



- Good afternoon.
- First of all, congratulations for being here. I understand you're all outstanding kids and you have earned this retreat. I'm a big believer in earning whatever you get. (Story of things being more meaningful when they're not handed to you....)
- I'm confident that you are the future leaders of our state and our country, and you obviously know the key to making a difference: get involved. (get involved on any level and that's how you can get things changed...)
- I know the American Legion plays a big part in Boys State, so they, and the department of Veterans Affairs deserve a big thank you.
- I'm a veteran, but even if you're not, you are probably close to someone who is. In fact, our Veterans Affairs department serves more than 4-hundred thousand vets. If you add in their dependents and children, we're talking about 25% of Minnesota's population.
- I hope none of you ever have to go to war, but it's nice to know we're taking care of those who have already served our country.
- Finally, I hear you've set up your own government here. If your governor wants to change places for a few days while the Legislature gets its act together, I'll be happy to go hit the golf course.