

**WRITTEN TESTIMONY
OF
GERALD A. WHITE
PAST DIRECTOR
AMERICAN LEGION BUCKEYE BOYS STATE
1991-2019**

TO: THE OHIO HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

IT WAS MY HONOR TO SERVE AS DIRECTOR OF AMERICAN LEGION BUCKEYE BOYS STATE FROM 1991 TO 2019.

CHARTERED BY THE NATIONAL AMERICAN LEGION IN 1936, AMERICAN LEGION BUCKEYE BOYS STATE IS THE 3RD OLDEST AND LARGEST OF ALL THE AMERICAN LEGION BOYS STATE PROGRAMS IN THE NATION.

SPONSORED BY THE OHIO AMERICAN LEGION, OHIO'S LARGEST VETERANS ORGANIZATION, AMERICAN LEGION BUCKEYE BOYS STATE HAS STRIVED, FROM ITS INCEPTION. TO SERVE THE STATE OF OHIO AS A LEADING EDUCATOR IN THE ORGANIZATION AND OPERATION OF OHIO GOVERNMENT FOR THE PARTICIPANTS IN BUCKEYE BOYS STATE ANNUALLY, THE YOUNG MEN IN OUR OHIO HIGH SCHOOLS, A RESPONSIBILITY BUCKEYE BOYS STATE HAS TAKEN VERY SERIOUSLY FOR 89 YEARS AND WILL CONTINUE TO TAKE SERIOUSLY IN THE FUTURE.

OVER 90,000 HIGH SCHOOL JUNIOR YOUNG MEN SINCE 1936, HAVE LEARNED ABOUT HOW GOVERNMENT IN OHIO WORKS THRU THEIR “HANDS ON PARTICIPATION” IN THE BUCKEYE BOYS STATE PROGRAM.

THESE YOUNG MEN HAVE GONE ON IN THEIR RESPECTIVE CAREERS TO SERVE THEIR COMMUNITIES, THEIR COUNTIES, THE STATE OF OHIO, AND THE NATION.

AMERICAN LEGION BUCKEYE BOYS STATE COUNTS AMONG OUR ALUMNI, FIVE (5) ASTRONAUTS, UNITED STATES CONGRESSMEN, MILITARY LEADERS, BUSINESS LEADERS, MEDICAL PROFESSIONALS, EDUCATORS, MEDIA PERSONALITIES, OHIO MAYORS, OHIO COUNTY OFFICIALS, A FORMER CHIEF JUSTICE OF THE OHIO SUPREME COURT, A FORMER COLONEL OF THE OHIO STATE HIGHWAY PATROL, AND A LARGE CONTINGENT OF THE OHIO HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AND OHIO SENATE, INCLUDING A FORMER SPEAKER OF THE OHIO HOUSE.

THESE DAYS SO LITTLE ATTENTION IS GIVEN IN OHIO HIGH SCHOOLS TO CIVICS AND HISTORY. BESIDES THE MISSION OF BUCKEYE BOYS STATE TO EDUCATE YOUNG MEN IN OHIO GOVERNMENT, YOUNG MEN PARTICIPATING IN BUCKEYE BOYS STATE ALSO HAVE THE OPPORTNITY TO RUB SHOULDERS WITH “LIVING HISTORY” THRU THEIR CONTACT WITH OHIO AMERICAN LEGION MEMBERS ON THE STAFF, ALL OF WHOM ARE VETERANS, AND VARIOUS SPEAKERS FROM A WIDE

RANGE OF BACKGROUNDS.

AMERICAN LEGION BUCKEYE BOYS STATE IS PROUD TO HAVE THE FOLLOWING ORGANIZATIONS AS PARTNERS IN OUR MISSION: THE OHIO STATE HIGHWAY PATROL, THE OHIO STATE BAR ASSOCIATION, THE OHIO SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION, THE OHIO SUPREME COURT, AMONG OTHERS.

THE MOTTO OF AMERICAN LEGION BUCKEYE BOYS STATE IS: "A WEEK TO SHAPE A LIFETIME"

AMERICAN LEGION BUCKEYE BOYS STATE AND THE OHIO AMERICAN LEGION WOULD APPRECIATE THE SUPPORT OF THE OHIO HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AS A PARTNER TO ENABLE AMERICAN LEGION BUCKEYE BOYS STATE TO STRENGTHEN OUR MISSION.