

Harrison receives Eagle Scout honor

Russell Harrison receives Eagle Charge and Celebrates Court of Honor

Russell Harrison, Eagle Scout of Troop 1656, was recently recognized as an Eagle Scout in the Tomahawk District of the Sam Houston Area Council (SHAC) with a very special Eagle Scout Court of Honor (ECOH). The celebration was held at the Pecan Grove Baptist Church in Richmond.

The program began with a welcome from Paul Faseler, Youth Pastor for the Pecan Grove Baptist Church and Charter Organization Representative for the Troop. The opening and closing flag ceremony was conducted by Michael Hackmack, with the troop scouts posting the colors.

David Harris SHAC's Executive Committee VC of Field Operations served as the Master of Ceremonies. Gus Evans, Committee chair, spoke about the troop committee and her role, and Richard Meserole talked about the responsibilities the Scoutmasters play in the organization.

Jonathon Evans, assistant

Senior Patrol leader, explained the scout activities. Curt Johnson, former Troop Scoutmaster, conducted a special portion of the program on the flag retirement ceremonies the troop has conducted over the past few years.

Harrison was required to earn 21 merit badges. His leadership positions have included, Patrol Leader, Librarian, Den Chief and Order of the Arrow Representative and Troop Guide. He was also elected by his peers to the Order of the Arrow (OA). Scouts Honor Society committed to service, and earned his OA Brotherhood 10 months later; he has also taken the National Youth Leader Training and has over 70 nights of camping.

His Eagle project was refurbishing and donating his youth swing set which included dismantling, refurbishing and re-assembling it at the new location. Harrison had the help of scouts and scouters to complete the project in a little over 320 hours.

Harrison's community service since joining scouts has

increased. He was awarded a certificate of appreciation from Foster High School for earning the most service hours for the 10th grade for the 2008-2009 school year. Recently he was featured on the "National Order of the Arrow" Web site in the "Power of One" section. This section features the scouts showing how one person can make such a difference in the lives of others.

Diane Orosz, Brazos District training chairman, and Michael Hackmack, Troop 1656 Eagle Scout and Assistant Scoutmaster, both spoke about knowing Harrison and special times they have shared.

The Rev. David Luckert, senior pastor of St. John's United Methodist Church, led the candle ceremony with the help of Scouts Andrew Walquist and Brandon Walquist. Curt Johnson, Harrison's first scoutmaster, led the Eagle Charge and Obligation.

Johnson had Harrison's dad, Rich, and uncle, Rob, come up and both told the story of their Eagle Courts of Honor being done by General Underwood.

Johnson presented the Eagle Challenge and announced Harrison as an Eagle Scout.

He also presented Harrison with his Eagle Certificate and Medal along with National Eagle Scout Association membership certificate and neckerchief, the Ben Carter Memorial Silver Dollar Coin, given in honor of Ben Carter Jr., Eagle Ring paperweight given to him from the Tomahawk District, the Texas flag that was flown over the Capital for him on his parents 25th wedding anniversary and the U.S. flag that was flown over the Capital for him on his Grandparents 59th anniversary.

Harrison pinned on the pins for his mom, Susan, and dad, Rich. His dad then tied on his neckerchief. Harrison spoke to the audience to thank them and gave everyone there an Eagle bookmark. He then gave a special mentor pin to Michael Hackmack for being such an inspiration.

Harrison had many friends and relatives that traveled great distances to attend. Relatives included Bob and Wanda Har-



Russell Harrison

rison, his grandparents from Miami, his uncle, Rob Harrison, from Beaverton, Ore., his grandmother, Georgie Drastata Duyka, from Wharton, his aunts, Peggy Duyka, from Wharton, Natalie Duyka from Oklahoma City, and Lanette and uncle,

Tommy, and cousin, Morgan, from Wharton, and his great-aunt, Betty Drastata McPherson, 91, of Houston.

David Harris officially closed the court of Honor after leading the Sea Base Grace and adjourning for refreshments.