



Chad Anthony Powell

A Desire To Help Others

To everyone who knew him, Chad Powell will be forever remembered for his desire to help others. "He may not have had quantity of life, but he certainly had quality of life," Boy Scout leader Cody Austin said of Chad, a young man who worked hard enough to become an Eagle Scout before the age of 16.

Chad's parents, Greg and Jill, found comfort in the fact that Chad died as he lived his life. He was helping others, acting as Coordinator for a group of freshmen working on Bonfire during the pre-dawn hours of November 18th.

Although the University officially listed him as a sophomore, Chad had yet to finish his first semester on campus. The young man had tested out of enough courses last spring and summer to skip his freshman year academically. Chad Powell was majoring in computer engineering, hoping to own a computer business upon graduation.

He was a National Merit Scholar, President of the National Honor Society and one of 12 members of last spring's FINA-Dallas Morning News All-State Scholar Athlete Team. His Keller classmates had voted him "Most Likely to Succeed."

On June 3, the town of Keller had even declared Chad Powell Day, giving the entire community an opportunity to honor his accomplishments.

Chad Powell was a very loving young man who always lived his life without compromising his morals or beliefs. One belief that Chad lived by can best be exemplified by the following story.

Chad and his dad were looking forward to spending the weekend together at a Boy Scout event in which they would both receive the rank of Brotherhood in the Order of the Arrow, a service organization in the Boy Scouts of America. They had both waited to earn this advancement until a time when they could do it together. Just after arriving at the camp site, the officials asked for volunteers to

lead a group of younger Scouts through their Ordeal into the Order of the Arrow. This is truly a very difficult weekend. The boys are given only bare rations, are not allowed to talk during the weekend, and do hard physical labor (improving the camp site) the entire time. Chad, of course, had completed this task years earlier but immediately agreed to help. He, too, would be subjected to the same restrictions as the younger Scouts. On Saturday night, at the ceremony which had been long awaited, Chad's dad told him that he was disappointed that they had not seen each other all weekend and had not been able to work together on the Brotherhood requirements. He asked Chad why he had volunteered so quickly the night before to lead the Scouts. Chad simply replied, "Dad, we came to serve." Chad lived his life in service to others. He was always the first to offer his services or to say a kind word to someone in need. He knew he was put on this earth "to serve." His family takes comfort knowing that Chad died serving others, just as he had lived his life.

It is a strong faith that also allows his family to believe that God provided Chad the opportunity to say goodbye during his Valedictory Address in May, 1999. The closing remarks which Chad made from the stage during that speech seem almost prophetic:

"My prayer up here is that all of us find even greater happiness in our new lives than we had in our old. Hopefully we will be able to enjoy whatever life brings us, but never forget the joys we have already had. To the life we've known, which has prepared us extensively for whatever road we choose to take, I'd like to say goodbye. Goodbye teachers who helped to get us here today; goodbye friends who must go a separate way; and goodbye to the life we've known, to move on, it's the price we must pay." 🍀