

February 4, 2008

To: Troop 483

We want to convey to you just how much the flag dedication ceremony and program meant to us. It just cannot be put effectively in words. For now we will just say thank you and we love you for every single thing that was done to make it a perfect celebration.

Several things do need singling out as special and awesome. Here we go:

The flagpole: It's hard to envision all that must have taken place to get that pole into the hole. The preliminaries must have been challenging beyond imagination. Q. How many people does it take to get a flagpole into the ground? A. If they are Boy Scout Troop 483 connected, probably only one could do it but you would need more for courage and spirit and you did have courage and spirit.

The cement surround: Smooth as a Tenderfoot's face and to think it was completed without the Rowley cement mixer.

And, the rockwork where the plaque will sit is a wonder to behold especially that perfect red rock. Thank you for that and the words on the plaque.

When we got home we reflected on all it took to put the entire program together. A few of nice touches that caught our eyes include:

EZ Ups: That was so much work and doing it in the rain (up and down) could not have been a lot of fun. They did provide shelter for everyone and kept the cake and drinks dry (important you know).

Fire ring: Someone had to drag wood there and keep the fire going—it brought to many a lot of warmth.

Added attractions: Norma's roses—two dozen beautiful red roses. Scouts to escort us across the bridge and balloons to greet us.

An outstanding invocation, words to welcome us and so many smiles from all of you. And how about the honor guard? The colors being raised, the pledge and later, the retirement of our stately flag.

Thoughtful and kind people placing umbrellas over our heads, "may I get you a cup of coffee? – a piece of cake?," many hugs, many grins and so many people (scouts and adults) saying thank you and other words of esteem.

We appreciate every thing-- all of it-- big and little--you did for us. We love you and your kindness to us. We will always carry in our hearts and memories this remarkable day, February 3, 2008, and the dedication of the American flag, pole and plaque in Big Dalton Canyon Wilderness Park.

*Gordon
and Norma*