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**HIGH SCHOOL SENIOR FROM STAFFORD SELECTED FOR BOYS NATION  
FROM AMERICAN LEGION BOYS STATE OF VIRGINIA AT ITS 73rd SESSION**

RADFORD – Owen J. Kratowicz, a rising senior at Colonial Forge High School, was selected today to attend Boys Nation at the 73rd session of American Legion Boys State of Virginia held last week at Radford University. Davis, who was a Nationalist in Maury City at Boys State, is 17 years of age and was sponsored by American Legion Post 290.

Boys Nation, for which each state elects only two delegates, will be held at Marymount University in Arlington in late July. Delegates at Boys Nation learn about the federal government, serve as members of the Boys Nation Senate, and meet the President of the United States and their respective members of Congress.

The 73rd annual session of American Legion Boys State of Virginia opened on June 21 with 644 delegates in attendance. Outstanding rising seniors from high schools -- both public and private -- across Virginia are chosen to participate in this annual educational program.

Boys State, sponsored by the American Legion in each state, is designed to instruct select high school students about state and local government. Delegates to this intensive week-long session heard addresses from various state and local officials including the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Attorney General, two cabinet secretaries, five members of the General Assembly, a prosecutor, and three local officials.

All delegates are assigned to one of sixteen Boys State cities named after famous military leaders, like Eisenhower, MacArthur, and Patton. Each of the Boys State citizens are also assigned to either of the fictitious political parties -- Federalist or Nationalist -- for purposes of nominating and

electing candidates for mayor of each city, the Boys State legislature, attorney general, lieutenant governor, and governor along with various other state and local offices. Citizens elected to these positions at Boys State actually serve in those offices during this week and take on their respective duties and responsibilities. Students attending Boys State learn citizenship and civic leadership through participation.

The first Boys State in the nation was held in 1935 in Illinois. The American Legion Department of Virginia sponsored its first Boys State program in 1939.

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