

Eagle Scout Court of Honor

for

Alex S. Wilson

28 June, 1997 2:00 PM

Camp Firelands

Wakeman, Ohio

AGENDA

Opening

Flag procession & Pledge of Allegiance

The Eagle Trail

Confirmation of Candidacy

Eagle Scout Charge & Reply

Presentation of Eagle Scout Award

Letters of Congratulation

Address by new Eagle

Closing

Flag Procession

Reception

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Adult Participants

MC of Court of Honor / SCOUTMASTER..... Greg Coghlan
CHARGE Administrator.....Martin Thompson

Scout Participants

TROOP EAGLE:David Thompson
ALLOWAT Sekima: Jake Rundle
METEU:..... Steve Rodgers
KITCHKINET: Thom Lang
EAST WIND:..... Jim White
WEST WIND: Tom Cotton
SOUTH WIND: Chris Patterson
NORTH WIND: Chris Weil

Senior Patrol Leader Tom Habenicht
American Flag..... Warren Sill
Troop Flag..... Nick Volchko
Scout Candle Nick Volchko
Tenderfoot Candle Warren Sill
Second Class Candle..... Hick Hruska
First Class Candle Nick Hruska
Star Candle..... Rich Thompson
Life Candle.....Scott Volchko
Eagle Candle Bob Semmens

Opening Ceremony

GREG: On behalf of Boy Scout Troop 175 I welcome you here today to this Eagle Scout Court of Honor for Alex Wilson. 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.*

GREG: Would Senior Patrol Leader Tom Habenicht come forward to lead us in the presentation of the colors and the Pledge of Allegiance.

TOM: 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.

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 Alexander S. Wilson now open and in session.

At this time I will turn the program over to members of the Order of the Arrow's Portage Lodge Ceremonial Team, of which Alex is an active member.

The Eagle Trail

ALLOWAT: Meteu will now remind us of the solemnity of this occasion, as we take upon the conferring of the rank of Eagle Scout.

METEU: There should fall a solemn silence o'er those gathered here today, for our thoughts should now be centered on the noble goal and purpose that has brought us all together. We who love the woods and camping, we who strive to live the Oath and Law, stand beside and urge this Eagle candidate forward on the next step of his journey, of his long and toilsome journey.

ALLOWAT: I have led my braves to the summit of this mountain in a long journey from our camp to show you the rewards of your climb along the trail. When you began this trip as a young Boy Scout many years ago, you had this mountain top as your goal. You now have reached the summit, the realm of the Eagles. Before admitting you into honored membership, we must first hear the story of your long climb along the Eagle trail.

KITCHKINET: Shortly after joining a Troop, the new Scout pledges to live by the Scout Oath and Law and is awarded the Scout badge.

A Scout lights the candle in front of the Scout symbol.

In the distance, looms the hazy outlines of Eagle summit, flanked by the lesser peaks that represent the Star and Life ranks. To the new Scout they are very far away, but they will come a lot closer as the light from the spirit of Scouting continues to spread. The Scout begins as a Tenderfoot,

A Tenderfoot Scout lights the candle in front of the Tenderfoot symbol.

The Tenderfoot badge is the first rank a Scout receives. It stands at the foot of the Eagle Trail. Once inspired by the spirit of Scouting, he won't stay a Tenderfoot very long. Putting a few simple achievements behind him, he will shortly climb to the rank of Second Class.

A Second Class Scout lights the candle in front of the Second Class symbol.

The requirements for Second Class become more difficult. A Scout must learn to be self sufficient in the outdoors and continue to render service to others. Now the Scout is ready for the challenge to attain First Class.

A First Class Scout lights the candle in front of the First Class symbol.

Although the requirements become more difficult, he keeps climbing until finally comes the day when he tops the first summit along the Eagle Trail. There he receives his First Class Badge.

A Star Scout lights the candle in front of the Star symbol.

METEU: A broad field of merit badges awaits the First Class Scout. More than 100 merit badges guide the Scout to explore careers, hobbies, and community interest items. The Scout needs but a total of six to conquer the Star Scout summit. Probably a lot sooner than he thought possible, the Scout finds himself standing on Star ridge. Thus, through leadership, service, and achievement, he conquers the first of three great peaks along the Eagle Trail.

A Life Scout lights the candle in front of the Life symbol.

The trail to the next summit, Life Scout peak, isn't easy. There is leadership to demonstrate, service to others, and plenty of hard work in mastering five additional merit badges and helping fellow Scouts. The higher the Scout climbs, the fewer travelers he meets along the trail. Yet there are no impossible barriers along the way. This Life Scout's goal can be achieved, but it takes real effort.

An Eagle Scout lights the candle in front of the Eagle symbol.

While the rank of Life Scout is a coveted one, and deserving to all who obtain it, the Eagle Trail does not end there; it leads on toward a higher summit. The pathway narrows and steepens considerably as it winds along ledges of personal achievement and mountain pastures of troop accomplishment. Mile by mile, the trail becomes more trying. Many challenges must be conquered in these last miles. Before the highest summit along the Eagle Trail can be completed, additional merit badges must be earned. Some of them are very difficult and leadership and service to others are not forgotten. Only with the greatest persistence and courage can the Scout gain the thrill of victory that comes while looking back down the trail, from the very top of the Eagle summit.

Confirmation of Candidacy

ALLOWAT: Before admitting this Scout to the realm of the Eagles, I must have assurance that he has been faithful in serving his troop. Also, that he has put into practice giving leadership to younger Scouts, and that he is entitled to wear the wings of the Eagle. Mr. Scoutmaster, has your Eagle candidate met these qualifications?

GREG: Yes, he has. In addition to the technical requirements, Alex has also taken advantage of many of the other programs Scouting has to offer.

In remembering that a Scout's first duty should be to God, Alex earned both the *Ad Altare Dei* and *Pope Pius XII* Religious Emblems for Scouts of the Roman Catholic Faith.

After a Scout's duty to God comes his duty to others. One way Alex has shown this is in completing his Eagle Project. He planned and led others in setting up a path around Liberty School in North Ridgeville, which is used during the phys. ed. classes, and by local residents. Another way in which Alex has shown his duty to others is by working on Summer Camp Staff for the past two years. Last Summer and currently this year, Alex is working in both the Aquatics and Scoutcraft areas as an Instructor.

Another aspect of Alex's service to others is embodied in his involvement in the Order of the Arrow (OA). Alex was elected into this organization of Cheerful Service by the Scouts of the Troop in 1995. 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. Last summer, Alex earned his Brotherhood Membership, which shows his dedication to the OA.

Lastly, in remembering his duty to himself, later this summer, Alex will be attending the National Scout Jamboree in Virginia. Here he will get to many neat things and meet Scouts from all over the country.

ALLOWAT: Scout Alex Wilson, you have worked hard to achieve the rank of Eagle, but listen first to the wisdom of the winds.

EAST WIND: I am the spirit of the East Wind. I represent the common law, your duty to God and to country. Trustworthy, loyal, and helpful, are the qualities that a man must possess who lives by the laws of this land. See that you do not lose the great blessing of a lawful land.

WEST WIND: As the spirit of the West Wind. I represent the law of equity, your duty to country and others, friendly, courteous, and kind are the laws that breathe of conscience. They create the atmosphere that comes from within your heart; the desire for you always to be friends to those of all ages, young and old. Be courteous to those who pass along your trail. Cast away the harmful spirit of the unfriendliness and selfishness.

SOUTH WIND: I am the spirit of the South Wind. I represent civil law, your duty to others and to self. Obedient, cheerful and thrifty are the character of civility. A life of cheerful obedience is necessary for the development of a true citizen. Obedience is something we all must learn, to take orders and carry them out cheerfully. Real thrift means earning, spending wisely and saving, and to share with that less fortunate.

NORTH WIND: I am the spirit of the North Wind, the most powerful of all, I represent the divine law, your duty to be brave, clean, and reverent. To be brave is to be unselfish. To be clean in body and soul is to be pure in heart. Cast from your mind and body any evil spirits that try to weaken or destroy the divine law, live a life of reverence. Be always brave, clean, and reverent.

ALLOWAT: Through your climb up the Scouting trail, the badges have changed as your abilities grew. One pledge remained unchanged, the Scout Oath. Is there any reason why you as a new Eagle cannot renew this promise which you first made as a new Scout.

ALEX: No.

ALLOWAT: Then please stand with the Scout sign, recite the Scout Oath, slowly and clearly. *He does.*

Eagle Scout Charge

ALLOWAT: Having ascertained that Alex 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 us in a semicircle behind the Candidate. *They do.*

I now ask Martin Thompson to come forward and give the Eagle Scout Charge.

MARTIN: 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

MARTIN: 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.

Two!

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

MARTIN: 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.

CHARG-ER and Eagles nest return to their seats.

Eagle Award Presentation

ALLOWAT: Without the love and guidance of understanding parents, a boy is severely handicapped. Your parents have watched you grow and develop. They have worked with you in health, nursed you in sickness, guided your thoughts and actions, and helped you in untold ways. Your Adult Leaders have been a strength to lean on. One of them was always there in times of trouble and for help. Your home influence will last throughout your life. I ask your parents to stand beside you as a symbol that they will continue to help the young Eagle to grow in the qualities of leadership and citizenship that a true Eagle must have.

The Four Winds escort the parents to the candidate's side

KITCHKINET: As a token of your willingness to continue your support for this young Eagle, I ask Mrs. Wilson to pin the Eagle badge on your son. (*she does so*)

Eagle Scout [Scout's name], you have seen that your mother plans to standby you in the future. Do you now promise to do your best as an Eagle Scout?

ALEX: Yes.

KITCHKINET: Then you now have the honor to pin a miniature Eagle pin on your mother. (*He does so.*)

To let everyone know you are truly a proud Eagle Scout, I ask your father, Mr. Wilson, to present you with the Eagle Scout certificate from the National Council. (*He does so.*)

Eagle Scout Alex Wilson, you have seen that your father plans to standby you in the future. Do you promise to follow the Scout Law as an Eagle Scout?

ALEX: Yes.

KITCHKINET: Then you have the honor to give your father the miniature Eagle Tie Pin. (*He does so.*)

Parents return to their seats.

The four winds step up to the new Eagle Scout, one at a time, and tap him on the right shoulder three times, as ALLOWAT says:

ALLOWAT: Always remember Eagle Scout Alex Wilson, the words of the EAST WIND, to be TRUSTWORTHY, LOYAL, and HELPFUL.

The words of the WEST WIND, tells one to be FRIENDLY, COURTEOUS, and KIND.

The words of the SOUTH WIND urges one to be OBEDIENT, CHEERFUL, and THRIFTY.

Finally, the words of the NORTH WIND, the most powerful of all, admonishes one to be BRAVE, CLEAN and REVERENT.

ALLOWAT: I now welcome you, Eagle Scout Alex Wilson, to the summit of your trail. the Eagle is strong and powerful, and flies unblinking into the face of the sun. He soars high and builds on a pinnacle. You must not swerve from your duties as an Eagle.

Will the audience please rise.

METEU: We now call upon the Great Spirit of all, for his blessing on this new Eagle Scout. May he always strive to attain the noblest and highest ideals of life. Be his strength and his guide. Cause him to follow a straight trail and to never be a reason for other Scouts to waver from their path. Protect him for many moons to come. May the Great Master of all Scouts be with us until our trails cross again.

Indians walk back from whence they came, and the MC takes over to start the congratulations.

Other Awards and Citations

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

DAVID: 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 new Eagle Scout Honor Roll Plaque. This and the original plaque contain the names of all 18 Eagle Scouts from our Troop's 21 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.)*

Letters of Congratulations

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

Troop Scouters come up to read Letters of Congratulation.

GREG: Alex 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 Alex Wilson, who has a few words to say.

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

Closing Ceremony

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

TOM: 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!

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 Alex 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.*

I would also like to encourage everyone to join us for refreshments at the Lake Lodge