

**Owasippe Lodge #7
2010 Vigil Dinner
November 20, 2010
Program**

5:30 PM	Fellowship Hour	
6:45 PM	Welcome Remarks	Andrew J. Piper Owasippe Lodge Chief - 2010-2011
	Invocation	Rev. F. Gerald Scanlan
	Pledge of Allegiance	Nicholas J. Barth
	Owasippe Hymn	All
7:00 PM	Dinner - Owasippe Camp Promotion Video and Slide Show	
7:50 PM	Spirit of the Arrow	Ronald J. Temple, PhD Owasippe Lodge Chief - 1960 O/A National Chief - 1961
	Presentation of Honoree	John N. Brown
	2010 Honoree	Lawrence S. Branch Scoutmaster - T 541 - 1937-1948 Camp Belnap Staff - 1934-1938
	Presentation of Honoree	Francis J. Podbielski, MD
	2010 Honoree	Frederick C. Brems Camp Stuart Staff - 1936-1938 Owasippe Lodge Chief - 1940
	Vigil Honors and Years	Nicholas J. Barth
	Lodge Adviser's Comments	Theodore B. Kumzi
	Owasippe Centennial Events	Joseph P. Sener
	Owasippe Centennial Projects	Francis J. Podbielski, MD
	Scout Executive's Remarks	H. Charles Dobbins
	Order of the Arrow Hymn	All
9:00 PM	Reception	Optional



2010 Vigil Dinner Committee

Nicholas J. Barth
John N. Brown
Theodore B. Kumzi
Ronald E. Kulak
Andrew J. Piper
Scott A. Peterson
Francis J. Podbielski, MD



**See you at the 2011 Owasippe Lodge #7
Vigil Dinner
Saturday November 19, 2011**

Photographs from this evening are
available on-line at:

[http://www.moqua.com/VigilDinner/
2010Pictures.htm](http://www.moqua.com/VigilDinner/2010Pictures.htm)

Owasippe Scout
Camps

1911 - 2011

Chicago Area Council
Boy Scouts of America

***Owasippe Lodge #7
Vigil Dinner
2010***



November 20, 2010

European Chalet Banquets
5445 S. Harlem Av.
Chicago, Illinois

Lawrence S. Branch

Lawrence S. Branch was born on Chicago's Southside in the West Woodlawn neighborhood on August 27, 1914 to Emil and Sara Branch. The family lived at 6454 S. Eberhart Av. for many years during which time Larry joined Boy Scout Troop 541 sponsored by the Lincoln Memorial Congregational Church at 64th and Champlain Av. Local residents remember with pride how the young Scouts in full uniform would march to their Friday evening Troop meetings.

Larry attended the James McCosh Elementary School (renamed the Emmett Louis Till Math and Sciences Academy in 2006) and graduated from Tilden High School in its Class of 1931. Throughout his career Larry was self-employed and currently has retired to Phoenix, IL.

Over the years Larry served on staff at Owasispe Scout Camp in the Chicago Council's segregated Camp Belnap - comprised of African American Scouts throughout the Chicago-land Area in the Douglas Division. He personally remembers the pioneers of African American Scouting in Chicago: Dr. William H. Benson, a prominent dentist from West Woodlawn, who led Belnap as its first Camp Director in 1929 and for many years in the early and mid-1930's. Following Dr. Benson, Larry also remembers Emerson James, first as the Assistant Camp Director and later as Camp Director of Belnap for over ten years, until the Chicago Scout Camps were fully integrated in 1949, when Mr. James served on the first integrated staff at Camp Blackhawk. Emerson James was the first African American Vigil Member of the Order of the Arrow.

Larry was inducted into Takodah Chapter on its formation in 1931 at Camp Belnap. The Chapter, like the Camp for was African American Scouts wherever they lived in the Chicago Council. He served proudly as the Chief of Takodah Chapter in Owasispe Lodge between 1935-1936 and for his efforts as a Scout Leader, a staff member at Camp Belnap, and for his leadership of Takodah Chapter, Larry was awarded the Vigil Honor in 1945.

Scouts under Larry's guidance as Scoutmaster of Troop 541 extol his enthusiastic support of the Scouting program and his mentorship and guidance during their years as youth members. Several of his Scouts are here with us this evening and will attest to his uplifting influence on their lives.

Larry attributes his longevity to his lifelong work on behalf of young people. His life is an inspiration to all of us who work with youth to set them on a straight and virtuous path of living. A tribute to his tireless leadership might well be the greatest and most fitting gift we as Scouters can give to honor him as a man of integrity and courage who despite the many obstacles in his life, managed to rise above the challenges and live the tenets of the Scout Oath and Law.



2010 Honorees

Branch



Brems



Frederick C. Brems

Frederick Charles Brems was born on January 2, 1919 at St. Mary's Hospital in Chicago to Frederick W. Brems (1887-1957) and Marie H. Brems (nee Kledzik) (1888-1957). He attended St. Genevieve Parish Grammar School and DePaul Academy High School, and one year of college at Wright Junior College.

Fred's Scouting career began as a Charter Member of Troop 150 sponsored by St. Genevieve's Holy Name Society in 1931 and led by Scoutmaster William "Bill" Blair. He quickly rose through the ranks, holding the offices of Patrol Leader and Senior Patrol Leader which culminated in his receiving the rank of Eagle Scout on June 27, 1935. Scouts from the Northwest District of Chicago, under the direction of District Executive George M. Schnier attended Camp Checaugau on Big Blue Lake. Fred, being an exemplary camper, was inducted in the Order of the Arrow in 1932. He vividly recalls the Ordeal Ceremony during which a huge oval was formed on the Parade Grounds and the Indian Brave with a pine knot torch circled the oval searching for inductees. Meteu, with a firm tap on the shoulder called him forth, and laid a pine wreath around his neck and bade him to keep silent.

Fred's first year at Owasispe was in 1932 at Camp Checaugau on Big Blue Lake. He worked on staff at Camp Robert Stuart from 1936-1938 as the Assistant Naturalist and Naturalist. In 1938 he, along with fellow staffers John Klem and George Mills were approached by Camp Director John Lovett to work at Camp Belnap (Chicago Council's segregated camp for African American Scouts). Accepting the challenge with gusto, Fred and his companions worked with a provisional Troop of 35 Scouts and its Scoutmaster Eric King to provide the experience of a lifetime to these young Scouts who demonstrated their love of canoeing.

For his commitment to camping, Fred received the Vigil Honor on July 29, 1939 through Checaugau Chapter. His Vigil name is Wulamollessahalid or "He Who Makes Me Happy".

After his Owasispe days, Fred entered the U.S. Army on June 13, 1941. Beginning as Sergeant, his Boy Scout leadership skill quickly took over such that he was offered a position in Officer Candidate School. One year later, he was graduated as a Second Lieutenant and spent five years on active duty, one and a half years of which was as a tank platoon and tank company commander in the Second Armored Division in Germany and Belgium. He was well-respected by his men for his thoughtfulness and efficiency and was awarded a Bronze Star during and a Silver Star at the conclusion his active duty in Germany. For the next 19 years he continued in the Active Reserves and retired in January 1979 as a Lieutenant Colonel with 24 years of service.

Fred spent his career of 45 years in the paper industry, working at first for Marquette Paper company and later the Marquette Paper Division of the Jim Walter Paper Corporation as a General Manager. He met his first wife Helen Charette of Marinette, Wisconsin at the Nankin Restaurant in Chicago and was married in 1943. Their son, Frederick R. (Rick) Brems born in 1948 is here with us this evening. Helen passed away in 1985 after 43 years of marriage. He then met Margaret Walker while working at a 4th of July Picnic game booth and after a whirlwind romance was married in January 1987. They recently celebrated their 23rd Wedding Anniversary. Fred boasts of his son Rick, daughter-in-law Susan Kucinski and his granddaughter Rosemary who recently graduated from Guilford College in North Carolina.

When asked about his guiding mantra, Fred simply replies, "The Vigil Honor was, no is, much present here and throughout life - personal integrity, industry, respect for others, and service to others."