

American Legion Post 337
19 North Main Street
Broadalbin, NY 12025

July 22, 2019

Dear Legionnaires:

I would like to offer my sincerest thanks for giving me the opportunity to experience Boys State on the one-hundredth anniversary of the American Legion. This truly was the once in a lifetime so many had described it as.

During the week, I was among 30 boys in the city of Nessler, county of Pedro. The first few days were slow, consisting mainly of explaining what Boys State was, and what the expectations of us were. As the week progressed, our merry band of misfits began to shape up. We could march better, our formations were tight, and we thought ourselves to be the loudest and most motivated county in the state. Every morning, we would be woken up to the sounds of *The Lion King* by our city counselor, Mr. Moravec. After we attained the morning accountability, we would spend time before P.T. getting our hospital corners tightened and ensuring our rooms were ready for inspection. All this work to square ourselves away paid off: Pedro county was named Best Overall County!

On a more personal level, Boys State allowed me to grow as an individual. Within the city of Nessler, I acted as both deck commander and platoon sergeant, while also being elected to the office of a state senator. As a platoon sergeant, I was tasked with marching the city in formation, as well as taking accountability everywhere we went, and as deck commander, I ensured rooms were prepped for inspection by the marine and disseminated information to the citizens from the city counselor. As a senator, I was a member of the committee that drafted a bipartisan bill calling for the modernization of New York's nuclear powerplants to provide greater amounts of clean energy for New Yorkers, and to provide a new source of revenue for the state.

My efforts were not unnoticed. Out of all members of my city, I was the one chosen by Mr. Moravec to be his candidate for the Boys Nation nomination. Though I was passed over at the county level in favor of another candidate, I cannot overstate my appreciation at being given the chance to compete.

Boys State was an eye-opening experience into the world of civil service and government, one that I will carry forever. I thank all the legionnaires that sponsored me and paid for my attendance and gave me this chance.

Cordially Yours,



Benjamin P. Smouse
Boys Stater