



AMERICAN LEGION JERSEY BOYS STATE

“A WEEK THAT SHAPES THE FUTURE”

Sponsored by THE AMERICAN LEGION, DEPARTMENT OF NEW JERSEY

JUNE 22-27, 2014; RIDER UNIVERSITY, Lawrenceville, NJ

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 23, 2014

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34 Gloucester County Students Attend American Legion Jersey Boys State *More than 325 New Jersey Communities Sent Delegates*

LAWRENCEVILLE, NJ – This week, 34 rising-seniors in high schools from Gloucester County arrived at the 69th session of American Legion Jersey Boys State (ALJBS) at Rider University in Lawrenceville, NJ. The program, sponsored by the American Legion Department of New Jersey, is an action-oriented approach for teaching civics and government at the local, county and state level.

“It’s our honor to welcome 924 statesmen to Jersey Boys State,” said David Bagatelle, Director of ALJBS. “The Jersey Boys State record of producing our state’s leaders is strong including our current governor, Chris Christie, our senators, Robert Menendez and Cory Booker, and many other political leaders.”

Statesmen will have the opportunity to govern and interact with their peers from across New Jersey as they run their own mythical 51st state of the union from June 22-27. Within 24 hours each city will divide into political parties, elect a mayor and council from within their ranks. By the end of the session, statesmen will have filled the ranks of local, county, the state legislature, municipal courts and will elect two senators to serve at American Legion Boys Nation in Washington, D.C. later this summer.

Highlights throughout the week include:

- Notable speakers including Senator Robert Menendez, Congressman Leonard Lance, CBS 3 Philadelphia’s Jessica Dean, US Senate candidate Jeffrey Bell, former Congressman Bob Inglis (SC), among many others;
- A college fair featuring nearly 100 institutions from across the country;
- Leadership and career seminars featuring business executives, military representatives, political consultants, law experts and journalists, among other professional experts;
- Election of the 69th ALJBS Governor on Thursday, June 26; and
- Election of two Boys Nation Senators on Friday June 27, who will represent New Jersey at the annual American Legion Boys Nation program in Washington D.C., from July 18-26, 2014.

Notable ALJBS alumni include Governor Christopher Christie (Boys Nation Senator, 1979), Senator Robert Menendez (1971), Senator Cory Booker (1986), Supreme Court Justice Samuel Alito (1967), Congressman Leonard Lance (1969) and Assemblyman Herbert Conaway (ALJBS Governor, 1980).

Statesmen in Attendance (Alphabetical by Name)

Andrew Bernard, Glassboro, Legion Post #241
Kyle Bright, Wenonah, Legion Post #192
Tyler Burgese, Williamstown, Legion Post #252
Joshua Byarm, Woodbury, Legion Post #133
Luke Carpenter, Pittman, Legion Post #100
Dominic Clark, Sewell, Legion Post #452
Koy Connors, Sewell, Legion Post #310
Nicholas DiFranceisco, Sewell, Legion Post #26
Dylan Ellis, Woodbury, Legion Post #133

Jacob Epifano, Sewell, Legion Post #521
Joseph Gramigna, Glassboro, Legion Post #241
Ed Hicks, Turnersville, Legion Post #521
Austin Jones, Franklinville, Legion Post #252
Thomas Kuhn, Pitman, Legion Post #49
Matthew Levi Lightcap, West Deptford, Legion Post #100
Kyle McFadden, Pitman, Legion Post #133
Giovanni Mejias, Deptford, Legion Post #133
Kevin Milligan, Clayton, Legion Post #252
Sriram Mohanakanthan, Glassboro, Legion Post #241
William Jr. Norris, Wenonah, Legion Post #192
Matthew Ott Jr., Turnersville, Legion Post #521
Bruce Prichard, Williamstown, Legion Post #252
Philip Quinn, Monroeville, Legion Post #252
Francis Ramirez, Glassboro, Legion Post #241
Giavanni Rizzo, Pitman, Legion Post #49
Justin Rowand, Franklinville, Legion Post #252
Casey Sharp, Woodbury, Legion Post #133
Kevin Tierney, Woodbury, Legion Post #133
Nicholas Vanzelst, Williamstown, Legion Post #252
Justin Vera, Woodbury, Legion Post #133
Matthew Vesely, Williamstown, Legion Post #252
Ryan Weikel, National Park, Legion Post #100
David Weitzel, Monroeville, Legion Post #252
James Witkoski, Williamstown, Legion Post #252

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About American Legion Jersey Boys State (ALJBS)

In its 69th year, ALJBS is a week-long experience that educates and motivates New Jersey's youth so that each statesman may become a citizen leader dedicated to service, respect, and Americanism. Together, the delegates form the mythical "51st" state of the union each year, where they elect their own local, state, and national representatives. Activities at ALJBS include legislative sessions, general assemblies, court proceedings, athletics, band, and career seminars, among many others. All expenses associated with attending ALJBS are typically donated by a sponsoring American Legion Post, a local business, or a community-based organization. To learn more, please visit aljbs.org.