

TENNESSEE AMERICAN LEGION

BOYS STATE

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GOVERNOR-ELECT GATES APPOINTS CABINET

Governor-elect Gates announced his cabinet appointments: Drake Robbins, Agriculture; Eric Heilman, Children's Services; Anthony Wheeler, Commerce and Insurance; Dexter Gladney, Correction; Ben Adams, Economic and Community Development; Zach Bieda, Education; Jose Guevara, Environment and Conservation; Jeisson Hernandez, Finance and Administration; Joseph West, Financial Institutions; Eli Anderson, General Services; Eduardo Villalobos, Health; Holden Koehler, Human Resources; Justus Johnson, Human Services; Jonathon Carpenter, Labor and Workforce Development; Dawson Gremmels, Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities; Landry Borden, Safety and Homeland Security; Luke Hester, Tourist Development; Jonathan Ervin, Transportation; and Jacob Alexander, Veterans Affairs.

Governor-elect Norris also announced the following appointments: Ryan Jacobik, adjutant general; Reno Hardison, Deputy to the Governor; Tristan Harwood, Senior Advisor for Legislation & Policy; Brock Hinkle, Communication Director; Gabriel Armstrong, Legal Counsel to the Governor; Mark McWilliams, Special Assistant to the Governor for Projects; James Agee, 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. . . U.S. Senator Lamar Alexander will speak at the final day of Boys State during the inauguration ceremony for Boys State Governor-elect Gates. 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 is your single most important piece of advice for leaders?

A: Have character—integrity and character. You are developing character by being in this business. We don’t teach civics enough. You need to understand how bills and laws are made. Exercise your right to vote. Be thoughtful on who you elect to office.

Q: What are the eligibility requirements for the National Guard?

A: You have to pass a physical and an aptitude test. Seventy percent of youth today are not physically fit enough to serve in the military. Out of the 30 percent left, 10 percent can’t pass because of moral/criminal issues. That there’s only 20 percent qualified scares me to death. Once sworn, you go to a recruit program, then basic training.

Q: What are the opportunities for college scholarships?

A: You can go to college for free, with no restrictions on the type of undergraduate degree. The Strong Act allows us to give you 100 percent tuition so you don’t have to pay the money upfront. Most public universities work with us in the program.

Q: What is the difference between active Army and National Guard?

A: It’s who is your commander in chief. Active Army is under the President of the United States. The National Guard is under the governor until mobilized and receiving federal orders. The National Guard is not subject to military law, but to state law. The National Guard drills 39-84 days a year. That takes great support from employers.

Q: Who is your favorite military leader and why?

A: If someone asks you and you answer with only one person, you do not have a very good background in military history. George Meade was a slow moving, slow acting general who took command at Gettysburg and rallied the Union into fighting formation. Patton had a screw loose when it came to tactics, but was a brilliant motivator of men. Omar Bradley was a tactical genius. Donn Starry was the father of the air/land battle. And Chester Nimitz. Study them!