

Eagle Scout Court of Honor



A new designed and built wheel-chair accessible ramp that will help provide access to one of the buildings on the campus that serves as a storage facility and concession area.



Taylor Channell



Taylor Channell with his parents Doug and Laronda Channell.

Doug Channell
By Becky Williamson-Martin

Taylor Channell's Eagle Scout Court of Honor was celebrated on April 27, 2019 at the Northport Free-will Baptist Church. Friends, family members, and fellow scouts enjoyed the celebration that started with a formal ceremony and ended with a great southern supper in the Fellowship Hall. The tables were decorated with an assortment of Eagles, porcelain, brass, and concrete, borrowed and bought. A side table held a display of many congratulatory notes received from dignitaries far and wide, includ-

ing President Trump, Governor Kay Ivey, and Coach Nick Saban. Also in attendance, were members of the United States Marine Corps, local recruiting station, who are working with Taylor as he strives to fulfill his dream of also serving as a U. S. Marine in the near future.

Taylor's journey through the ranks, from Cub Scout to Eagle Scout culminated in his Eagle Project at the Little Closet Food Pantry in Samantha, Alabama. On October 27, 2018, Taylor gathered with a cadre of volunteers that included scouts, former Eagle Scouts, scout leaders, and various lo-

cal helpers associated with the continuous work of the food pantry. They designed and built a wheel-chair accessible ramp that would help provide access to one of the buildings on the campus that serves as a storage facility and concession area.

The Little Closet Community Food Pantry provides food for those in need in the Samantha area. The organization arose from Taylor's Great Uncle Johnny's love for gardening and sharing of his bounty with his community over the years. Since his passing, his children have continued his legacy of giving to those in need, and started

the Johnny Williamson Good Shepherd Foundation, and the Little Closet Food Pantry for that purpose.

The wheel chair ramp built on that beautiful day of October 27th will last many years, but the real legacy of the day will be in the memories and shared dreams of those who worked together to build something worthwhile. Alex Moore, also an Eagle Scout from Troop 7 worked all day and spoke about joining the Air Force and his dream of training for Search and Rescue. And now, six months later, that's exactly what he is doing. Our country is lucky to have such young men, who

are willing to jump out of a helicopter, into the ocean, under the worst conditions, to save people they have never met. Taylor is working out with recruiters to fulfill his own dream to serve as a United States Marine. Every Tuesday and Thursday evening he can be found running circles at Sokol Park, or carrying ammo cans up and down stairs in short suicide sprints. Still dreaming, still striving. When you see a youngster in a scout uniform you're looking at the future. In our crazy, mixed up world, that's worth something!