



# AMERICAN LEGION JERSEY BOYS STATE

*"A WEEK THAT SHAPES THE FUTURE"*

Sponsored by THE AMERICAN LEGION, DEPARTMENT OF NEW JERSEY

JUNE 20-27, 2014; RIDER UNIVERSITY, Lawrenceville, NJ

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Sen. Menendez to Address Jersey Boys State at Commencement** *1,000 Statesmen and their Families to be in Attendance Friday, June 27 at 1:30 pm*

TRENTON, NJ – Senator Robert Menendez will deliver a commencement address at the 69<sup>th</sup> session of American Legion Jersey Boys State (ALJBS), announced ALJBS Director David Bagatelle today. The commencement will be held on Friday, June 27, at 1:30 pm. Sen. Menendez, who is scheduled to speak at 2:30 pm, attended ALJBS as a statesman in 1971.

“As an alumnus of Jersey Boys State, I’m honored to join the leaders of tomorrow who will guide us to peace, prosperity and a new hope for a better world,” said Sen. Menendez. “I am grateful for the invaluable experience I had as a Jersey Boys State delegate and am thankful for the opportunity to give back and be a part of this unparalleled program.”

The Senator will speak to 1,000 delegates (and their families) who are top of the class high school students from more than 325 New Jersey communities at Rider University.

“Not only is it an honor to have Sen. Menendez share his wisdom with our statesman, but we’re also humbled to have him back at the program he started his political career at in 1971 when he was a delegate,” said Bagatelle. “Our delegation will benefit from hearing his inspirational story in public service and his advice for the statesmen.”

### **About Senator Menendez**

Bob Menendez’s story is a quintessential American story. He grew up the son of immigrants in a tenement building in Union City and has risen to become one of 100 United States Senators. He has earned the reputation of a fighter for New Jersey families who puts their economic security and hometown security ahead of powerful special interests. He is working to make a real difference in the lives of New Jerseyans, by advancing initiatives to create jobs, promote clean energy development, provide tax relief, invest in education, make health care more affordable, protect consumers, and preserve Medicare and Social Security. He has also led on Comprehensive Immigration Reform and ensuring New Jersey gets its fair share of Sandy recovery funding.

Menendez is currently chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and also sits on the Banking and Finance Committees. A product of New Jersey’s public schools and a graduate of the state’s universities, Menendez has served as a member of the House of Representatives, a state legislator, mayor and school board member. He is also a 1971 proud alumnus of American Legion Jersey Boys State.

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### **About American Legion Jersey Boys State (ALJBS)**

In its 69<sup>th</sup> 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](http://aljbs.org).