



Momentum

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE ALS ASSOCIATION OKLAHOMA

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On My Honor

How many lives can one person impact in a lifetime? How often can one man impact multiple generations with his time, talent and investment?

Over 40 years ago, Eric embarked on a journey with the Boy Scouts and Tulsa Troop 935. It is a 30 year journey that changed his life as well as those of the fathers and sons who were part of the troop. His love for the outdoors led him to create a hiking and backpacking program. This program taught everything a young man needed to complete the backpacking merit badge, from planning a trek on trails of different difficulties, essential safety skills and healthy eating while camping.

More than that, Eric's approach to the leadership of this merit badge showed and shared his love of nature and the outdoors with all

who participated. Leaves and rocks no longer were something to just bypass as you hiked. They became part of the story of the journey.



In his 30 years of service to Troop 935, Eric received almost every award the Indian Nations Council gives to its leadership including the Silver Beaver for recognition as a premier leader in the Council and the Distric Award of Merit.

In 2012, Eric began a journey with a new Boy Scout troop, Troop 26. Eric joined the ranks of leaders who would share his enthusiasm, advise young men and listen when needed. He brought his love of the outdoors and taught merit badge classes in Environmental Science, Camping and Backpacking.

Seeing a gap in leadership training opportunities within the troop, Eric was one of two men who wrote, developed and facilitated a leadership program called WhiteStag Leadership Course. The program teaches leadership competencies for not just scouting, but life.

According to Oxford Languages, the word Pillar is defined as 1. *a tall vertical structure of stone, wood, or metal, used as a support for a building, or as an ornament*

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OUR MISSION:

To discover treatments and a cure for ALS, and to serve, advocate for, and empower people affected by ALS to live their lives to the fullest.

On My Honor

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or monument, and 2. a person or thing regarded as reliably providing essential support for something. If you were to look at the structures built during ancient Greece, many stand today because of the pillars supporting the structure. Using this definition as its foundation, in 2011, the Pillar Society was born in Troop 26.

According to Bill Shaffer, Scoutmaster of Troop 26 since 1969, the Pillar Award was created because "Adult leaders can receive every award the council gives, but there was no opportunity for our Troop to say 'Thank You.'" He added, "By surrounding myself with people who can do things I can't do, the troop structure is supported and remains strong."

On Monday, November 29th, a new recognition was bestowed upon Eric. Troop 26 honored him as one of two Pillar recipients for 2021. The 12th individual in 10 years. He was honored for his long-term commitment to the troop, for his enthusiasm and his passion for leading young men in the Scouting program.

Upon accepting the Pillar Award, Eric shared "It's said I have inspired so many young men. But really, it's you who have inspired me. I continue to be amazed at all of your creativity." He added "It really takes a community effort. You young men give more to me than I ever gave".

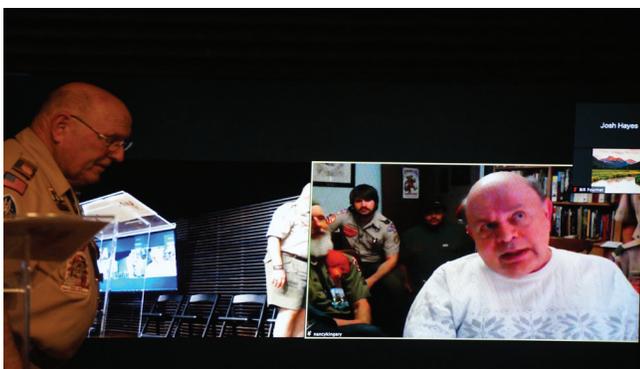
Eric continued by saying "We are a family; and the work we do in Scouting is important. This is the most worthwhile thing I've done".

His diagnosis forced him to leave Scouting sooner than he had planned, however, his legacy continues to live on in the hundreds of lives he has touched over 40 years.

When a young man, who is now a father himself, sends a simple note of thanks for investing in his life and helping him grow into the man he is today, you know the impact carries not in just that man but his generations that come after.

Thank you, Eric, for being a man of integrity, innovation, passion and creativity. Thank you for reminding us all to remain dedicated and passionate in all we do. So many are better people for knowing you.

A special thanks to Bill Shaffer and Troop 26 for some of the information shared.



For the latest news and happenings in the ALS community in Oklahoma, follow us on Facebook: @ALSAOklahoma Twitter: @ALSOklahoma and also on Instagram @alsaoklahoma

Give the Gift of Help and Hope



In 2021, we have served over 130 individuals and their families. We serve families through one on one visits, informational books, advocacy, Bereavement Program, Support Groups (Tulsa area, OKC area, Pathways {Bereavement} and Caregiver Connect), Make a Memory Program, ALS Boot Camp, Order and Drop-ship Equipment Purchases, Care Grant Program, DME Loan Closet and more.

Due to grant funds and a gift from an anonymous donor, we have been able to distribute 30 Care Grants this year totalling \$21,000! These are reimbursable funds for dollars spent on co-pays, caregiving, equipment, travel out-of-state for clinic visits, home remedification and more. This is the most we have been able to give to date and are grateful these funds are available for you. There are 5 more grants available for this year (ending January 31, 2022); please contact JoCarolyn at jchambers@alsa-national.org for more information.

Our Tulsa and Oklahoma City Walks once again were Walk Your Way style. Over 30 teams and individual Walkers joined us in raising awareness of ALS in our own backyards. We came to your yards or joined via Zoom, and you shared with us who you Walk for and why this event is important. So far, you have raised close to \$50,000 but we aren't done! All Walk pages will remain open through the end of the year. Create a Facebook Fundraiser, conduct a jeans day at work, share your ALS story with colleagues, and don't forget about the Corporate Matching Gifts Programs available in many companies across the country. How can you ensure that quality programs and services are available to families affected by ALS across Oklahoma?

Because of the devastating nature of ALS, families dealing with this disease often suffer a myriad of physical, emotional and financial challenges and need someone to provide resources as well as offer guidance through the ALS journey.



At The ALS Association we offer support, compassion, caring and hope. We recognize that while we search for the answers to ALS, we have a commitment to the people and families battling this relentless disease. We are able to provide much to individuals living with ALS because of the many generous donors across our state. As you consider your year-end gifts, we ask that you consider the ALS Association Oklahoma among those that you make a direct, meaningful impact to through your giving. To make a year-end donation, visit bit.ly/3rjk2Kd or scan the QR code below. You may also mail to:

ALS Association Oklahoma
P.O. Box 14482
Tulsa, OK 74159

SCAN ME

HAVE YOU HEARD?

Did you know that you can receive information to your email inbox on all the latest news about our efforts in Advocacy, Research, Clinical Trials and more? To sign up visit:

Advocacy: <https://als.quorum.us/register/>

Research: <https://www.als.org/research-matters-sign-up>



Support Groups Highlight

ALS Pathways Group

The ALS Pathways (Bereavement) Group meets on the first Wednesday of each month from 6:00 - 7:00 pm. Attendees from Oklahoma, West Virginia, Minnesota, North Dakota and South Dakota join together via Zoom. Pathways is for family and friends of those who have experienced loss of a loved one due to ALS. Each month a different topic is discussed to walk you through the grief journey. Space is allowed for crying, laughing, remembering and keeping the loved one's memory alive.

ALS Caregiver Happy Hour

Caregiver Happy Hour meets on the third Wednesday of each month from 6:00 - 7:00 pm. This group is solely for ALS Caregivers, providing an hour with others who are walking the caregiving journey. A variety of topics are discussed at each meeting. This group of caregivers provides encouragement and hope to each other, sharing ideas and ways in which to care for the person with ALS as well as taking care of themselves.

For more information on these or our other Support Groups, contact Care Services Manager, JoCarolyn Chambers, at jchambers@alsa-national.org or 202.464.8825

If you would like to be removed from our mailing list, please email Sharon Catalano at scatalano@alsa-national.org

OUR VISION:
To create a world
without ALS.

OUR CORE VALUES:
Compassion
Integrity
Urgency

CONTACT US:
JoCarolyn Chambers
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