

Eagle Scout Court of Honor

for

David W. Thompson

23 June, 1996 2:00pm

Fields United Methodist Church

N. Ridgeville, Ohio

AGENDA

Opening

Flag procession & Pledge of Allegiance

Invocation

Candle-lighting ceremony

Confirmation of Candidacy

Eagle Scout Charge & Reply

Presentation of Eagle Scout Award

Letters of Congratulation

Address by new Eagle

Closing

Candle-extinguishing Ceremony

Benediction

Flag Procession

Reception

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Adult Participants

MC of Court of Honor Greg Coghlan
CHAPLAIN Rev. Lou Diehl
CHARGE Administrator Peter Thompson
ADVancement CHAIRman Jim White
Committee Chairman.....

Scout Participants

TROOP EAGLE: Matt Davis
Eagle Honor Guard.....

Senior Patrol Leader Jim White
American Flag..... Nick Hruska
Troop Flag..... BJ Schoch
Scout Candle BJ Schoch
Tenderfoot Candle Greg Manke
Second Class Candle..... Rich Thompson
First Class Candle
Star Candle.....
Life Candle.....
Scout Oath Candles..... Nate Heck
Scout Law (1-6) Candles..... Greg Manke
Scout Law (7-12) Candles..... Pat Tracey

Opening Ceremony

CC: On behalf of Boy Scout Troop 175 I welcome you here today to this Eagle Scout Court of Honor for David Thompson. 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 Rev. Lou Diehl from the Field United Methodist Church to give the invocation.

REV. DIEHL: *Gives his own invocation.*

CC: I would like to call forward Assistant Senior Patrol Leader Jim White to lead us in the presentation of the colors and the Pledge of Allegiance.

JIM: 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.

CC: 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 David Thompson 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.*

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.

Lights are turned on. Candle-lighters sit down.

GREG: I now ask the Eagle Honor Guard to escort Eagle Candidate David Thompson to the front.

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 .

Confirmation of Candidacy

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

JIM: The first requirement for the rank of Eagle Scout is to be active in the troop and patrol for at least 6 months as a Life Scout. David was a Life Scout for well over 2½ years, and during that time was very active in our troop, attending many campouts and activities.

The second requirement is to show Scout Spirit. David has consistently shown Scout Spirit by living up to the Scout Oath and Law in his daily life at home, school, church, and Scouting events.

Thirdly, a candidate must earn a total of at least 21 merit badges, which is 10 more than he needed for the rank of Life Scout. These must include 12 from a list encompassing basic skills such as citizenship, first aid, physical fitness, safety, camping, communications, family living, and financial management. In addition to the required merit badges David earned: Archery, Art, Aviation, Canoeing, Coin Collecting, Cooking, Fishing, Leatherwork, Mammal Study, Pioneering, Rifle Shooting, Rowing, Small Boat Sailing, Woodcarving, and Wilderness Survival.

Next, the Life Scout must serve for at least 6 months in one of the approved Junior Leadership positions. David served as Senior Patrol Leader, as well as other Leadership positions in the Troop.

JIM: The last requirement is to plan, develop, and give leadership to others, while a Life Scout, in a service project which benefits a school, church, or community. This project must be approved by the Scoutmaster, Troop Committee, and the District before starting. David's project consisted of constructing a walkway at North Ridgeville's South Frontier Park for use by the elderly and physically disabled, or whoever else wants to.

After a review of the requirements and David's obvious fulfillment of them, the Board of Review, comprised of troop Committee and District members, on February 22, 1996 approved him to receive the rank of Eagle Scout. His

application was then forwarded to the Council and National Offices for final approval.

GREG: In addition to the technical requirements, David also took advantage of many other Scouting programs.

In remembering that a Scout's first duty should be to God, David earned the *God and Country* Religious Emblem for Scouts of the Methodist Faith.

After a Scout's duty to God comes his duty to others. One way David showed this was during his 2 years on Summer Camp Staff. Although he was meagerly paid for some of his time, it was nowhere near what he could make at a "real" job. During the Summer of 1993 he worked as a Counselor in Training (CIT) in the aquatics area. The following year he served as a Counselor in Scoutcraft.

Another aspect of David's service to others is embodied in his involvement in the Order of the Arrow (OA). David was elected into this organization of Cheerful Service by the Scouts of the Troop in 1992. Since that time he has been taking lead roles and organizing the Ceremonies Team, which performs all OA Ceremonies including the Call-Out at Summer Camp each Wednesday night. David also earned his Brotherhood Membership, symbolizing his dedication to the OA.

What David probably doesn't know is that he has also been selected to receive the Vigil Honor. Only a few Members can be selected for this honor from an OA Lodge each year. Dave is one of 4 chosen from the former Notawacy Lodge for 1995. If Dave completes the ceremonies required, he will join his brother Peter, and myself in being only the 6th member of Troop 175 to receive this Honor.

Eagle Scout Charge

GREG: Having ascertained that Dave 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 Eagle Scout Peter Thompson to come forward and give the Eagle Scout Charge. In addition to being David's brother, Peter is also an Assistant Scoutmaster with our Troop.

PETER: 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.

Eagle Scout Reply

PETER: To seal your loyalty to the Code of an Eagle Scout, I ask that you, along with your fellow Eagle Scouts, raise your right hands 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(PETER): 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.

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

David, would you now light the Eagle candle to represent your elevation to the highest rank in Scouting, and the completion of a long and arduous trail.

GREG: Now I would ask Troop 175 Eagle Scout Matt Davis to come forward for a special presentation.

MATT: 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 Dave is the 17th 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 at the VFW. *(He presents him with the plaque & shakes his hand.)*

GREG: I should note that David'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: Now, a few members of Troop 175's Adult Committee will read some of the letters we have received for Dave.

Troop Scouters come up to read Letters of Congratulation.

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

Address by New Eagle

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

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

Closing

GREG: Having finished the work for which we are gathered here this afternoon, we are about to leave this, the place of our Eagle Court of Honor. But, before we do, it is only right that we should remind ourselves of those ties which help to bind us all together as Scouts. Would everyone please rise.

Before me are 15 burning candles. These represent the 12 points of the Scout Law, and the 3 points of the Scout Oath. Would all Scouts and Scouters present, raise your right hand in the Scout Sign and repeat along with me: first, the Scout Oath then, the Law as we extinguish the candle representing each point.

The Scout Oath

On my Honor, I will do my best,
To do my duty to God and my country *(extinguish candle)*
And to obey the Scout Law.
To help other people at all times, *(extinguish candle)*
To keep myself physically strong, mentally awake,
And morally straight. *(extinguish candle)*

The Scout Law

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

Two! May it be our purpose that although we extinguish these candles, may the virtues which they represent, glow ever brighter in our hearts and consciences.

GREG: I now ask Rev. Deihl to give a Benediction.

REV. DIEHL: *Gives his own Benediction.*

GREG: Our Assistant Senior Patrol Leader, Jim White, will now lead us in the closing flag ceremony.

JIM: 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 David and his parents out.

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

Before we depart, just a few reminders about upcoming events:

- car wash
- July 3 meeting
- Summer Camp
 - Parent's Nite
 - no meeting July 11

I would also like to encourage everyone to join us for refreshments in Fellowship Hall.