



# Flights



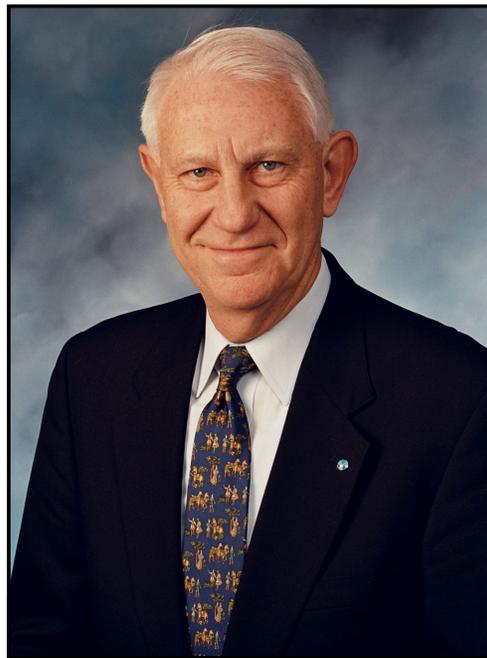
A Quarterly Update from the Eagle Scout Alumni Association of the Patriots' Path Council

4th Quarter 2008

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## Distinguished Eagle, Bill Kroll to Co-chair Gala



Bill Kroll

February 8, 2010 marks the **100th Year of Scouting in America** (1910 – 2010), and anniversary celebration plans are well underway. In preparation for this significant achievement, the Patriots' Path Council has planned a wonderful series of events over the next three years, culminating in May 2010 with a spectacular black-tie gala at Ellis Island.

Bill Kroll, recipient of the 2007 National Distinguished Eagle Award has graciously agreed to be co-chair of this very significant event. Joseph Gonnella, Council Finance Director says "Patriots' Path Council is extremely fortunate to have someone of Bill's leadership caliber to fill this role supporting one of Scouting's most important achievements." Bill Kroll is Chairman and CEO of Matheson Tri-Gas Inc., a leading provider of industrial gas handling solutions and equipment. He is a long-time supporter of Scouting and an Eagle Scout from the class of 1961. Bill is celebrating over 47 years as an Eagle Scout.

**Beginnings:** Bill Kroll was born and raised in Chicago, Illinois, where he was a Scout in Troop 85 and a Sea Scout on Ship 5085 in the Frontier District. "Scouting has been very good to me. It's how I met my wife, Judy, who was in a local Girl Scout Troop." Scouting played an important part in both of their lives. When Bill earned his Eagle Award in 1961, Judy was there at his Court of Honor. They've been married 41 years.

Bill and Judy have two daughters who were Girl Scouts; Judy was a Brownie and Girl Scout Leader and Bill was the Assistant Scout Leader. Bill feels the BSA and GSA values are not very different from each other. "Judy sometimes used the BSA manual and found it to be a valuable tool for her work with the girls."

**1961 Eagle Scout:** When Bill reflects on attaining his Eagle rank, he says "What makes an Eagle Scout is a person having the will to accomplish it. At my Eagle Court of Honor, the kid standing next to me had cerebral palsy. I remember how much I admired his will to get through the swimming challenge of the Lifesaving requirements; it was not easy for him but he did it with no exceptions. He made a choice and he had the will. It's one thing I'll never forget and it chokes me up to this day whenever I think of him." No doubt, the memory of this young man touched Bill.

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## Distinguished Eagle to Co-chair Patriots' Path Council Gala (Continued from page 1)

**BSA 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gala co-Chair:** "It's an honor, but more so, a privilege to do this work. At this point in my life, I think it's important to give something back." "Many things I've done were based on Scouting values." "To be a part of its 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary at this level is my way of giving back to Scouting in a small way and doing a good turn daily." "I hope to be an example to young people on what they can achieve if they have the will."

The 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary gala will be held at Ellis Island and Bill is co-chairing the event with Bart Oates, former NFL player with the New York Giants (1985—1993). "It's a remarkable place. My grandparents came to America from Italy and Germany through that hall; many of our roots are right up the grand staircase where the gala will be held." "No question, the gala will be a fun and wonderful event, but I don't want our attendees to lose sight of why they are there... It's about the youth."

**What's next:** Scouting has clearly made an impact on Bill Kroll throughout his life as a youth, as an adult raising a family, and in his profession. When asked what's next, Bill states he is the proud grandfather of beautiful twin granddaughters. "If they turn out like their parents and grandparents, they'll be involved in Scouting and will be taught its values."

Whatever does come next will most certainly involve helping youth. "I'll continue to talk to young people and encourage them to pursue their dreams".

Bill was recently invited to speak at a Scout luncheon in Cleveland for underprivileged youth where he met a young black woman from a Venturing Crew. She talked about her interest in space, her science projects and how she was accepted into a college to study physics. When Bill sees Scouts interested in Math and Science, it inspires him, as there is a great need for scientists and engineers. Scouting allowed him to explore and excel in the sciences. He is committed to youth who have the will to follow their desires and make the right decisions to achieve them. "Mentoring kids—that's what I'm doing right now"...and you can be sure, Bill Kroll has "the will" to help them succeed.

\*For details on Scouting's 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, visit <http://www.scouting.org/100years/>.

## Eagle Scout Alumni Association Scholarship Awarded



Congratulations go to Jackson Salovaara, recipient of the 2008 Eagle Scout Alumni Association Scholarship. Jackson was born in Brooklyn, NY and raised in Bernardsville, NJ. He earned his Eagle rank at age 14 from Troop 150 in August 2004. For his Eagle project, he arranged and executed substantial landscaping work at his church, St. John on the Mountain.

Jackson attended Bernards High for ninth grade and recently graduated from Phillips Exeter Academy in Exeter, NH where he was a Classics scholar. He is now attending Harvard University. While at Exeter, Jackson stayed involved in Scouting by founding the Exeter Scouting Outreach, a group of Scouts at the Academy which assists Exeter Troop 332 by regularly attending its meetings in the capacity of Junior Assistant Scoutmasters.

This organization helped out the troop, which suffered from too few older scouts, as well as the scouts at the Academy who were struggling to remain involved in Scouting in the face of the school's demanding schedule.

Jackson is passionate about environmental activism and the growing problem of global warming. He was the founding member of the student committee that presented a 54-page Carbon Neutrality Proposal to the Exeter Board of Trustees last spring to significant acclaim sparking much further discussion.

Boy Scouts first taught him to love the environment and the principles of stewardship. Both of which have driven the environmental work he plans to devote his life.

The *Eagle Scout Alumni Association* from the Patriots' Path Council awards a \$1,000 merit scholarship each year to one finalist showing a balance of scholastic and community service excellence.

## Hugo Pfaltz – A Friend to All



Hugo Pfaltz

Patriots' Path Council is fortunate to have many friends and supporters. Mention one name, Hugo Pfaltz to anyone at the Patriots' Path Council office and the response is "what a charming gentleman", although Hugo himself, would only accept this description with the most genuine modesty. Despite decades of accomplishments in the legal, political, and community arenas, he would much rather be known as a good friend, and a better one can't be found.

Hugo Pfaltz was born in Newark and raised in Short Hills, NJ where he was an active member of Troop 15 and served as the Scout leader for many years. He earned his Eagle rank in 1947, recently celebrating his 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary living the Scout Oath and Law as an Eagle Scout.

**Beginnings:** Hugo earned his Eagle rank during WWII. At that time, there was no Eagle project requirement, but many of his Scouting activities in support of his country and community would certainly qualify. Hugo remembers one of his first service activities was collecting tin foil and newspapers for the war effort. He also recalls building a rope-bridge to cover a small brook that ran through Short Hills when it was mostly farm lands. "I tied it together by hand for my Pioneering Merit badge." Even then, conscientious of safety, he later went back to make the bridge more secure for crossing.

**What Scouting Means:** "The great thing about Scouting is that it offers a straight path for young people to follow. You can see it, earn merit badges, and go up the ranks. You are not forced to follow it, but if you do follow it, you'll get to be an Eagle, like my grandson", he says very proudly. "There is a book aspect to Scouting, but it's not like school. You don't need a team. You can follow it yourself and as a person later in life, it helps you find the sure things. And that's why I think Scouting is so important."

**Service to others:** In addition to their many philanthropic and humanitarian activities, Hugo and his wife, Marilyn sponsor several children through the Christian Children's Fund, visiting Nepal, Ethiopia, and most recently, Romania. They work very hard to stay connected with these families, sometimes sending money to help buy needed food. "These families live in very interesting countries, not democracies by our standards but it makes you appreciate our country and all that we have."

**National Distinguished Eagle Scout:** Hugo is a recipient of the 2007 National Distinguished Eagle Scout award. When congratulated on receiving an award that is presented to less than two percent of Eagle Scouts, Hugo chuckles as he looks at his award statue that is prominently displayed in his office, saying that usually when you hear about achievements such as this, it's generally followed by "may he rest in peace"... "Fortunately, that's not the case for me."

**Scout Law:** It is easy to see how each of the twelve points (a scout is trustworthy, loyal, helpful...) of the Scout Law can be applied to Hugo for his personal, charitable, and professional achievements. When asked which one resonates with him the most, without hesitation, he says "Friendly." "It is the most important because you are a part of this world. To live in this world, you have to be open and friendly. To have animosity towards people is totally wrong."

**What the 100<sup>th</sup> BSA Anniversary means to Hugo:** "Any organization can get old and ossified over time. The BSA survived because it has been able to reinvent itself. The 100th anniversary represents a challenge, a landmark to go through but not to rest upon." He goes on to say "You can't rest on 100 years of existence. The 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary theme is "the future of scouting is now". The BSA is adapting to the changing demands of the world and is meeting those challenges."

**Conclusion:** Hugo graduated from Harvard Law School in 1960 and New York University School of Law (LLM in Taxation) in 1965. At age 77, you will find him working at his Summit, NJ law firm (Pfaltz & Woller) that he established in 1974.

In his office, you'll see a wall of photographs of Hugo with many political greats he's encountered in his career, along with oil paintings of historical greats that he simply enjoys collecting.

He and his wife have three children and an extended family including seven grandchildren. He attributes his life experiences to having good fortune. "I've been extremely lucky in everything. I was born in 1931 when the birthrate was bottoming out. My mother had polio as a child; those were odds we both overcame. I recognize that my luck comes from God."



Pfaltz – as a young Scout

## Eagle Scout Hall of Fame Honorees

Patriots' Path Council would like to congratulate our newest inductees for the Eagle Scout Hall of Fame:

- Raymond Brandes
- Eugene Eckel
- Richard Kurland
- Daniel Rauch

They will be honored at our 2009 Eagle Scout Recognition Dinner, to be held on **January 9, 2009** at The "Skylands" in Randolph, NJ.

Each year, Hall of Fame Honorees are chosen by members of the Eagle Scout Alumni Association Committee for their continued contributions to Scouting. These gentlemen are Eagle Scouts that have devoted 25 years or more of service since having received their Eagle Scout Rank.

Also being recognized at this event, will be the young men who have reached the rank of Eagle Scout from December 16, 2007 to December 3, 2008. They will be honored and featured in a video presentation for family and friends to enjoy that night.

All are welcome. For event information, visit the Council web site [www.ppbsa.org](http://www.ppbsa.org) or contact Linda Morris at (973-765-9322 x246), [lmorris@bsamail.org](mailto:lmorris@bsamail.org)

## Eagle Alumni Event

Coming this Spring 2009  
Eagle Alumni Challenge



**Klondike Derby with a Twist!**  
**Camp Mt. Allamuchy**  
**Stanhope, NJ**

Have you accomplished something recently?

Let us know. Email:  
[kvernon@bsamail.org](mailto:kvernon@bsamail.org)

Mail the information to:

Eagle Scout Alumni Association c/o  
Kim Vernon

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