

Day 3 – A Few More Sights Before We Come Home

Our intrepid travelers emerged from their rooms, road weary and feet soar, but optimistic about another great day here in DC with amazing sights to see and information to learn. Our group woke early, ate breakfast and promptly loaded onto the buses for the final day of adventure.

Our tour started today with a walk through four of the most symbolic and thoughtful monuments and memorials in the United States, moving from the Korean War Memorial, on to the Lincoln Monument, along to the Vietnam Memorial and then concluding at the World War 2 Memorial.



The Korean War Memorial is stunning in all ways. The massive statues of soldiers walking along the 38th Parallel, through the forest, the reflective wall behind them to give an air of size and numbers... it was really incredible.

From there, we led the students to the Lincoln Monument... massive, inspiring, and truly interactive. Now, aside from the obvious reasons to be interested in this venue, our students were motivated by the challenge to find the one mistake in the inscribed words on the inside of the of the monument, which they were proudly able to do fairly quickly.



After visiting with Lincoln, we made our way past the chevron shaped Vietnam Memorial. This homage caused a somber silence among the group of on lookers as it really recognized the fallen soldiers of the war.

Our stroll down Memorial lane concluded at the World War 2 Memorial... 54 pillars surrounding a fountain. This enormous area managed to honor each state from the USA and tastefully show representation of the more than 400 fallen soldiers from the war.



The thought and the detail behind these memorials and monuments was so deliberate and purposeful. The smallest and most discrete aspects were all intentionally designed to represent not just the events, but the mood of the country through these times as well.



We piled back on the bus for the final scheduled stop... the National Archives Museum. Personally, this is my favorite stop and always gives me goose bumps. Our students, who have been studying US history this year in class, were standing within a foot of the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution, and the Bill of Rights. The only thing separating the students from these documents the documents that shaped our nation's government was a mere (albeit VERY thick) sheet of glass. For me, and I have to believe for many of the others as well, we really saved the very best and most awe inspiring for last.

We made our way from the National Archives Museum to our very final stop at the Air Force Memorial. Three bright silver spires resembling the jet stream of the Thunderbirds rising from the ground in uniform... very beautiful and powerful at the same time. This gave the students one more opportunity to soak in the Arlington/DC air before picking up their box lunch and making our way home.

The bus ride was calm and quiet as the students and chaperones ate and slept and allowed themselves to reflect on their way home from an amazing adventure.