



# The Sentinel

Tuesday, March 16

It's Tuesday and it's our last day in DC. We definitely saved our best for last. We began our day with a visit to the White House. President Obama didn't invite us in, but we did get to see it from the outside. It was interesting to see the large tent on a building across the street with news cameras permanently aimed at the White House ready to record any event that may materialize. While we were there, we saw VP Joe Biden's motorcade go by as he was on his way to his office building.

Our next stop was the Pentagon. We were impressed to learn that it has more floor space than the Empire State Building. We were broken up into small groups which were led by military personnel. We were impressed with the discipline they showed and how they could lead our groups while they walked backwards at a normal walking pace without hitting anything. The military displays were great, but we were touched by the tributes to those who died in the 9-11 attacks. We loved to read all the patchwork quilts that were hanging on the walls. Most had been made by school children and many had Bible verses on them to comfort those who had loved ones that had died. We came back again later in the evening to see the outside memorial park. The lighting of the benches that represented those who died created a much more respectful atmosphere at night.

Sixteen museums, so little time! That's how we felt when we visited the Smithsonian. Museums. Some of the favorites were Air and Space, American History, National Gallery of Art, The National Archives, and Natural History. The Hope Diamond, the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution, the Bill of Rights, and an awesome American Flag were some of the favorite things many of us saw. Other than one group getting lost, a great time was had by all.

Our next trip was up to the top of the 555-foot, 5 inches Washington Monument. All students agreed that the view of Washington DC from the top of the monument was the best anywhere.

The WW II memorial is the newest memorial in DC. It was dedicated in 2005. There are wreaths hung on the walls for each of the fifty states and the fountains were beautiful. It was at this memorial that we were introduced to "Killroy". It seems that during WWII, there was a figure of a head peaking up over a wall with the words "Killroy was here" written underneath. People in Europe put this picture and sentence in places where US soldiers would see it. This would tell our soldiers that were sympathetic to the United States. That sentence and picture were hidden at the memorial and students enjoyed trying to find it.

The Air Force Memorial is a memorial with three tall spires reaching over 200 feet into the air. The spires really caught the sun as it was going down. As we looked at the list of those who had fallen, we saw a name from San Bernardino.

We ended the day by assembling on the steps of the Capitol building to pray for our country. It was appropriate that this was the last thing we did as a class as we leave our Capitol - much better than a protest. As students prayed and tears flowed, we could see their love and concern for our country. God bless America and God bless our students!

### Quotable Quotes:

"What a great group of kids!" Sohailah and Jessica, our tour guides

"I have lost all of my pride." distraught father as he found out one of his history facts, that he shared with his entire bus, turned out to be an urban legend.

"I liked everything about Washington D.C., except the wake-up calls." Student as he reflected on his time in the Nation's Capitol.

"Why does the red bus count so much faster than the blue bus?" One bus driver to another.

"Son, you need to chew your food better!" Father to his son in a teachable moment after the son's father learned that his toilet was clogged.