

Troop 312, Jackson, MI
Written by Denise Miller, Donna Farnsworth and Phil Farnsworth
Edited by the Troop 312 committee

RETIREMENT OF OUR BOY SCOUT TROOP FLAG

(The Troop Flag should be removed from the holder. Steven Farnsworth will hold the pole and Kyle Miller will hold the flag so as to display it completely to the group. Mr. Stehno will read this from BEHIND THE FLAG, as the flag is doing the speaking)

Remember me? Some of you refer to me as your troop flag. Others of you just don't even pay attention to me. Whatever you may think of me, I am your troop flag. I represent your troop, in your council, in your district, in your state.

I represent many things that you probably have never thought about. I represent the location of where your troop meets and the troop you are. I proudly tell everyone where this troop is from. You are sponsored by the First Presbyterian Church and I let everyone know. There is only one TROOP 312 of Jackson, Michigan.

But that's not all. I represent the Boy Scouts of America. You will notice that in the center of the flag the Boy Scout symbol adorns me. When you carry me at a meeting, or look at me as I am proudly displayed before you, I also remind you of the council that you are a part of. I currently say "Land O' Lakes", the council name from a few years ago. The new me reflects "Great Sauk Trail", the council's current name. You should know that your troop is the 15th oldest in the nation, and the oldest in the state of Michigan. We've been around since June, 1911.

These are the formal symbols on my face. But I am so much more. I represent a heritage. When you look at me right now, what you see doesn't adequately say what I want to say. I am old and have reached the age of retirement (as has someone else in the troop!). Whether you look at me now or the new me in the future, I hope you'll remember my heritage.

I stand for the perseverance and caring of many leaders, both old and new, who have given so generously of their time and talent for you and your scouting achievements. I stand for you, for what makes you special and unique. YOU are Troop 312 of the Great Sauk Trail Council in Jackson, Michigan. There is only one like me and one troop like you. I stand for your teamwork and your accomplishments. That's why you display me on campouts and activities. You will notice all the banners attached to my standard. I may be your flag but there is so much more to me. I stand for your loyalty. I stand for Boy Scouting.

(At this time, Kyle Miller and Stephen Farnsworth will remove the old troop flag and carefully fold it to give to Mr. Goehring, Committee Chair. **THIS IS DONE WHILE THE NEXT PARAGRAPH IS BEING SAID.** When the flag is removed pole will be put into its holder.)

Now it is time for me to go. A new flag will take my place. Be good to him but I will not be forgotten. The committee of this troop has voted unanimously my new home will be to reside with the retiring scoutmaster, Mr. Steve Volker. It is the committee's desire that I

be available for the Council museum someday, in the future My residing with Mr. Volker is to honor his long and extinguished service!

At this time, will Mr. Steve Volker and Mr. Gordon Cattell please come forward, along with Mr. Goehring, our committee Chairman.

(READ SLOWLY, AS YOU ARE GIVING DIRECTIONS.)

As we make the new troop flag ours, Mr. Goehring will now present this new flag to Mr. Cattell, our new scoutmaster. This is symbolic in that the new flag is presented to the new scoutmaster. Our NEW BEGINNINGS. In retiring the old flag, the acting SPL of the troop will present the old flag to the troop committee chairman for retirement. The scouts of this troop are now relinquishing the symbol of who they have been for years Now will Mr. Cattell please have the new flag proudly be displayed by the troop leadership, as they post the flag on the standard. The troop flag is OFFICIALLY REPRESENTING THIS TROOP!

Mr. Goehring, will you please make the presentation of the retired troop flag.

(Mr. Goehring will give the new troop flag to Mr. Cattell. Kyle Miller, as acting SPL, will give the folded old troop flag to Mr. Goehring. Mr. Cattell will give the new troop flag to Kyle. The boys will mount the new troop flag. Mr. Goehring will present the old troop flag to Mr. Volker.)

NOTE TO READERS:

Some of the language in this ceremony is meant as poking some good natured fun at a well loved and respected scout master of 7 years, as he retires. The word 'extinguished' is put there by design to be a good natured "poke" at his DISTINGUISHED 7 years of service to our troop. We retire our old troop flag and say good bye to the leadership of a special person to our troop in one ceremony.

We freely offer this ceremony for you to change or use as you would like. The only thing we ask is that freely you receive, freely give. Thank you!