

2009 Premier Boys State - I bring you greetings from my fellow citizens of the 2008 session of Premier Boys State. I would like to thank Boys State for the opportunity to come back and speak to you here today on behalf of the citizens of Boys State 2008.

All of you have all come here to bear witness to the democratic processes of our great state and nation. Freedom isn't free. The price of freedom is a constant vigilance and a sincere commitment to the principles of our representative democracy.

I am sure many of you are curious as to what exactly is supposed to happen here at Boys State this week, and I would like to assure to you, that as you discover that information for yourself, you will not be disappointed; it is a truly life-changing experience. At the end of this week, I know that you will join me in congratulating The American Legion for making Boys State such an extraordinary experience - a week in that will change our lives.

In his Inaugural Address, President John Kennedy said: "The torch has been passed to a new generation of Americans," and we will soon be asked to accept that torch – to assume leadership in our own communities. Boys State provides training for each of us and instills a sense of gratitude for our nation and its people.

America faces many challenges, and it will be the responsibility of our generation to respond to them, just as our parents and their parents before them have; to assume responsibility for what Lincoln called "The Unfinished Work," which still requires a "full measure of devotion."

I am honored to serve as the Governor of the 73rd annual session of Premier Boys State and to represent my fellow citizens to you all. On behalf of each of them, I extend to each of you my warmest congratulations on your upcoming participation in Boys State, as well as my, and my fellow citizens' commitment, to work with you, side-by-side, when our time comes – to help lead the land we love.

Somebody said that it couldn't be done,
But he, with a chuckle, replied
That maybe it couldn't, but he was one
Who wouldn't say so 'til he tried.

So he buckled right in, with a sort of a grin.
If he worried, he hid it.
And he started to sing as he tackled the thing,
That couldn't be done – and he did it!!!

Have a great week. God bless you, and God bless America. Thank you.