

# THE MOUNTAINEER

## American Legion Boys State

*By: The American Legion Department of West Virginia*

American Legion Boys State activities include legislative sessions, court proceedings, law-enforcement presentations, educational programs of assemblies, bands, choruses and government instruction for U.S. recreational programs.

high school students. It is a participatory program in which students become part of the operation of local, county and state government. American Legion Boys State was founded in 1935 to counter the socialism-inspired Young Pioneer Camps. The program was the idea of two Illinois Legionnaires, Hayes Kennedy and Harold Card, who organized the first American Legion Boys State at the Illinois State Fairgrounds in Springfield.

American Legion Auxiliary sponsors a separate but similar program for young women called American Legion Auxiliary Girls State.

At American Legion Boys State, participants learn the rights, privileges and responsibilities of franchised citizens. The training is objective and centers on the structure of city, county and state governments. Operated by students elected to various offices, American Legion Boys

American Legion posts select high school juniors to attend the program. In most cases, a sponsoring post, local business, community-based organization, or individual pays the Citizen's sponsorship to the program.

American Legion Boys State programs currently exist in all American Legion Departments except Hawaii. As separate corporations, American Legion Boys State programs vary in content and method of procedure, but each adheres to the same basic concept: teaching government from the township to the state level.

The American Legion Mountaineer Boys State program is the second oldest in the nation and began in 1936. It is the only program to still be held where it was founded. The Boys State Board of Directors, in recognition of the exigencies of the war years, cancelled the program for the years 1943 and 1945.

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Mountaineer Boys State*



<http://f.wvboysstate.org>



<http://t.wvboysstate.org>



#ALMBS

A Week That Shapes a Lifetime!

<http://wvboysstate.org>

## Why Do We March?

By: The American Legion  
Department of West Virginia

Marching is the most efficient, and more importantly, the SAFEST way to move large groups of people in the limited amount of time we have. Mountaineer Boys State has a very good safety record in its seventy-eight year history.

Requiring the citizens to march is a major factor in achieving and maintaining that record.

Secondly, many dignitaries and other guests throughout the week visit us. Seeing the citizens marching to class, to the dining hall, and to the Assembly Hall is quite impressive and adds to the prestige of Boys State.

Marching is as much a part of Boys State as the American Legion itself and prepares us for the Formal Review to honor the newly elected state officials and our Veterans on Wednesday.

So Hup...two... three... four.... and have fun!

## Pledge of Allegiance

Title 4 U.S. Code § 4

**“I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one Nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.”**

The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America should be rendered by standing at attention facing the flag with the right hand over the heart.

When not in uniform men should remove any non-religious headress with their right hand and hold it at the left shoulder, the hand being over the heart.

Persons in uniform should remain silent, face the flag, and render the military salute.

Members of the Armed Forces not in uniform and veterans may render the military salute in the manner provided for persons in uniform.

## POW/MIA Society

[www.pow-miafamilies.org/](http://www.pow-miafamilies.org/)

POW/MIA recognition day is the third Friday in September. It was chosen to salute all prisoners of war and soldiers who have gone missing in action, and a flag was created with it to bring recognition to unreturned soldiers- that flag is now officially a national flag. On this day there are ceremonies throughout the nation for remembrance of the fallen or unreturned, so as not to let the public forget.

The League's sole purpose is to obtain the release of all prisoners, the fullest possible accounting for the missing and repatriation of all recoverable remains of those who died serving our nation.



## What is Taps & When Is It Used?

*Taps* is now played by the military at burial and memorial services, to accompany the lowering of the flag and to signal the “lights out” command at day’s end.

Throughout the week of American Legion Mountaineer Boys State you will hear *Taps* sounded numerous times throughout the day. When heard, it is appropriate for you to stand in place and surrender a proper salute.

### Words to Taps

Day is done, Gone the sun,  
From the lakes, From the hills, From the sky,  
All is well. Safely rest. God is nigh.

Fading light, Dims the sight,  
And a star, Gems the sky, Gleaming bright,  
From afar, Drawing nigh, Falls the night.

Thanks and praise, For our days,  
Neath the sun, Neath the stars, Neath the sky,  
As we go, This we know, God is nigh.

# American Legion Mountaineer Boys State Awards

*Awards are presented on the final day of the program and candidates are interviewed by the respective award selection committee.*

**BOYS NATION:** Two Citizens will be selected to represent The American Legion Mountaineer Boys State at Boys Nation. This is the highest honor that can be bestowed upon a Citizen. Citizens who have been elected to a state office, Speaker of the House or President of the Senate, have served in the capacity of State Party Chairman, or have demonstrated extraordinary leadership are eligible to be considered as a candidate for Boys Nation. Each candidate will be required to complete an application as well as go through an interview. The interview panel will seek input from the eligible candidate's counselors regarding the individual's character and suitability for selection.

**WILLIAM R. FUGITT MEMORIAL AWARD:** This award, given in memory of long time Mountaineer Boys State Administrator William R. Fugitt, is given to the cottage that attains the best total score in the categories of City Government, County Government, Board of Education, Bar Examination, Legal Program, Daily Inspection, Athletics/Band Participation, State Election Participation, and General conduct of all citizens of that cottage during the entire week.

**DR. JOHN T. DOMBROSKY AWARD:** This award, given in memory of Dr. John T. Dombrosky who was a Mountaineer Boys State Citizen, Assistant Medical Officer and Chief Medical Officer, is presented to a Staff member or

citizen who has displayed the attributes of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness with the Legion principles as exemplified by Dr. Dombrosky. Previous recipients of the Dr. John T. Dombrosky Award shall comprise the Selection Committee.

**LEGISLATOR OF THE YEAR AWARD:** The Legislator of the Year award is given to a member of the Mountaineer Boys State Senate or House of Delegates who best exemplifies extraordinary character, enthusiasm for education, and a genuine devotion to the legislative process. The Legislative Advisors, chaired by the Legislative Coordinator shall select the recipient of this award.

**TOMMY E. JONES AWARD:** This award, given in memory of long time Mountaineer Boys State Administrator Tommy E. Jones, will be awarded to the Citizen who contributes the most to the political process. Among the criteria for this award are: Enthusiasm, Sincerity, Honesty, Organizational Ability, Creativity

**P. E. KERCHEVAL AWARD:** This award, given in memory of longtime Mountaineer Boys State Chief Medical Officer and one of the original Founders of Mountaineer Boys' State, Dr. P. E. Kercheval, is given to a Citizen who is a participant in all of the activities of Boys State, is courteous, congenial, has high moral standards and

demonstrates leadership.

**FRANK TAYLOR JR. AWARD:** This award, given in memory of longtime Mountaineer Boys State Legal Advisor Frank Taylor Jr., is awarded to the citizen of Mountaineer Boys State who exhibits an enthusiastic interest in law and displays high moral character with honor, respect and integrity for the rights of others. In addition, the recipient must be an active participant in the programs of Mountaineer Boys State. Only Citizens who successfully passed the Mountaineer Boys State Bar Examination will be considered for this award.

**DAVE FARRIS AWARD:** This award, given in memory of longtime Mountaineer Boys State Counselor and Headquarters Staff member, Dave Farris, is presented to the Citizen who contributes significantly to the city and/or county government aspects of the Mountaineer Boys State program and exhibits the qualities of a good sense of humor, kindness, competence and fairness for all. Only those Citizens who hold an elected city or county office shall be eligible for this award.

**AMERICANISM AWARD:** This award will be bestowed upon the graduating Citizen who has shown the most patriotism throughout the week, demonstrating respect to the flag and to ceremonies. The Citizen should demonstrate integrity, enthusiasm, service before self, honor, and love of country.

# Men of Tomorrow

*Written by Roy Lee Harmon – Music by Margaret Nicely Leidig  
The official song of Mountaineer Boys State*

### VERSE

Someday the State we love will call for leaders strong and bold  
To solve the problems great or small and we'll be enrolled  
~~For service to our fellowmen, and we won't be afraid~~

### FBI Police Honor Guard

The FBI Police Honor Guard team was founded in 1996. The team serves at multiple functions every year to include Boys State, the WV Fallen Officers Ceremony at CJIS, and the Assistant Director's Awards for excellence. The FBI Police Honor Guard Team has served on funeral details when an officer passes away, whether from circumstances in the line of duty or otherwise, assuring their funerals reflect honor and respect for the fallen's service and dedication. Below are individuals representing the FBI Honor Guard at Boys State.

SGT Danny K. Johnston-Buckhannon WV. 15 years FBI Police. Former Army

OFC Donald W. Lowe Idamay WV. 8 years FBI Police. Former Marine

Officer Judd Holcomb Weston, WV. 1 year FBI Police. Former Lewis County Deputy Sheriff. Former Army Current National Guard

Officer Terrance Reaves Morgantown, WV. 1 year FBI Police. Former Air Force.

**Thank you!!!**

**MENU**

**LUNCH**  
CORN DOGS  
MACARONI & CHEESE

**Officer of the Day**  
*Sunday, June 11, 2017*

**Brandon Flower**

**Randall K. Kocsis, Alternate**

**SALAD**  
CHOC. CAKE  
FRESH FRUIT







## Michael D. Buss

Americanism Division

Deputy Director

Michael D. Buss is a Deputy Director in the Americanism Division of The American Legion National Headquarters in Indianapolis, Indiana. Buss oversees The American Legion's Boys State and Boys Nation programs, The American Legion Baseball program, the flag education and etiquette program, and is the National Organization's representative to the United States Olympic Committee.

Buss joined the National Headquarters staff in April 1995. He was promoted to deputy director in May 2010 having previously served as an assistant director managing The American Legion's Youth Programs.

Buss is a 1978 graduate of Iowa State University, where he was a four-year Navy ROTC scholarship student, studying journalism and history. He also pursued advanced studies in journalism during his tour of duty as a member of the Navy ROTC staff at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln from 1983-1986, serving as an associate professor of Naval Science.

Buss was a commissioned Naval Officer attaining the rank of Lieutenant Commander. He was a surface warfare officer, serving in a variety of assignments both afloat and ashore. Upon his release from active duty in 1993, he served a year and a half in the Ready Reserves, as the executive officer of a ship unit, Naval Reserve Center, Lincoln, Nebraska. He was honorably discharged from the Inactive Ready Reserve force in 2002. Buss' awards and decorations include the Meritorious Service Medal, Navy Commendation Medal, National Defense Service Medal, in addition to other ship and unit awards. He is also a member of the St. Barbara Field Artillery Society, having been inducted in 1989 while serving as the Brigade Fire Support Officer for the First Marine Expeditionary Brigade in Hawaii.

Buss is a member of Merle Hay Post 386 of Glidden, Iowa and is a 1973 graduate of Iowa Hawkeye American Legion Boys State. He is also very active in youth sports where he is an accomplished baseball umpire at all levels of competition. Additionally he serves as a lector and extraordinary minister for his church, St Monica Catholic Church.

Buss, a native of Glidden, Iowa, lives in Indianapolis with his wife Marie. They are the parents of four grown children and have 20 grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

***Welcome, Deputy Director Buss!!! Enjoy your stay at Mountaineer Boys State***

**Jamie Summerlin, US Marine  
Corps Veteran, Author, Ultra  
Marathoner, Motivational  
Speaker, and Entrepreneur,  
Speaks at Mountaineer Boys State**



On March 26, 2012, Jamie Summerlin, a US Marine Corps veteran, started an improbable cross-country journey. In order to honor our Military Veterans, and raise funds for West Virginia-based Operation Welcome Home, a veteran's facility "For Veterans, By Veterans", he would run coast to coast beginning in Coos Bay, Oregon. After 100 days, 10 pairs of running shoes, 3,452 miles, and impacting countless lives along the way, Jamie completed his journey in Rehoboth Beach, Delaware, becoming the 48th person in history to complete a true Ocean to Ocean run across America.

Jamie is the founder and Race Director of the WVU Medicine Morgantown Marathon, and also serves as the Event Manager for the Wild & Wonderful MountainFest Motorcycle Rally.

Jamie resides in Morgantown WV with his wife Tiffany, and two children Nicholas & Shayna. He is currently the CEO for Operation Welcome Home.

**REMINDERS FOR THE WEEK**

**PLEASE WRITE HOME AND THANK  
YOUR SPONSORS FOR ENSURING YOUR  
WEEK AT BOYS STATE. IF YOU'RE NOT  
SURE WHO THEY ARE, SEE MARIE IN  
HQ. QUESTIONS??? ASK YOUR  
COTTAGE COUNSELORS OR ANY STAFF  
MEMBER. STAFF MEMBERS ARE IN  
BLUE AND GOLD OR GRAY SHIRTS.  
GET INVOLVED AND HAVE A GREAT  
WEEK!!!**