



## Nathan Scott West

# *A&M Was His Dream*

**N**athan Scott West and his father, Richard, spent every spare moment they had together working on Nathan's beige Volkswagen Beetle. They worked side by side restoring the old car, even putting in a new engine.

Said neighbor Renee McCurry, "He and his dad worked on that old VW bug every chance they got. They were determined to get it running.

"A lot of kids get cars when they turn 16. But Nathan worked for his, and he appreciated what he had."

Always called Scott by his parents, Richard and Janiece West, he lived in the same house all his life, changing residences only when he moved to Texas A&M University to study oceanography.

With an SAT score of 1430 and as a National Merit Scholar semifinalist, Scott had his choice of colleges. But A&M was his dream. And he wanted to be a member of the Corps.

"He was born and bred to be an Aggie," recalled Richard Evans, one of his teachers at Westbury High School in Houston, where Scott graduated in the top five percent of his class. He later would be described as a quiet, but fiercely loyal Cadet.

His family's remembrances at Scott's service included the following statement: "Scott was happy most of the time, content to pursue his own course in the world. He was, by nature, a bit of a loner who picked his associations carefully, but once chosen he was totally committed to his course. Scott was committed to God, to attending church and to Texas A&M.

"Scott had a high degree of intelligence marked by a thirst for knowledge and an offbeat, dry sense of humor. Scott loved his friends. He had a special love for his friend and scoutmaster, Mr. Reed. Scott administered countless head rubs and belly button pokes, much to Mr. Reed's con-

sternation and job.

"Scott had a habit of wandering off. We would lose him, but he would always say he was where he was supposed to be. Scott loved a good party, Piers Anthony books and a quiet Saturday morning watching cartoons. We will miss his bounding into the room and giving "mommy hugs and daddy hugs" so hard that they hurt. We do miss him so.

"We believe that God blessed us with the extraordinary life of our son—a life devoted to helping others through God, filled with love for his friends and for his university and the Corps of Cadets. We must not react to this tragedy by destroying the Tradition that Scott loved. Every future Bonfire will be guided by the Spirit of the Bonfire 12. As the flames reach to the heavens, 12 Aggies will be united by the Spirit of Aggieland."

"Life is terribly fragile," said the Rev. Mark H. Young, pastor of Bellaire United Methodist Church. "But life is sacred and we should cherish it to the fullest and thanks be to God that Scott West lived life to the fullest."

"Scott was participating in a Tradition that he loved," said Richard West, the young man's father. "If he had a spare minute, he would be at the Bonfire. Scott is now organizing the Aggie Bonfire for God."

The philosophy of Scott West's life could be found in the speech he wrote while receiving his Eagle Scout badge, one that poignantly reflected the feelings he had for the world around him:

I have seen heaven, and it is a beautiful place. I was watching the bees flit from blossom to blossom while waiting for sunset. It was a beautiful sight. Gazing at the expanse of space when no one was around was an awe-inspiring sight." 🍀