

SUFFOLK COUNTY LEGISLATURE



Office of Legislator Robert Trotta

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Suffolk County Legislator Rob Trotta Congratulates Eagle Scout Trio



Pictured at the Eagle Scout Court of Honor are from left: Scoutmaster Tom Stumpf, Suffolk County Legislator Rob Trotta, Eagle Scouts James Burke, Frank Coppola and Matt Whalen and Stephen O'Donnell, Committee Chairman, Troop 7.

(Smithtown, NY)...Suffolk County Legislator Rob Trotta recognized three new Eagle Scouts from Troop 7 at their recent Court of Honor at Sts. Philip and James Roman Catholic Church in St. James. James Burke and Mathew Whalen joined the Cub Scouts in first grade and Frank Coppola started with the organization in second grade. This September, they will all begin college.

James Burke renovated the recreation room for students at the Guide Dog Foundation in Smithtown, whereby he built a custom entertainment center and purchased a new TV and Bose surround sound system for the students to enjoy during their downtime in order to complete the requirements for his Eagle Scout award.

For his Eagle Scout project, Frank Coppola built a 16-foot wooden fence and planted a flower garden at Angela's House in Stony Brook, which is home to medically frail children, to be enjoyed by the residents, their families and visitors.

Matthew Whalen wanted his Eagle Scout project to benefit the military so he cleaned and refurbished the American Legion Sherwood Brothers Post 1152 in St. James for the veterans. In addition, he framed and organized the collection of photos of various WW II events so they could be properly displayed along with the medals of the soldiers.

Legislator Trotta noted that Scout James Buke waited two years to celebrate the attainment of his Eagle Scout Award so that he could share the moment with his fellow scouts and friends Frank Coppola and Matt Whalen. “This decision by James to wait for his friends to celebrate together is a testament to what scouting is all about and their camaraderie and friendship. Because you all have achieved the rank of Eagle Scout this is something that will be with you for the rest of your lives and you will always be held to a higher standard because of this achievement,” said Legislator Rob Trotta.