

The Eagle Scout rank is the highest advancement rank in scouting. Only about five percent of Boy Scouts earn the Eagle Scout Award. The award is a performance-based achievement with high standards that have been well-maintained over the past century.

To earn the Eagle Scout rank, a Boy Scout is obligated to pass specific tests that are organized by requirements and merit badges, as well as completing an Eagle Project to benefit the community. For his project, Michael presented a Food Allergy Safety Seminar to a variety of local groups. The work ethic Michael has shown in his Eagle Project and every other project leading up to his Eagle Scout rank speaks volumes of his commitment to serving a cause greater than himself and assisting his community.

Mr. Speaker, the example set by this young man and his supportive family demonstrates the rewards of hard work, dedication and perseverance. I am honored to represent Michael and his family in the United States Congress. I know that all of my colleagues in the House will join me in congratulating him on obtaining the Eagle Scout ranking, and I wish him continued success in his future education and career.

IN HONOR OF MR. ROBERT
MACLEOD

HON. LARRY KISSELL

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 17, 2012

Mr. KISSELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Mr. Robert MacLeod, and his service to the United States of America as a member of the United States Coast Guard.

Due to his exceptional service in the Coast Guard, Mr. MacLeod was awarded the Vietnam Service Medal with two bronze stars, the National Defense Service Medal, and the Vietnam Campaign Ribbon with Device. After serving our nation during the Vietnam War, Mr. MacLeod co-founded the Metrolina Vietnam Veterans Association in Charlotte, NC. He was the inaugural president of the United States Coast Guard Lightship Sailors Association of America at its inception, and led efforts for the establishment of numerous monuments honoring men and women who have served our country.

Today, I ask all Members of Congress to join me in honoring Mr. MacLeod, a great American, and resident of North Carolina, the state which I am proud to represent.

HONORING FORMER SENATOR
GEORGE MCGOVERN

HON. JAMES P. MCGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 17, 2012

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, my dear friend, Senator George McGovern, passed away last October at the age of 90. He represented the best of the Democratic Party and the best of American politics. His voice and decency will be missed.

I submit two articles that pay tribute to this remarkable man.

[From the Nation, Oct. 22, 2012]

GEORGE MCGOVERN, THE "ATTICUS FINCH" OF
AMERICAN POLITICS

(By Jim McGovern)

George McGovern lived to be 90. By any measure, he had a long and productive life. Yet I can't help but feeling sad—not just because I lost my most treasured friend—but because the world lost a consistently steady and refreshingly liberal voice of sanity and common sense.

To me, George McGovern was the "Atticus Finch" of American politics. Like the main character in Harper Lee's brilliant novel *To Kill a Mockingbird* George McGovern spoke the truth even when—especially when—it was uncomfortable.

He spoke the truth about the folly of Vietnam and our excessive military budget. He spoke the truth about corruption in the Nixon White House. And he spoke the truth about the tragedy of hunger in the United States and around the world. He paid a heavy political price for his candor and honesty. But as he always said, "there are worse things than losing an election." George McGovern never lost his soul and he never betrayed his conscience.

In 1997, when I was being sworn-in as a freshman member of the United States House of Representatives, I asked him to stand by my side as I took the oath of office. During a rather long ceremony leading up to the big moment, I asked him if he had any advice. He gave me the same advice he received when he started out: "If you want to be a good member of Congress you have to get over the fear of losing an election."

Having just won a close, hard-fought election, I was expecting him to say: "keep your head low" or "don't make any waves." But George McGovern believed that serving in Congress was a rare privilege, that it was an opportunity to move the country forward instead of a constant struggle to get oneself re-elected.

I have tried to heed that sage advice as much as possible—although, to be perfectly honest, I haven't yet completely gotten over the fear of losing an election!

My first encounter with Senator McGovern was from a great distance in 1972. As a 7th grader in Worcester, Massachusetts, I tried mightily to get him elected President of the United States. While he lost 49 states, he did carry Massachusetts.

During my college years, I interned in his Senate office, and then in 1984, I ran his Massachusetts campaign when he tried again for the presidency. I will never forget his powerful appeal to voters to stay true to their own principles and values when he declared, "Don't throw away your conscience."

George McGovern was perhaps the most courageous man I've ever known. And it was not just because he was a bomber pilot in World War II, fighting against Hitler and winning the Distinguished Flying Cross for his service. I admired him for his guts, in being who he was, in conservative South Dakota. To oppose the war in Vietnam was not easy in the early 1960s. Yet, George McGovern's valiant and sincere position was right, and the voters of his home state sent him to the United States Senate three times.

He came across as a gentle man but he had a spine of steel. He was decent and kind. He wasn't afraid of the political consequences of his liberalism and never trimmed his sails for the convenience of the moment. His steadfastness used to drive his staff crazy. But every one of them knew they were working for a great man.

Senator McGovern was obsessed with the issue of hunger. He was ashamed that in the richest, most powerful nation on the planet, millions of our fellow citizens don't have

enough to eat. He led the efforts in the Senate—along with Senator Bob Dole—to expand food and nutrition programs.

He also couldn't tolerate the hundreds of millions of people all around the world who were hungry. I will never forget attending a meeting with the Senator and President Clinton in 2000, when George McGovern proposed an international program aimed at guaranteeing every child at least one nutritious meal a day in a school setting. Bill Clinton listened intently and then said, "Let's do it." That was the magic of George McGovern; he could get you to believe that anything was possible. And today, the McGovern-Dole Food for Education Program is feeding millions of kids and helping them get an education.

At a recent celebration of his 90th birthday, he told me he wanted to live another 10 years to ensure that hunger on this planet is no more. He had a lot more work to do.

Like Atticus Finch, George McGovern never gave up. He loved his country and dedicated his life fighting for what is "just and noble in human affairs." The world is going to miss George McGovern. I already do.

[Center for American Progress, Oct. 25, 2012]

THINK AGAIN: GEORGE MCGOVERN—A
LIFETIME OF CONSCIENCE AND COURAGE

(By Eric Alterman)

George McGovern's passing on Sunday at the age of 90 provides further evidence, as if any were needed, that if you live long enough, even your adversaries will end up singing your praises. Consider first these attacks on the late senator and presidential candidate in the 1972 election.

Writing a few years ago in the journal *Democracy*, American historian and journalist Rick Perlstein quoted the following attacks on Democratic candidates by various Democrats and liberals:

In 2003, Al From and Bruce Reed with the Democratic Leadership Council wrote, "What activists like [Howard] Dean call the Democratic wing of the Democratic Party is an aberration: the McGovern-Mondale wing, defined principally by weakness abroad and elitist, interest-group liberalism at home."

The very next year, a Democrat worrying that Sen. John Kerry (D-MA) was veering left on Iraq during his run for the presidency was quoted in *The New York Times* saying the 2004 presidential nominee was "[c]oming off like George McGovern."

When Ned Lamont won the 2006 Connecticut Democratic primary for the U.S. Senate but lost in the general election to Sen. Joe Lieberman (I-CT) who ran as an independent, political journalist Jacob Weisberg recalled in the *Financial Times* how McGovern lost 49 states in his presidential run because of "his tendency toward isolationism and ambivalence about the use of American power in general."

Then there's Martin Peretz, the former owner and publisher of *The New Republic*, America's alleged flagship liberal publication for 37 years, who explained, "I bought *The New Republic* to take back the Democratic Party from the McGovernites."

This clichéd version of McGovern's politics was never accurate, but it became a stick with which hawkish journalists and politicians tried to beat back dovish ones. In fact, no Democrat, and perhaps no modern politician at all, can be said to have shown more courage, more grit, and more determination than George Stanley McGovern.

Yes, folks, the "elitist" liberal was born in the 600-person farming community of Avon,

South Dakota, and grew up nearby in the equally small town of Mitchell. A bashful son of a Methodist minister, McGovern grew wary of “the excessive emotionalism of some evangelists” as he came of age in an America where his father was occasionally compensated not in cash but in cabbage.[1]

As his Wikipedia entry explains:

[McGovern] volunteered for the U.S. Army Air Forces upon the country's entry into World War II and as a B-24 Liberator pilot flew 35 missions over German-occupied Europe. Among the medals bestowed upon him was a Distinguished Flying Cross for making a hazardous emergency landing of his damaged plane and saving his crew.

Upon returning and earning a bachelor's degree from tiny Dakota Wesleyan University, the young veteran did a brief stint at Garrett Seminary in Chicago before enrolling in the graduate history program at Northwestern University, eventually earning his doctorate. There, McGovern would both anticipate and then echo revisionist Cold War historians, among them William Appleman Williams and Fred Harvey Harrington, who held that Harry Truman and company, rather than Stalin's Soviet Union, were largely responsible for causing the Cold War. McGovern explained that “we not only overreacted” to the Soviet Union but “indeed helped trigger” the Cold War “by our own post-World War II fears.”[2] He wrote his doctoral dissertation on the 1913 Colorado coal strike, and his research would later lead him to demonstrate much greater sympathy for unionized workers than pretty much any other Farm Belt politician.

McGovern taught briefly at Dakota Wesleyan College before returning home to South Dakota to undertake yet another unlikely and quite daring adventure—to almost single-handedly build the state Democratic Party organization. He had to scrounge to stay afloat, sleeping on friendly couches or in his car as he crisscrossed the state, personally recruiting 35,000 new Democrats.[3]

He then deployed the organization to run for Congress in 1956 and later for the U.S. Senate. He lost his 1960 Senate bid (and lost his House seat in the process) but succeeded two years later—serving as the head of the Kennedy administration's Food for Peace program in-between, marking a lifelong commitment to feeding the hungry worldwide, and making valuable friends inside the administration.

McGovern first came to national prominence toward the end of the 1968 campaign for the Democratic nomination for the presidency. Following the June 6 assassination of presidential candidate Robert F. Kennedy in Los Angeles, his devastated supporters first tried to convince his younger brother Ted Kennedy to assume the mantle of RFK's peace-and-civil-rights-themed campaign. But Ted was in no shape, physically or emotionally, to do so. In one of history's forgotten footnotes, McGovern took up the cause.

Announcing his candidacy in the Senate caucus room in August 1968, McGovern explained what prompted his decision:

Vietnam—the most disastrous political and military blunder in our national experience. That war must be ended now—not next year or the year following, but right now. Beyond this, we need to harness the full spiritual and political resources of this nation to put an end to the shameful remnants of racism and poverty that still afflict our land.[4]

McGovern's goal was to try to reanimate the antiwar passion of the Kennedy crusade with his own brand of simple Midwestern morality. “I wear no claim to the Kennedy mantle, but I believe deeply in the twin goals for which Robert Kennedy gave his life—an end to the war in Vietnam and a passionate commitment to heal the division in our own

society.”[5] Though he was not well known, Robert Kennedy had judged McGovern to be “the most decent man in the Senate,” and he was hardly alone in this view.[6]

Following the disastrous 1968 presidential contest, which saw Richard Nixon elected (beating then-Vice President Hubert Humphrey), McGovern returned to the Senate and became its leading voice on Vietnam. He co-sponsored an amendment with liberal Republican Sen. Mark Hatfield of Oregon to cut off funding for the war by the end of December 1970. McGovern was so committed to the cause that he refinanced his house to pay for airtime on behalf of his bill.

Taking to the floor of the Senate, McGovern broke all previous protocol and accused “every senator in this chamber” of being “partly responsible for sending 50,000 young Americans to an early grave. This chamber reeks of blood,” he said.[7] It was only his colleagues' fondness for him and their appreciation for his sincere anguish over the war, which inspired this unprecedented attack, that allowed his relationships in the body to survive this serious break with the Senate's tradition of comity and collegiality.

After failing to move his Senate colleagues, however, McGovern took his arguments to America's universities where antiwar fervor was high among both students and faculty.[8] His traveling and his remaking of the Democratic Party went hand in hand as students and peace activists flocked to his cause. McGovern announced his presidential candidacy in January 1971.

McGovern's young staff worked until exhaustion pushing their candidate to frontrunner status in the Democratic primaries and eventually to winning the party's 1972 presidential nomination. But it was in many respects a pyrrhic victory, as the Democratic party was broken in half, with its more conservative and establishment-oriented members sticking firmly to the “Anybody but McGovern” stance—a strategy that had failed to slow the McGovern juggernaut on its way to the Miami convention.

McGovern's organization, together with the party's new rules that he had helped to draft, changed the nature of the nominating process and were key to his convention victory. While women at the 1968 Democratic National Convention constituted just 13 percent of delegates, they comprised 40 percent in 1972.[9] Just as important, old-style political bosses and their minions were successfully kept away. The delegation from Illinois, led by Chicago Mayor Richard J. Daley, was rejected for its dearth of women and younger members and replaced by one led by the Rev. Jesse Jackson.(10) And of the New York delegation, AFL-CIO president George Meany reportedly complained, “They've got six open fags and only three AFL-CIO representatives!”[11]

As liberal a candidate as any major party had ever nominated, McGovern gave a magnificent acceptance speech at the 1972 Democratic National Convention, but almost nobody saw it as the chaotic convention could not be brought to order for it to be delivered before 2:45 a.m., long after its television audience had gone to bed. Almost all that was remembered of his speech were the words “Come home, America,” which even in the age of declining support for the disastrous Vietnam War would prove a decidedly double-edged sword. The slogan was manipulated by his opponents to imply the unfair “isolationism” charge, rather than McGovern's clear intent, which was to prioritize America's problems at home, rather than abroad. [12]

In a 2004 interview McGovern said he thought “if the country had heard me for 45 minutes in prime time, it might have changed the outcome of the election. . . . it

doesn't mean we would have won, but the first impression would have been a very favorable one.”

The press, however, was never enamored with McGovern nor the changes his supporters sought to bring to American politics—this despite the widespread belief that Nixon and company were up to no good, especially with regard to that odd break-in at Democratic headquarters at the Watergate complex. Columnists Rowland Evans and Robert Novak quoted an anonymous Democratic colleague—later revealed, amazingly, to be the man who ended up (briefly) as McGovern's running mate, Sen. Thomas Eagleton—saying McGovern was the candidate of “acid, amnesty and abortion.”

That label was repeated endlessly, to the point where America's most influential pundit, The New York Times's James Reston, in his column the Sunday before Election Day, said “the thought that the American people are going to give Mr. Nixon and his policies and anonymous hucksters and twisters in the White House a landslide popular victory . . . is a little hard to imagine.” And yet of the 1,054 dailies surveyed by Editor and Publisher, 753, or 71.4 percent, endorsed Nixon; only 56 papers backed McGovern.[13]

Of course the view of McGovern that permeated the media for decades was exactly wrong. Not only was he no elitist, pacifist isolationist, or hippie, but he was actually more willing to use military force than most of his Senate colleagues, whether Republican or Democrat, under the proper circumstances. In 1978, for example, he called for an international military force to oust the genocidal dictator, Pol Pot, from Cambodia—a move that, had it happened, might have saved millions of innocent lives.

Clearly, McGovern had the kind of courage that led him to say and do whatever he thought was right, regardless of what it led others to say about him. When he felt that his party was moving too far right in 1984, he risked ridicule again by challenging his party's presidential candidates in the primary season, even suggesting that one of his opponents and the party's eventual nominee Walter Mondale's calls for higher taxes to pay for essentially Republican goals was not the best direction for the Democratic Party to take. His key phrase, “Don't throw away your conscience,” was a decidedly politics-free declaration at the time (and ours).

McGovern was mocked and attacked for this by most pundits, including the “dean” of the national press corps, The Washington Post's David Broder. Still McGovern campaigned on distinguishing himself by forcing the rest of the Democratic candidates to direct themselves to a panoply of issues they would have preferred to ignore. By the time he bowed out of the primary race, Broder issued an apology in his syndicated column, which McGovern framed and hung on the wall of his dingy Washington, D.C., campaign office above a Dupont Circle Greek deli.

McGovern spent the balance of his post-political career working to reduce world hunger. As writer and blogger Rich Yeselson writes in *The American Prospect*, with “Robert Dole, a Prairie politician of a different, but also recognizable ideological lineage—he rationalized the Depression era food stamp program, and it became one of the most important low-income stabilizers of the American social insurance state.”

In McGovern's final book, *What It Means to Be a Democrat*, released in November 2011, he worries about what he calls the “insidious” political air of Washington, driven in part by liberals' inability to expose and defeat the “extremism” of the new conservative movement. “We are the party that believes we can't let the strong kick aside the weak,” he writes. “Our party believes that

poor children should be as well educated as those from wealthy families. We believe that everyone should pay their fair share of taxes and that everyone should have access to health care."

Such unapologetic open-heartedness might not appeal to many pundits but it took more courage, toughness, and patriotism to keep fighting for them for more than seven decades without rest despite the mockery and derision of those deemed to be the "responsible" ones.

I had dinner with McGovern during the 2008 presidential campaign. We discussed our hopes for that election, and he told me that at no time during those years did not he feel himself to be fighting for causes that were, in most politicians' minds, marginal. And neither, I can tell you, did McGovern ever consider dropping those issues and causes and allowing himself a more pleasant and less demanding life.

A final footnote: The only staffer working in that dingy Greek deli in 1984 was a youngster also named James McGovern (no relation). Thirteen years later, George McGovern stood by a still-pretty-young James as he took the oath as a freshman member of the 105th Congress, representing the 3rd Congressional District in Massachusetts, where he remains today as one of America's most farsighted, idealistic, and simultaneously, tough-minded representatives—in other words, a genuine "McGovernite."

ENDNOTES

[1] George McGovern, *Grassroots: The Autobiography of George McGovern* (New York: Random House, 1977), 5.

[2] *Ibid.*, 41.

[3] Bruce Miroff, *The Liberals' Moment: The McGovern Insurgency and the Identity Crisis of the Democratic Party* (Lawrence: University Press of Kansas, 2007), 33.

[4] Quoted in: Gloria Steinem, *Outrageous Acts and Everyday Rebellions* (New York: Holt, Rinehart, and Winston, 1983), 87–88.

[5] McGovern, *Grassroots*, 121.

[6] Quoted in: Hunter S. Thompson, *Fear and Loathing: On the Campaign Trail '72* (New York: Warner, 1973), 127.

[7] Miroff, *The Liberals' Moment*, 38.

[8] *Ibid.*, 43.

[9] Bruce Schulman, *The Seventies: The Great Shift in American Culture, Society, and Politics* (New York: DaCapo, 2001), 166.

[10] Justin Vaisse, *Neoconservatism: The Biography of a Movement* (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 2010), 84.

[11] Meany is quoted in: Philip A. Klinkner, *The Losing Parties: Out-Party National Committees, 1956–1993* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 1994), 106.

[12] Theodore White, *The Making of the President, 1972* (New York: Atheneum, 1973), 196–197.

[13] James Baughman, *The Republic of Mass Culture: Journalism, Filmmaking, and Broadcasting in America Since 1941* (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1992), 177.

"I'M EOD"—A TRIBUTE TO AN AMERICAN HERO—SSGT JOHNNY MORRIS, 2ND EOD, THE UNITED STATES MARINES

HON. SUE WILKINS MYRICK

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 17, 2012

Mrs. MYRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a great Son of The South, SSGT Johnny Morris of 2nd EOD The United States Ma-

rines and his family of Loxley Alabama. Johnny has one of the most dangerous jobs in The United States Marines, and on July 2nd 2011 SSGT Morris was almost killed in an IED blast as he was sweeping for explosives. He lost his leg and almost his life, but he never lost his faith or his courage. Him and his lovely wife Natalie and their new son Gage are a great American story and family. All you need to do is spend 10 minutes with this young man and you will walk away inspired and impressed. They make us all proud to be Americans. I submit this poem penned in in his honor by Albert Caswell.

I'M EOD

I'm EOD . . .

So don't mess with me . . .

I'm country and I like it . . .

I'm a United States Marine!

And I Roll with The Tide . . .

And whenever they win National Championship,

it makes me so all warm so inside . . .

I've got a beautiful wife,

and Natalie she's but the love of my life . . .

And I'm EOD and I'm as bad as can be!

And now our baby son Gage,

he makes it three!

Because,

in this US of A . . .

there's nothing you can not so be!

And I'm all dressed in those Most Magnificent Shades of Green,

that's where you'll see me convene!

For as long as you work hard,

and in your self so believe . . .

That's why this Father's son,

became oh yes one of those few ones so indeed . . .

Who stand ever so tall,

and so protect us all . . .

Yea, and so fight to be free . . .

yea that's The Leather Neck all in me!

All dressed all in Those Most Magnificent Shades of Green . . .

Oh yes,

I am so proud as can be . . .

But to be a United States Marine!

So let it be said,

that I'm ajar Head and so proud so to be!

Yes, I'm EOD,

and I'm as bad as can be!

Because, me and my brothers . . .

my fellow Marines . . .

So go where angels so fear to tread,

as ever we're seen!

Right there but on that very edge death,

if you know what I mean . . .

Because, we are EOD and we are as bad as can be!

While, in one another we all do so believe!

As a Band of Brothers so all dressed in Green!

Doing what most people would not so choose to be!

Being EOD!

But, I do it all again . . .

But for my sweet Country Tis of Thee,

as to her all of our lives are so pledged and that's how it's going to be!

For it's better to die for something,

than to live for nothing at all!

And that's why I put my boots on,

and I so answered that call . . .

That Call To Arms!

Because, I'm EOD . . .

so don't dare mess with me!

And I'm as bad as can be!

With nerves of such steel!

Remember, Superman is not real!

But I am you see!

But, we are the 2nd EOD!

As on each new day,

it's with death that we so play!

Yea, I lost my leg . . .

but I won't moan, and I won't beg . . .

And I'd do it all over again,

because I'm so proud to say that I took that stand!

All so my wife Natalie,

and my son Gage can live in a free land that is so free . . .

As here I so stand,

with my family in hand and a smile on my face . . .

It's just a speed bump on the road of life,

and I have no regrets and as I'm not losing pace!

So you better start running,

if you want to catch up to me so don't wait . . .

Because, I got nothing to complain about . . .

compared to all of my Brothers who are now in the ground . . .

As why I so honor them on each new day,

as I so awake with a smile on my face . . .

And for them I will always so feel the wind in my face,

and so carry them with me so every place!

As I take what my Lord has so given to me, as I'm just glad to be back in these here The United States!

All in this most beautiful place . . .

That we call The U. S. Of A.

In soon back in sweet Alabama hip . . . hip . . . hooray!

And when I'm so done my rehab,

I'm going back to my sweet home Bama one day . . .

Living large,

and grow old and so grey!

Because, when you've lived on the edge of death . . .

And you've so witnessed your magnificent Brother's own death . . .

With tears in your eyes,

while holding them tight,

as they give them last rites . . .

As than you so understand,

just how lucky you are man, just to be alive!

And how you are so very blessed,

to have so known such magnificent men such as this!

And carry them in your hearts each day!

And for all of them now,

I will so live a great life to make them so proud!

And to all of their children and to all of their wives,

and to their moms and their dads standing here with tears in my eyes . . .

I will always let them know that they were but the best,

and in our hearts so keep them alive!

Because they were EOD,

and were as brave as could be!

Yea, Heroes like you SSGT Morris,

have our Country Tis of Thee So Blessed!

As They So Teach Us!

And So Beseech Us!

As we so watch their fine hearts so crest . . .

Yea, Johnny your EOD . . .

and oh how do you make me so proud but be an American you see!

I could climb way up,

but to the highest mountain top . . .

But still,

I could never so reach as high as you Morris, where you now so stand high atop!

As an American Hero,

and you and your family are but the very best that we've got!

For Only The Few!

For Only The Brave!

For our Nation their hearts so gave!

And so teach all just how to behave,

yea SSGT Morris you're the cream of the crop!

And that's why you and your family,

America so loves and we will never stop!

And yea You are EOD,

and You are as bad and as brave as can be!