



Pinning of Eagle Scouts Keith Correy Dent and Bryant J. Crenshaw, as the new Eagle Scout Taurean Dewyon Branch observed.

Eagle Scout Court of Honor aboard the USS Sequoia Presidential Yacht.

KEITH CORREY DENT: EAGLE COURT OF HONOR RECIPIENT

PHOTOS AND TEXT BY KAREN ANN CAR

The *USS Sequoia* Presidential Yacht is a modest but significant piece of American History. The decision to drop the atomic bomb on Hiroshima was made on the Yacht during World War II and President Kennedy celebrated his last birthday on the *USS Sequoia*, among other events.

Saturday, Nov. 12, aboard the *USS Sequoia*, six young men were inducted into the fraternity of Eagle Scouts, during an Eagle Court of Honor.

Gary Silversmith, the owner of the *USS Sequoia*, graciously supported the event along with Mike Little and Petey Green.

The Eagle Court of Honor was emblematic of other historic events that had taken place onboard the *USS Sequoia* Presidential Yacht. Great men assumed their place in the history of United States of America. Troop 487 achieved another milestone. Six more young men were honored for achieving Scouting's highest award.

The Honorees were Tauren Dewyon Branch, Bryant J. Crenshaw, Keith Correy Dent, Joshua David James, Jesse V. Stevens and Lance Scriber. All of the scouts were members of Troop 487. Since 1992, 67 Eagle Scouts have graduated from this troop.

Eagle Scout Preston James officiated. Eagle Scout Hilton Green, of the National Eagle Scout Committee, administered the Eagle Scout charge and oath. Green said, "Only three out of every one hundred Boy Scouts achieve Scouting's highest award." Assistant Scout Master, Walter James added that the percentage might be much lower for Black American Boy Scouts."

"In Baltimore," Green said, "some Scouts have had to put their uniforms on after arriving at a meeting and put their uniforms in a bag to leave because gangs would attack them if they were seen in Boy Scout uniforms."

The Eagle Scout award is so highly regarded that tuition legislation is being considered by the State of Maryland. The approved legislation would grant an Eagle Scout a full tuition scholarship to complete an undergraduate degree.

Troop 487 Committee members present included: Scout Master Ronald Murphy and Mrs. Murphy; the Ex-Scout Master Robert Barton; Troop Committee Chairman Crenshaw; Assistant Scout Masters Walter James, Delaney Branch, Bill Adams and Kevin Lane; and Troop Event Coordinator Ms. Avery.

Former Scout Master Leonard Scriber was remembered for his support of the new Eagle Scouts prior to his death.

The only honoree from Washington DC, Scout Keith Corey Dent's scouting experience began at the age of ten. He earned the highest award in Cub Scouting, went to Goshen summer camps for two years and taught younger students as a member of the first Leadership and Criminal Justice team in Washington, D.C.

"My life was very hard," Dent said. "I lived in bad neighborhoods and went to violent schools. However, that didn't stop me from doing what I had to do. By the age of twelve, I developed a passion for comedy" Dent said.

Dent performed professionally at Café Japone in Washington, D.C. as the youngest comedian in the District of Columbia, Virginia and Maryland

Dent said, "Balancing Boy Scouts, a job and maintaining a 3.0 grade point average is not easy. I couldn't have done this alone."

"My uncle, Kevin Lane, encouraged and guided my path. Kem Cooper helped me articulate and uncover my true self. My mother, Bridgett Dent, cared for me and understood what I needed in life. My aunts, Anita Lane and Jacqueline Young, brought God into my life, believed in me and added trust to my family. My grandmother, Mamie Gentry, helped me and supported me in every endeavor."

"I want to fulfill my life long goal of becoming a comedian and supporting my family," Dent said.

Dent will attend the Art Institute of Washington next in the spring. ■