

June 7, 2026

Dear Mountaineer Boys State Citizens,

It is a real honor to welcome you to the 87th Session of American Legion Mountaineer Boys State at WVU Jackson's Mill.

You are here because someone saw something in you. A teacher, a coach, a mentor believed you have the character and the potential to lead. That says a lot about who you already are.

This week is about more than learning how government works. It is about learning what it means to take responsibility, to listen to others, to stand up for what you believe in, and to serve with integrity. Leadership is not about a title or a position. It is about showing up, doing the hard work, and putting others ahead of yourself.

West Virginia's future depends on young men who care about their communities and are willing to step forward when something needs to be done. My hope is that while you are here, you challenge yourselves, build friendships that last a lifetime, and leave with a deeper sense of purpose about the role you can play in our state and our country.

I am proud of each and every one of you for being here. Work hard, lead well, and never forget that this great state is counting on you.

God bless you, and God bless the great state of West Virginia.

Sincerely,



Jim Justice
United States Senator