

MEMORIAL DAY SERVICE FOR TROOP 51 SENIOR PATROL LEADER LEON CROUCH

Re-established on Memorial Day 2014

Connor Armstrong, Troop Historian
Bradley Herrington, Chaplain's Aide
Christian Vaught, Bugler
Matthew Fortner, Assistant Senior Patrol Leader

TROOP HISTORIAN:

We gather here today in remembrance of one of our own. Leon Crouch was the Senior Patrol Leader of Troop 51 and tragically passed away of appendicitis in 1923 at the age of 17.

He is buried here with his parents. Troop 51 has adopted the duty of care for his grave, tribute to his service to Scouting and preserving the memory of a promising life that was cut too short.

We turn to the official Troop 51 history as written by K.L. Rutherford for this accounting of Senior Patrol leader Leon Crouch:

From Chapter 2, 1920-1928:

"From September 1920 to September 1922 the Troop had no Scout qualified to act as Senior Patrol Leader. At the latter date Leon Crouch was elected to office which he held in a most worthy manner until removed by death on April 22, 1923. His example in Scouting was for years an incentive to those boys who had known him, and the memory of this boy who really lived Scouting is to be kept fresh in the minds of future Scouts by a simple service to be held at his grave on Memorial Day each year. The Scout emblem marks his grave in the cemetery. In his memory the Troop Committee donated a cup which has been awarded for efficiency in Patrol work."

Just as we have re-established a memorial service for Leon Crouch, we have also located the Crouch Cup. The Senior Patrol will establish the rules for the competition for the Crouch Cup and will award it to the top performing patrol each year.

I now call on the Troop 51 Chaplain's Aide to lead us in our memorial prayers.

CHAPLAIN'S AIDE:

Please place yourself in a position of reverence in accordance with your practice of worship.

Prayer for Peace At Last*

O Lord,
support us all day long of this troublous life,
until the shadows lengthen,
and the evening comes,
and the busy world is hushed,
and the fever of life is over,
and our work is done.

Then in Thy mercy grant us safe lodging,
and a holy rest,
and peace at last,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

A Scout Prayer*

In the light of this day we come before Thee, O Father, bound in a common brotherhood. Give us a vision of our Oath and Law that our actions may be pure and straight, and our Prayers may rise unruffled by any petty thoughts brought by prejudice and intolerance.

Help us live as Scouts should live, that we may think no thought, and do no action, that shall mar the sanction of our Prayers and Oath. Give us a true sense of dedication in the cause for which we work. Forgive us our shortcomings this day and always.

Amen.

TROOP 51 BUGLER:

Taps is played.

SENIOR PATROL LEADER:

Please join me in the Scout Oath. Scout Sign.

On my honor, I will do my best
To do my duty to God and my Country
To obey the Scout Law
To help other people at all times
And to keep myself physically strong, mentally awake and morally straight.

TROOP HISTORIAN:

This concludes our memorial service. Patrol Leaders, take charge of your patrols. Please exit the cemetery silently and in a respectful manner.

* Taken from the book *"Prayers for the Use In The Brotherhood of Scouts"*
For the Boy Scout Association (United Kingdom) as adapted for the Boy Scouts of America
by Troop 51 of Fayetteville, NY, the oldest serving unit of the Longhouse Council.
Fourth Edition published 1940 • Stanhope Press Ltd., Great Britain