An Eagle Scout Speaks Out By Kristen-Diane Pollock

Editor’s Note: Kristen-Diane is a member of SFBC (Seattle First Baptist Church) currently living in the Midwest.

On July 26 of this year, President Donald Trump tweeted regarding a ban on Transgender military personnel. Mr. Trump tweeted “After consultation with my Generals and military experts, please be advised...will not accept or allow Transgender individuals to serve....in the U.S. Military.” He continued nine minutes later with: “Our military must be focused...and cannot be burned with the tremendous medical costs and disruption that transgender in the military would entail.”

Many news outlets covering the President’s tweet regarding this issue have everybody from the media to the Department of Defense scratching their heads and asking many questions including: “What are you doing Mr. Trump and which generals did you consult?”

If I had my way, I’d say to our current President: “Well, Mr. Trump, you’ve angered many, many people including currently serving Transgender military personnel and veterans, not to mention a few of the rarest women on this earth who have been created by Almighty God - the female Eagle Scout, and we are madder than a wet hornet; if the Boy Scouts of America (BSA) can accept Transgender individuals then the military can too.”

I bring up the BSA due to their statement of January 30: For more than 100 years, the Boy Scouts of America, along with schools, youth sports and other youth organizations, have ultimately deferred to the information on an individual’s birth certifi cate to determine eligibility for our single-gender programs. However, that approach is no longer suffi cient...... as communities and state laws are interpreting gender identity differently, and these laws vary widely from state to state. Starting today, we will accept and register youth in the Cub and Boy Scout programs based on gender identity indicated on the application. Our organization’s local councils will help fi nd units...the best interest of the child.

During an Eagle Scout’s (Scouting’s Highest Rank) Court of Honor presentation, where the Eagle rank is awarded the candidate, the Scout takes this oath: “I (re)affi rm my allegiance to the three promises of the Scout Oath. I thoughtfully recognize and take upon myself the obligations and responsibilities of an Eagle Scout. On my honor, I will do my best to make my training an example and my status and my infl uence count strongly for better Scouting and for better citizenship in my troop, in my community, and in my contacts with other people. To this I pledge my sacred honor.”

It is time for Eagles to honor their oath and be an example of better citizenship by speaking out against anything like this Transgender military ban. It is not only anti-American, it is also against the teachings of our Lord and Savior. I’ve often heard that Jesus would have hung out with the “outcast” showing his unconditional love in the same way the Father loves us all. All I can say is: Let Transgender people serve with the capacities that God has gifted them and called them to serve. Note: Kristen-Diane Pollock is an Eagle Scout having earned the Eagle Scout Rank in 1999.

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