

# THE MOUNTAINEER

## American Legion Boys State

*By: The American Legion Department of West Virginia*

American Legion Boys State is among the most respected and selective educational programs of government instruction for U.S. 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 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.

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.

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 State activities include

legislative sessions, court proceedings, law-enforcement presentations, assemblies, bands, choruses and recreational programs.

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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<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

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 headdress 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.

**DAVID "Dave" FARRIS AWARD:** This award, given in memory of longtime Mountaineer Boys State Counselor and Headquarters Staff member, David "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.

**ALMBS 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.

**Officers of the Day:**

Jim Davis, Director

Randall Kocsis, Administrator

*Get those applications in TODAY for your chosen career path!!!***Attention:**

Newspaper and/or Broadcast ads may be purchased at the newspaper office in Southeastern Learning Center. Prices are available.

Visit the Mountaineer Boys State Bank located in Southeastern Learning Center if you need a loan.

*It's the only bank we have!!!***Don't Pass It Up, Pick It Up!!!**

Please help keep the campus clean by picking up trash and throwing it away!!!  
Thank you!

Evening devotionals will be held in the Chapel behind Harrison Cottage. Refer to the manual for times.

*All faiths welcome!!!***Men of Tomorrow***Written by Roy Lee Harmon – Music by Margaret Nicely Leidig***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,  
We're training now for service, then we'll lead the big parade.

**CHORUS**

Oh, we're the . . .  
Men of Tomorrow, we march along in happy ranks today.  
We never borrow a bit of care or grief along the way.  
Gladly we're learning the things a good American should know.  
Gladly we're yearning to chart the way a patriot should go.  
    With lessons done, objectives won  
    Good citizens we'll be;  
    We'll proudly stand in our home land  
    When Mountaineers are free,  
Men of tomorrow, good fellowship each one of us enjoys,  
Men of tomorrow . . . a group of all American boys.

**MENU****LUNCH**

Corn Dogs  
Macaroni & Cheese  
Green Beans  
Salad  
Watermelon

**DINNER**

Lasagna  
Broccoli  
Garlic Bread  
Salad  
Yellow Cake  
Fresh Fruit



## Michael Belmear



Michael Belmear began his career in higher education at WVU. He was then hired at WVU as an admissions counselor, and was responsible for increasing minority enrollment. During that time, both overall university enrollment and minority enrollment increased.

Michael Belmear came to Fairmont State College as a Student Affairs counselor in August 1979. In this position, he served as a counselor and recruiter, advisor to the Student Government and Student Activities programs. For 31 years, he was director of the New Student Orientation program, and he also created and directed the annual statewide Fairmont State and Pierpont Leadership Conference. He was later appointed Assistant VP for Student Affairs and then served as VP for Student Affairs for FSU and Pierpont. His responsibilities included housing, multicultural affairs, disability services, student health service, counseling, student activities and development, career services and managing the Turley Center.

During his time at FSU and Pierpont, Belmear worked to get Student Government executive officers paid, created the statewide student leadership conference, the FSU and Pierpont Celebration of Ideas Lecture Series, the Student Affairs Hall of Fame, and the exchange program with the Univ. of Calabria in Italy. He expanded the New Student Orientation program, and served as VP for the Governor's Commission on the Holocaust.

Throughout his career, he was selected as the Classified Staff Employee of the Year, elected President of The WV Association of Student Personnel Administrators, received the WV Association of Student Personnel Distinguished

Service Award, The City of Fairmont Arts and Humanities Commission Patron of the Arts Award and was selected as the West Virginia Italian Heritage Festival 2009 Honorary Italian Man of The Year.

Belmear is a native of Fairmont and earned his B.A. degree in Public Relations and M.A. in counseling and guidance from WVU. He also taught undergraduate classes. He and his wife, Robin, live in Morgantown and have two sons. He enjoys golf and is an avid reader.

## Rosie the Riveter, Anna Hess



Anna Hess was born and raised on a small farm in Roane County, WV. With the outbreak of World War II, her family moved to Akron, OH to work in the factories to support the war effort. Anna's mother was truly a "Rosie the Riveter" working as a riveter on B29 aircraft wings, and Anna herself eventually went to work in a tire plant during the war.

Anna met and married her husband in Akron, and they moved to his hometown of Morgantown in 1948 where they raised their family.

In recent years, Anna got involved in the Rosie the Riveter program as a way to honor her mother. The organization in WV is called "Thanks! Plain and Simple," and as part of the national Rosie the Riveter movement they strive to ensure that the Rosies' legacy lives on as part of America's identity and consciousness.