

The United States Senate Youth Program was a program like no other. I enjoyed several of the speakers. The speaker I most enjoyed was Supreme Court Justice, Ruth Bader Ginsburg. I enjoyed Justice Ginsburg because she depicts tenacity and she has much audacity. Justice Ginsburg conveyed her encyclopedism about the law, the United States Constitution, and much more. Truly, her knowledge was insightful and her aged wisdom was profound. Through her, she allowed each one of us to realize that through whatever circumstance one may experience in life, an individual can overcome and in return make great contributions to the nation and the world.

The Washington Week experience was absolutely phenomenal! Through this experience, I was able to tour many museums and I was able to learn much information outside of the classroom. The Holocaust Museum was very interesting, never before have I seen such images and symbols depicting the utter tragedy of such a group of people. It allowed me to reminisce about a quote one of the speaker's during Washington Week stated, "History doesn't repeat itself, but it often rhymes." As I was thinking about the history of the holocaust, I could not help but think about Darfur, Sudan, Rwanda and other areas that are experiencing genocide. I truly believe that something needs to be done now so that the history of the holocaust will not begin to rhyme in our present-day world.

The Military Mentors for the United States Senate Youth Program were absolutely amazing. All activities and events were well organized and planned. After having such military mentors, I have learned to appreciate the men and women serving our country even more.

From this program, I will continue to embrace the lagniappe philosophy which takes me beyond the mundane: what is assigned and what is expected; likewise, I see the world full of opportunities to excel, succeed, and grow in education and beyond! Truly, I thank the benevolent people at the William Randolph Heart Foundation, the wonderful program staff, Military Mentors, and others for all that was done to make the United States Senate Youth Program a remarkable and unforgettable experience.

Warché Downing - NC