

On a beautiful January afternoon, over 80 family members and friends gathered at St. Andrews Catholic Church parish center to celebrate as William (Bill) Spellman III received his Eagle Scout Award. Bill Spellman is a member of Troop 316 and is the son of Bill and Dianna Spellman of Cary. Bill, a graduate of Cardinal Gibbons High School, was a member of the Varsity Lacrosse team. He is currently a freshman at NC State seeking a degree in Business. In attendance at the Eagle Ceremony were his sisters Christine and Elizabeth, his brother Brian, who was the Master of Ceremony, and his grandfather, Robert A. Foy of New York City, NY. Special family guests included the Hartnett's, the Habererns' and the Oertel's. Bill Spellman is Troop 316's 15th Eagle Scout in their 11 short years of existence.

As Master of Ceremony, Boy Scout Brian Spellman welcomed everyone, on behalf of his family and troop, to this great occasion. Several Troop 316 leaders shared exciting and embarrassing stories of Spellman's scouting adventures during his 7 years as a Boy Scout. Such good nature tales as reviewing his initial Boy Scout application, the time while at summer camp when he received a heavily scented perfumed letter from ????, Could it have been his girlfriend? And another tale of being one of the few scouts at his summer camp to earn the Fishing Merit Badge.

Bill's grandfather read a poem dedicated to his oldest grandchild. The key points of the poem were his "his strength as a scout, to be proud but humble, set high goals, look to the future and member the past and always maintain a sense of humor." He finished his poem saying how proud he was of Bill making Eagle.

Bill's Eagle Charge was read by Troop 316 committee member and Eagle Scout Frank Jackson, "I have been given the honor of calling your Eagle Scout charge on the occasion of your elevation to the highest rank in Scouting." Jackson went on to say "All who know you celebrate your achievement. Your position, as you well know, is one of honor, dignity, and responsibility. As an Eagle Scout you have assumed a solemn obligation to do your duty to God, to your country, to your fellow Scouts, and in fact to all mankind." Jackson concluded the charge by closing with, "As trivial or as insignificant as it sounds to many, if you use the Scout Law and Oath throughout your life to make choices, you will never fail others and more importantly, you will never fail yourself."

Scoutmaster Rick Bunnell called Bill and his parents to center stage for his Eagle Medal presentation. Bill's mother had the honor of pinning his Eagle Medal on his uniform. In turn, Bill presented his mother the Eagle Mother's pin and an Eagle tie tac to his father. Troop 316 Eagle Scouts, Kyle Bunnell and Cameron Harrison presented Bill with his Eagle neckerchief and neckerchief slide. The seven Eagle Scouts who attended joined the troop in congratulating Bill for his achievement. One special Eagle Scout and close friend of Bill's was John Templeton, a freshman at Colorado State University.

A Troop 316 eagle ceremony would not be complete without the strong support of Charles Fosset, and Bob Connick of the Cary-Apex Elks Lodge. This was the lodge's 161st Eagle ceremony. Since 1998 they have been supporting scouts in the Crosswind

and Hemlock Districts. The Elks Lodge presented Bill an American flag. In addition to the Elk's flag, Senator Burr sent Bill a U.S. Flag that flew over the U.S. Capitol.

A book of over 45 congratulatory letters, certificates, and autographed pictures from former and current U.S. Presidents, senior federal, state and local government officials, along with several general officers was presented to Bill. He also received a letter from US Senator and Astronaut, John Glenn, congratulating him for a job well done. Bill is the troop's last Eagle Scout to receive a congratulatory letter from former President Gerald Ford before he passed away in late December. President Ford, also an Eagle Scout, was proud of his own association with Boy Scouts.

For his Eagle Project Bill chose to construct benches at Our Lady of the Lourdes School and Parish sports field for use by the Kindergarten through 8th grade school students. Bill demonstrated leadership by directing a work crew of 15 scouts and adults accumulating over 120 man hours to complete.

Former Scoutmaster Ed Walsh presented Bill with a Savings Bond from the St. Andrews Mens' Society which sponsors Troop 316. The troop meets at St. Andrew's at 7:00 PM every Tuesday. Anyone interested in joining Troop 316 should contact Rick Bunnell, Scoutmaster, at 303-3672 or Lloyd Allen, Committee Chairman, at 380-1254. Please visit the troop's website for additional information.

<http://home.earthlink.net/~troop316/id22.html>