

ROB MARKS

No long speeches now. I'm sure you are tired of sitting and I for one am ready to eat some cake!!

I will say a few words.

To everyone who took part in this ceremony. Sara, Mike, Chris, Jenn, Heather, Mr. Jackson, Mr. Rosenberger, Mr. Matuska, Mrs. Jackson, Mr. McConville and Mom... your participation in this ceremony means a great deal to me. From the bottom of my heart, **THANK YOU!**

THANK YOU to Mr. & Mrs. Smith of All Occasion Catering for the awesome meal -- while they aren't here right now, their daughters are here as members of our Venturing Crew! Rebecca and Lucinda please tell your parents how much we appreciated the food they prepared!

Thank you also to Mr. Carlini for the beautiful cakes. If you've had a Carlini cake before, you'll know how great they are! His two sons are also members of our Crew -- Brent & Dom, please express our thanks to your Dad.

A very special thank you to my Aunt Linda. She made hundreds of her famous pizelle cookies tonight -- and she did the same thing for my Eagle Project fund raiser. Thank you Aunt Linda.

Thank you also to Dr. Jeff Wentz and Mr. Ken Kucel for supplying our sound systems.

Thank you again to the parents, leaders and members of Troop 358 and Crew 306. Your help with the set-up and the dinner made it much easier for my family to enjoy this day and your help after the ceremony will be very much appreciated!

THANK YOU to Mr. & Mrs. Jackson. In addition to everything else they did preparing for today, they were responsible for the decorations you see all around the church.

Thank you to Mr. Lengyl and Mr. Malinoski for taking care of the folding chairs and tables we needed.

Thank you to Mr. Vern Smith and Mr. Alan Hazelwood for supplying the enlarged printouts. They really helped us "dress" up the church.

Also thank you to Mr. Acklin for the huge American Flag and to Mr. Tom Pearce and Mr. Mick Griffith for the loan of their projectors.

WOW!!!

I am overwhelmed by all that has happened today. Having the two ceremonies on my birthday was my way of “killing three birds with one stone”. I never expected it would take on a life of it's own like it has.

Venturing is my “next step” in Scouting and in my life. It has given me a group of friends that share a common interest – mostly to have fun! I feel I can trust my fellow Venturers, that I can be myself and not be judged. I get to do the same outdoor activities as Boy Scouts but at a higher, more challenging level. Most of all, I get to teach outdoor skills to others --something I truly enjoy.

I would like to thank Troop 358 once again. Teaching outdoor skills to you Scouts helped me complete the Ranger Award in just over two years.

Thank you to Crew 306. It is an honor to be the first Silver Award recipient in our Crew. I am also honored to serve as your President for the next year.

Lastly, thanks again -to all of you- for sharing this day with me.