

TENNESSEE AMERICAN LEGION

BOYS STATE

Vol. 80, No. 6, Friday, May 24, 2019
Tennessee Technological University, Cookeville, Tennessee

GOVERNOR-ELECT PARSONS APPOINTS CABINET

Governor-elect Parsons announced his cabinet appointments: Tanner Woods, Agriculture; Jaxson Billings, Children's Services; Joe Miller, Commerce and Insurance; Cooper Palmieri, Correction; Dalton Cooper, Economic and Community Development; Nathan Penna, Education; Camden Jones, Environment and Conservation; Austin Powell, Finance and Administration; Gabriel Kerley-Lopez, Financial Institutions; John Lott, General Services; Hunter Rinehart, Health; Caden Stubblefield, Human Resources; Jerelijah Martin, Human Services; Alex Fields, Labor and Workforce Development; Jacob Powell, Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities; Cade Banks, Safety and Homeland Security; Bryce Fox, Tourist Development; Brantley Forrest, Transportation; and Jaden Harville, Veterans Affairs.

Governor-elect Parsons also announced the following appointments: Amrit Pagar, adjutant general; Lincoln Murr, Deputy to the Governor; Sean Reynolds, Senior Advisor for Legislation & Policy; Reese Dykes, Communication Director; Duncan Dillman, Legal Counsel to the Governor; Mason Wyatt, Special Assistant to the Governor for Projects; Micah Vick, 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 Sen. Paul Bailey will speak at the final day of Boys State during the inauguration ceremony for Boys State Governor-elect Parsons. 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.

Retired Adjutant General Max Haston Inspires Delegates in Q&A Session

Tennessee is the nation's 7th largest National Guard state. Guardsmen currently serve on foreign soil in areas including Poland, Ukraine, Kosovo, the United Arab Emirates, Syria and Iraq. In 2001, Major Gen. (RET) 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. 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 was in charge of 14,000 people in his role as the Military Department of Tennessee supervisor and retired with 40 years, two months of service.

"When you go home, find the person who sponsored you and hug their neck," Haston declared. "Boys State is one of the last honorable things out there promoting civic duty and civility.

"If you want to go to college in Tennessee, the National Guard can send you to college," he said. "Students are often burdened with student debt that follows people a long time. You can walk out of college with a job through the Guard; that's one way to do it."

Q: What is the engineer brigade?

A: The engineer brigade in Jackson, TN, is about 20 years old. They have more MPs assigned there than anywhere else. They have divisions for vertical and horizontal work (buildings and roads) paving, and digging for systems, such as fresh water wells in third-world areas.

Q: What boosted you to Major General?

A: I was at the right place at the right time. You need to see the hard jobs, those operations and command jobs that have responsibility. Go to the schools. And as a leader, do what your soldiers are doing so they will respect you and follow you.

Q: Is our intervention on foreign soil justified?

A: It depends on the area. Venezuela is horrid. People are starving, with no lights or refrigeration. It's a toilet. Somebody's got to fix that, but it's better if they fix it themselves. In the Middle East, they've been rattling sabres forever. Having us there is like having a big dog in your back yard to keep people out. You've got to have somebody over there.

Q: Can DACA students be in the National Guard?

A: I can tell you that you do not have to be a U.S. citizen. It's a pathway to citizenship through active duty.

Q: Should Japan have an active Army?

A: The Japanese were a ruthless, horrible enemy. Japan is not that big of a place and a NATO force could respond. They should have a strong emergency response force, but it can be supported by NATO.

"Get the address and phone number of everybody you can here. You never know when you are going to need them."