

THE EAGLE SCOUT RANK IS THE HIGHEST AWARD IN SCOUTING AND TO
HAVE ACHIEVED IT MEANS THAT THESE TWO YOUNG MEN PERFORMED TASKS
AND ACHIEVED RESULTS THAT MOST OF THEIR PEERS WERE UNWILLING TO
DO. WHY THESE TWO BOYS?

BECAUSE THEY HAVE BEEN TAUGHT THE VALUE OF PERSEVERANCE BY THEIR
PARENTS. THAT QUALITY THAT INSTILLED IN THEM TO PERSIST AND
REMAIN COMMITTED TO THE OVERALL GOAL REGARDLESS OF THE OBSTACLES
IN THEIR WAY OR THE DISCOURAGEMENT THAT MUST HAVE BEEN PLACED
ALONG THEIR WAY. AND WE CANNOT OVERLOOK THE THE VALUE OF WHAT
THIS WILL MEAN FOR THESE TWO LADS IN THEIR FUTURE.

THE GREAT AMERICAN POET LONGFELLOW MUST HAVE HAD THESE TWO GUYS
IN MIND WHEN HE WROTE:

"THE HEIGHT BY GREAT MEN REACHED AND KEPT
WERE NOT ATTAINED BY SUDDEN FLIGHT,
BUT THEY, WHILE THEIR COMPANIONS SLEPT,
WERE TOILING UPWARD IN THE NIGHT"

THE QUALITY OF THEIR LIVES AND MORE IMPORTANT THE LIVES OF THOSE
AROUND THEM. WILL BENEFIT BY THE KNOWLEDGE THEY HAVE GAINED IN

PURSING AND ACHIEVING THIS RANK. THESE ARE INDIVIDUALS WHO WILL PROVIDE THE LEADERSHIP IN IMPROVING THE LOT OF OTHERS IN THEIR CHOSEN PROFESSIONS. WHATEVER THEY ARE. THESE ARE THE PEOPLE WHO WILL BE THE ROLE MODELS FOR THE FUTURE OF WHAT IS IMPORTANT AND PERMANENT AND NOT WHAT IS ONLY CURSORY AND TRANSITORY. BECAUSE THEY HAVE BEEN TAUGHT BY THEIR PARENTS IN WORD AND DEED.

I'M ALWAYS JUST A LITTLE DISHEARTENED HOWEVER. WHEN I COME TO THESE EVENTS, THE CHANCE TO HONOR SUCH WONDERFUL BOYS, BUT I KNOW WHEN I TURN ON THE TV NEWS TONIGHT I WON'T BE SEEING THE NEWS ABOUT THIS CEREMONY BUT RATHER SOME VIOLENT, CRIMINAL ACT. I BELIVE THAT WE ARE FURTHER DIMINISHED AS A SOCIETY BECAUSE THE NEWS MEDIA MAKES THAT CHOICE. PERHAPS IT WOULD BE A BETTER PLACE; NO IT WOULD BE A BETTER PLACE FOR ALL OF US.

SO I SAY TO YOU TWO CONGRATULATIONS FOR YOU LEADERSHIP, COURAGE AND MOST OF ALL THE PERSEVERANCE YOU HAVE SHOWN IN ORDER TO ACHIEVE EAGLE SCOUT AND PERMIT TO ALSO PASS ON THE COMMENADATION OF THE PA. HOUSE OF REPS. BY MEANS OF THIS CITATION.

**REP TANGRETTI
TALKING POINTS ON EAGLE SCOUTS**

- * THE EAGLE SCOUT RANK IS THE HIGHEST AWARD IN SCOUTING**
- * THE VALUES AND EXPERIENCES OF SCOUTING ARE LESSONS THAT WILL SERVE YOU WELL THROUGHOUT YOUR LIVES**
- * AND AS IN ALL OF LIFE FEW, IF ANY, ARE ABLE TO ACHIEVE THEIR GOALS ENTIRELY ON THEIR OWN. THIS AWARD CEREMONY IS ALSO A TIME TO REFLECT ON THE STRENGTH AND ASSISTANCE YOU'VE RECEIVED FROM YOUR PARENTS, FAMILY, SCOUTMASTERS, SCHOOLS AND COMMUNITY.**
- * THE EAGLE SCOUT AWARD RECOGNIZES A BOY'S CAPACITY FOR LEADERSHIP. THE GREATEST AND MOST DEMANDING ATTRIBUTE OF LEADERSHIP IS THAT IT REQUIRES US TO THINK OF OTHERS BEFORE OURSELVES.**

THIS IS NOT ONLY A VALUABLE CHARACTER LESSON FOR BOYS OF YOUR AGE, IT IS ALSO A KEY TO SPIRITUAL GROWTH. IT IS WHAT THE BIBLE MEANS WHEN IT SAYS THOSE WHO WOULD BE FIRST AMONG YOU MUST BECOME THE LEAST...THE SERVANT OF ALL.

- * WE TEND TO BECOME DISCOURAGED ABOUT THE FUTURE WHEN WE READ, ALMOST DAILY, ABOUT THE PROBLEMS OF YOUNG PEOPLE IN TODAY'S SOCIETY. BUT WE NEED TO KEEP THOSE STORIES IN PERSPECTIVE, AND BALANCE THEM WITH THE KNOWLEDGE OF EVENTS SUCH AS THIS ONE AND YOUNGSTERS SUCH AS TONIGHT'S HONOREES. HOW WELCOME IT WOULD BE, AND WHAT A BOOST TO OUR MORALE, IF THE MEDIA WOULD GIVE EVENTS LIKE THIS THE SAME PROMINENCE THEY GIVE TO THE DEVIANT AND DELINQUENT BEHAVIOR THAT BEFALLS SOME YOUNGSTERS.**

- * WHILE THIS AWARD REPRESENTS A CULMINATION, IT IS ALSO A BEGINNING. RETURNING TO THE BIBLE, IT SAYS "TO THOSE TO WHOM MUCH IS GIVEN, MUCH IS EXPECTED."**

THOSE WHO ATTAIN THE EAGLE AWARD ARE TRULY GIFTED. AND ALONG WITH THOSE GIFTS COMES THE CHALLENGE TO STRIVE FOR THE ACHIEVEMENT OF EXCELLENCE THROUGHOUT THEIR LIVES.