

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Nathan Alvarez, 2017 Louisiana Boys State Citizen, receives Samsung American Legion Scholarship

Baton Rouge, LA – October 17, 2017 – The American Legion announced at its annual Fall Meetings in Indianapolis that 2017 Louisiana Boys State participant and Jesuit High student Nathan Alvarez was awarded a \$10,000 Samsung American Legion Scholarship.

Nathan is the son of Rene and Jane Alvarez of New Orleans and a senior at Jesuit High School. Nathan attended Louisiana Boys State in June 2017 on the campus of Northwestern State University in Natchitoches. Students must meet several eligibility criteria and have a demonstrated record of leadership, service, and academic achievement. Recipients must attend either an American Legion Boys State or American Legion Auxiliary Girls State program and be the direct descendant of a wartime veteran eligible for American Legion membership. Nathan's eligibility for the scholarship descends from his grandfather, Mr. Anthony Capritto, who served in the US military during the Korean War.

Reflecting on his time at Boys State, Nathan said, "I didn't know what to expect coming into the program but was blown away from everything from the first minute. It ultimately taught me so much about myself in a leadership capacity that is beneficial to me already in my own life and at school." Nathan initially applied for the Samsung Scholarship in hopes that receiving it would allow him to pursue his dreams in higher education and to better help him serve others. "It was an honor to tell my grandfather that his service to the country enabled me to be [a national finalist]," said Nathan. "I cannot wait to tell him how much his service has enabled me to do now."

Out of over 5,300 applications nationally, Nathan was named one of ten National Scholars to receive the top scholarship award. In addition, 10 runners-up received a \$5,000 scholarship, and the remaining 79 nationalist finalists received \$1,250 scholarships.

The Samsung American Legion Scholarship was endowed by Samsung Corporation in 1996 through the American Legion to benefit the direct descendants of U.S. veterans as a gesture of appreciation to those who aided in defending South Korea from North Korean and Chinese aggression.

Boys State began in 1935 in Illinois, and came to Louisiana five years later, in 1940. Boys State is one of the many "Americanism" programs sponsored by the American Legion and is widely recognized throughout the country as one of the most outstanding youth programs for teaching government and citizenship. It cultivates personal growth, civic involvement, and practical governance knowledge in its participants to help build stronger, more well-informed and influential leaders for our communities, our state, and our country.

For more information about the Boys State program, contact William Hogan, staff member for External Affairs, at laboysstate@gmail.com. For more information about attending Boys State or about the American Legion's sponsorship of the program, contact Philip Legendre, Louisiana Boys State Commission Chairman, at pleg0691@bellsouth.net.

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