



SEE THE 2020 DSA HONOREES, PAGE 6

THE 2018 RECIPIENTS AT THE 2018 NATIONAL ORDER OF THE ARROW CONFERENCE AT INDIANA UNIVERSITY IN BLOOMINGTON, IN.



VOLUME XII, ISSUE 1 | AUGUST 2020

THE SILVER ARROWHEAD

PRESENTED FOR DISTINGUISHED SERVICE TO THE ORDER SINCE 1940

Service in Crisis: Captain John Rotruck

By **BILL TOPKIS**
CLASS OF 2012

KYLE PALMER
CLASS OF 2018

Thus far, 2020 has not turned out like anyone thought it would. Most have endured home lockdowns, shuttered businesses, or lost opportunities – broken plans. Order of the Arrow events, including most section conclaves and the National Order of the Arrow Conference, have been cancelled. Philmont Scout Ranch has closed for the summer and most councils could not hold summer camps this year. One Arrowman, however, has risen to a unique challenge – Captain **John Rotruck DSA '96**, the commanding officer of the medical treatment facility aboard the USNS *Mercy*, deployed to Los Angeles to provide hospital beds and services in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Many Arrowmen know Rotruck from his years of service to the Order of the Arrow as a section chief in his youth to his recent leadership on the National Order of the Arrow Committee. While many know Rotruck, they were certainly surprised in March to see him appear on television, featured on ABC News, MSNBC, and Fox News, as well as articles appearing in *The New York Times* and *The Washington Post*. What does not surprise those familiar with Rotruck, however, is his leadership and willingness to step up in a time of crisis.

Jack Butler DSA '86, Rotruck's section adviser from 1992-93 when he served as section chief, described in great detail his natural leadership ability. Calm, confident, and decisive, Rotruck was an exceptional youth leader for his lodge, section, and ultimately for the ICE (Inductions and Ceremonial Events) Committee ahead of the 1994 NOAC. Butler described a natural



Captain John Rotruck, Credit: U.S. Navy

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25 Years On: The Birth of OA High Adventure

By **MARTY TSCHETTER**
CLASS OF 1996



The OA Trail Crew clearing an obstruction in 1995.

Many of us developed our fondest memories in the outdoors. Since 1995, many Arrowmen have developed particularly fond memories through the Order of the Arrow Trail Crew and subsequent OA High Adventure programs. While some may know the history of this wonderful and life-changing program, it is worth reflecting upon as we celebrate the silver anniversary of this adventure. Luckily enough, I happened to be there. How the program came

to be is an incredible testimony to the power of Scouting at the highest level.

In November 1994, National Associate Director **John Alline DSA '98** flew to Raleigh, North Carolina to formally discuss with me the potential of an innovative high adventure program for youth Arrowmen at Philmont. My close Scouting friend **Michael Edwards DSA '96** and I had previously pitched the concept to National OA Committee Chairman **Ed Pease DSA '71** while at Philmont. The

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OA Leadership Integral to National Scouting Historian Summit

By **JEFF MORLEY**
CLASS OF 2020

By now, almost everyone has heard about the National Scouting Historian Summit (NSHS) held at Philmont last summer. Yes, it was the largest paid training program in the history of the Philmont Training Center. Yes, the event was run entirely by volunteers, at no cost to the BSA. Yes, the event attracted a broad swath of BSA members including youth and women Scouters. And yes, it was the largest national OA event in 2019.

Lesser known, however, is the depth of OA involvement, particularly from Distinguished Service Award recipients, in the creation, promotion, and execution of the NSHS – beginning as early as the 2015 NOAC. Initial discussions regarding the idea of an OA-sponsored historian workshop weekend took place in a meeting chaired by **Ray Capp DSA '73**, who was very supportive of further development. At the Summit Circle celebration in 2016, a sit-down meeting with **Mike Hoffman DSA '86** and **Michael Thompson DSA '06** laid out basic ideas for a historian workshop and the potential viability of such an event. At Hoffman's suggestion, thinking shifted to using Philmont as a possible venue for the first time. Thompson offered support and encouraged the use of the OA Recognition, Awards, History, and Preservation Subcommittee as a forum to keep key OA leaders apprised of the event's development.

A preliminary taskforce, including **Bill Topkis DSA '12** and **Robert Mason DSA '09**, was established to forge out possible topics and content that might be included in a weekend historian workshop. It was determined the event was not to teach Scouting and OA history per se, but to highlight techniques for accumulating, preserving, and sharing history with others. This distinction, while seemingly minor, became the guiding force in the creation of a new program never-before-seen in Scouting.

In spring of 2018, an opportunity opened at Philmont Training Center



Jack Butler DSA '86, Matthew Dukeman DSA '04, Robert Mason DSA '09, Jeff Morley DSA '20, Bill Topkis DSA '12, Bradley Taylor DSA '20, Tim Brown DSA '15, and Billy Walley DSA '83.

and Topkis successfully negotiated and reserved the first PTC session of 2019 for a historian summit. The task force put together enough preliminary information to hold an early rollout meeting for interested Arrowmen at the 2018 NOAC. The response was tremendous and suddenly the task force found itself in the enviable position of having reserved the venue, the dates, and a larger-than-expected number of sign-ups. All that was missing were the details of the program – but why nit-pick?

Later in the fall of 2018, the task force, now including **Tim Brown DSA '15**, met onsite at Philmont with **Matt Dukeman DSA '04** and Dave Werhane, director of the National Scouting Museum, to view the facilities and help **Tony Steinhardt DSA '92** install his newly-designed OA exhibit for the grand opening of the National Scouting Museum. The preliminary taskforce soon became the national historian leadership committee including **Kyle Palmer DSA '18** and **Bradley Taylor DSA '20**.

Topkis (lead adviser) and I (course director) busily assembled course subjects, teaching faculty, and an event staff that included

DSA recipients **Ken Davis DSA '77, Billy Walley DSA '83, Jack Butler DSA '86, Nelson Block DSA '94, Scott Smith DSA '96, Marty Tschetter DSA '96, Terrel Miller DSA '98, and Tico Perez DSA '04**. National officers **Eric Harrison DSA '20, Sid Salazar DSA '20, and Brandon Stahl DSA '20** also served on the staff that grew to include 25 additional members, almost all of whom were Arrowmen.

With a venue second to none and all the talent and planning in place, the rest, as the saying goes, was history. To say the National Scouting Historian Summit would not have happened without the vision, effort, and support of the Order of the Arrow would be a gross understatement. Our well-known tradition of service, coupled with our capable team, once again demonstrated that the OA has what it takes to develop new and innovative programming into the future.

Editor's Note: Author Jeff Morley, ever-humble, neglected to mention he was selected to receive the DSA with the Class of 2020. Congratulations, and thank you for your great efforts!

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

My Brothers,

2020 will no doubt be looked upon in history as many things – defining, challenging, economically harrowing, culturally explosive, and physically exhausting. I, like many of you, am caught up in all of these issues. The Order of the Arrow is tackling the things that are in our circle of influence, but there are some things that are not entirely in our control.

Out of an abundance of caution for the physical and financial health of our members, we made the tough decision to cancel the 2020 National Order of the Arrow Conference. We expect to hold NOAC in 2022 - The 2020 NOAC registration was approaching 7,000, so we know we will be successful in the future. In the wake of the NOAC cancellation, our youth leaders shifted their focus to a smaller event called "Momentum," which was to be held at the Summit Bechtel Reserve in West Virginia. Because of the resilience of the pandemic, we ultimately had to make another tough decision to cancel "Momentum" and shift once more to an entirely virtual event called "Momentum Launch," which will include training, leadership engagement, and national updates.

To adapt and eventually emerge from the COVID-19 pandemic, the National Order of the Arrow Committee developed a six-point plan to assist lodges in the areas of induction, program, training, and governance. Through this initiative, we placed an emphasis on innovative thinking within lodges. Our youth leaders have been in constant contact with their sections and lodges via phone calls and

virtual meetings. The national OA committee is committed to helping lodges through these tough times – You can find updates on our website at oa-bsa.org/coronavirus.

COVID-19 notwithstanding, we are not immune to the effects of dropping membership in Scouting or the ongoing bankruptcy. We are projecting a decrease in OA membership in 2020, but similar to our previously mentioned efforts, we will do all in our power to innovate and thereby minimize our losses while adding new members. Late last year, with the financial situation impacting Scouting, the BSA, by necessity and for support of the national program, accessed OA Endowment funds to pay for operating expenses. We will continue to update you on the impact of the bankruptcy on the OA Endowment in the near future. The bankruptcy continues to move forward, with a "bar date" established, letters sent to potential victims of abuse, and mediators assigned to the case.

While the storm rages on, I remain an optimist. I believe in the credo first espoused by Coleman Cox, "I'm a great believer in luck, and I find the harder I work, the more I have of it." I have always believed we can harness the power of our membership, guided by our principles – Wimachtendienk, Wingolauchsik, Witahemui – to make a positive difference in this world.

I would be remiss if I neglected to thank Marty Tschetter for his great service as editor-in-chief of *The Silver Arrowhead* over the last thirteen years. Marty has always been a trailblazer, most prominently with the OA Trail



Crew at Philmont, and later as the founder and first editor of *The Silver Arrowhead*. Now, as Marty begins his role as editor emeritus, a new editor-in-chief has been selected in his place, and I wish Kyle Palmer the best of luck in this new endeavor.

I would never forget to congratulate the 2020 class of Distinguished Service Award recipients, like those before you, you have proven to be worthy, those who chose you now need you to lead!

Do your best to stay healthy and help us as we pursue the mission of the Order of the Arrow.

In service,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Mike Hoffman".

Mike Hoffman
National Chairman
Class of 1986



Youth historians and event staff at the 2019 National Scouting Historian Summit held at the Philmont Training Center. DSA recipients pictured include: left: Matthew Dukeman DSA '04, Robert Mason DSA '09, center: Brandon Stahl DSA '20, Eric Harrison DSA '20, Sid Salazar DSA '20, right: Bradley Taylor DSA '20.



Craig Salazar DSA '94, Clint Takeshita DSA '92, and Scott Beckett DSA '96.

Witnessing DSA Leadership at the 2019 World Scout Jamboree

By **SCOTT BECKETT**
CLASS OF 1996

Life changing! Unbelievable! Extraordinary!

Hosted in partnership between the United States, Canada, and Mexico, more than 45,000 Scouts and leaders from 156 countries made last summer's 24th World Scout Jamboree the largest, most

amazing international Scouting event ever. In retrospect, all I can tell you is that our "little twelve-day campout" was an indescribable marvel of fellowship, enthusiasm, hope, humanity, and trust.

Thank goodness for two decades of planning NOACs and jamborees, as this adventure was the granddaddy of them all. In Spring 2015, I got a call asking me



Jack Hess DSA '98, Joey Quick (National Associate Director and 2019 WSJ Program Staff Adviser), Andy Price (Scout Executive, Grand Canyon Council), Mike Hoffman DSA '86, Matthew Parsons DSA '20, and Scott Beckett DSA '96.

to sign on as the WSJ's director of program (in BSA lingo, program chair). Honestly, I did not know what I was getting into, but I knew one thing – we were going to blow the doors off the "same-old thing" and introduce the BSA and the world to the next generation of Scouting!

Though I tell about it here, you could spend hours upon hours on YouTube and Facebook viewing the true magic that took place in West Virginia last year, and you would be served far better than reading my words on it. What those videos will not show you, however, is the service rendered by dozens of DSA recipients at the highest levels of WSJ leadership, BSA contingent management, and as unit leaders who made things happen.

The list of DSAs at the WSJ is pretty long (see left, apologies if we missed any). The fact that DSA recipients were so critical to the success of the WSJ is likely no surprise to anyone – when you need something done at the highest level of excellence, you know who to call. To wit, the program senior leadership team boasted four DSAs: **Jeff Jonassen DSA '06, Ed Lynes DSA '06, Col. Andrew Martin DSA '09**, and me. At the next level down, the list of DSAs involved grew to more than 20. Moreover, my WSJ Aide-de-Camp **Matt Parsons DSA '20** will receive the DSA this year, likely for having to endure that position,

in addition to serving as the 2019 national chief.

Arrowmen of all backgrounds made the jamboree magic happen above and beyond what was expected. In program we made the fun come alive like nowhere else! Scouts united in literally millions of ways through the amazing technology of Connected Experience, and they soaked up all the fun and excitement of Mt. Jack and our spectacular Adventure areas. New ideas and learning were unlocked throughout Centro Mondial, Global Development Village, and World Point, while inspiration, unity, and sheer amazement were unleashed through our three stadium shows. Truly, the program team delivered like no other.

We in the Order understand the promise of Scouting. The words of the admonition guide us in every day of our lives, and I can attest that the same sentiment was at the heart of planning the World Scout Jamboree. To quote the Secretary General of the World Organization of Scouting Movements Ahmad Alhendawi, "for twelve days we come together from every part of the globe and we show the world how it should be out there." Truly, love one another.

Serving in the role of director of program was the honor of a lifetime. I would not trade it for anything, but looking back on it, I'm sure happy it is over!

SOME DSAs SERVING AT THE 2019 WORLD SCOUT JAMBOREE

Sam Aronson (2020), Tracy Atherton (2020), Joe Barton (1998), Ken Barton (2020), Scott Beckett (1996), Bob Black (2006), Steve Bradley (2002), David Briscoe (1988), John Brown (1994), Harry Bubeck (2015), Ray Capp (1973), Andy Chapman (2004), Bill Chin (2012), Gary Christiansen (1981), Marc Circus (2012), Nick Dannemiller (2015), Connor Desmond (2020), Darrell Donahue (2009), Matt Dukeman (2004), Joe Dworak (2012), Barry Ekle (2015), Noel Falcon (2015), Sean Ferrier (2015), Dwayne Fontenette (2012), Forrest Gertin (2018), Taylor Giles (2018), Brian Gray (2012), Chris Grove (2006), Charlie Harbin (1988), Frank Harper (2012), Eric Harrison (2020), Jack Hess (1998), Jon Hobbs (2004), Terry Honan (2002), Tyler Inberg (2018), Jeff Jonassen (2006), Hunter Jones (2018), David Joyner (2015), Brian Kasal (1981), Brandon Kelly (2020), Ryan King (2000), Al Lambert (2015), Mitch Leonard (2020), Ed Lynes (2006), Patrick Mapp (2018), Preston Marquis (2015), Andy Martin (2009), Dan McCarthy (1998), Mac McLean (1988), Bryan Melonis (2020), Steve Miller (2015), Terrel Miller (1998), Ethan Mooney (2020), Branden Morris (1996), Craig Ongley (2015), Matt Parsons (2020), Ian Romaine (2009), John Rotruck (1996), Travis Rubelee (2020), Sven Rundman (2018), Craig Salazar (1994), Sid Salazar (2020), Chris Schildknecht (2009), Dan Segersin (1975), Steve Silbiger (1988), Bob Sirhal (2000), Russell Smart (2015), Justin St. Louis (2020), Jeff Stout (2012), Mike Surbaugh (2018), Clint Takeshita (1992), Michael Thompson (2006), Kay Trick (2009), Ed Tudor (2009), Scott Valcourt (1992), Matt Walker (1992), Matthew Watson (2018), Ted Weiland (2018), Jake Wellman (2009), Rich Whitney (2020), Gary Williams (2020), Jason Wolz (2012), Mackie Zewalk (2012)

GONE TO MEET THEIR MAKER

BRUCE A. MOORE
Class of 1967
Eagle Scout
August 18, 2016

C. HOYT HUNT
Class of 1986
Professional Scouter
September 23, 2019

KENNETH A. PETERSON, SR.
Class of 1998
Silver Antelope
November 23, 2017

JAMES B. LAYCOOK
Class of 1992
Silver Antelope
October 24, 2019

C. D. "DAVE" RANNEY
Class of 1983
Silver Beaver
February 15, 2018

DELBERT W. LODER
Class of 1975
Eagle Scout, Silver Antelope
November 10, 2019

GORDON A. KNAPP
Class of 1990
Silver Beaver
August 17, 2018

W. WORTH WHARTON, JR.
Class of 1992
Silver Beaver
December 5, 2019

A. J. STANOVICH
Class of 1969
Silver Beaver
August 23, 2018

SEAN A. OLDROYD
Class of 1994
Eagle Scout
January 4, 2020

ROBERT C. GRIFFIN, JR.
Class of 1969
Silver Beaver
October 28, 2018

WILLIAM J. "DOC" ROONEY
Class of 1990
Silver Beaver
January 18, 2020

JEFFERY BEVAN, SR.
Class of 1979
Silver Beaver
November 16, 2018

JAMES W. CLOUGH
Class of 1981
Eagle Scout, Silver Beaver
January 22, 2020

THOMAS D. SLAUGHTER
Class of 2002
Silver Beaver
March 9, 2019

BRADLEY E. HADDOCK
Class of 1977
Eagle Scout, Silver Buffalo
April 1, 2019

LAWRENCE A. "LARRY" RUH
Class of 1992
Eagle Scout, Silver Beaver
May 5, 2019

WILLIAM F. DOWNS
Class of 1977
Eagle Scout, Professional Scouter
July 19, 2019

KERRY R. MOLIN
Class of 1990
Eagle Scout, Silver Antelope
August 9, 2019

THOMAS S. PALLONE
Class of 1977
Eagle Scout
August 23, 2019

Brad Haddock, a Lifetime of Leadership

By **BILLY WALLEY**
CLASS OF 1983



Brad Haddock, Class of 1977

When I think of a lifetime of service to the Order of the Arrow, the first name that comes to mind is my longtime friend Bradley E. Haddock. Brad was heavily involved with the BSA, serving in various leadership roles throughout his life.

In his youth, Brad was an Eagle Scout, a Vigil Honor Member, and would serve as both lodge and section chief before being elected national chief at the December 1974 National Planning Meeting.

Brad would later re-join the national OA committee as an adult, and ultimately serve as its chairman from 2000 to 2009. As chairman, Brad led the *ArrowCorps*⁵ project, which was the largest single service project ever provided by the BSA. The project was conducted in five national forests resulting in 280,000 hours of service worth \$5.6 million. Brad is the only person in the history of the OA to both be elected as national chief and later become the volunteer chairman of the national OA committee.

For his extensive service, Brad

was recognized with the Silver Buffalo Award, Distinguished Eagle Scout Award, Silver Antelope Award, and the Silver Beaver Award. In the Order of the Arrow, Brad was honored with the Lifetime Achievement Award, Distinguished Service Award, Founder's Award, and Vigil Honor. For his pinnacle achievement of *ArrowCorps*⁵, Brad was recognized with the Hornaday Gold Badge.

Brad was an unselfish individual and was the driving force to lead the OA into servant leadership. His leadership in *ArrowCorps*⁵ changed the direction of our program. His sage advice and wisdom will be missed by all of us.

Del Loder, a National Treasure



Del Loder, Class of 1975

By **TOBY CAPPS**
CLASS OF 2009

On September 19, 1928, Del Loder was born in Seattle, Washington. He was taken home to a house built by his father, where he lived for the next 88 years. Del has impacted countless lives in the Order of the Arrow, and will always be remembered as a national treasure.

Del's journey in the OA began in May of 1948, when he met E. Urner Goodman for the first time at the National Annual Meeting in Seattle. Del was anxious to talk to him about how he went about planning the first national Scout jamboree, originally scheduled for 1935. Dr. Goodman asked Del what he knew about the Order of the Arrow. He then walked Del through the Ordeal and Brotherhood process, including Dr. Goodman's own Vigil at the Devil's Tea Table. Decades later, Del and I visited the Devil's Tea Table, which remains the only time I've ever seen Del cry!

Del was elected into the OA as a Scoutmaster in 1954, thus beginning a lifetime of service to this great organization. For the next 20 years Del served in many roles within the Chief Seattle Council, where he felt it was most

important to serve. In August of 1974, Del was appointed to serve as a member of the national OA committee. At his first meeting, Del was asked to serve as chairman of the ceremonies committee, which was the area of most interest to him.

For 65 years Del served the OA with steadfast commitment to the youth of our organization. At every event he attended, Del would always encourage or inspire the youth present with his stories.

On November 10, 2019, not long after celebrating his 91st birthday, Del took his last breath on this earth, surrounded by longtime Scouting friends. I am extremely confident that the next voice that Del heard said, "Well done, good and faithful servant!" Until we meet again, Del, thank you!

Congratulations to the 2020 Distinguished Service Award Recipients

Dear 2020 Distinguished Arrowmen,

We are honored to be some of the first to congratulate you on your monumental accomplishment. You join a select group of individuals who have made lasting impacts on the Order of the Arrow.



Zach Schonfeld

In these critical moments, your unwavering commitment to servant leadership provides a beacon of light for all to see. We are saddened that we cannot join together this summer to provide the recognition you so rightly deserve, but we look forward to celebrating your accomplishments with you in the future. Although we may find ourselves physically distant at the present moment, your example is still seen by tens of thousands of inspired Arrowmen across more than 250 lodges.



Noah Smith

These unprecedented times require unprecedented leaders. Your talent, determination, and tenacity are needed more than ever as we advance our organization closer to a thriving future. You have already demonstrated your ability to persevere no matter the obstacle. This recognition is a milestone, not an endpoint.

Each of us can reflect on the mentors we have found along our leadership journeys. Many of you have even served as mentors to us personally. Every Arrowman deserves a positive influence who can guide them to reach higher than they ever thought possible, and we challenge you to rise to the occasion and serve as that mentor to those who will come after us. Reach out to a lodge chief or a chapter committee chair and offer your support to him or her as a true brother. Believe in their abilities so they can find the courage to believe in themselves.

Above all, push forward to ensure the Order of the Arrow remains relevant and changes the lives of all who we serve. Congratulations on your selection and thank you for serving as the true example of distinguished leadership.

Looking toward the future,

Zach Schonfeld
2020 National Chief

Noah Smith
2020 National Vice Chief



Sean M. Alewine



Samuel J. Aronson



Tracy P. Atherton



James A. Barton



Kenneth E. Barton III



Jeremy D. Bedient



Chadd M. Blanchard



Travis B. Broadhurst



Shane M. Calendine



Zachary W. Callicutt



James G. Castanzo



Carroll W. "Will" Coots



Charles G. Coutteau



Christopher M. Craig



Connor R. Desmond



Nina C. Dukes



John A. Gasink



Susan B. "Sue" Hampton



Benjamin L. Harper



Eric S. Harrison



Mitchell J. Heisler



Nicholas T. Hessler



David P. James



Jordan D. Jefferis



Anthony D. Johnson



Eric B. "Brandon" Kelly



Robert G. Kennerly, Jr.



Michael T. Kipp



Shawn M. Knight



Mitchell R. Leonard



Tanner P. Maris



Bryan A. Melonis



Collin D. Metscher



Michael K. Minnis



Ethan A. Mooney



Jeffrey J. Morley



Trinidad Munoz



Ryan D. Palmer



Matthew L. Parsons



Anthony T. Peluso



Christopher C. Phillips



Brett A. Randall



Travis M. Rubelee



Sidney J. Salazar



Tracy M. Schultze



Eric J. Silva



Justin D. St. Louis



Brandon R. Stahl



Nathanael A. "Nate" Steele



Bradley G. Taylor



Richard A. Todd



Richard A. Whitney



Gary D. Williams

ARROWMEN SERVING SCOUTING AND THEIR COMMUNITY

By **KYLE BRENDEL**
OA DIGITAL ARCHIVIST



Darrell Donahue



Nick Ochsner



Scott Beckett



Spencer Long



Frank Sturges



Mike Hoffman



Dan Segersin



Kay Trick



Tom Bain



Michael Thompson



Billy Walley



Gregory Nygren



Andy Chapman



Joseph Shore



Bob Sirhal



Nelson Block



Scott Smith



Ed Lynes

National Committeeman **DARRELL DONAHUE DSA '09** was named dean of WVU's Davis College of Agriculture, Natural Resources, and Design. At the 33rd Midsouth Emmy Awards, **NICK OCHSNER DSA '12** received an Emmy for best investigative report. **SCOTT BECKETT DSA '96** was recognized by Sigma Chi Fraternity as one of its 2020 Significant Sig Award recipients. Given for high levels of professional success, less than 1,800 have been given since the award was created in 1935. Beckett served as 1994 national chief and is a partner at Insigniam. **SPENCER LONG DSA '12** was recognized with a 2020 Merit Key Award, the second highest award bestowed by the Sigma Alpha Epsilon Fraternity. Long serves as director of student leadership and civic engagement at the University of Illinois at Chicago. **FRANK STURGES DSA '09** recently graduated from Harvard Law School, where he served as editor-in-chief of the *Harvard Environmental Law Review*. This fall, Sturges will begin as an attorney at the Natural Resources Defense Council.

For extraordinary professional accomplishment, **MIKE HOFFMAN DSA '86** was bestowed NESA's highest recognition, the Distinguished Eagle Scout Award. Hoffman, who serves as president of Arizona Benefit Plans, Inc., is the fifth national OA chairman to be bestowed this honor. **PRESTON MARQUIS DSA '15** was recognized with NESA's regional equivalent, the NESA Outstanding Eagle Scout Award.

Distinguished Arrowmen were recognized for their years of dedicated service to the Boy Scouts of America with the organization's highest award, the Silver Buffalo Award. 2019 recipients included **DAN SEGERSIN DSA '75** and **KAY TRICK DSA '09**. 2020 recipients were **TOM BAIN DSA '06**, **SCOTT BECKETT DSA '96**, **MICHAEL THOMPSON DSA '06**, and **BILLY WALLEY DSA '83**. Each of these recipients have in common numerous years of service on the national OA committee. Segersin, Bain, Beckett, Thompson, and Walley have served as national vice chairmen, while Trick is the only woman to have received both the Distinguished Service Award and the Silver Buffalo Award.

GREGORY NYGREN DSA '12 received the Silver Antelope Award in 2019, while **ANDY CHAPMAN DSA '04** and **JOSEPH SHORE DSA '00** were so recognized in 2020. For his dedication to the Venturing program, **BOB SIRHAL DSA '00** was named a 2020 recipient of the National Venturing Leadership Award. Arrowmen proved themselves valuable Scouting alumni. **IAN ROMAINE DSA '09** was recognized as the 2019 Southern Region Alumnus of the Year and **RUSSELL SMART DSA '15** was named the 2020 National Alumnus of the Year.

DAN FEE DSA '90 of Quivira Council, **JOSEPH GARCIA DSA '12** of San Diego-Imperial Council, **MICHAEL KIRBY DSA '09** of Blue Ridge Council, and **EDGAR LABENNE DSA '98** of Far East Council each received the Silver Beaver Award from their council in 2019 for distinguished service to youth.

The Mack T. Ruffin III OA Lodge Leadership Training Center was dedicated on September 14, 2019 in honor of **MACK RUFFIN DSA '88**. Camp Strake is a new camp being built in the Sam Houston Area Council. The large peninsula that juts into the property's lake will be named Nelson's Point in recognition of the 32 years that **NELSON BLOCK DSA '94** has served as council attorney.

In 2019, **SCOTT SMITH DSA '96** became SR-7A section adviser. In 2020, **ED LYNES DSA '06** became president of the Garden State Council and **GLENN AULT DSA '88** became western region president.



Preston Marquis DSA '15 (center) with family and Scouting friends.



Mack T. Ruffin III DSA '88



Kevin LaBenne, Gigi LaBenne, Edgar LaBenne DSA '98, Jay LaBenne



Sherry McGugin, Gail Plucker, Ian Romaine DSA '09



Candace Kirby, Michael Kirby DSA '09



Brad Haddock DSA '77, Dan Fee DSA '90



Joseph Garcia DSA '12, Derek Hartley, Al Garcia

Rotruck displays Leadership in Service

ROTRUCK, CONT'D FROM PAGE 1

talent of Rotruck's to organize and delegate effectively and efficiently – He certainly never wanted to waste time! For his service, Rotruck received the Distinguished Service Award in 1996, the same year he would graduate medical school and begin his service in the U.S. Navy.

In preparation for this article, we asked Rotruck a series of questions. When asked which Scouting and OA values he found most important to his service, his answer really stood out. We have included it here, unedited:

"Servant leadership has been fundamental to my own style of leading others. By taking care of my people, I have always found that they are uniquely motivated to

achieve mission success. Scouting teaches us to treat everyone with dignity and respect regardless of any group or demographic to which they may belong, and that has been a cornerstone of my philosophy as a commanding officer. In an organization where each member treats all others with dignity and respect, it's not possible to have discrimination or sexual harassment of any sort. I've asked my crew on the *Mercy* to role model that behavior in both their professional and personal lives, just as all of our Scouts do."

One common trait of those who wear the silver arrowhead is that, beyond distinguishing themselves within Scouting and the Order of the Arrow, they often show the same exceptional leadership and service in their daily lives. Capt.



Captain John Rotruck, and Mike Gray DSA '15.

John Rotruck is our most recent, relevant, example. He has made us all proud.

John Rotruck is an Eagle Scout (1987). Prior to serving as the commanding officer of the Mercy

Medical Treatment Facility, he served as Chief of Staff at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center in Bethesda, Maryland. At the time of the writing of this article he was already headed to his next mission in Okinawa.

OA Trail Crew expands to OA High Adventure

25 YEARS, CONT'D FROM PAGE 1

meeting with Alline was my opportunity to explain how we could bring this idea to life. At the time, I had already worked seven summers at Philmont, including as an associate chief ranger in the largest department, and Edwards had four summers under his belt. Between us, we knew the Philmont operation inside and out.

At the heart of our idea was the best of what the ranch provided – outdoor education. Mother Nature in the Sangre de Cristo range of the Rocky Mountains proved unforgiving. Long, arduous days marred by unpredictable weather coupled with learning to work with people from all over the United States presented mental, physical, and spiritual challenges – but also an opportunity. Edwards and I spent considerable time ahead of the meeting with Alline thinking through the framework we would pitch. Beyond building a new hiking trail and a free trek, we proposed an innovative program, the likes of which no participant had ever seen. As you might have guessed, the meeting with Alline was successful.

By early December I became the director and had the opportunity to select key leaders that included **Greg Hazlehurst**

DSA '96, who previously worked in the conservation department at Philmont. At the National Planning Meeting, only four youth Arrowmen expressed interest in developing the core components of the program. Section Chief **Seth Brown DSA '96** from North Carolina became the youth program chairman and served in the field as a foreman that first summer. Outgoing National Chief **Scott Beckett DSA '96** also served as a foreman. Beckett, Brown, Edwards, Hazlehurst, and I were heavily involved in our lodge and council programs. We accepted the challenge to prove that an innovative outdoor education program for our Order was a great fit for Philmont, the national high adventure flagship for the Boy Scouts of America.

We had nine sessions at our inaugural summer in 1995. We originally anticipated 285 youth to attend, but ended up with only 132 participants from 33 states - Ohio sent the most with 17 attendees. Although our numbers that first summer were few, our impact was deep. Only a few sessions into the summer, our participant feedback was overwhelmingly positive. After going through the program, at least one participant took the initiative to write a personal letter to Pease

to share his profound experience and encouraged the extension of the program for another summer. The personal plea from a young Arrowman attested the impact that OA Trail Crew could have on our national program.

A handful of early OATC participants played an integral role in developing the Wilderness Voyage at Northern Tier. Later, the OA Ocean Adventure at Florida Sea Base and the OA Summit Experience at Bechtel Scout Reservation would also form. In 2008, *ArrowCorps*⁵ served as a pinnacle achievement of OA High Adventure programs. Arrowmen working at five U.S. National Forests provided meaningful service in Missouri, Utah, Virginia, California, and Wyoming. *ArrowCorps*⁵ became

the largest service project by the Boy Scouts of America since World War II.

All four OA High Adventure programs bring to life the tenets of our Order. Brotherhood is captured through comradery. Cheerfulness comes to life through a positive attitude. Service is provided through tangible projects.

As our first summer drew to a close, Hazlehurst, Alline, and I went fly fishing at Cathedral Rock Reservoir at Philmont. We found ourselves caught in an afternoon thunderstorm and took cover in a grove of ponderosa pine trees. We laughed as we regaled stories that took place just weeks earlier and then hugged each other in an act of brotherhood and admiration for a very successful first summer.



The 1995 Order of the Arrow Conservation Staff.