

KARL ROVE

February 18, 2009

Dear Fellow Delegates:

Congratulations on your acceptance into the U.S. Senate Youth Program. No other program gives talented high school students such an intimate look at the inner workings of our nation's government and its leaders.

I have fond memories of my experience in the program, which took place 40 years ago this month. It was my first visit to Washington, and the schedule of events did not disappoint. Each day was packed with exciting moments: a visit to the State Department, tours of the FBI and the Supreme Court, a briefing at the Defense Department, and speeches by the House Minority Leader, Secretary of State, a Supreme Court justice, and Senator Barry Goldwater—a political hero of mine. On our last day in Washington, my fellow delegates and I went to the White House to meet President Nixon. It was my first visit to the place where I'd work 32 years later.

For an 18-year-old from Utah with dreams of working in politics, Washington Week could not have been more exciting or made more of an impact on me. To this day, I blame the U.S. Senate Youth Program for giving me an incurable case of "Potomac fever." I knew I'd make my way back to Washington someday, just as many of you will return for careers in public service.

I thank the U.S. Senate Youth Program for providing 47 years of incredible learning experiences and for nurturing leadership skills, friendships, and a passion for politics and American government among our nation's youth. I congratulate this year's delegates and wish you much success.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Karl Rove". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly stylized font. The first letter "K" is large and prominent. The signature is positioned above the printed name "Karl Rove".

Karl Rove