



What Is An Eagle?

By Dorothy Wilding
Past Grand Madam President

AN EAGLE, my sisters, is a man or woman to whom the mottos LIBERTY, TRUTH, JUSTICE AND EQUALITY ... and FOR HOME, FOR COUNTRY AND FOR GOD ... are not mere words but rather standards by which to live each day.

An Eagle is an individual, man or woman, who sincerely appreciates the liberties we have as citizens of this great country, where American and Canadian flags fly free and we are unhampered by oppression.

An Eagle is a truthful individual, who is as good as a given word and who may be depended upon without benefit of petty lies and deceit.

An Eagle is an individual who will listen to and consider the opinions of others and be fair in judgment of another person's efforts. An Eagle is an individual who not only believes in equality but practices it, knowing full well that in this great Order, every member, whether rich or poor, wise or simple, has equal and ample opportunity to be an active and important part of this great fraternal organization ... dedicated to humanitarian aims and accomplishments ... to aid those sick and afflicted and less fortunate. A true Eagle Auxiliary member knows that her home is her blessed domain where love of her home and family gives her strength to meet and face the problems of life, gives her an opportunity to lead in righteousness her children and loved ones ... where she makes her home the abode of clean thoughts and wholesome living. A true Eagle Auxiliary member is the woman who believes and knows that when she places her hand over her heart in reverence or pledge to the flag of her beloved country, she is rich with the opportunity to live in a land where freedom is not merely a word but a privilege to be guarded ... Yes, with one's own life if need be ... A country

where one may worship God as she pleases ... A woman who respects God's laws, the Ten Commandments. A true Eagle Auxiliary member is a woman who remembers

her obligation taken to "Guard the good name of a sister and never purposely to do anything by word or act to cause unhappiness."

Yes, a good Eagle is a member who knows that to grow and develop and enjoy continued success, an organization must have its share of new members and then having those members, strives to keep them active and happily engaged in activities appealing to each particular individual ... thus lessening the chance for delinquency and their loss as members.

AN EAGLE is the member who can stand with dignity in a reception line or welcoming committee one night, and stand at a sink in the kitchen, hot and hectic the next night, to do her share. An Eagle is a member who actively shares in the responsibilities of the Order, as well as enjoys the benefits and privileges. Who knows the word "co-operation" means everybody and not a few. Who knows the rules and regulations and applies them with tact and diplomacy and understanding, when necessary. Who pleasantly takes a turn at serving dinner, or selling raffle tickets for one of the many fine worth-

while projects ... or scrubbing down the Aerie kitchen walls, or wielding a paint brush to brighten up the meeting hall. A good Eagle is the member who gives hours of time with heart or hand, without expecting benefit or reimbursement. An Eagle is the individual who knows that, as a member of the Fraternal Order of Eagles dedicated to helping humanity, he or she can walk proudly in the community with head held high because of the accomplishments achieved to prove we are truly "People Helping People" ... knowing that helping others and giving of themselves in service, is a real reason for living. An Eagle is an individual who listens attentively to the beautiful words of the ritual ... an individual who conveys to the prospective new member the true principles of Eagledom, and emphasizes the three "H's" of Eagledom: Having Fun ... Harvesting Members and Helping Others.

My sisters, these are but a few of the merits and qualifications of a true Eagle, and there are many more words to define the basic principles of a dedicated member. Many of you will recall the often repeated words of the late President John F. Kennedy, "Ask not what your country can do for you, but what you can do for your country." Perhaps you and I should ask ourselves each day, "Ask not what your Auxiliary can do for you, but what you can do for your Auxiliary." Now ... I ask you ... Are you an EAGLE? □



This article by the late, great Dorothy Wilding was originally published in 1980. We're proud to run it again, and urge every Eagle to look for herself in it.

MRS. EAGLE