

## Eagle Court of Honor held for Eagle Scout Jonathan Avant



L to R.-State Representative Chuck Hopson, Eagle Scout Jonathan Avant, Janice Hamilton (Jonathan's Mom), and Billie Hopson.

Rusk, TX.- Jonathan Avant, son of Janet Hamilton, received the Eagle Badge Scouting Award August 19, 2007 when Boy Scout Troop 405 held the Eagle Court of Honor for him. The ceremony was held at Rusk Junior High and was well attended by his family, friends, fellow scouts and state and local dignitaries.

Eagle Scout Michael White opened the ceremony and Eagle Scout Lucas Turner gave the Color Guard Presentation. Troop 405 conducted the candle lighting and Jason Hoffman, First Baptist Youth minister, gave the invocation. The Eagle Honor Guard gave the significance of the Eagle Badge and the Nacogdoches Order of the Arrow was on hand to present the Eagle Ceremony. Jonathan's mother had the honor of pinning him. Eagle Scout Kelly Clay gave the new Eagle Change., Life Scout Bob Goldsberry, Troop 405 Scout Master, and Debbie White Advanced Chairman took part in recognizing Jonathan for his accomplishments. Janet Hamilton was recognized for the support and encouragement she has given Jonathan over the years which contributed to his scouting success.

Honored guest and award presenters present were State Representative Chuck Hopson and wife Billie who presented Jonathan with a State Flag which has flown over the Capital, Richard Sanders with Congressman Jeb Hensarling's Office, Lodge Advisor

Milton O'Neal Order of the Arrow Tejas Lodge 72, East Texas Area Council African American Scout Representative Larnie Jackson, Eagle Scout John Moring East Texas Area Council District Executive, Commander Ken McClure Sons of the Confederacy, and members of the Tejas Lodge 72. Present also was Jonathan's Uncle, Dr. Freddie Avant, SFAP Professor and wife.

Life Scout Bob Goldsberry praised Jonathan describing him as an outstanding young man who has exhibited perseverance, dedication, hard work, exceptional ability and devotion. These qualities earned Jonathan elevation to Eagle Rank. He also stated that only 3% of Scouts make it to this Rank. Records available show that Jonathan is one of the youngest scouts to make Eagle Rank and the only African American in East Texas. He received over 100 letters from dignitaries including Senator Kay Bailey Hutcherson and Condoleezza Rice.

Jonathan started scouting as a Cub in Rusk earning the Bear, Wolf and Webelos Ranks and then the Arrow of Light. He then crossed over to Troop 405 and became a Tenderfoot Scout in 2003. Since then he has earned merit badges: Camping, Citizenship in the community, Nation and World, Communications, Emergency Preparedness, Environmental Science, First Aid, Personal Management, Safety, Swimming, American Heri-



Ayrric Jones, Drate Berry, Clinton Wilbanks, Robert Westmoreland, Brian Allen-members of the Eagle Honor Guard and Jonathan Avant.

itage, Astronomy, Cooking, Forestry, Disabilities Awareness, Horsemanship, Indian Lore, Motor Boating, Painting, Pulp and Paper, Space Exploration, Stamp Collecting, Wilderness, Survival, Shotgun Shooting, Family Life, Crime Prevention, Music, Computers, Pets and Reading.

He earned the following patches: Donor Awareness, Price of Freedom Trail, Texas Heritage Trail, A Scout is Reverent, Good Turn For America 2005, 2006 and 2007. Scouts and Lions Award, Home

town USA, Outdoor Cooking, Community Service, and On My Honor. He volunteers in the community and church in projects too numerous to name. At Rusk High he is a member of Student Council, tutors math, pulls chairs for band concerts, helps clean tables after lunch, is a member of band since 6th grade and is involved with the youth in his church. He is Troop 405 member of the Order of the Arrow and is Senior Patrol Leader. A reception was held afterwards.



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