

Thomas Dunne Books  
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**LEGACY OF HONOR AUTHOR OFFERS PERSPECTIVE ON  
EAGLE SCOUT GERALD R. FORD**

**New York** – In January 2007, Thomas Dunne Books, an imprint of St. Martin’s Press, will release a new book that reveals the legacy of America’s Eagle Scouts, individuals who have earned a reputation for service, virtue, and leadership that is recognized throughout the world – individuals like President Gerald R. Ford. Today, Alvin Townley, author of *Legacy of Honor: The Values and Influence of America’s Eagle Scouts*, remembered President Ford:

“America’s Eagle Scouts join the entire nation in remembering the life of Gerald R. Ford, an Eagle Scout and the 38<sup>th</sup> president of the United States. Throughout his life, President Ford lived honestly, with an abiding sense of duty and love of country. He embodied all those qualities that have earned Eagle Scouts a reputation respected around the world.

In 1925, on his twelfth birthday, the future president joined the Boy Scouts of America as a member of Troop 15 in Grand Rapids, Michigan. He earned Scouting’s highest rank, Eagle Scout, in November 1927. His involvement in Scouting, and his devotion to its principles, never ceased. Ford often spoke about the obligations associated with being an Eagle Scout, and he viewed those responsibilities as lifelong. President Ford lived as a man of integrity, courage, and duty who forever abided by the code of honor he learned in Troop 15.

Eagle Scouts have the bravery to sacrifice self for larger ideals. As president, Gerald Ford exemplified that brand of courage. He sacrificed his career for the sake of America by pardoning Richard Nixon. Doing so, he helped the nation heal and move forward again. He chose neither the easy course nor the popular course; in typical fashion, he chose the right course.”

Townley’s book explores the lives and character of Eagle Scouts including Gerald Ford, Bill Gates, Sr., Bill Bradley, Ross Perot, Michael Bloomberg, Secretary of Defense Robert Gates, Michael Dukakis, Supreme Court Justice Stephen Breyer, Treasury Secretary Hank Paulson, and Jim Lovell of Apollo 13. The book also explores the virtues of a Tuskegee Airman, a Vietnam War POW, a September 11 NYPD hero, a crew of Hurricane Katrina relief workers, and a host of others from every walk of life. The author, one of America’s nearly 2 million Eagle Scouts, spent a year traveling throughout the country, meeting these men and discovering stories of courage, service, and hope that belong not only to Eagle Scouts but to all Americans.

Commenting on *Legacy of Honor*, President Jimmy Carter said, “These Eagle Scouts will inspire readers to become leaders in serving others,” and Secretary of Defense Robert Gates hailed the book as “inspirational.” For additional information, please visit [www.legacyofhonor.com](http://www.legacyofhonor.com).

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