



# AMERICAN LEGION JERSEY BOYS STATE

*"A WEEK THAT SHAPES THE FUTURE"*

Sponsored by THE AMERICAN LEGION, DEPARTMENT OF NEW JERSEY

JUNE 22-27, 2014; RIDER UNIVERSITY, Lawrenceville, NJ

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **15 Cape May County Students Attend American Legion Jersey Boys State** *More than 325 New Jersey Communities Sent Delegates*

LAWRENCEVILLE, NJ – This week, 15 rising-seniors in high schools from Cape May County arrived at the 69<sup>th</sup> session of American Legion Jersey Boys State (ALJBS) at Rider University in Lawrenceville, NJ. The program, sponsored by the American Legion Department of New Jersey, is an action-oriented approach for teaching civics and government at the local, county and state level.

"It's our honor to welcome 924 statesmen to Jersey Boys State," said David Bagatelle, Director of ALJBS. "The Jersey Boys State record of producing our state's leaders is strong including our current governor, Chris Christie, our senators, Robert Menendez and Cory Booker, and many other political leaders."

Statesmen will have the opportunity to govern and interact with their peers from across New Jersey as they run their own mythical 51<sup>st</sup> state of the union from June 22-27. Within 24 hours each city will divide into political parties, elect a mayor and council from within their ranks. By the end of the session, statesmen will have filled the ranks of local, county, the state legislature, municipal courts and will elect two senators to serve at American Legion Boys Nation in Washington, D.C. later this summer.

### **Highlights throughout the week include:**

- Notable speakers including Senator Robert Menendez, Congressman Leonard Lance, CBS 3 Philadelphia's Jessica Dean, US Senate candidate Jeffrey Bell, former Congressman Bob Inglis (SC), among many others;
- A college fair featuring nearly 100 institutions from across the country;
- Leadership and career seminars featuring business executives, military representatives, political consultants, law experts and journalists, among other professional experts;
- Election of the 69<sup>th</sup> ALJBS Governor on Thursday, June 26; and
- Election of two Boys Nation Senators on Friday June 27, who will represent New Jersey at the annual American Legion Boys Nation program in Washington D.C., from July 18-26, 2014.

Notable ALJBS alumni include Governor Christopher Christie (Boys Nation Senator, 1979), Senator Robert Menendez (1971), Senator Cory Booker (1986), Supreme Court Justice Samuel Alito (1967), Congressman Leonard Lance (1969) and Assemblyman Herbert Conaway (ALJBS Governor, 1980).

### **Statesmen in Attendance (Alphabetical by Name)**

Matt Aromando, Ocean City, Legion Post #524  
Lucas Baker, Northfield, Legion Post #524  
Kristian Catarcio, Cape May Courthouse, Legion Post #239  
Michael Daddi, Wildwood Crest, Legion Post #239  
Hayden Garrbrant, North Wildwood, Legion Post #184  
Ronald Gibboni, North Cape May, Legion Post #331  
Michael Hawthorne, Wildwood Crest, Legion Post #239  
Alec Helm, Ocean City, Legion Post #524  
Mike Laing, Townbank, Legion Post #331

Ryan Lewandowski, Ocean City, Legion Post #524  
Christopher Roche, Cape May Courthouse, Legion Post #184  
Joshua Schneider, Cape May, Legion Post #331  
Grant Schoenfeldt, Glassboro, Legion Post #239  
Nathaniel Trofa, Ocean City, Legion Post #524  
Zachary Williams, Ocean City, Legion Post #524

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**About American Legion Jersey Boys State (ALJBS)**

In its 69<sup>th</sup> year, ALJBS is a week-long experience that educates and motivates New Jersey's youth so that each statesman may become a citizen leader dedicated to service, respect, and Americanism. Together, the delegates form the mythical "51st" state of the union each year, where they elect their own local, state, and national representatives. Activities at ALJBS include legislative sessions, general assemblies, court proceedings, athletics, band, and career seminars, among many others. All expenses associated with attending ALJBS are typically donated by a sponsoring American Legion Post, a local business, or a community-based organization. To learn more, please visit [aljbs.org](http://aljbs.org).