New book explores the values and influence of Eagle Scouts

NEW YORK, N.Y.—Thomas Dunne Books, an imprint of St. Martin’s Press, announces the release of Legacy of Honor: The Values and Influence of America’s Eagle Scouts by Alvin Townley.

The narrative explores the lives and character of Eagle Scouts including Bill Gates Sr., Bill Bradley, Ross Perot, Michael Bloomberg, J. W. Marriott Jr., Secretary of Defense Robert Gates, Michael Dukakis, Supreme Court Justice Stephen Breyer, Treasury Secretary Hank Paulson, Coach Chan Gailey, and Apollo 13 Astronaut Jim Lovell. The book also explores the virtues of a Tuskegee Airman, a Vietnam War POW, a September 11 NYPD hero, a crew member of a Hurricane Katrina relief team and a host of others from every walk of life.

The author, an Eagle Scout himself, spent a year traveling throughout the country, meeting these individuals, and discovering stories of courage, service, and hope that truly belong to all Americans.

Commenting on Legacy of Honor, President Jimmy Carter said, “These Eagle Scouts will inspire readers to become leaders in serving others,” while Defense Secretary and National Eagle Scout Association President Robert Gates hailed the book as “inspirational.”

For additional information, visit www.legacyofhonor.com.

Quotations from Legacy of Honor

“Scouting played a very large role in my development. It gave me access, it helped me dream. I dreamed that I could go anywhere in the Boy Scouts.”

Percy Sutton, Tuskegee Airman and Freedom Rider

“In this country, you don’t have to come with a pedigree. You just have to have the principles and the moral and ethical standards, and then you need to have the drive to get things done. All those things you get taught in scouting.”

Ross Perot, founder of EDS and Perot Systems

“In San Francisco, through Troop 14, we met people from different places, backgrounds, races, and points of view. You lose a few prejudices that way. You learn to appreciate people for who they are and I think that, writ large, is what the civil rights movement has been about—treating people on their merits. It starts on a personal level and if that’s not clear from scouting, I don’t know what is.”

Ross Perot, founder of EDS and Perot Systems

“The longer I’m around in this world, the longer I look to principles and values as opposed to rules and laws. People always find their ways around rules and laws.”

Hank Paulson, secretary of the U.S. Treasury

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When Adam Potter was a student at Twin Beach Elementary School in Commerce, Mich., he would accompany his mother to PTA meetings where kidsitters would help him with his homework.

After he graduated from Twin Beach, his younger brother was still a student there, so he continued to receive help from the kidsitters. If no adults showed up to help, he became the kidsitter even though he was only in junior high. Now a high school student, Adam is the kidsitter for every meeting and frequently serves as a babysitter on other occasions. He received a Good Samaritan Award for his service.

Six Arizona middle school youth received God and Church Awards. They met seven times in several churches. Guest speakers spoke about their churches and how they reached out to the community, the nation and the world. The youth included Sam Grainger and Seth and Kellen Chavies, members of University UMC in Las Vegas, and Chris Braunstein, and Vanessa and Tiffany Braunstein, members of Desert Hills Baptist Church. The class was taught by Martha Grainger, North District Scouting Coordinator for the Desert Southwest Annual Conference.

Trevor Crist was awarded the Good Samaritan Award by St. Matthew UMC, Mesa, Arizona during the church’s Scout Sunday recognition ceremonies. The award was presented by Pastor Dan Morley. Trevor’s Eagle Scout service project collected over $1,000 baby care products for Save the Family. The senior troop patrol leader has participated in a back packing trip at Philmont Scout Ranch near Cimarron, N.M., and canoeing near Atikokan, Ontario, Canada.

A little over two years ago, Will Stockman needed a community service project for his Eagle Scout rank. Oxford (Iowa) UMC needed a food pantry. Will began by cleaning and painting a storage room in the church basement. He and helpers then spent 135 hours building cupboards that could be locked, creating a log to track disbursements, and sorting food. Church members, a nearby elementary school and Troop 222 help keep the pantry stocked for hungry families. During a Scout Sunday service, the church gave Stockman a Good Samaritan Award.

Floyd Jones, a participant in the Amachi program, and 10-year-old Dontae Rose had fun at Bob Woodruff Park in Plano, Texas. Amachi volunteers promise to give at least four hours a month to their little brother, but activities can include little stuff such as grocery shopping, a trip to the car wash or getting lunch together. Photo by Vernon Bryant courtesy of Dallas Morning News.

Six Arizona young people receive God and Church Awards.

Trevor Crist, a Good Samaritan award winner, participates in a canoe trip in the Quetico Provincial Wilderness Park in Ontario, Canada.

Sam Foust (second from left) and Paul Mitchell (second from right) receive Cross and Fame Awards from UM Men of Central UMC in Denton, N.C. The awards are presented by Conrad Harrold, treasurer (left), the Rev. Benny Clodfelter, pastor (center) and Bud Sexton, president (right). The two award winners have each served Boy Scout Troop 101 for 40 years.
You can make a difference in a boy’s life
Participate in the Katrina UM scouting relief project

Purchase quality camping gear at competitive prices to help your troop, the Katrina UM scouting relief fund and yourself.

When you purchase equipment at Scoutman Supply, 10 percent of your expenditures will be given to the Katrina UM Scouting Relief Fund.

Visit www.scoutmansupply.com to make your purchase and indicate your troop/post number. For example, if you are Troop 100, enter UM100 in this field, and you will receive competitive prices and scout troops affected by the Katrina Hurricane will receive 10 percent of your purchase price.

The company supplies packs, tents, sleeping gear, lanterns, cooking gear, water containers, camp tools, survival gear, boats and stoves.

“Good shopping to you, gentlemen!”

Free Scouting Ministries DVD now available

A free DVD to help your church develop or expand its scouting ministries is now available.

The new DVD, United Methodist Scouting Ministries: Introductory Training for Church and Scouting Professionals and Volunteers, is available through the Boy Scouts of America (BSA) or the General Commission on United Methodist Men (GCUMM).

Topics in the 75-minute DVD include:
- How to transform your local church scouting program into a ministry.
- Youth and adult recognition and awards.
- Policies and guidelines for protecting our youth.
- Growing your program through a bishop’s dinners.
- The DVD can be viewed in its entirety or by topic. The end of the DVD includes video clips, testimonials and a local church case-study.

The DVD is based upon the Scouting Ministry Training Manual, published by the National Association of United Methodist Scouters, an affiliate of the GCUMM. All materials discussed, mentioned or used in the training are available at www.naums.org.

The DVD was produced by the relationships division of the BSA in conjunction with the National Association of United Methodist Scouters and the Office of Civic Youth-Serving Agencies/Scouting of GCUMM.

The free DVD is available at the Nashville office of GCUMM or your local BSA council office (BIN number 05-985). To receive a copy by mail, call 1-866-297-4312 ($10 for shipping and handling).

South Carolina leader inducted into John Wesley Society

MYRTLE BEACH, S.C. — William C. (Bill) Smith, 69, was inducted into the John Wesley Society during a February South Carolina UM Men retreat.

A Georgia native, Smith grew up in the Southern Baptist Church. “I had a two-year stint as a Methodist my last year in high school,” says Smith, “and later when I was dating a district superintendent’s daughter.”

After receiving a B.S. degree in textile engineering from Georgia Tech, he spent two years as a lieutenant in the Army, two years working in New York and 13 years in Boston as a marketer of technical textiles. It was in Boston that he joined a Methodist Church and says he has been a United Methodist ever since. Smith says he joined the Methodist Church in 1964 because the pastor and neighboring church members called upon him after he moved in. “I hope we can try and continue that one-on-one approach to bring in more men to the church,” says Smith.

Asked what offices he has held in the UMC, Smith responded, “You name it, I’ve done it several times over from sweeping the floor to lay leader in UM churches in New England, New York, and South Carolina annual conferences.” He currently serves on the church’s Staff Parish Relations Committee and has taught an adult Sunday school class for the last 15 years.

Smith has served as local church chair of an Administrative Board, a Council on Ministries, and a Board of Trustees. He served as president of UM Men in two churches in two annual conferences. He was also a founding member of Covenant UMC in Greer, S.C. in 1986 and the first chair of the Administrative Board of that new congregation.

Smith became involved in South Carolina Conference UM Men about 15 years ago and has served as treasurer, vice president and president. He was elected as a delegate to the 2004 General Conference in Pittsburgh. He currently serves as secretary for the Southeast Jurisdiction Conference Presidents and the National Association of Conference Presidents.

“I love my work for UM Men,” says Smith. “Obviously, it is quite an honor to be recognized by one’s peers, and I am grateful and appreciative.”

South Carolina UM Men President Robert Scarborough said the award was presented to Smith to honor him for a lifetime of achievement in the work of the church and men’s ministry, not because he served as a conference president.