

USSYP 2009: A Week Never to be Forgotten

There are no words that can define the overwhelming magnificence of that week I was blessed enough to experience. Every moment was occupied with enlightening adventure, and a new surprise around every corner. Nothing was left out and no other experiences can compare. I am, thoroughly, nostalgic of every second of that week; however, only my wonderful memories remain. From Saturday to Saturday, I would like to recount the most memorable moments I took part in that June of 2009.

The United States military mentors are what made that Washington week an experience of a lifetime. I have always admired the service members of our armed forces; however, I never had grasped the professionalism of them until their close interaction. These distinguished men and women from all branches were very intelligent and very inspiring. They were eager to mentor everyday, and I know this by their early morning smiles and the absence of frustration when the delegates interrogated the military. I was truly inspired by their thoughts, guidance, and moral direction. These men and women were a safe haven to the same thinking as mine and I enjoyed that. The United States Senate Youth Program endeavor only affirmed my decision to becoming an officer and made me proud to know that I will one day serve in the footsteps of those mentors.

Everyday I woke ready to soak up the coming day's adventure during the Senate Youth Program. As tragic as the stories were in the Holocaust Museum, I realized that society must never forget. Everyday society must remember the events of the Holocaust and prevent a repeat from history. Meeting Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg in person and listening to her wisdom is a never forgettable memory. Waking the next day

to hear Michael Leiter firmly stand against terrorism and straightly answer interrogating questions about national security was inspiring. He presented the United States stance against terrorism—and was not afraid to use the word terrorism—effectively from new angles. His presentation was so precise I could only agree with his reasoning. Finally, meeting the newest President of the United States was moving. No matter one's political affiliation that moment when I shook the hand of the first African American President was dreamlike and the whole atmosphere of the White House grounds just added to it. The United States Senate Youth Program was truly a trip of a lifetime; I would encourage anyone who can apply to do so. It is my hope that this life changing week will continue to be offered to many generations to come.

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