



# The Boys Statement

## Your American Dream

James Spear  
Editor

grade or a bubble to fill. Rather, it is a unique experience, unlike any other. We take pride in it. It inspired our fore-fathers to shoot for the moon, and gaze at the stars. It encouraged them to charter new territory, and venture into the unknown. It carried them, when they laid it all on the line in the defense of our nation. Like the generations before us, we are the manifestation of an American Dream, a testament to their character, and a new chapter in the textbook of US history. Take pride in where you come from, regardless of who you are. Don't be afraid to dream. Your American dream cannot be defined by those around you. Be who you want to be. Believe what you want to believe. Work hard, and prosper. Go forth, and conquer, like the legions of past, present, and future.  
-James Spear

“Some people dream of success while others wake up and work hard at it.” -Winston Churchill

It's difficult to understand what the American Dream is, because it's not concrete. It can be made of concrete, in the construction of the tallest skyscraper, or the paving of a sidewalk. But it's not concrete. It is, rather, a fluid concept, like the din of the waves that carried our earliest settlers. It is a fluid motion, like the stroke of the feathered pen that signed the Declaration of Independence. It has no definition, because it can't be defined. The American Dream is never a set goal, like a test

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Check out Boys State's Facebook page for photos of great moments @ vaboysstate

## We Bid you Adieu...

*“Thank you to you, our readers, for always supporting our dedicated staff. Remember to be proud of who you are. Remember your week at Boys State. Remember the men and women who defend our country. Remember to be a proud American.”*

-Ryan Pinkney  
Co-editor-in-chief

*“What counts is not necessarily the size of the dog in the fight - it's the fight in the dog.”*

-Dwight D. Eisenhower  
From Ian Anspaugh

*“I cannot trust a man to control others who cannot control himself.”*

-Robert E. Lee  
From John McSorley

*“All right. They're on our left, they're on our right, they're in front of us, they're behind us... They can't get away this time.”*

-Lewis B. “Chesty” Puller  
From Ryan Pinkney

*“Believe that you can whip the enemy, and you have won half the battle.”*

-JEB Stuart  
From Yosaph Boku

*“After experiencing the riveting passion of Boys State, the words of Maya Angelou continue to reverberate through my head. ‘... people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel,’ is a heartfelt message by Angelou that resonates with the citizens of Boys State. The unwavering bonds, fervor in all endeavors, hype for a yo-yo and heelys, barely scratches the surface of the patriotic core of our “Great American Legion.” If there's anything I can take from Boys State, it's gratefulness to meet such extraordinary future leaders and American Citizens, and that the unyielding zeal of the youth of Virginia ignites sincerely like no other! God Bless America! USA! USA! DAABBBB!!!”*

-Aaron Hodges  
Boys Nation Senator and staff writer

*“Set your course by the stars, not the lights of every passing ship.”*

-Omar Bradley  
From James Spear

*“Don't look back. The wall you are going to run into is in front of you.”*

-Al Hillman  
Publisher of the Boys Statement

*“To get the best out of your men, they must feel that you are their real leader and must know that they can depend upon you.”*

-John J. “Black Jack” Pershing  
From Christian Moore

*“The best luck of all is the luck you make for yourself.”*

-Douglas MacArthur  
From Jack Craver

*“Shoutout to Jackson for taking jokes from the entirety of Boys State. Thanks for sending a reporter.”*

-The Wild Yackson

*“Leadership consists of picking good men and helping them do their best.”*

-Chester Nimitz  
From Peter Diaz

*“The power of excellence is overwhelming. It is always in demand, and nobody cares about its color.”*

-Daniel “Chappie” James, Jr.  
From Khalil Russell

*“Liberty, when it begins to take root, is a plant of rapid growth.”*

-George Washington  
From Bailey Cupp

# The High Note

Jack Craver  
*staff writer*

**I**n song, one cannot have harmony without different notes. In politics, one cannot craft good legislation without fiery debate. And in life, one cannot truly understand and appreciate the good without exposure to the bad. To some, Boys State was an amazing experience. To others it was a trial by fire, their ideals challenged by those who would seek to have them ostracized and silenced. To me, however? It was an exercise in understanding life.

As in life, we all have good days and bad days. Those who did not want to be here (and we all know who they were) apparently suffered through everything from the elections to our speakers' lectures to even our salutation of the flag, as they made their opinions of the honorable well-known. But enough about them; the dishonorable few have tried hard enough to win atten-

tion without hard work. Our paper has given enough space up for the young men we all (unfortunately) know.

So now I speak of those who return legitimacy to the Boys State name. I speak of our Attorney General, whose eloquence and devotion proved that the law could be upheld in our state. I speak of our Lieutenant Governor, who showed bravery the likes of which I had never seen when, to achieve his goals, he authored and delivered poetry rather than a regular speech. I speak of our Governor, who did not actively campaign before the convention, who did not cut backroom deals to win votes, and who remained resolute in the face of the toughest crowd I have ever seen in my life. And most important of all, I speak of our silent majority, the ones who did not compromise their integrity and who elected these honest leaders despite being pressured by many to do otherwise.

In a past article, I wrote that our State had been

threatened by disrespect and corruption; I now have the pleasure to state that our burgeoning society was not defeated by apathy and laziness. I can declare with confidence that our State was challenged from within by those whose apathetic attitude towards everything our State stood for... and it emerged stronger from it. The silent majority triumphed in the end. You, honorable

reader, made our State happen. You changed the tone of this very article, of my final piece at Boys State. You enabled me to write honestly, rather than simply author a hollow piece on the election of a dishonest leader. For this, and for the enthusiastic support of our paper, I thank you.

In a show of gratitude, I humbly offer you my opinion one last time. We would not appreciate the value of our ideals if they were not challenged. There can be no diamonds without pressure; a sword is not sharp unless hammered upon the heated anvil. We all participated in

the struggle, fighting apathy and collectivism without even being told to. Together, we proved our integrity, to ourselves, to our counselors, to our families, and to our Nation.

I look forward to writing about your future achievements, the achievements of each and all of you. I apologize in advance for our next issue's delay; our next big event hasn't happened yet.

I leave the rest to you. Goodbye and bless Boys State.

-Jack Craver, MacArthur City

# Thanks for everything!

*-The Staff of the Boys Statement*