

Eagle Scout David Quigley Speaker at West Point Dinner

"Scouting has taught me many things, - leadership, responsibility and teamwork."

There was no drum roll – just a huge feeling of satisfaction for an almost 18-year-old Eagle Scout David Quigley of Boy Scout Troop 340 in Monroe, as he watched the merit badge counselor sign off on the paperwork for the Radio merit badge – his 132nd. For the past seven years, David had been working toward his personal goal of earning all of the merit badges offered by the Boy Scouts of America (BSA). During that time, he has watched, somewhat ruefully, as BSA added about a dozen merit badges to his original list.



Recently, David spoke at an Eagle Scout dinner at West Point. Part of his speech addressed his view of Scouting. He said: "To me, Scouting is an opportunity to try numerous new things, meet countless people, visit incredible places like Japan and Sweden, and simply rack up the memories!"

"I celebrated my sixteenth birthday on top of Mt. Marcy, New York's highest mountain, with my troop, and did a 75-mile trek in the desert of New Mexico... I'm now certified in CPR, First Aid, Wilderness First Aid, and SCUBA. I've worked at a food pantry and a soup kitchen, and learned how to pour molten metal while making a Nativity set to send to a soldier in Iraq who was 'celebrating' Christmas there. I was in the color guard at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, and at the opening of the Purple Heart Hall of Honor. I've played *Taps* at many meaningful ceremonies."

"Also, I can look at the 'gathering area' in front of my church, and the one behind the Ambulance Corp., and know I helped build them. I've been on an archaeological dig, and visited a construction site, the Health Department, veterinary hospitals, our state and national capitols, a trucking firm, an art studio, a newspaper, radio stations, and a TV studio. I've attended baseball, soccer, basketball and hockey games."

"I've also taken care of butterflies, beta fish, iguanas and dogs; attended town and school board meetings and town court; sold popcorn and countless candy bars, and held a garage sale. The list could go on and on.

Scouting has taught me many things, among them: leadership, responsibility and teamwork. I expect to use all these skills as I grow and, hopefully, continue the tradition, eventually passing them on to my kids."

At this time, David wants to take the opportunity to thank all the people in his troop, past and present, who helped him accomplish this goal. He says he "wore out" two Scoutmasters – Jon Woodhouse and Fred Mulharin, and feels nothing but gratitude to them and to Ralph Staiano, his current Scoutmaster in Troop 340.

There are also numerous people outside his troop, inside and outside the Hudson Valley Council, outside the state, and even outside this country who helped him accomplish all of this. To those who volunteered, THANK YOU! To those he "shanghaied" into helping him and the other boys, THANK YOU! You know who you are, and he will always remember what you did!

VOICE OF THE VALLEY ENDING "Growing up in Woodbury, I...WHAT??"



No! It was not an April Fool's Day prank! And, no... we weren't trying to see whether you read Mike Bennett's whole story! We goofed!

Our apology goes out to Mike Bennett, and to Bob Curtis who interviewed Mike for the *Woodbury Gazette*, and who did a wonderful job. During last minute modifications to squeeze in late arriving announcements, our checking missed the last six words of Mike Bennett's story. It was the best part of what he had to say about his life. The last paragraph is printed below.

"And what does he [Mike] think about having grown up in the area and attending M-W schools? "Growing up in Highland Mills in the 1950's and 60's

was the best childhood you could ever have. There were woods around my house, and I could ride my bike anywhere in town," Mike remembers. "And Monroe-Woodbury schools provided a very creative environment. I was lucky enough to be in an enrichment program, and I had the best teachers and got the best education. Growing up in Woodbury, I got the best of everything!"

Jackson & Auggie, 2nd Book Signing at Jay's

Over 210 copies signed at first event!

Renee Pearce and Kaylin Ruffino said the last book signing event for Jackson & Auggie: Adventure in the Hudson Valley was very successful! "We sold out of 150 books in less than two hours and took orders for over sixty more!" The authors said that because many parents may have missed the first opportunity they announced, "We are holding another signing at Jay's on Saturday, April 28th from 3:00 to 5:00 pm.

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