

Alvin Townley

Author of Legacy of Honor: The Values and Influence of America's Eagle Scouts

Alvin Townley spent a year traveling throughout the country to explore the legacy of America's Eagle Scouts. In thousands of miles of travel, he met with Eagles from all walks of life, some famous, others not. The result was *Legacy of Honor*, a unique narrative of character and virtue in American life.

Alvin's journey truly began years ago as he earned his Eagle Scout rank with Troop 103 in Atlanta, Georgia. He is a Brotherhood member of the Order of the Arrow and has hiked the Rocky Mountains at Philmont Scout Ranch, canoed the Canadian backcountry at the Northern Tier Canoe Base, and sailed the Keys at the Florida Sea Base.

The author graduated *cum laude* from Washington & Lee University in Lexington, Virginia, where he served extensively in student government, studied abroad in the European Union, ran cross-country and track, and was active in honor issues on campus and national levels.



After interning in the U.S. House of Representatives, Alvin began a career with Arthur Andersen LLP. Eventually, he helped manage responsibilities in global strategy for the 85,000-person, \$9.3 billion firm in Andersen's Worldwide Executive Office. He later returned to his *alma mater*, where he worked in philanthropy, and spoke to classes on corporate strategy and ethics.

Finally, Alvin sold his home and left his job to set out across the nation and discover the legacy of America's Eagle Scouts. Along the way, he captured the personal stories of Eagle Scouts including J.W. Marriott, Jr., Ross Perot, Bill Gates, Sr., Michael Bloomberg, Bill Bradley, Supreme Court Justice Stephen Breyer, Treasury Secretary Hank Paulson, Defense Secretary Robert Gates, and Jim Lovell of Apollo 13. He also heard the stories of a Tuskegee Airman, a POW from Vietnam, a September 11 NYPD hero, a crew of Hurricane Katrina relief workers, and a host of others. The result was *Legacy of Honor*, published by Thomas Dunne Books, an imprint of St. Martin's Press.

Commenting on *Legacy of Honor*, President Jimmy Carter said, "These Eagle Scouts will inspire readers to become leaders in serving others." Defense Secretary Robert Gates hailed the book as "inspirational."

Alvin currently works at Marist School in Atlanta, Georgia, where he also coaches track and field. Additionally, he works closely with Reach for Excellence, an educational program that benefits talented middle school students from underserved communities.

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