

**PROCLAMATION CELEBRATING
STAR SCOUT PARKER MILLS
RECIPIENT OF THE BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA HEROISM HONOR AWARD**

WHEREAS, **Parker Mills** of Boy Scout Troop 1707 was awarded a **BSA Heroism Honor Medal**. This is awarded for demonstrating heroism and skill in saving lives with great risk to self. The BSA National Court of Honor awards approximately 30 such awards each year across the country; and

WHEREAS, On Sunday, June 21, 2020, the Parker family and some friends signed up for a two-hour trip down the Sturgeon River. Some were in tubes, others in kayaks, and the Parker family (Mom Julie, son Parker, daughter Kennedy, cousins Caleb and Owen) opted for a five-man inflatable raft which was advertised as the easiest and safest option. They were instructed that there were a few obstacles, but that the ride was very easy and fun, and that the raft was very stable and easy to control. Everyone was properly fitted with life vests and sent off down the river; and

WHEREAS, Everyone was having fun when they spotted a tree that was right over a whirlpool. While trying to avoid the tree, they got pulled right into it. Parker and Owen were able to slide under it, but Kennedy got stuck and Parker helped her get under it before she was crushed. Julie and Caleb were stuck in the back of the raft that was being pushed against the tree by the current at a super high strength. Parker took only a second to think then told them that they should bail out of the boat before they got crushed. Caleb bailed out to the left, got under the tree but the whirlpool sucked him under the boat. Julie bailed to the right which was right inside the middle of the whirlpool and under the short end of the tree; and

WHEREAS, When this happened Parker assessed the condition of both people in the water and the other two in the raft. Parker knew that his Mom and Caleb were underwater - Caleb pounding the bottom of the raft and Julie in very deep water where the current was pushing her deeper into the river. Parker decided it was safe, jumped into the deep river and felt around for Caleb. When he saw him under the raft, Parker grabbed his life jacket, pulled him out from under the raft and pushed him downstream toward the shore; and

WHEREAS, Parker then rushed to climb back onto the raft to check on his Mom who had been underwater for a really long time. He saw her hands come up and he guided them towards the tree branch and the metal tie on the boat so that she could pull herself up. She was very weak so Parker helped pull her up and together they moved towards the base of the tree. Parker worked to calm everyone down as he made plans to get the raft free and the family back to shore;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Mayor and City Council of the City of Troy hereby applaud and commend **Parker Mills** for his courageous actions to save his family from drowning on a rafting trip; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Mayor and City Council of the City of Troy invite all residents to recognize and celebrate the heroism of **Parker Mills**. You are to be commended for staying calm, making quick decisions, taking charge of a life-threatening situation, minimizing the stress of your family members, and saving your family without thought for your own safety.

Presented this 26th Day of July 2021