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Parkersburg, West Virginia Boy Scout Troop 3 history revealed in new book by Ron Taylor

Cincinnati OH—Cincinnati Book Publishing (CBP) is pleased to announce the upcoming release of PRICELESS MEMORIES OF TROOP 3: THE ADVENTURES, HISTORY, AND TRADITIONS OF AN ICONIC 100 YEAR-OLD PARKERSBURG, WEST VIRGINIA BOY SCOUT TROOP.

The Boy Scouts of America (BSA) is the nation's foremost values-based youth training organization, currently reaching 2.3 million youth throughout the United States. Many prominent business and civic leaders attribute their success in life to Scouting. In this book, author Ron Taylor recalls his own rewarding experiences as he documents the fascinating history of a typical but exceptional Scout troop.

Ron Taylor is a Cincinnati resident who grew up in Parkersburg, West Virginia, the home of Troop 3. In approaching his subject, Taylor was determined to document the extraordinary accomplishments of the organization, which celebrates with its centennial reunion in August 2017. His outline revealed that Troop 3 had a significant story to tell. The troop:

• Produced the first Eagle Scout in West Virginia.

- Inspired 12% of its members (three times the national average) to earn Scouting's highest award of Eagle Scout.
- Listed two members who earned the highest honor in Boy Scouts, and the highest honor in Sea Scouts: Eagle Scout and Quartermaster Sea Scout.
- Camps at its 152-acre wilderness campsite with a staff that has come from as many as five states to provide adult leadership for its summer camps.
- Built and maintained a stone lodge, seawall docking, and recreation area on the Ohio River in Belpre, Ohio.
- Keeps an active list of every single member since it's founding in 1917.
- Prides itself in having one family that produced four Eagle Scouts, and several that produced two or more, Eagle Scouts.
- Enjoys roughing it in the wilderness.
- Has distinguished alumni who are "movers and shakers" throughout the USA.
- Is renown for its rich history and traditions
- Prides itself on promoting the "out" in Scouting.

Troop Three Alumni Inc., consisting of former members, was chartered in 1949 to provide the facilities and resources for the troop's extensive outdoor program. Thanks to the alumni organization's strong backing, it has often been said Troop 3 was, and is, one of the best-equipped Boy Scout troops in the United States. Indeed, it became a national model for Scouting in mid-twentieth century America.

The First Presbyterian Church of Parkersburg launched Troop 3 on March 29, 2017. It drew from the urban neighborhood, providing companionship, wholesome after-school activities, and outdoor experiences to the sons of city-based families, many of which suffered financial hardship during the Depression years.

Founder and Scoutmaster Don B. Lowe appears in this history as the hero of the Parkersburg Scout movement. Taylor explores the challenges volunteers faced in providing outdoor activities and leadership skills for generations of city youth, whose families struggled to overcome hardships of economic depression and domestic life interrupted by military service during World War II.

This is a joy-filled story of service, fun, and outdoor adventure, which will engage and inspire a wide reading audience. Books sales benefit Troop 3 Alumni, Inc. and its Scouting programs.

BOOKBUYING FACTS for *Priceless Memories of Troop 3*:

- Softcover, 246 pages, 112 pictures, with index. ISBN: 978-0-9894271. \$ 24.95
- Price listed does not reflect applicable retail tax or shipping costs
- Available online at <u>cincybooks.com</u> and Amazon.com.

Cincinnati Book Publishing is an independent book publisher of quality nonfiction books. Anthony Brunsman is the president and CEO. Sue Ann Painter is executive editor.

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About the Author

Ron Taylor, a native of Parkersburg, West Virginia, began his Boy Scout career as a Cub Scout in 1946, and joined Troop 3 in in 1949. He is an Eagle Scout, a BSEE graduate of Ohio University, and a retiree of the Procter & Gamble Company. A Silver Beaver recipient, Ron has hiked several sections of the Appalachian Trail, completed a high adventure trek at Philmont Scout Ranch, earned his Fifty-Miler patch, and attended more than five hundred campfires while actively serving as Assistant Scoutmaster fiftyplus-years at Troop 3 summer camps. Ron and his wife, Anne, live in Cincinnati, Ohio. He has two children and five grandchildren.

Ron shares this story of his Boy Scout troop in hopes the reader will learn that if you apply yourself diligently, the rewards will follow. Throughout the book there are numerous examples of what the troop's boys and leaders were able to accomplish through effort, loyalty, and hard work. In Ron's words, "when boys join Scouting they are exposed to a unique opportunity to become 'Prepared For Life,' and for a lifetime."

The author recalls, "Throughout my life, regardless of the political climate or the supposed odds against me, I discovered that the qualities of hard work, loyalty, and being trustworthy were valued and rewarded. When this happened, my self-respect and confidence soared and my lifelong goals became a reality."

His advice to parents follows: "If you have a young son, make sure he gets a once-in-a lifetime chance to join the Boy Scouts. As Will Rogers once said, 'the only problem with the Boy Scouts is, there aren't enough of them."