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.