



The Sentinel

Monday, March 15

Monday morning came with a slightly later wakeup call. Some of our students are still learning the definition of the word “sleep” even though they are reminded frequently. Maybe tonight they will be wise.

Our tour began at the Library of Congress with a security check-in amid the drizzle. The first room displayed the 6,487 original books or identical copies of Thomas Jefferson’s library. We were reminded of the value these men placed on the information stored in these volumes. The beauty with which they were bound impressed many of us. Our tour here also included the Gutenberg Bible and the Book of Maine written completely by hand in amazing calligraphy which remind us all of the perfect penmanship displayed by many of our middle school young men.

We briefly entered the foyer and saw inside the courtroom of the highest court of the land. Across the street from the library was the Capitol Building. Jerry Lewis, our Congressman, was able to get us passes to enter the House of Representatives which at the time was not in session. Sohailah, our tour guide, gave us another excellent talk encouraging our students to know what they believe and to stand up for their beliefs in order to be ready to influence our nation in the future. After we left the House, Congressman Lewis was waiting to greet our students. Visiting the rotunda is always awe inspiring and especially since the students had been studying about the significance of this part of the Capitol and to be where presidents actually lie in state.

After our time in the Capitol, we gathered on the steps in front of the Capitol for the traditional group picture and then headed to Arlington National Cemetery. By this time the weather included a little light mist and was quite chilly for Southern Californians. Our time at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier reminded us of the honor our country has given to those who gave their lives for our freedom. The guard was changed with precision and our four students: Anna Koning, Brooke Sebek, Cassidy Mulder, and Jake Hooker (who had an accident earlier but still did his part) did a great job in honoring these men on behalf of Redlands Christian School.

After visiting the Iwo Jima Memorial we had dinner at Union Station where students had many choices for their evening meal. Three Memorials were left for our evening tour. The Vietnam and Korean Memorials had us reflect on two difficult times in our Nation’s history. We climbed the many steps to the Lincoln Memorial and viewed the reflecting pool (which was drained, but still had a little water in it due to the massive snowstorm from a few weeks ago) and, in the distance, the Washington Monument.

Fatigued was the word when we returned to the hotel. After reinforcing the need to get to bed and sleep, a fire alarm went off and we exited down 12 flights of stairs into the cold night. Many of us were not clothed for the weather. Fortunately, nothing was found and we were allowed to return. Unfortunately, we had 12 flights of stairs to climb as elevators do not function in these emergencies; just one more memory for our trip! ☺

We are off to bed, hoping for a good night’s sleep. We have another exciting day planned for tomorrow and we don’t know what surprises will be in store for our group!

Quotable quotes:

“Can we see the never ending, I mean everlasting flame at Arlington Cemetery?”

Parent who will remain nameless (Fran): “I hate uneventful trips. We need something to make this trip stand out!”

Mr. Wit: “Are three wipeouts, one wheelchair, four stitches, a hotel clearing fire alarm, a trip to the ER, and some good old fashion gut rot, good enough for one day?”

Mr. Boersen: “There is nothing worse than a wounded animal.” Talking about a certain young man’s toughness as he postponed a trip to the ER so that he could lay the wreath at the Tomb of the unknown Solider.

“If one of our kids pulled the fire alarm, I will pay for his/her plane ticket home.” An irate parent having to clear her room at 10:32 pm.

“Mrs. Wojczynski, how many phones did the teachers confiscate last night?”

“Man, there are a lot of alumni on this trip!!” Students referring to the all of the times we ran into Elizabeth Nydam (05) and Christian Palermo (04).

“People from all over the world recognize our Flat Stanleys! I am so glad they are on our trip!!!”