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**RISING SENIOR AT DOUGLAS FREEMAN HIGH SCHOOL ELECTED  
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR OF AMERICAN LEGION BOYS STATE OF VIRGINIA**

RADFORD – Oakley G. Mize, a rising senior at Douglas Freeman High School, today was inaugurated as the 73<sup>rd</sup> Lieutenant Governor of American Legion Boys State of Virginia at its 2015 session being held this week at Radford University.

Oakley Mize, elected this morning as the Federalist Party nominee, is a citizen in Stuart City at Virginia Boys State. He was sponsored to attend Virginia Boys State by American Legion Post 361 in Henrico.

The 73<sup>rd</sup> annual session of American Legion Boys State of Virginia opened on June 21 with 644 delegates in attendance. Outstanding rising seniors from high schools – public, private and homeschooled -- across Virginia have been 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 have 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 local prosecutor and three local officials.

All delegates are assigned to one of sixteen Boys State cities named after famous military leaders, such as 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 the various positions actually serve in those offices during the week and assume 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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