

TENNESSEE AMERICAN LEGION

BOYS STATE

Vol. 78, No. 6, Friday, May 26, 2017
Tennessee Technological University, Cookeville, Tennessee

NORRIS APPOINTS CABINET

Governor-elect Norris announced his cabinet appointments: Caden Neville, Agriculture; Michael Boyd, Children's Services; Noah Smith, Commerce and Insurance; Jackson Arthur, Correction; Daniel Lake, Economic and Community Development; A.J. Hardin, Education; Will Perkins, Environment and Conservation; Nicholas Smythia, Finance and Administration; Blake Hicks, Financial Institutions; Brant Adams, General Services; Spencer Hall, Health; Parker Fleming, Human Resources; Brantley Whitwell, Human Services; Dallas Schultheis, Labor and Workforce Development; J.T. Watford, Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities; Nathan Wachtel, Safety and Homeland Security; Garrett Soehn, Tourist Development; Peter Mansfield, Transportation; and Tyler Raper, Veterans Affairs.

Governor-elect Norris also announced the following appointments: Adam Riley, adjutant general; Eshan Patel, Deputy to the Governor; Eli Fuller, Senior Advisor for Legislation & Policy; Evann Fowler, Communication Director; Luke Worsham, Legal Counsel to the Governor; Bronson Burdick, Special Assistant to the Governor for Projects; Tate Kinney, Senior Advisor to the Governor.

DELEGATES VIE FOR BOYS NATION...At the conclusion of Boys State, two delegates will be selected to represent Tennessee as Boys' Nation senators in Washington, D.C., later this summer. A select 100 delegates from Boys' State programs across the nation will travel to Marymount University in Arlington, Va., to learn how the federal government operates. The two delegates will be privileged to participate in a number of events including a special memorial service at Arlington National Cemetery, a visit to the Pentagon complete with a briefing with the Joint Chiefs of Staff, a day on Capitol Hill with lunch in the Senate dining room and a visit to the White House. Traditionally, the President has been available to greet Boys Nation delegates. The trip also offers an excellent opportunity for delegates interested in the U.S. service academies to meet and talk with representatives.

SATURDAY'S EVENTS. . . State Supreme Court Chief Justice Jeff Bivens will speak at the final day of Boys State during the inauguration ceremony for Boys State Governor-elect Norris. The names of the Boys' Nation delegates and the results of the city competition will be announced. The finalist for the Samsung American Legion scholarship award will also be announced. Samsung established the scholarship in honor of those who served in the Korean War. Only descendants of U.S. veterans who served during wartime are eligible. The winner will join other state finalists, each of whom receives a \$1,000 scholarship, in competition for 12 \$20,000 national scholarships.

Major General Max Haston Inspires Delegates in Q&A Session

In 2001, Haston assumed command as the seventh Colonel of the 278th Armored Cavalry Regiment, headquartered in Knoxville. Following command of the 278th, he was assigned as the Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations and J-3, Joint Forces Headquarters, Tennessee. He is a graduate of the U.S. Army War College at Carlisle Barracks, Penn.

In May 2005, Haston mobilized and deployed as the Chief of Reserve Components, Multi-National Corps Iraq (XVIII Airborne Corps). Upon completion of his tour in the Middle East, he returned as the J-3, JFHQ TN. He was appointed the Assistant Adjutant General, Army, on May 6, 2008.

Haston is in charge of 14,000 people in his role as the Military Department of Tennessee supervisor. Currently there are more than 200 National Guardsmen deployed around the world and 30,000 troops have been deployed since September 2001.

“Boys State is one of the things that is right in this country,” Haston declared.

Q: What do you have to do to be a military drone pilot?

A: We call them remotely piloted aircraft, not drones. You have to be a pilot and they are harder to fly than airplane. You are looking at targets 6,000 miles away. For each pilot and gunner there are 144 people backing them up. There are five others looking at the target for insurance. When we pull the trigger, the bad guys vaporize. The mental part is hard. You have to be a strong person, physically and mentally.

Q: Do you think it is necessary to take action against N. Korea?

A: There are four bad folks these days: N. Korea, Iran, China, ISIS. On any given day, any one can act up. N. Korea's leader is not very stable; he was raised in an environment where he thinks totalitarian governance is normal. If we have to, absolutely, we must stop him.

Q: What are key components or traits of effective military leadership?

A: Selfless service. That's true for everything. I see a majority of people worried about number one. Your job in life should be service. Volunteer somewhere. The minute you turn 18 register to vote.

Q: What are your thoughts on companies like Black Water?

A: We used to have to have four vehicles to go out in Iraq, so I would fall in behind Black Water. They do not practice normal rules of engagement. My Humvee not as fast, so they would shoot up the place, but when I got there, everybody was mad. I don't think they should have a role in combat.

Q: How do you keep calm as a leader?

A: I'm not sure I keep calm. My wife just bought me shirt that says “I was born for a storm, and calm does not suit me.” But I am the person that remains calm when everyone else is going crazy, and you should be too as a leader. I'm a planner; if you have to be in eye of storm, have a good plan. And I follow Abe Lincoln's philosophy. I'm not the smartest, but I surround myself with smart people.