

# Eagle Scout Court of Honor

for

**Peter M. Thompson**

7 March, 1992 2:00pm

Fields United Methodist Church

N. Ridgeville, Ohio

**CHAIRMAN** of Court of Honor  
Acting **SCOUTMASTER**  
Acting Senior **Patrol Leader**  
**REVEREND**  
**CHARGE** administrator  
**ADV**ancement **CHAIR**man  
**Board Of Review CHAIR**man

Greg Coghlan  
Ken Graham  
Jamie Graham  
Rev. Louis Diehl  
Vince Farrell Sr.  
Pat Hadaway  
Dan Mizenko

## 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

Benediction  
Flag Procession

Reception

## Opening Ceremony

KEN: On behalf of Boy Scout Troop 175 I welcome you here today to this Eagle Scout Court of Honor for Peter 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. Diehl to give the invocation.

REV. DIEHL: *Gives his own invocation.*

KEN: I would like to call forward Assistant Senior Patrol Leader Jamie Graham to lead us in the presentation of the colors and the Pledge of Allegiance.

JAMIE: Please rise for the presentation of the colors... Color guard, present the colors!  
Scout salute!

*The color guard processes to the front, places the flags in the holders, then steps back.*

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

Please be seated.

KEN: I would now like to turn the program over to Greg Coghlan, Chairman of this Court of Honor.

GREG: By the authority vested in me by the National Council, Firelands Area Council, and In-Gaig-Ga District, Boy Scouts of America, I declare this Eagle Scout Court of Honor for Peter 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.*

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 Peter Thompson to the stage.

The Eagle Scout badge is a recognition of the National Council Court of Honor through our local Firelands Area Council and troop Court of Honor.

The Eagle Scout Progress Award we are presenting here today, represents accomplishments in Scouting skills - 21 merit badges including 11 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 Pat Hadaway and Dan Mizenko from Peter's Board of Review to present the technical requirements for the rank of Eagle Scout and verify Peter's completion thereof.

DAN: 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.

PAT: Peter was a Life Scout for well over 2½ years, and during that time was very active in our troop, attending many campouts and activities.

DAN: The second requirement is to show Scout Spirit.

PAT: Peter 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.

DAN: 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 11 from a list encompassing basic skills such as citizenship, first aid, physical fitness, safety, camping, communications, and financial management.

PAT: In addition to the required merit badges Peter earned: Archery, Aviation, Basketry, Canoeing, Cooking, Fingerprinting, Geneology, Leatherwork, Rifle, Rowing, Wilderness Survival, and Woodcarving.

DAN: Next, the Life Scout must serve for at least 6 months in one of the approved Junior Leadership positions.

PAT: Peter served as Senior Patrol Leader, as well as other Leadership positions in the troop.

DAN: 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 council or district before starting.

PAT: Peter's project consisted of constructing a 122-foot walkway at North Ridgeville's South Central Park for use by the elderly and physically disabled, or whoever else wants to. He also placed gravel under two bench swings to prevent the erosion taking place there. He had 7 people help him put in almost 75 man-hours on the actual work of the project.

DAN: After a review of the requirements and Peter's obvious fulfillment of them, the Board of Review, comprised of troop Committee and District members, on September 19, 1991 approved him to receive the rank of Eagle Scout. His application was then forwarded to the Council and National Offices for final approval.

## **Eagle Scout Charge**

GREG: Having ascertained that Peter is worthy of this high honor, I now ask Mr. Vince Farrell, long time area Scouter, to come forward and give the Eagle Scout Charge.

MR. FARRELL: 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 congratulate you 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**

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.

Will the Eagle Honor Guard please Escort the parents of our new Eagle forward.

## **Eagle Award Presentation**

GREG: 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*)

*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 Peter Thompson, 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 \_\_\_\_\_ 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 Peter is the 10th Eagle in our Troop's 15 year

existence. Unfortunately, you do not get to keep this plaque - it is to be prominently displayed somewhere in our meeting hall at the VFW. (*He presents him with the plaque & shakes his hand.*)

**Letters of Congratulations**

GREG: I would now like to introduce Mrs. Cathy Farrell, who is here to represent the North Ridgeville Mayor's Office.

MRS. FARRELL: *Reads letter, or says whatever.*

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

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

GREG: In addition, Peter has received letters from:

George & Barbara Bush	Dan Quayle
John Glenn - US Senator	Howard Metzenbaum - US Senator
Don J. Pease - US House of Rep.	Adm. Frank B. Kelso II - Chief of Naval Ops.
Adm. E.R. Zumwalt, Jr. - Retired US Navy	Gen. Colin Powell - Chair. Jt. Chiefs of Staff
George Voinovich - Ohio Governor	Alan J. Zaleski - Ohio Senate
John V. Bara - Ohio House of Reprs.	Jeff Armbruster - NR Mayor
Michael White - Cleveland Mayor	National Office of BSA
James Bopp - Firelands Council Exec.	William "Green Bar Bill" Hillcourt
W.E. Townslee - Eveready Exec VP	Steven Spielberg (Secretary)

**Address by New Eagle**

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

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

## Closing

GREG: I now recall Rev. Diehl to give the Benediction.

REV. DIEHL: *Gives his own Benediction.*

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

JAMIE: 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 Peter and his parents out.

Please join us for refreshments in the fellowship hall.