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ST. HELENA SCOUT TROOP ONE COMMEMORATES LOST SCOUT & LEADER WITH ELABORATE MEMORIAL LAMP

One of the continuing memorials for Ryan Collins and Stephen McCullagh is a new memorial lamp in front of Scout Hall on Railroad Avenue in St. Helena (in the Napa Valley).

The lamp was illuminated for the first time on the exact anniversary of the Sierra lightning accident at 4:15 pm on Friday, July 28 (2006) and remained lit for the next 24 hours. There was a quiet gathering when the light was switched on.

The memorial lamp sits on a pole exactly in front of Scout Hall which has been empty for many years. Designed by Assistant Scoutmaster Jon Dodge, it was conceived as a memorial to Ryan and Stephen. Their names and 'IN SPIRITU MMV' [a reference to the spirit eagle which is part of the design, the Scout-eagle and the year 2005] are engraved in the lamp. When illuminated the effect will be that of a stained glass window. The lamp will be turned on whenever there is a Boy Scout meeting at Scout Hall, as an ongoing memorial to Ryan and Stephen. The lamp's design is most evident at night when it is illuminated; in the future this will be every Wednesday night during Scout meetings from 7:00 – 8:30 p.m.

There were many generous contributors who made the creation of the lamp possible: these include Ogletree's in St. Helena, Triton Waterjet & Design in Napa, Architectural Plastics in Petaluma, Vaider Powdercoat in Rohnert Park and Main Street Electric in St. Helena, as well as local families and businesses.

"We wanted to honor their memories with an ongoing memorial," Jon Dodge explains.

More information about Boy Scouts in St. Helena can be found at www.sthelenascouts.com. More information on the lightning accident can be found there also or by contacting Julie Ann Kodmur, corking@julieannkodmur.com.