the Eagle Award is an honor and a privilege not all obtain. Others, outside our troop understand this. Some of our honored guests here today have some presentations they would like to make.

Guests come forward & read their letters, presenting them to Mike.

JOANNE Mike has also received letters from some other people who could not join us today, such as

Choose a few interesting ones on either read or just mention them.

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

Scoutmasters' Comments

JOANNE Our Scoutmaster, Greg Coghlan, now has a few comments about Mike's Scouting career.

GREG *Say something short, but meaningful.*

Also ask Bill Rundle for any comments.

We would now ask Eagle Scout Mike Tague to light the candle representing the Eagle Rank.

Address by New Eagle

JOANNE I now present to you Eagle Scout Mike Tague, who has a few words to say.

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

Closing

JOANNE 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.

Our Senior Patrol Leader, Justin Griffith, will now lead us in the closing flag ceremony.

JUSTIN Would everyone please rise for the retiring of the colors.

Wait for everyone to stand and the Color guard to line up in back.

Scouts, Attention!

Color Guard Front and center!

They take their places.

Color Guard, retire the colors! Scout Salute!

The color guard takes the flags to the back of the hall.

Two!

JOANNE On behalf of Troops 175 and 66 I would like to thank everyone who took the time to be with us today, especially our honored guests.

I would also like to encourage everyone to join us for refreshments in the back of the hall.