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For Further Information:
David S. Bagatelle, Director
director@aljbs.org, (646) 408-1032
James Bracchitta, Dean of Politics,
pubrelations@aljbs.org, (917) 693-3405

American Legion Jersey Boys State to be held June 17-22, 2007

850 high school juniors expected at Rider University

TRENTON, NJ ... June 5, 2007 ... American Legion Jersey Boys State (“ALJBS”), a program sponsored by the American Legion Department of New Jersey, will hold its 62nd annual weeklong conference on the campus of Rider University, Lawrenceville, NJ from June 17th to June 22nd. Approximately 850 high school juniors from across the state of New Jersey will convene to participate in ALJBS’ hands-on approach to teaching civics and government at the local, county and state levels, including party politics. Delegates are organized into “cities” of approximately 55 of their peers and assigned to one of the ALJBS parties, the Federal party and the National party. Within 24 hours of their arrival, the statesmen will have elected a mayor and council for each city.

Days are action-packed and begin with a 7 am breakfast. They do not end until “lights out” at about 11 pm. During this college-level seminar, general assemblies, seminars, court sessions and classroom-type instruction are used to teach the delegates the fundamentals of democracy, politics and public policy. There is also a college fair in the middle of the week. The highlight will come on Thursday afternoon when the name of the elected ALJBS Governor is announced and he is sworn into office. On the morning of June 22nd, two other delegates will be elected to represent ALJBS at the annual American Legion Boys Nation program in Washington, D.C..

Notable alumni of the American Legion Boys State program include President Bill Clinton (Arkansas), Vice President Dick Cheney (Wyoming), Astronaut Neil Armstrong (Ohio), NBC News Anchor Tom Brokaw (South Dakota), and basketball Star Michael Jordan (North Carolina). Notable alumni from New Jersey’s annual program include State Assemblyman William Baroni, State Senator Leonard Lance, Assemblyman Herbert Conaway, Newark Mayor Cory Booker, US Attorney Christopher Christie, and State Democratic Party Chair Brendan Thomas Byrne, Jr.

Governor Jon Corzine is tentatively scheduled to speak to the ALJBS delegation on Thursday, June 21st at 2 pm. United States Senator Robert Menendez is also tentatively scheduled to speak earlier in the week.

About ALJBS

American Legion Jersey Boys State is a citizenship and leadership training program held annually in June for high school students who have completed their junior year. ALJBS is among the most respected and selective educational programs of its kind in the entire country. It is a participatory program in which the delegates run mock local, county and state governments. Though the program has national roots dating back to 1935, ALJBS came to New Jersey in 1946 and has been held every year since.

At American Legion Jersey Boys State, participants are exposed to the rights, privileges, duties and responsibilities of a franchised citizen. The training is objective and practical with city, county and state governments operated by statesmen elected and appointed to the various offices and positions. Activities include elections, debates, council meetings, legislative sessions, court proceedings, career seminars, speeches from top New Jerseyans, band, chorus and organized athletic programs.

Top high school juniors are selected by local American Legion Posts to attend. In most cases, the sponsoring American Legion Post, a local business or another community-based organization pays the expenses associated with sending a delegate to ALJBS.

ALJBS has a strong tradition of education, patriotism and excellence in the development of tomorrow's leaders. For more information, please visit us at www.boysstate.com or www.aljbs.org.