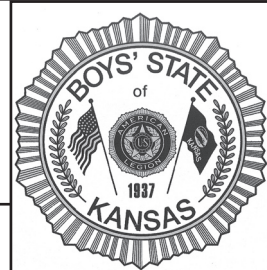


American Legion Boys' State of Kansas Stater's Union



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Caudell to speak at Boys' State

WIRE STORY
BOYS' STATE NEWS SERVICE

Bob Caudell is a veteran of the U.S. Army and a member of Cecil C. Martin Post 250, Mitchell, Ind. He joined the Legion's headquarters staff by serving as assistant director of the Americanism and Children & Youth Division in August 1991. Mr. Caudell is the program coordinator for the Legion's education and scholarship programs. He also serves as editor of "Need A Lift?" and assistant director of American Legion Boys Nation.



Caudell

He earned degrees in elementary education, science education and school administration from Indiana State University in Terre Haute, Ind. Caudell was an educator for 17 years, teaching in grades four through nine.

He is a past president of the Crawfordsville Lions Club.

Boys' State grads make mark in many fields

BY TODD VOGTS
BOYS' STATE NEWS SERVICE

A week to change a lifetime.

Staters will be hearing this phrase numerous times this week.

Some Staters may believe it, and some may simply disregard it as just one of the things the people of Boys' State say.

However, most Staters would be enlightened to know just how true that phrase is.

"It is an affirmation for them," advisor Rex Gardner said. "They realize that what they are doing, what they are involved in, is a step toward success."

The success many prominent members of society can be attributed to the fact that they were once Staters for their respective states.

People that are politicians, athletes, and even NASA astronauts were once in the same situation young men from across the state of Kansas are in this week.

President William J. Clinton was a Stater in 1963. A few years before that, in 1960, presidential candidate Alan Keys was a Stater.

Former Senate Majority Leader

Tom Daschle was also a Stater in 1960.

National Basketball Association star Michael Jordan is an alumna of Boys' State from 1960. During the same year, National Broadcasting Company anchor Tom Brokaw also attended Boys' State.

Prior to Jordan and Brokaw, radio talk show host Rush Limbaugh was a Stater in 1949.

The first man to walk on the moon, Neil Armstrong, attended Boys' State in 1960, and, from the International Space Station, Lieutenant Colonel Carl Walz was a Stater also in 1960.

"This is a mind opening experience," Gardner said.

All of these people, and many that went unmentioned, became who they are at least partially because of the American Legion Boys' State program.

"I don't know of any other program in which so many people learn so much about themselves in so little time," Gardner said, "and then they go home knowing more about others than they ever thought they would."

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Zimmers welcomes Staters for week of a that will change their lives

BY MIKE ZIMMERS
PROGRAM COORDINATOR

Gentlemen, welcome to Boys State (I'm sure you've heard it a million times by now, but I must get mine in too). My name is Mike Zimmers and I am the Program Coordinator for the 2005 session of Boys State. I would like to commend you on your choice to come to this year's session at K-State. Not all who apply to come to Boys



Zimmers

Johnson steps up as Program head

BY SCOTT JOHNSON
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Welcome to Boys State! I know from experience that you will be hearing and reading that phrase – “welcome to Boys State” – many times these first couple of days. But I can assure you that we sincerely mean it. After all, planning for your week at Boys State started more than a year ago and it wouldn't be much fun to go to all this work and then nobody shows up!

So welcome to Boys State! We mean it.

OK, you've been “welcomed” – what happens next? Well, that's kind of up to you. This week is a chance for you to do things you've never done. Take this chance to go beyond your normal boundaries

Marlatt coordinator offers encouragement

BY SCOTT BLEY
MARLATT COORDINATOR

Welcome to the 68th session of the American Legion Boys State of Kansas. An army of volunteers has dedicated many hours in the off-season to improving various aspects of the program so that each of you has a positive experience. The fruits of our labors will soon be revealed during the course of this single week. In short, we are excited that you are here.

I can distinctly remember my first day of Boys State back when I was a delegate in 2000. I had a lot of feelings bottled up inside me, but excitement definitely wasn't one of them... more like uncertainty, confusion, and fear. Many of you are probably experiences some of those same feelings. Don't worry

Letters From

State make it, so it is truly an honor for you to be selected to be a delegate. This week will be full of challenges, triumphs, failures, and in the end, moments that you will never forget. If there was only one piece of advice that I would give you, I would tell you to be active this week. Boys State is a learning-by-doing lesson on America's democratic system and you will only take away from this experience what you put into it. No matter what position you get, become active in the discussions
see Zimmers, page 4

(after all, they are imaginary) and explore what else is out there. You have already been successful or you wouldn't be here; now it's time to expand and see how much more successful you can be.

I would also like you to know that we have counselors who have been here for over 30 years, and we have many first-timers. Both groups are ready to continue the hard work and commitment necessary to make this a great week. We are here to help and we want this to be a good
see Johnson, page 4

– you are not alone.

You may be asking yourselves the same questions I asked myself five years ago. What is Boys State? Why am I here? Is this a conspiracy by my parents to get rid of me for a week? Did I get sent here because I failed my history class?

Unfortunately, I can't answer those questions for you. Boys State means different things to different people, and in the end, the reasons that delegates give for being here are as numerous as the delegates
see Bley, page 4

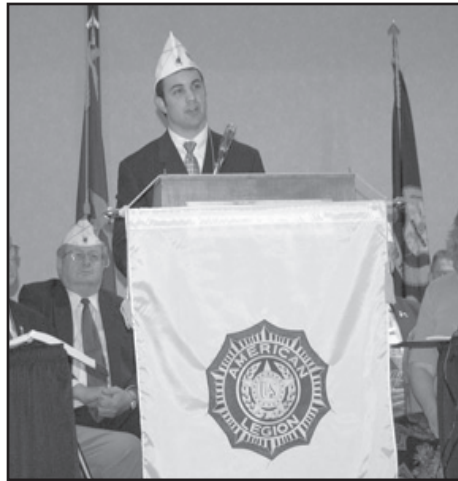
Raven lends wisdom, philosophy to Staters

BY RICK RAVEN

EVENTS COORDINATOR

Welcome to Boys State! Cliché intro statement out of the way let me tell you the best I know how, what I think. I know that you have come from different areas, different beliefs, and different families - but you are here. Here you will face difficult challenges, great victories, and bitter disappointments. Such is the nature of life, and thus it is the nature of this program.

You are about to embark upon a week that I guarantee will change your life. Someone saw in you a great potential and has sent you here to help realize that. You have been given an opportunity that is unlike anything else you will ever experience. You will make friends that will last the rest of your life. You will see the world from a



FILE PHOTO

The 2004 Boys' State Governor, Christian Corrigan, delivers a speech at the Kansas American Legion State Convention.

Corrigan wishes all Staters luck at State

BY CHRISTIAN CORRIGAN

FORMER GOVERNOR

Welcome to Boys' State of Kansas. My name is Christian Corrigan, and I am the Boys' State Governor for the 2004 Session.

Suelter challenges '05 participants

BY TYLER SUELTER

GOODNOW COORDINATOR

I am honored to welcome you to the 2005 session of Kansas Boys State. This week will present you with challenges and problems that you have never faced before. These challenges will come from our simulated state government and from the personal relationships that you will build over the week.

As we progress through the week, I'd like to give you one more challenge: to immerse yourself in the program. Just as a real democracy, the efforts of one person to improve their government can benefit all of its constituents. Secondly, I hope that you forge new relationships with other young men.

Finally, I hope when you leave on Saturday, that you will be motivated to participate in our own great

Our Leaders

different point of view. You will be able to reach levels that you may previously never have imagined! What's the catch?

Carpe Diem. You must seize the day. You have to make the most of what is available.

Mark Twain once said that "I was seldom able to see an opportunity until it had ceased to be one." Don't let these words describe your experience. You will be given chance after chance to excel at something and to try something
see Raven, page 4

Serving as Governor has been one of the greatest privileges of my life and I am proud to return as tradition continues.

During the week, I encourage all of you to take full advantage of every opportunity as you tackle the day-to-day issues of local and state government.

I wish you all the best of luck with your endeavors here at Boys' State.

I hope that this week makes the kind of impact on your lives as it did on mine.

democracy. You can effect changes in ways that you may have never before imagined. I challenge you to take what you learn this week and apply it to your own school, city, county and state. Share your experience with others in your school and community. Actively debate and discuss policies that you are interested in, write your elected officials, vote, run, whatever.

However you decide to participate, you will be able to make things happen if you put your heart into it.

Torch Passed To 2005 Staters

Over 500 of Kansas' finest high school leaders are expected to arrive on the campus of Kansas State University in Manhattan for the start of the 68th annual session of the Kansas Boys State.

Raven from 3

new. Win or lose, succeed or fail, you will be a greater person because of the experience.

Life doesn't often afford us opportunities to take a chance with limited repercussions. Take advantage of this one. Eight years ago, I made the choice to seize the day, and my life has never been the same. I return to this program every year to offer you the same chances that I was given. I can honestly say that above all else in my life, there is nothing that I do that is more important. All I ask of you is that you take a chance, broaden your horizons, and leave here Saturday without regrets, having made the most of the time that you have.

All stories pertaining to Boys' State within these pages refer to a simulated society, and editorial licence may have been used to report the 'facts' of such stories.

Letters to the editor policy

Letters to the editor are encouraged and accepted. Letters must be signed to be considered for publication. All letters will be edited for space, grammar and legality. Letters should be taken to the Stater's Union office.

Zimmers from 2

that take place. After all, it is your Boys State, and you are responsible for taking a proactive position on decisions that run the state. You will be the city councilmen, the county commissioners, the senators and the Supreme Court justices. You will also be Governor, Secretary of State, and Commissioner of Insurance candidates. You will make the state, so I challenge you to interact with fellow delegates and make the best state that you can. Also, I hope that during this week you all fail at something. I hope you then get back up, dust yourself off, learn from the defeat and go out

and try again. Only then will you truly know how sweet success can be. If you get involved, you will come away from this experience as a better person. You will not only have learned about Democracy, but you will have learned a few things about yourself.

Also, you will have made memories that you will last you a life time, as well as friends in which you will never loose contact. So with that information,

I wish you luck for the upcoming week.

It can truly be a week that changes your life forever.

Johnson from 2

experience for every delegate. If you need something, be sure to ask. While we're talking about counselors and advisors, I need your help to thank them. There are over 100 staff members helping this program run for you. I hope you too will take the time to thank them. And then be sure to make a special effort to talk to the American Legion

members who are on staff or visiting this week. To be a Legion member, they must have served in the military during an active war period – and as if that service isn't enough, they are still serving by being a part of the Boys State program. Please take time to talk to and thank them!

So once again, welcome to Boys State, how can we help you?

Bley from 2

themselves. Regardless of why you are here, the realization is that *you are here*. Someone back home thought enough of you and your abilities to sponsor your participation in Boys State.

Now each of you is faced with a choice. What will you do with the week you have been given? A world of opportunities awaits you. You alone must choose how you will spend your week at Boys State.

In the end, you will get out of the week what you put into it. Will you take an active part in the Boys State simulation and government process? Will you work with one another to solve the problems that confront your cities and counties?

The choice is up to you. We wish you well in your decision. We wish you courage to face your fears. We wish you success for your week at Boys State.