

# The RCS Patriot Press

Sunday, March 9



Group breakfast was a little quiet on this Sunday morning, as the night owls were easily identified by their dragging feet and puffy eyes (Cameron and Kevin). After the group woke up with a few pancakes and a few cups of coffee, the two buses headed out and we began our packed day with a march through Arlington Cemetery. Even though last night's winds had died down and the cloudless sky was a brilliant blue, everyone still needed the coats and scarves, hats and gloves in the 45 degree weather (although one of our travelers learn a bit more slowly than the others and still wore flip flops).



We spent about an hour walking around the cemetery and visiting the graves of several famous World War II heroes (like Audie Murphy) as well as the Eternal flame at Kennedy's grave.

One major highlight of Arlington was that the group was privileged enough to talk with one of the soldiers who is serving as a sentinel at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. He talked about his experiences at the Cemetery and the students were able to ask him questions, which really added to the overall experience. Four students participated in the wreath-laying ceremony. It was awesome to see some of our best students representing RCS in such an honorable and respected ceremony.

The students ate lunch on their own in an old Virginian town called Alexandria. Then we made the short trip to Mt. Vernon, location of George Washington's enormous home. Here the students walked down to the grave where Washington was buried. Over the last few years, an impressive museum and education center were added to the grounds where the history really came to life for some of the kids.



We headed to the delicious Hometown Buffet for dinner, where the manager said we were the best group she'd had in all month! Seeing as it's the 9<sup>th</sup> of March, we'll take the compliments as they come. The kids' trips to the soft serve ice cream were limited; however, some parents made three, four, even five trips up to the delicious dessert dispenser.

After dinner, the group walked through the Vietnam, Lincoln, and Korean memorials as night fell. In a final attempt to wear the last students out, the teachers had them climb onto a statue of Einstein and pose for several minutes as a group. Back at the hotel, the students were sent to their rooms where they are now all quietly sleeping off any potential crabbiness.

Quotes of the day: "Do any of the teachers have an air freshener??"  
~ Desperate student back at the hotel

"Paez, how can you be eating ice cream already!? Haven't we only been here for two minutes?"

"Is there any more Jello left??" ~Teachers to Ian Perez at Hometown Buffet

"Who's number 11?!" ~Bus 1

"Are you from Calvin?" ~Mt. Vernon lady

"You must travel in groups of FOUR...and Jesus doesn't count." ~Sohaila

"Which student was wearing flip flops??" ~Concerned parents