



## Patriotism Shines in Parade



**By: Ronan Donovan and Adam Notley**

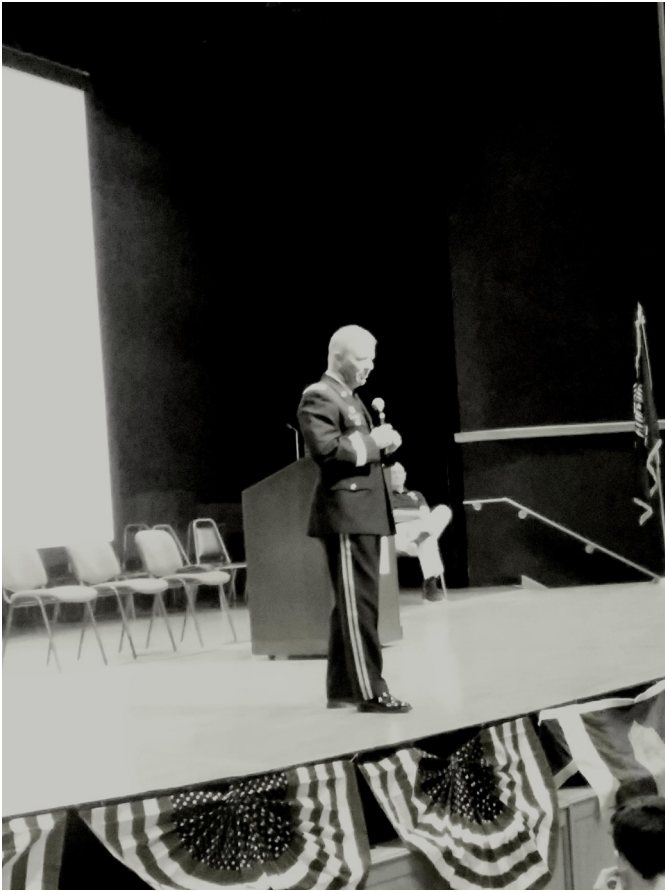
The final full day of Boys State came to a close with the annual parade. The cities gathered to commemorate the experiences they have had at Boys State and be unified once again before departure. Having arrived at Boys State six days ago with little or no companions, the atmosphere reveals the meaningful relationships that have been forged over the past week. The bond between city mates could not have been more apparent. Each city marched and proudly displayed their flag around the Radford campus!

Of all the various forms of government, the idealistic democracy of America was exemplified by the patriotism of the parade. Participants in the parade marched in alphabetical order of city, and each city designated one individual to carry their flag. The future leaders of America marched to the beat of equality and justice. Accompanying them was the band and chorus, who performed patriotic anthems to infuse the crowd with spirit. Visiting parents watched proudly as their sons made their way to the Preston Bon-durant auditorium for Friday night's ceremony. It was an opportunity for parents to witness not only the friendships that had been formed, but also to see the dignified process with which the young men celebrate democracy. The ceremony served as a way to commemorate those that had spent their lives serving our great country.

**A Final Farewell | By: William Rowe**

Let me start off by extending my deepest thanks to everyone on this year's Boys State newspaper staff. These gentlemen started off the week as strangers from all across the Commonwealth and finished the week with a newspaper rivaling the likes of a professional edition. They sacrificed late nights, not returning to the comfort of their beds until long after the rest of Boys State had hit the hay. However, each night they would return to repeat the process. These young men demonstrated incredible resilience and dedication throughout the week. Unfortunately, they will probably never receive the recognition they truly deserve, so I would like to thank them one last time for all of their efforts. I am profoundly honored to have served as their Editor.

Now, to all of the Boys State citizens: Never forget the lessons you learned here. True, Boys State only lasts a week, but do not allow it to fade now that you have returned home. In fact, let Boys State serve as the foundation of a life based upon civic engagement and public service. Promote good citizenship. Respect the American flag. Take leadership positions in your town, state, and nation. Look back at this newspaper and recall fondly and reverently all of your experiences at Boys State. Walk the rest of your life honoring the memories of Boys State. I wish the best of luck to all of you. I have high expectations for all of you and I know you will not disappoint. Thank you and farewell, American Legion Virginia Boys State 2018.



## **National Guard Appeals to Many Boys State Citizens | By: Carter Bailey**

On Friday, Adjutant General of the Virginia National Guard, Major General Timothy P. Williams came to speak at Boys State. With many members of Boys State feeling the patriotic calling, but also wanting to continue their education, the National Guard is a good option.

The general gave citizens an overview of the size of the Virginia National Guard, explaining that they have 7,500 Army Guardsmen, 1,200 Air Guardsmen, 400 members of the Virginia Defense Force, and 1,500 staff members. They also boast having one of two cyber units in the army and having units in forty communities within Virginia.

After explaining the basics of the National Guard he allowed a questions and answer session. He was asked about a recent collaboration between the National Guard and the Tajikistan military. The general explained that each state's National Guard unit is partnered with a foreign country's military to collaborate and sustain a healthy friendship.

During the questions he explained things such as how the President can assume full control of the National Guard, the differences of Marines and National Guard units, the Guard's need for more medical professionals, and also the rising number of enlisted men that have bachelors degrees.

## **Stuart Triumphs in Moot Court | By: Justin Carminucci**

The Moot Court teams from Bradley and Stuart faced off on Friday in the final round, engaging in fierce debate over a case dealing with the possession and intent to distribute marijuana. In the case, the city of Stuart represented the defense, Joseph Smith, while Bradley served as the prosecutors for the Commonwealth of Virginia. While it was a hard fought and well conducted battle by both sides, the Boys State Supreme Court ultimately ruled in favor of Stuart City. After the case was settled, The Legion Post was able to obtain an exclusive interview with Chief Justice William Chambers, who provided insight into the facts of the case and the final decision making process:

### **Q: What did you think about the arguments made in court today?**

"Both teams clearly showed a great deal of preparation and attention to the details of the case. This is especially true in how they combined examples of case law and the facts of the case to create convincing arguments."

### **Q: Can you give us an overview of what this case was really about?**

"The case was an appeal of a conviction for possession of marijuana and possession of marijuana with intent to distribute. However what sets it apart from a normal trial case is that there are no witnesses. It's simply an appeal of a previously-decided case."

### **Q: What was the deliberation process like?**

"During deliberations we looked at the wealth of evidence presented by each side, eventually coming to a unanimous decision."

### **Q: Any other final thoughts you have for the two sides?**

"Both Stuart and Bradley cities should be very proud of their accomplishments. It's not easy to perform so well in front of an audience with only 4 days of preparation."

Thank you.

**To view *The Legion Post* online, visit:**

[www.vaboysstate.org](http://www.vaboysstate.org)

## Memories of a Boys State Alumnus | By: Samuel Gardner

Over the course of VA Boys State 2018, many alumni have praised the memories which the program provided them. Michael Vereb, a social sciences teacher at Park View High School in Loudoun County, attended the VA Boys State program in 2007 at Liberty University. Mr. Vereb was scheduled to perform at his high school's graduation program, but due to a scheduling conflict, he was forced to skip this event in order to be present for the first day. This seeming excitement for Boys State, however, was accompanied by a lack of knowledge. According to Vereb, he had been told only one thing by previous alumni: bring blue shorts.

Once Vereb arrived, he says he was surprised by how quickly he became close with fellow members of his city, Burke. He recalls the intercity sports competitions, the late nights, and the general loyalty he had for his city. "That's one of the defining things I took away, city pride," said Vereb.

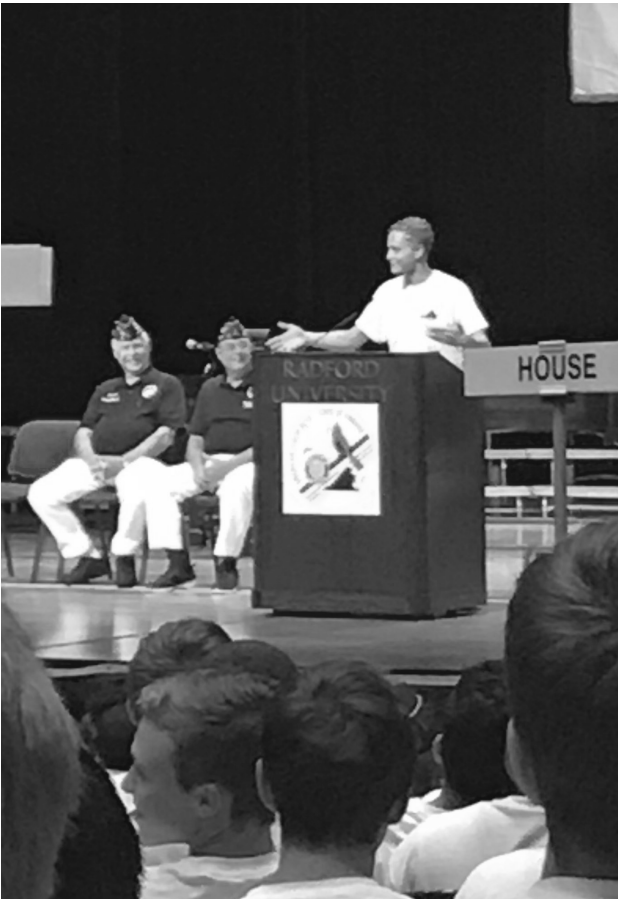
While at Boys State, Vereb represented Burke City in the House of Delegates. He described the experience as excitingly challenging. "What was good for me was just being around other people I admired, who inspired me... It was really special to be pushed and challenged," remarked Vereb.

Many of Vereb's experiences mimicked those of 2018. He recalled college day, and how it helped him choose his future. The parade also remained with him. "I thought that was the pretty cool, the parade as a conclusion to the week." Vereb recalled other events, as well, including the governor's speech. "We did have a talent show, I remember that!" commented Vereb excitedly.

One of Vereb's greatest takeaways was the independence he experienced. He enjoyed the freedom and autonomy of the program. "It was fun to be independent," he said. Vereb continued, saying the experience helped him prepare for college. "I really appreciated it; it was sort of a precursor to college," said Vereb.

But there was an even deeper revelation of Vereb. "My biggest takeaway was probably a deeper appreciation for our servicemen," he said. "It kinda opened my eyes to it."

Eleven years later, Vereb still stresses the worth of the experience. "It was a valuable experience," said Vereb, still reminiscing about his days at Boys State.



## Better Speaker Delivers Meaningful Message | By: William Helms and Justin Carminucci

Geese are an epidemic flocking over the United States. This was the premise of the outstanding participant in the Better Speaking class Matthew Hauser's speech. While it first appeared to be an unconventional start to a speech, he went on to explain how through great initiative, the geese population managed to rebound from near extinction to the abundant size we see today. It was from here that Hauser drew comparison to important figures in history who also used their voices and passion to create the change they wished to see. These included civil rights leaders Rosa Parks and Martin Luther King Jr., as well as recent Boys State visitor Governor Ralph Northam. The message was an appropriate one that resonated with the Boys State audience, many of whom have similar aspirations. He delivered a message of self-efficacy, for others to take the helm of their own destiny, and create a bright future that lights the path for others to follow. It was a fitting way to end an eye-opening week, that brought upon great insight into the future of the 2018 Boys State citizens.

## College Fair Presents Opportunities for Boys State Citizens | By: Brooks Pollard and Keagan DeLong

As part of the activity time allotted for Boy's State citizens on June 22nd, a college fair was available for citizens to come and learn about colleges and universities from around Virginia and further. The many colleges and universities that visited set up in the Kyle building, where they filled the space. There were a diverse range of schools, such as the University of Virginia, Lynchburg College, Virginia Commonwealth University, and the University of West Virginia to name a few. Additionally, the American Legion, the U.S. Army, Navy, and National Guard setup tables to deliver their organization's information.

The college fair operated smoothly and effectively. Citizens of Boys State would approach a college's table, most of which had many trinkets, pens, and valuable information regarding their institution, and listen to the representatives of the schools. The U.S. Army and other military organizations presented information on the benefits of joining the service and the possibilities of financial aid to assist with college expenses. The citizens were able to walk away with small informative packets and knowledge of higher education.

With over 600 boys sincerely vested in the course of their futures, the college fair was a great opportunity to explore different options and to find the best fit for each individual. The number of colleges there represents the weight of the title of "Boys State Citizen," and that those colleges are deeply invested in the next generation's future. The free swag provided at most booths was a well received added bonus as well.



## Conserve, Connect, Protect: Virginia DGIF Visits Boys State | By: Grey Cashwell

Much like the previous weekdays in Boys State, the citizens were privileged to experience a host of new guest speakers on Friday. Friday's speakers represented the Department of Game and Inland Fisheries. On this last full day of Boys State, biologists John Copeland and David Kalb as well as Conservation Police Officer (CPO) Mark Brewer were able to speak with Boys State regarding their official duties under the Virginia Secretary of Natural Resources, which can be summarized by the DGIF motto, "Conserve. Connect. Protect."

Boys State cities were divided into two groups which alternated between listening to CPO Brewer and the scientists, Copeland and Kalb. Brewer explained his duties as being specialized to deal with matters of natural harvest and the protection of natural assets in Virginia, a position once known as "game warden." He showed the audience a recruiting video which highlighted the intense training CPOs must go through in order to secure these esteemed

posts—don't think he can't arrest you for speeding, either! CPO Brewer made it clear that while he is particularly designated towards matters such as illegal hunting, boating, and sale of natural resources, he also maintains the jurisdiction to act with the legal authority of any other police officer, meaning he exercises the power to make an arrest for any crime.

Our scientist guests started by providing a thorough explanation of their duties, which include repopulating and studying endangered species, eliminating environmental threats such as species overpopulation, and helping to regulate hunting laws on endangered species. They also detailed some of the phenomena they have witnessed in the fields of aquatic and woodland biology. An especially interesting segment featured a video in which a freshwater muscle clamped onto an unsuspecting fish, implanting its eggs into the gills and between the scales of its host.

Overall, the two groups of presenters provided unique takes on the duties and obligations of working in both the law enforcement aspect and scientific aspect of wildlife preservation and conservation. This presentation was vastly different from that of the array of politicians who have already come to Boys State. For their efforts, many boys with great questions have become increasingly interested in the possible opportunities they can find in working in this field, especially with CPO Brewer and his counterparts.

## Oratorical Winner Shares Advice | By: Jacob Lewis

On Friday the 22nd of June, I had the opportunity to speak to Ian Waite, a Boys Nation delegate from Charlottesville, VA. Waite currently serves the city of Eisenhower as a Junior Counselor. In addition, Waite has been involved in the American Legion Oratorical contest, making it all the way to the national level.

I first asked Mr. Waite about whether or not he was interested in politics before he began competing in the oratorical contest. Waite replied that he was interested prior to his involvement, and later attributed his interest in politics to his upbringing in Charlottesville. Ian elaborated, stating that being in an area where its citizens are so divided politically initially sparked his interest in politics.

I later asked Mr. Waite some specific questions regarding the contest itself. First, when asked whether the judges base their grade on the opinions the speaker holds or the actual presentation of the speech. Waite said that it was a little bit of both and that having both a contentious position and the ability to present your position in a way that resonates with the judges goes a long way towards winning.

Next, I asked Ian what it was like working alongside Legionnaires who were once his counselors. He explained that while he loves being a junior counselor, it felt a little strange at first, going from being under their jurisdiction to now being peers and colleagues. Finally, Waite remarked that he aspires to return to Boys State as a counselor in the future and that he also ponders the possibility of becoming a politician later in life.

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