

# The RCS Patriot Press

Tuesday, March 11

After our routine hardy breakfast, our third and last full day in DC began with a tour of the White House. We had several unexpected surprises during this quick tour. As the students lined up in alphabetical order and were hustled through security, Marine One, the president's helicopter, flew in and landed in the White House lawn. People with the last names beginning with A-M (who may also bring a casserole for dinner, N-Z a dessert) ran over to the fence to watch as President Bush walked out of the White House in a black trench coat and ducked into the helicopter, but not before returning a friendly wave to his enthusiastic RCS supporters!

After the tour was over and the giddiness wore off, we walked over to the National Archives where we saw the original documents of the Constitution, Declaration of Independence, Bill of Rights and Louisiana Purchase. While we were meeting back up outside the building, the vice-president's motorcade drove by. Afterwards, we drove over to the Ronald Regan food court for lunch.

The National Cathedral was next on the agenda. We drove through Embassy Row while all the kids screamed out any country the flags reminded them of, correct or not. The students were awe-struck by the gleaming colors that poured through the stained glass windows onto the cathedral walls. Before heading out to the next location, Ms. Lyon ran into two Calvin friends who were on their spring break in DC. Along with these two girls was a guy named Steven who was from Redlands and had gone to Trinity church. Crazy Calvin Connection. While driving to the Washington Monument, we saw another Marine One helicopter fly into the yard of the Naval Observatory.



Again, while checking out the White House from the top of Washington Monument, a couple students noticed that the back entrance looked prepped for a return. These students waited until the last minute for the President to fly back in but ran out of time; while they were in the elevator, the president's helicopter and its two decoys flew into the President's yard, returning our president to his home.

A little jumpy from all the presidential sightings, the group pranced over to the powerful WWII memorial. The kids were a little memorialled out at this point but remained respectful and the parents really enjoyed the quotes and symbolism of the memorial.

Mr. Wiers' favorite memorial was the next stop of the night: the Iwo Jima memorial. Legend has it that there are thirteen hands in this statue of six soldiers, and several students and teachers spent some time looking for that thirteenth hand.

We headed to the Pentagon Mall where the students were sent to traipse around in groups of four while the teachers played a rousing round of the look-alike game in the cafeteria and recharged with Starbucks coffee and ice cream.

The Air Force Memorial was another quick stop before one last DC gathering outside Capitol Building. Standing on the top platform of the building, several students led our circled-up group in prayer for our government, the decisions they make and the responsibilities they have. We closed our meeting with "Amazing Grace" and slowly walked back to the hotel. Hopefully the dirty ones are already sleeping so that they can wake up nice and early for a hot shower with soap.

**Quotable Quotes:**

**“Look at *that* sucker!” ~Ian P examining a memorial stone**

**“Yes Sir, I’ll keep a leash on him.” ~Ian P on Michael D**

**“Mr. Wit, I’ll pay you if I can have my phone back!” ~Desperate student**

**“Dad, I woke up at 6:15, showered and even cleaned my ears!” ~Proud Austin J.**

**“I can easily transition between traditional tourist and teenager.”  
~A\$**

**“Work it, work it.” ~A\$ while coaxing a good pose from the  
Washington Monument**

**“I never knew they sold t-shirts like that in that size!” ~security  
guard**



**“Ms. Lyon sure is popular.” ~someone after Ms. Lyon saw four Calvin students on the trip**