Transcript - Mike Andrew’s Eagle Court of Honor January 24,2009

**RAAJ:** Good afternoon everyone and thank you for coming today to help celebrate Mike Andrew attaining the rank of Eagle Scout. My name is Raaj Parekh and I will be your Master of Ceremonies.

**Troop Assembly:**

**RAAJ:** At this time will everyone please rise as our Troop Color Guard presents the troop flag and American flag.

*(When the flags are posted and the Color Guard return to their seats, ask everyone to remain standing for the Pledge of Allegiance)*

**RAAJ:** Please remain standing for the Pledge of Allegiance led by Senior Patrol Leader Tyler Landis

**Pledge of Allegiance:** – led by Senior Patrol Leader Tyler Landis

*(When the Pledge is over ask everyone to please be remain standing for the Invocation)*

**Invocation:**

**RAAJ:** Our Invocation will be given by Reverend Thomas Neel who is the Pastor at Good Shephard Lutheran Church outside Northampton, where Mike and his family are members. After the Invocation, Pastor Neel will lead us in two versus of song “America”.

*(When he is finished simply say “Thank you Pastor” and he will sit down)*

1.

**Welcome:**

**RAAJ:** At this time I would like to introduce Mike’s father to say a few words. Mr. Andrew

**Mr. Andrew:** Laurie and I would like to thank everyone for coming today and sharing in Mike’s achievement. It is truly a very happy occasion. For many of us who have walked this path with our sons, or perhaps with another scout, or have earned the rank of Eagle themselves, we understand what this ultimate goal in scouting means. But for many others, it may not be clear.

Over the last year or so, it was mentioned to us several times that it would be good to show Mike earned Eagle Scout on his college applications. When we would talk with friends or relatives, and somehow the conversation would get on the topic of scouting, when we mentioned Mike was very close to earning Eagle, they would say “that is great”. In the business environment I live in, the Human Resource department highly respects candidates who are Eagle Scouts as does the general public, but why?

It is not just completing the merit badges, but persevering through the tough parts and doing them well. It’s not about setting up a tent in the woods, but planning properly to have the right things available for that campout. It’s not about the campfires you can build, but understanding what you do affects the environment. It’s not that you did a major project toward Eagle, but that you researched it, developed a plan, and executed it with the help of others. It’s not that you got paid for the hours spent on the project, but rather about giving back.

The Scouting program, in conjunction with the troop guidelines, lays out a very black and white set of requirements to earn Eagle, but “character building” is really the central theme. Laurie and I believe the reason people respect an Eagle scout, is because they know it took effort to get there, and they believe the person is good and trustworthy.

2.

Perseverance and honesty are probably the two characteristics most easily witnessed.

Attaining Eagle is the highest recognition offered in Scouting and the wearer of the Eagle award is the personification of Scouting’s best efforts and beliefs.

Listen now as Evan Brown reads the Scout Law, and shortly the Troop recites the Scout Oath, which are the foundation for all scouts.

(Evan Brown to slowly and deliberately present the Scout Law)

**EVAN:** Will troop 12 please rise for the Scout Law

A scout is **Trustworthy**.

He tells the truth. He is honest, and he keeps his promises. People can depend on him.

A scout is **Loyal**.

He is true to his family, friends, Scout leaders, school, and nation.

A scout is **Helpful**.

He cares about other people. He willingly volunteers to help others without expecting payment or reward.

A scout is **Friendly**.

He is a friend to all. He is a brother to other Scouts. He offers his friendship to people of all races and nations, and respects them even if their beliefs and customs are different from his own.

A scout is **Courteous**.

He is polite to everyone regardless of age or position. He knows that using good manners makes it easier for people to get along.

A scout is **Kind**.

He knows there is strength in being gentle. He treats others as he wants to be treated.

A scout is **Obedient**.

He follows the rules of his family, school, and troop. He obeys the laws of his community and country. If he thinks these rules and laws are unfair, he tries to have them changed in an orderly manner rather than disobeying them.

3.

A scout is **Cheerful**.

He looks for the bright side of life. He cheerfully does tasks that come his way. He tries to make others happy.

A scout is **Thrifty**.

He works to pay his own way and to help others. He saves for the future. He protects and conserves natural resources. He carefully uses time and property.

A scout is **Brave**.

He can face danger although he is afraid. He has the courage to stand for what he thinks is right even if others laugh at him or threaten him.

A scout is **Clean**.

He keeps his body and mind fit and clean. He chooses the company of those who live by high standards. He helps keep his home and community clean.

A scout is **Reverent**.

He is reverent toward God. He is faithful in his religious duties. He respects the beliefs of others.

**EVAN:** will the Troop please recite the Scout Oath *(when finished, ask the troop to be seated)*

**Eagle Scout Presentation**

**Raaj:** Will Mike and the Scout Leaders please come forward to present Mike his rank of Eagle Scout. (Larry Kacyon, Apurva Gandhi, Bob Torres, Bob LaDue)

4.

**Troop Leader:** The presentation of the Eagle Scout Award is an important and serious matter. For the Eagle candidate**,** this is the climax in his Scouting efforts. The attainment of this award is made possible through the assistance of his Scoutmasters, Troop Leaders, fellow scouts, parents, family, friends, and members of the community. This is an occasion for pride and joy, as well as a time for serious reflection. Mike has distinguished himself through his continued performance of active service in Scouting. He is trained and practiced in his leadership abilities, and he is marked by character gained through an understanding of his citizenship and religious beliefs.

Mike, you are deserving of much credit in having achieved this award. However, wear your award with humility, ever mindful that the Eagle Scout is looked up to as an example. May the Scout Oath and Scout Law be your guide for tomorrow and onward. (Pin the Eagle badge on Mike.)

**Scout Leader:** On behalf Troop 12, we would like to present you a remembrance of your scouting experiences with this Eagle plaque. **PAUSE**

**Scout Leader:** In addition, the Troop has added your name to the list of those Eagle Scouts who have preceeded you in this Troop.

**RAAJ:** Mr. Scout Leader, will you please remove Mike’s Troop neckerchief and replace it with the Eagle neckerchief

**RAAJ:** Mr. Torres – do you have something to present to Mike?

**RAAJ:** Will Mr. & Mrs. Andrew please come up?

**RAAJ:** Mike, as a sign of your gratitude for your mother’s support, will you please present her the Eagle Scout Mother’s Pin

**RAAJ:** Mike, for the support your father has provided over the years, will you please present him the Eagle Scout Father’s Pin

**RAAJ:** Thank you everyone. With the exception of Mike you may return to your seats. We will continue with the Special Presentations.

5.

**Special Presentations**

**RAAJ:** Our first guest is the Honorable Julie Harhart. Representative Harhart is a member of the Pennsylvania State Assembly and has been the 183rd State Legislative representative since 1994. Her many duties include Deputy Whip, and vice-chairman of the House Committee on Children and Youth. Her other committee assignments include Commerce, Professional Licensure, and Tourism, where she serves on the Recreation Sub Committee.  Mrs. Harhart is also a member of the Joint Legislative Air and Water Pollution Control and Conservation Committee. It is widely known that Representative Harhart tries to attend as many Eagle ceremonies as possible, and we are pleased she has been able to attend today. Representative Harhart………

**RAAJ:** Our next presenter will be Ellen Kern, Chief of Staff for Pennsylvania State Senator Pat Browne. Mr. Browne became Senator representing the 16th District in May of 2005. Prior to winning his Senate seat, Senator Browne served as a member of the state House of Representatives in the 131st District for 10 years. As a Certified Public Accountant with an extensive knowledge of tax law, Senator Browne was recently appointed Chairman of the Senate Finance Committee, which reviews legislation affecting Pennsylvania's tax codes. In addition, he is Vice Chairman of the Senate Urban Affairs and Housing Committee and a member of the following Senate Committees: Appropriations, Education and Judiciary.

Ms. Kern. …………..

**RAAJ:** Our next presenter will be Mrs. Tori Morgan, a Commissioner representing the South Whitehall Township Board of Commissioners. Mrs. Morgan has been recently appointed by the Commissioners to fill a recent vacancy. Prior to this position Mrs. Morgan had served on the Township Planning Commission. 6.

**RAAJ:** At this time, Troop 12’s Committee Chair Apruva Gandhi would like to briefly go over some of the other acclamations Mike has received.

**Guest Speaker**

**RAAJ:** Our Guest Speaker, Mr. Ron Kistler is a friend of Mike’s and his family. He has been a positive motivator in Mike’s life for the last 6 plus years and he too is an Eagle Scout. Whether it was encouraging him to get to the next Rank, working on tasks together, having him help out occasionally with Camp Compass – an organization for inner city kids, or just talking, many of those experiences helped Mike grow in different ways. Mr. Kistler…………..

**A Word from the Scoutmaster**

**RAAJ:** Unfortunately our Scoutmaster could not be here today, but did not want to miss the opportunity to say a few words. His son Kyle will read his message.

**POEM**

**RAAJ:** Mrs. Andrew would like to read a poem entitled “This Uniformed Little Boy”, authored by Mike Wood. Mrs. Andrew…….

**Eagle Acknowledgement**

**RAAJ:** We have heard a lot of complementary statements acknowledging Mike’s achievement. Mike, now it is your turn to address those present.

7.

**Eagle Scout Challenge**

**RAAJ:** It is time for the Eagle Scout Challenge. This is the time when all Eagle Scouts in the audience are asked to come forward and stand with Mike to renew their pledge to the ideals of Scouting. Will Eagle Scout Mr. Kistler please give the Eagle Scout Challenge. *(Raaj to give some guidance to have the Eagle Scouts stand on the steps facing the audience)*

The foremost responsibility of an Eagle Scout is to live with honor. To an Eagle Scout, honor is the foundation of all character. We know that the first point of the Scout Law "A Scout is trustworthy", is there for a good reason. An Eagle Scout lives honorably, not only because honor is important to us but because of the vital significance of the example we set for other Scouts. Living honorably reflects credit on our home, our church, our troop, and our community. May the white of the Eagle badge remind us to always live with honor.

The second obligation of an Eagle Scout is loyalty. We are true to our family, Scout leaders, friends, school, and nation. Our loyalty to our troop and brother Scouts makes us pitch in and carry our share of the load. All of these help to build the loyalty which means devotion to community, to country, to one's own ideals, and to God. Let the blue of the Eagle badge always inspire our loyalty.

The third obligation of an Eagle Scout is to be courageous. Courage has always been a quality by which men measure themselves and others. To us, bravery means not only the courage to face physical danger, but the determination to stand up for the right. Trusting in God, with faith in his fellowman, we look forward to each day, seeking our share of the world's work to do. Let the red of the Eagle badge remind us always of courage.

The fourth obligation of an Eagle Scout is to be cheerful. To remind the Eagle Scout to always wear a smile, the red, white, and blue ribbon is attached to the scroll of the Second Class Scout award, which has its ends turned up in a smile.

8.

The final responsibility of an Eagle Scout is service. We extend a helping hand to those who still toil up Scouting's trail, just as others helped us in our climb to Eagle. The performance of the daily Good Turn takes on a new meaning when we enter a more adult life of continuing service to others. The Eagle stands as protector of the weak and helpless. We aid and comfort the unfortunate and the oppressed. We uphold the rights of others while defending our own. We will always "Be Prepared" to put forth our best.

**RAAJ:** before the Eagle scouts leave the stage, say: Eagle Scouts, you deserve much credit for having achieved Scouting's highest award. Thank you. You may now return to your seats.

**Benediction**

**RAAJ:** Will Reverend Neel please lead us in our closing Benediction and our closing song “America the Beautiful”

**Retire the Colors**

**Mike:** The candle I carried in representing the spirit of Scouting, will now be carried out by Raaj Parekh. Raaj and I have been together in Scouting for the last 6 years and it is with pride that I announce he will be our next Eagle Scout. Please join my family and I downstairs for a light meal and fellowship. Thank you for coming and celebrating this day with me.

**RAAJ:** Will the Color Guard please retire the Colors

*(Raaj gets the single thin candle and walks out with Mike behind the Color Guard)*

9.

**Participants**

Raaj – Master of Ceremonies

Color Guard – Led by Evan Brown

Participants – Tyler Landis, Chris LaDue, Kyle Durfey, Philip Riola

Lighting the Candles – Kyle Yuditsky

Troop Leaders – Bob Torres, Apurva Gandhi, Larry Kacyon, Bob LaDue

Word/Scout-Mike’s Eagle Scout Ceremony Transcript

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