

To pinpoint a single event during Washington Week as being the best is an impossible task. From the incredible and intelligent speakers to the wonderful performers at the Kennedy Center, everything and everybody were amazing. Each speaker had their own unique style and approach to speaking to us; Brian Lamb held a personable question and answer session and Ruth Bader Ginsburg treated us to her mind-blowing memory, surely making an impression on each student. With them came a different lesson applicable to all one hundred and four delegates. Not only did the speakers and dignitaries provide us with helpful insight, but also we learned many valuable lessons from our extraordinary military mentors and the caring Hearst Foundation members. Having little previous interaction with the military, I gained a whole new outlook and respect for the men and women serving our country. The Hearst Foundation members did not merely make idle chatter with the delegates at meals out of requirement, but truly engaged serious and thoughtful conversations with each of the students because they cared about us.

Though the speakers and trips made the week exciting, it is my one hundred and three fellow delegates that I will remember most. No question and answer session could rival some of the conversations I had with my fellow delegates. I truly felt privileged to be in the same room with some of the best and brightest students in America. From their winning personalities to incredible minds, each student leader possessed admirable qualities. The time I spent with each delegate after the day's program had ended were some of the best moments of my life. From political debates to outrageous dance parties, the hours spent with my peers will forever be engraved on my mind. Washington Week was an amazing and unforgettable experience; I feel blessed to have been given a chance to attend one of the best student programs in the country.

Bryce Carson – OH