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Judge Gary McKenzie Shares Qualities of Leadership Boys State alumnus Eli Anderson returns as elected official

Judge Gary McKenzie shared his advice on *A Life of Service: Qualities of Leadership* during Monday night's session. He emphasized the characteristics held by Abraham Lincoln, Martin Luther King Jr., and Franklin D. Roosevelt. They shared positive traits including good character, good communication skills, confidence and mindful decision making.

"Lincoln and King both suffered from clinical depression; FDR suffered from polio and eventually could not walk," McKenzie said. "They all overcame difficult circumstances. Their most important character trait was resiliency. I guarantee you something in your life will set you back. Do you bounce back or do you quit? That is the real test of a leader."

He then shared his keys to becoming a great leader:

1. Self awareness: Know your strengths and your limitations.
2. Self regulation: Think before you act.
3. Optimism: Avoid the negativity bias.
4. Connections: Be able to rely on others when you are in need.

McKenzie then asked the audience if they believed one person could change the world. He then told the true story of prosecuting a man accused of abusing an 8-year-old boy. He spoke admiringly of the boy as he described him on the stand. "The boy leaned into the microphone and testified for one minute about the abuse," he said. "Because one boy in that one minute testified, no other child could be hurt in the future by this man. Don't ever let anyone tell you that you can't make a difference."

"Life is hard. It's a default setting," said McKenzie. "The idea that this world owes you something is wrong. It will chew you up and spit you out. It will be unfair. How you react will define you."

Before McKenzie spoke, Eli Anderson addressed delegates, just one short year after being in their seat. At the age of 17, he won a county commission seat in Morgan County. He gave delegates this advice: "Go back to you communities and become leaders. It's achievable and attainable. Stick to your guns and be honest."

BOYS STATE ELECTS CITY, COUNTY OFFICIALS

Cain City: Connor Breeden, mayor; Caleb Allen, Eli Davis, Eyan Hudson, John Ogle, alderman; Luke Cripps, Shaan Patel, county commissioners; Matthew Acosta, Hevar Ahmed, Dawson Arnold, Kaden Cannon, Brennan Forrest, Connor Smith, David Walker, Kaleb Williford, state representatives.

Hammer City: Steven Mingo, mayor; Aaron Alston, Sehrab Bagha, Ryan McIntyre, Riley Putnam, aldermen; Tyler Riggsbee, Jacob Stamps, county commissioners; Jack Colburn, Nelson Denman, Reese Dykes, Ben Fulghum, Logan Gilbreath, Bailey Guinn, Jacob Noel, Max Smith, state representatives.

Kreider City: Brandon Wallace, mayor; Emery Benson, Jaden Harville, Lincoln Murr, Tanner Woods, aldermen; Duncan Dillman, Micah Vick, county commissioners; Colby Adams, Ryan Bruce, William Carter, Cannon Clark, Caleb Starkey, Eli Vaughn, state representatives.

Lahiere City: Jalen Sharp, mayor; Kurt Cantrell, Jeremiah Taylor, Rudy Tucker, Jackey Zheng, aldermen; Andrew Pabst, Brendan Segura, county commissioners; Noah Bowen, Gustavo Castillo, Daniel Coley, Brock Garland, Evan McKenzie, Tyler Pedigo, Mark Ross, Phillip Young, state representatives.

Levi City: Chance Noble, mayor; Alex Fields, Jacob Hudspeth, Isaac Keszler, Chandler Ogle, aldermen; Isaac Robinson, Eli Young, county commissioners; Josh Caldwell, Lucas Hatfield, Dawson Lane, Johann Liwag, Jackson Neill, Mac O'Connor, Zach Shiver, Nate Vaughn, state representatives.

Loring City: Alex Tucker, mayor; Eli Callender, Camden Jones, Tucker King, Grayson Peterson, aldermen; Joseph Gantenbein, Caden Stubblefield, county commissioners; Micah Dake, Chris Jones, Sam Methvin, Nicolas Morgan, Hunter Morton, Mikie Neal, Luke Pratt, Devin Tobin, state representatives.

Maddux City: Jaylen Bryant, mayor; Derrick Bailey, Jackson Bell, Christian Sharp, Coleby Stout, aldermen; Jacob Campbell, Ty Dahl, county commissioners; Bo Broyles, Logan Campbell, Austin Cunningham, Ethan Hill, Brennan Keeton, Joey Mego, Jack Newman, Gavin Pretorius, state representatives.

McCullum City: Jamarr Maclin, mayor; Alex Arnold, Jack Dyer, Davis Stegall, Bradey Yarbrough, aldermen; Ryan Barredo, Bryce Gwathney, county commissioners; Michael Davis, Nick Funk, James Garrett, Will Horner, Samuel Johnson, Willie Reynolds, Cooper Savage, Jacob Spears, Kyle Stork, state representatives.

Reel City: Cooper Vandiver, mayor; Ian Burr, Iman Ibrahim, Mathew Riley, Hunter Rinehart, aldermen; Doug Belcher, Collin Reed, county commissioner; Sulley Burke, Logan Carter, Dalton Carroll, Josh Clark, Tyler Hathcock, Jay Marks, Johnson Phung, Zeb Webb, state representatives.

Roberts City: Calin Green, mayor; Sid Braddy, Eli Dotson, J.P. Key, Seth Spry, aldermen; Devin Kodsi, Brody Parker, county commissioners; Nathan Adkins, Robert Bingham, J.B. Bryant, Matthew Harvey, Cordel Littrell, Isaiah Puckett, Cameron Smith, state representatives.

Summitt City: Sam Boyd, mayor; Kyle Carr, Mason Kocka, Collin Trent, Dan Williams, aldermen; Sam Ferguson, Jacob Wright, county commissioners; Trey Gallik, Tony Lyons, Alex Mitchell, Joseph Mullinks, Henry Ott, Jordan Pelfrey, Cayden Smith, Cade Veazey, state representatives.

Young City: Ben Shanks, mayor; Cooper Bolton, Max Hammonds, Justin Lannom, Scott Wiggins, alderman; Vivek Kotla, Jose Valdez, county commissioners; Lucas Clark, Caden Cline, Tyrese Eady, Ben Fletcher, Anakin King, Hayden Smith, Chris Upham, Joel Workman, state representatives.

Dornan County: Amrit Pagar, county executive; Walker Jennette, county sheriff; Brody Woodson, county court clerk; Caleb Allen, register of deeds; Braedon Jett, county trustee; Nathan Pasumbal, county attorney; Connor Chapman, county tax assessor; Cade Banks, circuit judge; Luke Schroeder, chancery judge; Jordyn Bade, Drew Beeler, JP Catuncan, Liam Cole, Levi Deal, Ethan Holman, Will Mabry, Johann West, state senators.

Hildebrand County: Evan Hals, county executive; Andrew Pabst, county sheriff; Elijah Brewer, county court clerk; Tucker King, register of deeds; Ethan Sanford, county trustee; Jeremiah Taylor, county attorney; Ethan Hitchcock, county tax assessor; Ethan Dunlop, circuit judge; Dejuan Howard, chancery judge; Jaxson Billings, Graham Buchanan, Joseph Gantenbein, Justice Mack, Ben Mayfield, Drake McElyea, Ben Pomerance, Casey Tierney, state senators.

Markham County: Justin Vance, county executive; Bryce Gwathney, county sheriff; Cody Sutton, county court clerk; Jacob Sylman, register of deeds; Charlie Morton, county trustee; Johnny Beattie, county attorney; Sean Dowdy, county tax assessor; Ashton Beatty, circuit judge; Burch Harbison, chancery judge; Chandler Barton, Miles Brewer, Kevin Cheng, Ben Murphey, Will Patterson, Collin Reed, Matthew Riley, Sheldon Smith, state senators.

Robinson County: Derek Driskill, county executive; Paul Adkins, county sheriff; Zach Bedwell, county court clerk; Stanley Zhao, register of deeds; Brody Parker, county trustee; Andrew Webster, county attorney; Hunter Haggard, county tax assessor; Conner Smith, circuit judge; Elijah Evans, chancery judge; Nolan Burch, Brady Crawford, Jack Duncan, Grant Fetters, Derek Griffin, Major Hickman, Chase Perry, Nathan Phillips, state senators.