Transcript – Joshua Harman’s Eagle Court of Honor

(TRAIL TO EAGLE)

November 19, 2016

**<Max Prehl>:** Good afternoon everyone and thank you for coming today to help celebrate Joshua Harman attaining the rank of Eagle Scout. My name is Max Prehl and I am an Eagle Scout Candidate and will be your Master of Ceremonies.

**TROOP ASSEMBLY:**

**<Max Prehl>:** At this time will everyone please rise as our Troop Color Guard presents the American and Troop flags.

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

**<Max Prehl>:** Please remain standing for the Pledge of Allegiance led by Tyler Prehl, Troop 12’s Senior Patrol Leader.

**Pledge of Allegiance:** – (*led by Tyler Prehl) –*

**<Tyler Prehl>:**  Scouts salute, other guests right hand over your heart.

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one Nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

**<Tyler Prehl>:**Guests please be seated, Scouts and Advisors please remain standing.

**Scout Oath, Law and Outdoor Code:** – (*led by Tyler Prehl)*

Scout sign. Scout Oath:

On my honor, I will do my best

To do my duty to God and my country and to obey the Scout Law;

To help other people at all times;

To keep myself physically strong, mentally awake and morally straight.

Scout Law:

A Scout is:

* Trustworthy,
* Loyal,
* Helpful,
* Friendly,
* Courteous,
* Kind,
* Obedient,
* Cheerful,
* Thrifty,
* Brave,
* Clean,
* and Reverent.

Outdoor Code:

As an American, I will do my best to -

* Be clean in my outdoor manners
* Be careful with fire
* Be considerate in the outdoors, and
* Be conservation minded.

**<Tyler Prehl>:** Scouts and Advisors please be seated.

**Invocation:**

**<Max Prehl>:** Thank you Tyler. Our Invocation will be given by Pastor Jon King who is an Associate Pastor at Joshua’s home church, Cedar Crest Bible Fellowship Church. Pastor King …….

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

**SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS:**

**<Max Prehl>:** Our first guest presenter is the Honorable Julie Harhart. Representative Harhart is a retiring member of the Pennsylvania State Assembly and has been the 183rd State Legislative representative since 1994. Representative Harhart………

**<Max Prehl>:** Our next presenter is Mrs. Ellen Kern, Chief of Staff for State Senator Pat Browne. Mrs. Kern ……..

**<Max Prehl>:** Our next presenter is \*, a Commissioner representing the South Whitehall Township Board of Commissioners. \* ……..

**<Max Prehl>:** At this time, Mr. Dunn, our troop Advancement Chairman would like to briefly read some additional acclamations Joshua has received.

**<Mike Dunn>:** Josh has received the following citation from PA Governor Tom Wolf: *Read Citation*

Congressman Charles Dent sent along the following letter and citation and had a flag flown over the U.S. Capitol Building for Josh: *Read letter and Citation*

In addition, Josh received citations from the following:

* Vice President Joseph Biden
* U.S. Senator Robert Casey Jr.
* U.S. Senator Pat Toomey
* Boy Scout President Robert Gates and Chief Scout Executive Michael Surbaugh
* Boy Scout Minsi Trails Council Executive Craig Poland
* Parkland School District Superintendent of Schools Richard Sniscak; and
* Order of the Arrow Lodge Chief Benjamin Oswald

**GUEST SPEAKERS:**

**<Max Prehl>:** Joshua’s first guest speaker is Mr. Kevin Halbfoerster (*Hal-Forester*), a Wildlife Conservation Officer for the Southeast Region of the Pennsylvania Game Commission. He was the beneficiary representative for Joshua’s Eagle Scout Project. Mr. Halbfoerster .………..

**<Max Prehl>:** Joshua’s second guest speaker is the former scoutmaster of Troop 12 who has continued to serve as an Assistant Scoutmaster – Mr. Robert Durfey .………..

**TRAIL TO EAGLE:**

**<Max Prehl>:** Listen now as Mr. Durfey reads the Trail To Eagle.

**<Mr. Durfey>:** "Will Eagle candidate Joshua Harman please come to the center stage?

*(Eagle goes to center stage)*

"This is the Voice of the Eagle. The Eagle whose heights you have struggled hard to reach. We remember well when you first came to the base of the cliffs, and how you looked up with ambition and determination. Look back for a moment; look down the cliff you have climbed; look at the experiences you have encountered in your ascent. These experiences should not be forgotten. You should profit by learning from your adverse experiences. Experience is a valuable teacher, if you heed its teachings."

**<Matt Muthard>:** Building on your Arrow of Light achievement, you crossed over from Cub Scouts to Boy Scouts. You began your journey up the mountain as a Scout.

*<Matt places picture, Josh lights the Scout candle>*

**<Mark Duncan>:** We remember when you took your first step upon the trail that leads upward. With that first step you began to build yourself physically, mentally, and morally. You started living the Scout Oath and Law. All the while you were on the trail, we watched you study and we saw you learn by doing. Then your brother Scouts called you a Tenderfoot.

*<Mark places picture, Josh lights the Tenderfoot candle>*

**<Alex Kichline>:** You were indeed a Tenderfoot Scout. The trail started to rise slowly as your brother Tenderfoots helped guide you on the trail to the first ledge. Although it seemed a daunting task for a new Tenderfoot, you eagerly followed their guidance. Learning new skills, including swimming, fire building, and navigation, you were greeted by a large group of Second Class Scouts.

*<Alex places picture, Josh lights the Second Class candle>*

**<Gabe Gardner>:** Some, like you, paused to catch their breath before continuing along the trail. You began to study orienteering and meal planning. You worked harder to demonstrate knots, lashings, and knowledge of first aid. Almost before you knew it, you came to the ledge where the First Class Scouts dwell.

*<Gabe places picture, Josh lights the First Class candle>*

**<Thomas Griffith>:**There you found a tempting green meadow by a clear stream bathed in the sun. Here you were tempted to remain. Yes, you could have remained here to live in First Class glory, but your ambition stirred you on. You completed six merit badges and demonstrated leadership in the troop as the Chaplain’s Aide. With these achievements, you advanced to Star Scout.

*<Thomas places picture, Josh lights the Star candle>*

**<Spenser Kane>:** The trail from First Class to Star rank was not as difficult as it had seemed. This spurred you on; you continued to climb. The trail was steeper and less worn. Fewer scouts were headed in your direction. You looked down and saw the crowds below you. You looked up and saw a few above you, and with the same determination with which you started your climb, you continued up the trail. You earned five more merit badges and continued your leadership as the Chaplain’s Aide. In addition, you taught a younger scout about camp cooking. And so you earned the badge of Life rank.

*<Spenser places picture, Josh lights the Life candle>*

**<Max Prehl>:** The heart badge was then placed on your uniform. You will never forget the feeling in your heart: “Now I am close to the Eagle, I will carry on.” This feeling has been experienced by all Scouts on reaching the ledge of Life Scout. The trail became tougher, but more interesting. The original principles, the Scout Oath and Law, now had a fuller meaning. Your understanding of them was greater. After three years of finishing merit badges, leading as a Patrol Leader and the Senior Patrol Leader, and completing your Eagle Scout Project, you fulfilled all the requirements for the rank of Eagle Scout.

*<Max places picture, Josh lights the Eagle candle>*

**<Mr. Durfey>:** Yes, we have watched your character unfold as you became a man. We have watched your leadership expand into a valuable asset. We have watched your mind develop and your wisdom increase. We have watched all these things in you and now that you are on the threshold of your goal, we welcome you, for you have done your climbing in a true Scout-like manner.

This is the Voice of the Eagle.

**PRESENTATION OF EAGLE AWARD**

**<Mr. Durfey>:** Will Mr. & Mrs. Harman join us to present Josh his rank of Eagle Scout?

**<Mr. Durfey>:** 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. Joshua 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.

Josh, 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.

**<Mr. Durfey>:** *(get the Eagle Scout mother’s pin)* Joshua, as a sign of your gratitude for your mother’s support, will you please present her the Eagle Scout Mother’s Pin?

**<Mr. Durfey>:** *(get the Eagle Scout father’s pin)* Joshua, for the support your father has provided over the years, will you please present him the Eagle Scout Father’s Pin?

**<Mr. Durfey>:** *(get the Eagle Scout neckerchief)* Mom, will you please remove Joshua’s Troop neckerchief and Dad will you replace it with your Eagle neckerchief?

**<Mr. Durfey>:** *(get the Eagle Scout ribbon)* Dad, will you please pin Joshua’s Eagle ribbon on his uniform?

**<Mr. Durfey>:** On behalf Troop 12, we would like to present you a remembrance of your scouting experiences with this Eagle plaque.

*(READ THE PLAQUE)*

<Mr. Durfey and Mom sit down>

**EAGLE SCOUT CHALLENGE:**

**<Max Prehl>:** 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 Joshua to renew their pledge to the ideals of Scouting. Will all Eagle Scouts please come forward and join Joshua in the front and will Mr. Harman, Joshua’s father and Scoutmaster, please give the Eagle Scout Challenge. *(<Max Prehl> to give some guidance to have the* ***Eagle Scouts*** *stand on the steps facing the audience)*

**<Mr. Harman>** 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.

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.

Eagle Scouts, will you now and forever live by these Eagle Responsibilities? If so please respond with – WE DO.

*(All Eagle Scouts respond with WE DO)*

**<Max Prehl>:** (*before the Eagle scouts leave the stage)*: Eagle Scouts, you deserve much credit for having achieved Scouting's highest award. Thank you.

<*Pause for picture*>

You may now return to your seats.

**EAGLE SCOUT CHARGE:**

**<Max Prehl>:** At this time, Mr. Harman will now administer the Eagle Scout Charge to Joshua.

**<Mr. Harman>:** Eagle candidate Joshua Harman. I charge you to enter this Eagle Scout brotherhood holding without reservation and ever before you the ideals of honor and service. By the repetition of the Eagle Scout Promise before your fellow members, you will become an Eagle Scout. Though the words you use may be similar to those by which you joined Scouting, tonight they will mean more than they could have meant at any time in the past.

**EAGLE SCOUT OATH:**

**<Mr. Harman>:** Joshua, Scout attention. Scout sign. 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 an Eagle Scout.

On my honor,

I will do my best

to make my training an example,

and my status and my influence

count strongly

for better Scouting

and for better citizenship

in my troop,

in my community,

and in my contacts with other people.

To this I pledge my sacred honor.

**<Mr. Harman>:** Ladies and Gentlemen I am proud toofficially introduce Troop 12’s newest Eagle Scout – Joshua Eston Harman.

**SCOUTMASTER MOMENT:**

**<Max Prehl>:** Now for the time that Joshua has been dreading the entire afternoon, the Troop 12 tradition of special words and thoughts by former Scoutmaster, Mr. Durfey.

**THANK YOU:**

**<Max Prehl>:** Joshua’s sister Amanda has a special gift to present to her brother.

**<Amanda Harman>:** *(Special Gift)*

**<Max Prehl>:** Brian and Stacey Harman have a special thank you message.

**<Brian & Stacey Harman>:** *(Thank You Message)*

**TRADITIONAL SPEECH:**

**<Max Prehl>:** We have heard a lot of complementary statements acknowledging Joshua’s achievement. Joshua, now it is your turn to address those present.

**<Joshua>**: Eagle Mentor Pin and Mentor Gifts

**BENEDICTION:**

**<Max Prehl>:** And now to close our Court Of Honor we ask everyone please rise and recite Scout Vespers, the words are found in your program.

Softly falls the light of day,

As our campfire fades away.

Silently each Scout should ask

Have I done my daily task?

Have I kept my honor bright?

Can I guiltless sleep tonight?

Have I done and have I dared

Everything to be prepared?

**RETIRE THE COLORS**

**<Max Prehl>:** Will the Color Guard please retire the Colors?

*(After the scouts exit the room – Joshua and parents exit to the rear for a reception line)*

**<Max Prehl>:** Thank you for coming and celebrating this day. Please join Joshua and his family for refreshments downstairs in the Wesley Center.

**PARTICIPANTS**

(+) means will be there; (-) means won’t be there

Master of Ceremonies Max Prehl (+)

Color Guard Zack Dunn (+), Kyle Morgan (+)

James Tarantino (+), Matt Lyle (+)

Troop Assembly:

Pledge of Allegiance, Oath, Law, Outdoor Code Tyler Prehl (+)

Invocation Pastor King (+)

Trail To Eagle:

Reads the Trail To Eagle Mr. Durfey (+)

Scout Matt Muthard (+)

Tenderfoot Mark Duncan (+) *Not Tenderfoot*

2nd Class Alex Kichline (+)

1st Class Gabe Gardner (+)

Star Thomas Griffith (+)

Life Spenser Kane (+)

Eagle Max Prehl (+)

Eagle Rank Presentation Mr. Durfey (+)

Guest Speakers Mr. Halbfoerster (+), Mr. Durfey (+)

Letters of Recognition Reader Mr. Dunn (+)

Eagle Challenge Mr. Harman (+)

Eagle Charge Mr. Harman (+)

Scoutmaster Roast Mr. Durfey (+)

Special Presentation Amanda Harman (+)

**SETUP**

AWARDS Have the following on the altar and ready for awarding:

* Individual Presentation Plaque
* Eagle ribbon and pins
* Eagle Neckerchief

LETTERS Binder of recognition letters from non-attendees. Have this book available on altar.

PROGRAMS Have printed programs available for scouts to hand out

SCRIPTS Have printed scripts available for all participants

CANDLES Have new candles for the trail to eagle reading. Have the candle holders in place and ready as well. Have a lighter available for lighting the starting candle.

FLAGS Have base for American and Troop flag up front and positioned. Have American and Troop flags ready for color guard to carry.

RANK CARDS Have each rank advancement placard and candle holder setup and ready to go.