



UNITED STATES SENATE YOUTH PROGRAM

FIFTY-FIRST ANNUAL WASHINGTON WEEK ★ MARCH 9-16, 2013



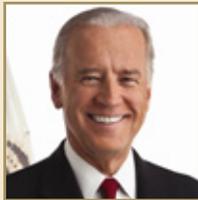


Forget conventionalisms; forget what the world thinks of you stepping out of your place; think your best thoughts, speak your best words, work your best works, looking to your own conscience for approval.

SUSAN B. ANTHONY

2013 UNITED STATES SENATE YOUTH PROGRAM
SENATE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

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UNITED STATES SENATE RESOLUTION 324

In 1962, Senate Resolution 324, submitted by Senator KUCHEL (for himself and Senators MANSFIELD, DIRKSEN, and HUMPHREY), was referred to the Committee on Rules and Administration, and, subsequently, unanimously approved by the United States Senate as follows:

WHEREAS the continued vitality of our Republic depends, in part, on the intelligent understanding of our political processes and the functions of our National Government by the citizens of the United States; and

WHEREAS the durability of a constitutional democracy is dependent upon alert, talented, vigorous competition for political leadership; and

WHEREAS individual Senators have cooperated with various private and university undergraduate and graduate fellowship and internship programs relating to the work of Congress; and

WHEREAS in the high schools of the United States, there exists among students who have been elected to student body offices in their junior or senior year a potential reservoir of young citizens who are experiencing their first responsibilities of service to a constituency and who should be encouraged to deepen their interest in and understanding of their country's political process: Now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Senate hereby expresses its willingness to cooperate in a nationwide competitive high school Senate youth program which would give several representative high school students from each State a short indoctrination into the operation of the United States Senate and the Federal Government generally, if such a program can be satisfactorily arranged and completely supported by private funds with no expense to the Federal Government.

RESOLUTION 146. To amend S. Res. 324 of the Eighty-seventh Congress to provide for the participation of the Department of Defense education system for dependents in overseas areas in the Senate Youth Program.

RESOLVED, That S. Res. 324, Eighty-seventh Congress, agreed to May 17, 1963, is amended by adding at the end thereof the following new section:

SECTION 3. For the purpose of this resolution, the term "State" includes the education system for dependents in overseas areas.



CONGRATULATIONS FROM WILLIAM RANDOLPH HEARST III

Dear Delegates,

It is my pleasure to congratulate the 2013 class of the United States Senate Youth Program. Your energy, curiosity, and commitment to public service made the week an inspirational experience for us all.

On behalf of everyone at The Hearst Foundations we thank you for the high level of participation and the rigorous questions you brought to the sessions with our esteemed speakers. We also noticed your spirit of camaraderie and respectful debate, as you exchanged views with your peers from across the nation and the political spectrum.

The 51st annual Washington Week held a few surprises, including a leisurely visit inside the East Wing of the White House, culminating with a private Q&A with the President on his busy day; a State Department presentation from Secretary of State John Kerry; and the wonderfully long and in-depth session at the Supreme Court with recently appointed Justice Elena Kagan. At our reception, 70 U.S. Senators came to meet their home state delegates, staying to congratulate them, and posing for individual pictures.

Many memories were made that week which you will treasure for years to come.

The Hearst Foundations are honored to sponsor this unique and enduring partnership with the United States Senate, the 50 state departments of education, and such outstanding students.

Now more than 5,100 strong, USSYP alumni include Senator Susan Collins of Maine, the first delegate elected to the U.S. Senate; Congressman Cory Gardner of Colorado, the first delegate elected to the U.S. House of Representatives; New Jersey Governor Chris Christie; former Chief Judge Robert Henry, U.S. Court of Appeals; former Ambassador to West Germany Richard Burt; former presidential advisors, congressional staff and many other accomplished individuals. We salute all of you, and thank the many speakers who took the time to participate and stay for questions.

We also wish to express our gratitude to our 2013 program Co-Chairs, Senator Jeanne Shaheen of New Hampshire and Senator Richard Burr of North Carolina. Without their help and support throughout the planning year, the program would not have been possible.

Finally, Washington Week could not take place without the continued endorsement of the Senate Committee on Rules and Administration and their excellent staff. The U.S. Senate and USSYP also thank the staff of the Council of Chief State Schools Officers and all of the state-level scholarship administrators for their pivotal roles in the student selection process.

The program's mission shall continue as long as there are young people in America with a dedication to academic excellence and a desire to serve their country and their communities.

WILLIAM RANDOLPH HEARST III



UNITED STATES SENATE ★ YOUTH PROGRAM ★

EDUCATION · LEADERSHIP · PUBLIC SERVICE

The United States Senate Youth Program is an intensive week-long educational experience sponsored by the United States Senate that nurtures an important reservoir of student talent and energy toward the high purpose of public service.

The program was created by Senate Resolution 324 in 1962, as stated in supporting Senate testimony from that year, “to increase young Americans’ understanding of the interrelationships of the three branches of government, the caliber and responsibilities of federally elected and appointed officials, and the vital importance of democratic decision making not only for America but for people around the world.”

The 51st annual Washington Week once again brought 104 outstanding high school students—two from every state, the District of Columbia and the Department of Defense Education Activity—to Washington, D.C. to see the federal government up close, and meet and interact with those who lead it. As the students develop a deeper commitment to public service, they also form intellectual and emotional bonds with their peers from across the nation.

Administered and funded by The Hearst Foundations, USSYP utilizes no government funds. The program is highly competitive and merit based. Qualified students—those already serving in an elected capacity with excellent academic performance—are nominated by their teachers, principals and guidance counselors, and are ultimately selected by their state education agencies nationwide. Delegates are also each awarded a \$5,000 college scholarship, with certificates often personally presented by their U.S. Senators, and are encouraged to continue coursework in history, government and public affairs.



WELCOME TO WASHINGTON!

Excitement and Alumni Mentoring on First Day in D.C.

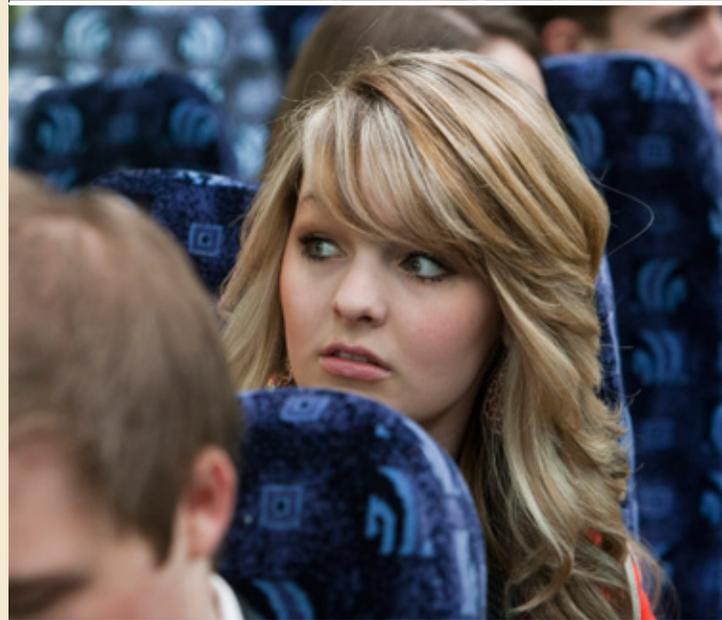
After weeks of anticipation and introductions on Facebook, delegates traveled from every part of the country to be met at the local airports and train station and brought to the historic Mayflower Hotel in downtown Washington, D.C. Meeting for the first time, students are welcomed by their Military Mentors, USSYP alumni and staff. USSYP alumni have distinguished themselves in the fields of government, education, law, healthcare, engineering, information technology, the non-profit sector, business and journalism, and are on hand at designated mentoring tables to network with the delegates and answer questions about education and careers.

On the evening of their arrival day the students are formally introduced to their Military Mentors, seventeen competitively selected male and female officers from each service branch, assigned to help guide the delegates through the logistics and protocol of the demanding week to come.

The United States Senate Youth Alumni Association (ussyaa.org) has forged and maintained ties with thousands of program alumni. In addition to on-going activities throughout the year, alumni gather during Washington Week for the association's annual dinner and board meeting.



United States Senate Youth Alumni Association President Rachel Lowe (OR – 2000)





DEMOCRATIC CO-CHAIR
SENATOR
JEANNE SHAHEEN
of New Hampshire

You are called upon **TO DO EVEN MORE**

As the keynote speaker of the 51st annual Washington Week opening night dinner, USSYP Democratic Co-Chair Senator Jeanne Shaheen of New Hampshire recalled her college years and the genesis of her political involvement. “Back in 1965, the war was raging in Vietnam and 18-year-olds didn’t have the right to vote.” Frustrated that the political system was not keeping pace with social change, she sought advice from a favorite political science professor who told her that “government works when enough people get upset about the country’s policies, driving the policies to change’—and, in fact, he was right!” she reflected. The only woman in U.S. history to be elected both a Governor and a United States Senator, Senator Shaheen said, “Those lessons, the importance of getting involved, of working within the system to make change, were lessons that I have carried with me throughout my life.” It was not surprising that the Senator clearly enjoyed the spirited interaction with the student delegates, as she had been a high school teacher earlier in life prior to entering politics. Now serving as her state’s senior Senator, she cited several accomplishments



during her term that she felt significantly helped her constituents including preventing home foreclosures, retaining jobs and supporting the repeal of “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell.” “Nothing worth having comes easily,” she said, “But if you show up, work hard and put forth the effort, you can make a significant impact in your community and your country.” Senator Shaheen also pointed out that the value of a good education “isn’t just about personally getting ahead, but also utilizing your education to contribute to society.” Quoting John F. Kennedy, she said of the talented delegates before her, “You are called upon to do even more—this country needs your passion, your idealism, and your energy. Make the most of your opportunities—they are boundless.”

Senator Shaheen with New Hampshire delegates Allison Thompson and John Parsons



REPUBLICAN CO-CHAIR
**SENATOR
RICHARD BURR**
of North Carolina

Republican Co-Chair Offers Lessons

IN HISTORY AND LEADERSHIP

Senator Richard Burr of North Carolina gave his keynote remarks on Tuesday night of Washington Week against the stunning backdrop of the National Archives Rotunda, which houses the nation's founding documents. He spoke of his never-ending wonder at the beauty and majesty of the artwork contained in the Capitol, such as Constantino Brumidi's fresco of the Apotheosis of George Washington inside the Capitol dome. "The Capitol is full, just like the Archives, of those foundational works that create the roadmap of where this country is going and, more importantly, where we've been." The construction of the Capitol dome sparked more historical insight from the senior Senator, now in his second Senate term following ten years in the House: "In the midst of the Civil War, Abraham Lincoln had a decision to make. He looked at the unfinished dome and decided that to stop construction would send a signal that if you wanted to halt government all you had to do was start a war. He chose to complete the dome as the battle waged on—some people saw a war, and Lincoln saw hope; some people saw two armies, and Lincoln saw one nation." Regarding the Constitution encased behind him, Senator Burr quoted Ronald Reagan, who noted that most other countries'



constitutions begin with “We the Government”—in stark contrast to ours connoting individual responsibility and leadership. “Someone has always stepped up in American history,” he said, “whenever we’ve had that tough turn to make, somebody has always stepped forward and facilitated the decision, and I will tell you it’s because they have embraced our foundational principles, which are embedded in the documents that you see here.” He told the students about Alexis de Tocqueville’s impression of Americans as having a singular capacity to give time and resources to those in need, and to solve problems with a collective will. Today, Senator Burr lamented, many Americans are no longer willing to make sacrifices for their country, particularly with regard to the fiscal challenges we face. Even elected officials, he said, can be “more concerned about self-preservation than making difficult decisions for their constituents.” He concluded optimistically, however, by commending the students for their commitment to public service, defining that as the nation’s true safeguard, and by restating his belief in bipartisan cooperation. “Leadership is absolutely essential to get Congress to do something that inherently they don’t feel comfortable doing, even though they know they need to do it. My hope is that you’ll see that leadership, and that it will come from the Congress and the White House, and we really will talk about big solutions to big problems in this calendar year.”

[bottom left] Senator Burr with North Carolina delegates Noah Ponton and Aditya Garg

[bottom right] Archivist of the U.S. David Ferriero with Massachusetts delegates Andrew Meshnick and Reily Connaughton

SUPREME COURT JUSTICE ELENA KAGAN

The Newest Justice Marks First Appearance at USSYP

Supreme Court Justice Elena Kagan displayed a scintillating mind combined with disarmingly warm humor in her inaugural speaking event with the USSYP delegates, quickly making the students feel comfortable in the vaunted setting of the Supreme Courtroom. As she regaled them with stories about turning into a D.C.-style celebrity who was recognized at Starbucks and becoming “hunting buddies” with her colleague Justice Antonin Scalia, it became clear that the former Chicago and Harvard Law Schools professor, who was the first female dean of Harvard Law School, delighted in the company of students. The newest and youngest Justice described the Supreme Court not as “a court to correct the ‘errors’ of the

lower courts, but rather as the court that resolves conflicts, creates uniformity in law across the nation, and addresses major national issues facing society, for the system as a whole.” Asked how her experience in academia influences her as a Justice, she likened her preparation techniques to teach a class to those she employs now in writing opinions. “I always liked finding ways to teach information so that it would stay in people’s minds, taking them through material carefully step by step and using lively analogies and language to make concepts stick.” Through taking many questions in a generous Q and A session, Justice Kagan revealed some of the subtle dynamics that exist among the nine Justices. “We work very hard

to know where law is and where politics and partisanship begin,” she said. “The stereotype may be that this is a political institution, but the Justices religiously put politics out of their minds when engrossed in a decision, their differences reside more in their interpretation of the Constitution or different Constitutional philosophies.” New technologies will pose one of the greatest legal challenges in the future, she predicted, citing the question of government intrusion into privacy that will loom large in a digital, data-driven world. When asked for general career advice, Justice Kagan smiled, “Always do what you love—do what you have a passion for. The fun and interesting thing about life is finding out what that is.”



Justice Kagan with New York delegates Aaron Miller and Olivia Castor

FORMER CHIEF JUDGE, U.S. COURT
OF APPEALS FOR THE 10TH CIRCUIT

ROBERT H. HENRY

USSYP Alumnus, OK – 1971



MULTIFACETED ALUMNUS GIVES JUDICIAL PERSPECTIVE ON COURT DAY

Former Chief Judge of the Tenth Circuit Court of Appeals and current President of Oklahoma City University, Robert H. Henry kicked off Washington Week 2013 by holding up the reporter's notebook given to each student in their welcome bag, "Hang on to this, take it with you, make some notes. It's a great thing—I still look at mine." The highly distinguished USSYP alumnus (OK – 1971) launched into a fascinating discussion about the federal judiciary, "the gold standard in the world," citing several important issues before the Supreme Court this year which could result in sweeping laws being overturned. "Never have there been so many cases that put the counter-majoritarian difficulty to the test; the black robes have to decide," Judge Henry offered. In the case *Hollingsworth v. Perry*, the Court will rule on whether the 14th Amendment prohibits states from defining marriage as between one man and one woman, potentially overruling the voters of California. "At one time 41 states prohibited interracial marriage and the Court overruled that," he said, adding that although cultural mores are rapidly changing, the legal definition of marriage is a complicated proposal. He then discussed the extension of the Voting Rights Act, another major ruling pending this session, saying, "At this remarkable time, when people can't seem to reach across the aisle in Congress and talk, the Court has to deal with the questions." During an in-depth question and answer period on the morning of the day the delegates visited the Supreme Court, Judge Henry touched on other issues including open primaries, decriminalization of drug crimes, anti-recidivism programs in prison and law versus justice. Concluding, he said, "Take in the week. Drink it in. It will affect you even 42 years later."



*Judge Henry with Oklahoma delegates
Johnathan Young and Emma Hutchison*



DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Rousing Remarks from the New Secretary



The annual USSYP luncheon in the magnificent Benjamin Franklin State Dining Room had just begun when Secretary of State John F. Kerry strode into the room to greet the delegates, shaking as many hands as he could on his way to the podium. “Your future is not around the corner, it is NOW,” enjoined the newly appointed Secretary who had taken the post just one month earlier. Through his long Senate career, culminating in the chairmanship of the powerful Senate Foreign Relations Committee, Secretary Kerry had always been an ardent supporter of the USSYP and his passion for youth leadership was evident. “We need people who can find common ground, who are not prisoners of ideology or orthodoxy,” he said, noting that the intransigence in Washington is eroding America’s diplomatic credibility on the world stage. He encouraged the delegates to continue and deepen their commitment to national causes, recalling his own activism against the Vietnam War, his role in the Freedom Rides during the Civil Rights Era,



and as part of the early environmental movement that resulted in the creation of the Environmental Protection Agency. “Don’t ever think that young people can’t make a difference—you can and you will,” said the former four-term Senator who had also served as Lieutenant Governor of Massachusetts prior to winning his Senate seat. Secretary Kerry was followed by the State Department Spokesperson of the Bureau of Near Eastern Affairs, Mr. Aaron D. Snipe, who described the two great “ships” of American foreign policy as leadership and partnership. “Finding the ‘sweet spot’ between those two ‘ships’ is the goal,” he stated, citing U.S. foreign policy in the Middle East since the Arab Spring as an example. “Secretary Clinton called it the three Ds: Defense, Diplomacy and Development. This is the balance we have to strike in the 21st century.” The student delegates were then able to engage in a lengthy question and answer session with the career diplomat who had served previously in American embassies in Iraq and Ethiopia.



[opposite page – top right] Aaron Snipe, Spokesperson for the Bureau of Near Eastern Affairs [bottom right] California delegate Josephine Kao [this page – above left] Michael Hammer, Assistant Secretary for Public Affairs [above right] Thomas B. Gibbons, Acting Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs [bottom] student delegates viewing the Treaty of Paris in the Diplomatic Reception Rooms

NANCY ERICKSON AND ELIZABETH MACDONOUGH

Senior Senate Officers Offer Primer on Rules, History and Parliamentary Procedure

The Senate's most senior administrative officers, Secretary of the Senate Nancy Erickson and Parliamentarian Elizabeth MacDonough, met with the student delegates in the historic Kennedy Caucus Room to conduct an educational session on Senate procedures and history. Secretary Erickson reflected on her journey from a small town in South Dakota with one traffic light to the people who inspired her to pursue her dream to work in Washington, D.C. as a public servant. "During my tenure, there has been no higher gratification than to hear a constituent simply say, 'Thank you for helping me.'" Secretary Erickson described the workings of the Senate as an anchor, a cooling saucer, a fence and a slow-plodding work horse, and she marveled at the fact that "the core responsibilities given to the Secretary in 1789 have stood the test of time and remained the core responsibilities of my office today." Secretary Erickson concluded, "After your week in Washington, I hope you'll gain a greater appreciation for the public servants of our country because their work is, indeed, noble." As with her predecessor, Senate Parliamentarian Elizabeth MacDonough reserves her one public speech each year for her address to the U.S. Senate Youth Program. Her event with the delegates this year marked her first speech in 13 months as the first female Parliamentarian. "Doing something important in your life, something that you feel is meaningful to your community and to you, that's why you are here." Ms. MacDonough said the same motivation propelled her into the Parliamentarian's office 17 years ago, one she described "as a nonpartisan, apolitical umpire for the Senate, a neutral arbiter of its rules and



[top] Nancy Erickson with South Dakota delegates Elizabeth Renner and Samantha Beck [bottom] Elizabeth MacDonough with District of Columbia delegates Ray Clark and Katherine Thomas-Canfield.

procedures and interpreter of federal laws and the Constitution as they apply to the Senate's conduct of business." One of the responsibilities of the Parliamentarian's office is to officially tally up the votes for President of the United States. Ms. MacDonough recounted her quite extraordinary experience of serving as Assistant Parliamentarian after the 2004 Bush v. Gore election while Vice President Gore presided over the joint session in deciding his fate. "It was remarkable that after the least peaceful transition of government we have seen in years, Vice President Gore was autographing the backs of envelopes for people and asking where their kids were going to college." Echoing Secretary Erickson's sentiments about the nobility of public service, Ms. MacDonough commented: "The people here are hardworking; they believe in what they are doing; they believe in the good they can do through the problems they are trying to solve; they believe in the youth of America and trying to uplift our country by investing in our future, and I believe in that as well."

SENATE HISTORIAN

DON RITCHIE

History of the Presidential Inauguration

Senate Historian Dr. Don Ritchie provided the delegates a timely address on the congressional role in Presidential inaugurations, focusing specifically on the significance of the second inauguration. This is “the point when the President figures out what his administration is all about,” he said, offering Franklin D. Roosevelt as an example. “He didn’t know what the New Deal was going to be in 1933—the country was in a grave crisis; he was an experimentalist and there was a lot of planning going on. Certainly by 1936 he knew what the New Deal was and where it was heading.” Shedding light on the importance of President Obama’s recent inaugural speech, he also lauded Abraham Lincoln’s second inaugural address for being “one of the greatest speeches in American history, yet short enough to inscribe on the wall of his monument.” Dr. Ritchie was part of the Senate Historical Office team researching and preparing for the inauguration events, alongside the Congressional Joint Committee on the Inauguration. He highlighted the unifying role that the inauguration plays in American politics, particularly significant in the divided Washington of today. Citing George Washington’s first impromptu 1789 address in the Senate Chamber that set the precedent for future inaugurals, he described its function as, “our way of bringing everybody back together again for that moment to say ‘this is no longer a candidate, this is the President of the United States serving to align all parties behind the democratically elected leader.’” Commenting on the current state of political partisanship Dr. Ritchie again offered historical context: “The kinds of clashes occurring currently are actually standard practice to some degree. They have become more heightened because politics are more polarized, people have dug into their positions, and it’s harder for people to reach compromise, but it’s always been a difficult process in Washington, D.C.”



Dr. Don Ritchie with Maryland delegates Jacob Rosenblum and Abigail Hoyt

He reminded the delegates: “The whole purpose of our Constitution essentially is to pit one branch of government versus the other. James Madison succinctly described this in the Federalist Papers by saying, ‘Ambition must be made to counteract ambition.’” Therefore, Dr. Ritchie opined, despite the clashes between the President and Congress, “The more they clash, the more the need for compromise will become obvious, and at some point they will sit down and they will draft those compromises.” In closing, the erudite historian described some of the Senate leaders who had inspired him, largely those who worked for consensus and compromise over long and productive careers, such as Robert Byrd, Henry Clay and Edward Kennedy.



SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION RAY LAHOOD

Bipartisanship Personified, Cabinet Secretary and Congressman Puts Spotlight on Compromise

U.S. Secretary of Transportation Ray LaHood gave an eye-opening Washington Week breakfast address to the delegates, offering sobering examples of how America's fiscal challenges are affecting its aging infrastructure. Describing the nation as "one big pothole," Secretary LaHood predicted that the upcoming reauthorization of the nation's major transportation legislation could remedy the situation if long-term investment and compromise are the order of the day. "Do we raise the Highway Trust Fund? Do we raise the gas tax? Do we find other ways of funding transportation?" asked the former seven-term Congressman, laying out the choices lawmakers face in the context of current debt and deficit challenges. A Republican now serving in a Democratic cabinet, Secretary LaHood was hopeful that Congress will be compelled to forge consensus over the urgent need for infrastructure improvement. Known as a moderate, he gave a quick lesson on the forthcoming action highlighting the crucial role of the committees: "The process of compromise is enshrined in the committee structure—there, through the hearing process, is really where the debate takes place. This is where listening takes place. This is where compromise takes place, and 'compromise' is not a bad word. Do you have to compromise your principles? Of course not." Secretary LaHood shared the arc of his long career in public service, that began as a teacher

in middle school before entering government. He emphasized the continuous learning curve that has been critical to his success, first in local government and then as a congressional staffer before running to serve Illinois' 18th district; ultimately serving as Chairman of the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure from 1995–2000. Delivering a passionate plea to abstain from texting and driving, he said: "The reason that I call texting and driving 'an epidemic' is because we all have mobile devices and we all think we can use them anytime, anywhere. The one place you cannot use these is when you're behind the wheel of a car. If you're looking down, you can go the length of a football field in four seconds without looking through the front windshield. You were all taught both hands on the wheel, both eyes on the road, and you must not forget it." Closing on an optimistic note, he reminded the delegates that as a Republican serving a Democratic president, he personifies the fact that bipartisanship exists. "What you're experiencing now is a very important time in the history of our country, and I have no doubt that many of you will be forming that history. I hope that you'll remember this experience as a part of what enabled you to think about how we solve big problems."

Secretary LaHood with Illinois delegates Thomas Clark and Anais Carell

SENATOR BOB CORKER

Tennessee CEO Comes to Washington



Senator Bob Corker of Tennessee was a fresh and exciting keynote speaker in his first appearance with the United States Senate Youth Program. Describing his early life and ambition to work hard to get ahead, he portrayed his successful entrepreneurial career in the construction business as both thrilling and fulfilling. “My advice to you as young people is first, master a skill at a young age so that for the rest of your life you will possess something of value and you will be independent. Second, develop a big vision for yourself and for those around you, for even if you don’t achieve all of it you will accomplish so much more than if your vision had been small. And third, give back.” Having come directly from a luncheon meeting with President Obama, and after attending a recent outreach dinner with him just a week earlier, Senator Corker was primed to discuss the optimism for bipartisan cooperation on issues facing the new Congress. Citing the country’s fiscal dilemma as most critical he said, “The best opportunity to solve this problem is through Presidential leadership—without that nothing happens, and I am confident we are now building a better foundation to work from.” Humorously comparing the difference in being CEO to being Senator (“You know, when I wake up in the morning and come to the Capitol, the other 99 Senators just don’t do what I say for some reason!”) the former Tennessee Commissioner of Finance and former Mayor of Chattanooga said that his business background keeps him pushing for results. “The Senate is made up of 100 people who are from very different backgrounds; the way the place works is that each person offers something unique and typically tries to serve on committees where they can make the most difference,” he said, noting his senior position on the Senate Banking Committee. He recalled a trip he took to Haiti where he utilized his company’s expertise to create affordable housing, only to come home and recognize the same poverty existed in his own city and state. This incited him to start a local philanthropy and to run for Senate. “There is nothing in life that will make you feel more whole as a human being than helping others,” he concluded.

Senator Corker with Tennessee delegates James-Roland Markos and Samira Ibrahim



A CONVERSATION WITH THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

The President was slated to see the USSYP delegates just after his last meeting of the day—and as life goes in the West Wing, that meeting was going long. While waiting, the 104 students, military officers and education guests were given the special privilege of enjoying an extended private sojourn in the beautiful public rooms of the Executive Mansion while White House aides answered questions. Finally, the moment arrived and the energy was electric as the Commander in Chief entered the East Room, congratulating the students and shaking several hands. “What concerns me about your generation is that the technology you interact with everyday will lead you to expect instant gratification in life—and nothing really worth working toward comes easy,” he said, also counseling the delegates to focus their passions more on what they wanted to do in the world than what they wanted ‘to be.’ When asked which personal qualities he felt best served him as President, Mr. Obama answered, “perseverance,” noting that he has an unusual ability to always see the long-term goal which helps him stay above the emotional fray of the moment. Offering the students an exceptional amount of his time, the President also told the group that he felt confident that immigration reform of some type would pass this year, so if he could have one wish for an additional legislative accomplishment it would be on issues of alternative energy and other research and development to stem the threat of climate change. “We have to do all we can to save this beautiful planet we live on, for all of us, and for your future.”





Assistant Director Hosko with Pennsylvania delegates Dylan Brown and Sarah Rudasill

FIDELITY, BRAVERY, INTEGRITY

A Visit to the FBI

The student delegates were given a rare opportunity to visit the headquarters of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, an agency closed to the public since the September 11th attacks. The group toured an educational exhibition made available to select organizations only, which covers key events and individuals in the agency's crime-fighting history. A speaking presentation followed, featuring both a firearms demonstration and keynote remarks from senior staff member Special Agent Ronald Hosko, Assistant Director of the Criminal Investigative Division. Cutting his teeth in counterterrorism at the Salt Lake City Olympic Games, Assistant Director Hosko told the delegates of his work to thwart five suspects who were caught trying to disrupt the international event. He explained the FBI's role within the intelligence community as one of cooperating with other agencies to

fight terrorism at home and abroad. Mr. Hosko discussed his own career path—completing law school and then interning in the U.S. Attorney General's office. His long career at the bureau has included many high-profile gang, pornography and financial crime cases, giving him a broad perspective on the underlying causes of these problems. "Violence and crime are often products of societal conditions related to poverty, despair, unemployment and poor schools," he said, noting specifically that we lack sufficient after-school programs and high-quality education and skills training programs. Mr. Hosko took many questions from the delegates, emphasizing that as the agency adapts to changes in technology and globalization, a career at the FBI combines domestic law enforcement with international intelligence and counterterrorism work.

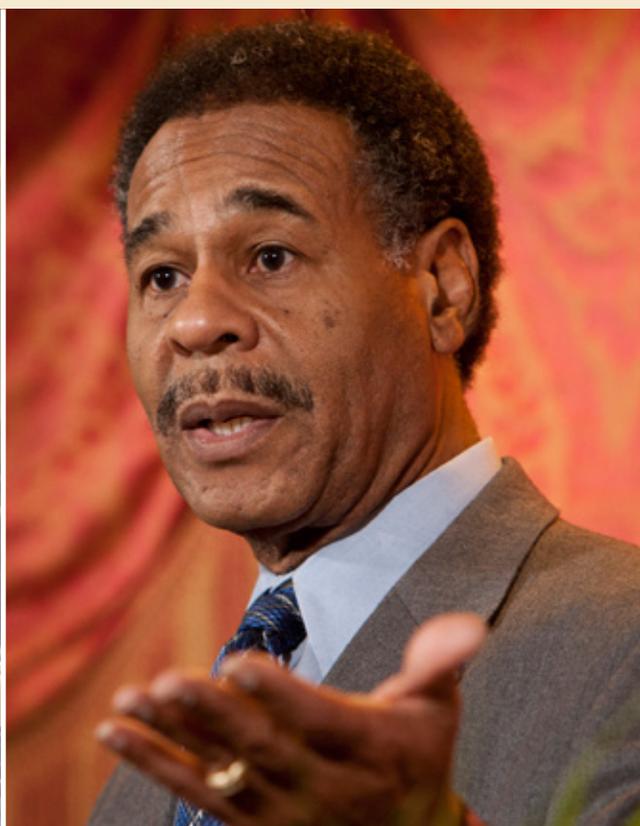
CONGRESSMAN EMANUEL CLEAVER, II

Nothing Sugar Coated About It

Congressman Emanuel Cleaver, II (D), currently in his fifth term serving Missouri's fifth district, didn't mince words in offering his stark assessment of the current state of Washington politics: "When you add the economic woes including the debt and deficit to the inability of Congress to act, we face a very, very serious problem. We are not functioning at a level that our forefathers and foremothers did, which made this nation great." Congress is "tragically dysfunctional," he said, because of people who "refuse to put logic ahead of ideology." Citing a recent national political poll he noted, "Root canals and Brussels sprouts have a higher approval rating than Congress," and he condemned the leadership decisions that drove us to this point. "For the first time in history, the U.S. fought a war and did not ask the American public to pay for it. In fact, we're the only nation in the history of the planet who went into a war and then gave tax cuts, which was a clear signal that something bad was going to happen with our debt because the war in Iraq was not budgeted. We did not spend American tax dollars. The Chinese financed the war in Iraq and Afghanistan, we borrowed the money from them, which is one of the reasons we'll never go to war with them, because they won't finance it." Representative Cleaver

described the recent enactment of sequestration, which was predicted to be solely a draconian threat, as a "sugar-coated Satan sandwich," because "it was clear from the outset that the acrimony in D.C. would persist and the automatic cuts would inevitably occur." He proposed that, "As a nation we must reduce spending, but in a sensible and intelligent way, not with arbitrary cuts." Americans are ready for their leaders to be bold, he said, "Great leaders don't follow precedents, they set them." When asked how he, a United Methodist Pastor turned Mayor of Kansas City, separates politics from religion in his decision-making, he said: "People will say you shouldn't mix religion and politics, and usually my question is, how do you un-mix it? There is an inextricable connection that exists—it just does, it always has. Moses got in trouble for getting involved in politics. He was a religious leader and got into some trouble with a guy named Pharaoh." He ended his remarks with a call to action: "The future of the United States is not in the hands of President Obama or Congress, it's in yours. We need to get good and decent people who are willing to run for public office and who will stand up against people, even in their own political party, if they disagree with them."

Congressman Cleaver with Missouri delegates Anjali Fernandes and Zachary Bequette





STRENGTH, DIPLOMACY AND ALLIANCES

The Director of the Joint Staff Paints Nuanced Portrait of American Military Priorities

Lieutenant General Curtis "Mike" Scaparrotti, Director of the Joint Staff, gave the delegates a comprehensive portrayal of America's military operations worldwide while addressing the group in the Pentagon's main auditorium as part of the annual USSYP visit to the Department of Defense. He described the global structure of Combatant Commanders divided among the Pacific, Middle East, Southern, Northern and European regions, who report to the Joint Staff. "Although I am in the military, and I think most of us in the military would tell you this, we are the first ones who do not have a desire to go to war with anybody or to use military power," he said in response to a question on the use of diplomacy. The West Point graduate who previously served as a commander of U.S. forces in Afghanistan as well as several other key leadership positions at the tactical, operational, and strategic levels in the United States military, outlined the work of his current position as the Chief of Staff to four-star General Martin E. Dempsey, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and the highest ranking military officer in the American Armed Forces. "General

Dempsey's job is to provide the best military advice to the Secretary of Defense and the President, and our job as staff to the Service Chairmen is to support that endeavor," he explained. When asked to assess the most pressing threats facing the country today, LTG Scaparrotti acknowledged the dangers of nuclear armed North Korea and Iran, but also noted, "Although we have had success against al-Qaeda, we are very concerned about other violent extremist organizations that continue to be a threat because of global connectivity through technology and access to a great deal of money." He also pointed to cyber security as a key area of concern. Stressing the importance of global alliances and democratic institution building, LTG Scaparrotti left the delegates with a clearer understanding of the complex interaction between defense and diplomacy necessary to maintain peace and security.

Lieutenant General Scaparrotti with DODEA delegates Makayla Palazzo and Danari White

The Outstanding 2013

MILITARY MENTOR TEAM

The superb team of competitively selected military officers designated by the Office of the Secretary of Defense was led by Senior Military Officer Lieutenant Colonel Julie Huygen, USAF, and Assistant Senior Military Officer Major Eric McCoy, USA.



[left to right] Major Shiraz Dalal, USAF; Lieutenant Commander Brandon Smith, USN; Lieutenant Meghan Sinclair, USCG; Major Justin Woodruff, USMCR; Lieutenant Jaspreet Saini, USN; Captain Rusty Ridley, ANG; Lieutenant Hermie Mendoza, USCG; Commander Michael Beidler, USN; Major Stacey Colon, USMC; Major Sidney Cobb, Jr., USA; Lieutenant Colonel Julie Huygen, USAF; Major Douglas Dickson, ANG; Major Eric McCoy, USA; Captain Kevin Penn, USMC; Captain LaTika Dixon, USA; Lieutenant Eric Driggs, USCGR; Captain Velma Gay, USAF



Mutual Respect, Friendship and Interests

HIGHLIGHTED BY JAPANESE AMBASSADOR TO THE U.S.

“What do I mean when I say Japan and the United States have an alliance? To use American vernacular, we have each other’s backs, you know?” smiled His Excellency Kenichiro Sasae, the newly received Ambassador of Japan to the United States at the 51st annual U.S. Senate Youth Program Ambassador lunch. Ambassador Sasae spoke movingly about the United States’ response to the Great East Japan earthquake and tsunami of March 2011, “The word ‘tomodachi’ in Japanese means friendship. U.S. military support during Operation Tomodachi is a testament to our alliance, and it is a kindness Japan will never forget—I will never forget in my life.” He described a most touching moment amid the destruction and the chaos of that event: “When the American military personnel left in their helicopters from Sendai Airport, which had been under water and clogged with debris, they looked down from the air and noticed someone had spelled out—on the beach with logs and pine trees and driftwood—they spelled the word, ‘arigato,’ which means ‘thank you’ in Japanese.” The Ambassador discussed the mutual bond between the two nations, a friendship symbolized by the 3,000 cherry blossom trees lining the Tidal Basin at the Jefferson Memorial. “The heart of the Japan-U.S. alliance is based on a shared belief in freedom, democracy, the market economy, the rule of law, and respect

for human dignity,” he said. “We believe that a world based on these values is more peaceful and also more prosperous.” Ambassador Sasae highlighted the need for economic cooperation between the U.S. and Japan as the center of global growth moves to Asia, “We recognize that the situation in Asia is getting more tense—China is building up its military and is becoming more assertive on the seas, and the North Koreans are shooting missiles and testing nuclear bombs. But whatever happens in the Asia-Pacific region, I believe that the strengthening Japan-U.S. alliance is key because we share the values of democracy and liberty.” Recalling the warm welcome and profound learning experience he had as a high school exchange student in Chillicothe, Missouri, a small Midwestern town known as ‘The Home of Sliced Bread,’ Ambassador Sasae encouraged the delegates to consider participating in the Japan Exchange and Teaching program: “The Japanese people will like you, welcome you, and I believe it will be one of the best experiences of your life. You will find you are in a Japanese community that is the equivalent of ‘The Home of Sliced Bread’ to me.”

Ambassador Sasae with delegates Samira Ibrahim of Tennessee and John Micklos of Delaware

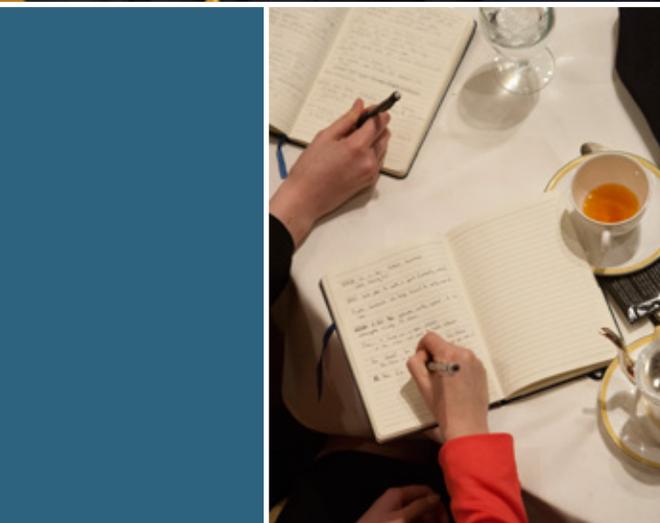
NASA: The Future Business

NASA Administrator Charles Bolden addressed the 2013 student delegates with rousing optimism and energy. “I believe in a future where young people like you are going to be the first people setting foot on Mars or leading from Earth a robotic mission to somewhere we’ve never been before,” he said, noting that even in the current budget-cutting climate, NASA’s austere and careful planning process has allowed for major new achievements. The retired Marine Corps Major General and former astronaut ignited the students’ interest in STEM careers—science, technology, engineering and math—by describing some of the science fiction-like missions NASA is undertaking in changing the trajectory of asteroids or exploring Mars, as well as recounting his own unique experiences as an astronaut, working alongside Soviet cosmonauts in the 1980s. Growing up poor in the segregated South, Administrator Bolden credits education as the key factor in his success, pointing out that his mother, a librarian, was “an explorer at heart.” “My parents were both educators. Their field of exploration was not deep space, like mine, it was education. Their vehicles were literature, history, and reading, and their destination was the untapped potential and empowerment of young girls and boys who they believed

could succeed, despite the obstacles of discrimination and poverty that were so prevalent in South Carolina at the time I was growing up. Things have changed, indeed, but our world can still be a tough place. I’m an optimist, though, and I choose to believe the better part of our nature will triumph.” Reflecting on his career in public service, he encouraged the delegates “not to let the opportunity to make a difference in your world pass you by.” He described the space agency’s consistently pioneering work in cooperation with other government entities as a great strength in serving the public good. “The research we do in space will benefit all of us on Earth, and help us make the next great leaps in human destiny,” he said, pointing to NASA’s work in conjunction with NOAA to understand climate change as a prime example. “We’ve got to be smarter than the dinosaurs, or we’ll end up like them.” In closing he summed up his passion for service, “Every single day I go home, I say, ‘We made life better for somebody today’—whether it was through a weather satellite or an unmanned aerial vehicle that identified earthquake damage or alerting people to a tsunami forming or through discovering another planet—we make life better for people every single day.”



*Administrator Bolden with
South Carolina delegates
Christian Ward and William Gaskins*





LIGHTS, CAMERA, ACTION!

C-SPAN Founder Hosts Town Hall Meeting for Reflection on Washington Week

The Grand Ballroom of the Mayflower Hotel was transformed for television as C-SPAN founder and Executive Chairman Brian Lamb employed three cameras and klieg lighting to ensure his annual town hall meeting with the USSYP delegates would be ready for a wider audience. C-SPAN, the Cable Satellite Public Affairs Network, was founded in 1979 by the young Lamb who set out to bring the proceedings of government directly to the people through the relatively new auspices of cable television. Armed with a microphone, Mr. Lamb roamed the room asking the delegates how they were selected, which speakers had the greatest impact on them and what feelings and impressions they would take away from a week of unparalleled access to the highest-level elected officials of the day. “My senators are very friendly,” said Tyler Shockley of Wyoming, recalling his interaction at the USSYP Annual Senate Reception with Senator Barrasso and Senator Enzi, “I thank them for coming, discussing with us, spending time with us, talking with us. And then when they had to go to meetings they left some staffers, so we got every question answered.” Mr. Lamb asked the delegates who were called on by President Obama how they formulated their questions. Others, such as Samira Ibrahim of Tennessee, gained new insight into the breadth and depth of talent needed in government, “I always had the perception that the federal government only pertained to political-minded people, but what I learned this week is that the government includes a broad range of careers, including STEM, like engineering and mathematics, which is what I’m interested in—the government needs a lot of people like me.” “I learned this week how humanizing politics is,” said Andrew Meschnick of Massachusetts. “It’s about people and interactions. And we learned that we can do this. We’re all capable of being leaders of our country.”

Brian Lamb with Indiana delegates Nicholas Mitch and Emma Hong



DISTINGUISHED EDUCATORS JOIN DELEGATES FOR 51ST ANNUAL WASHINGTON WEEK

The President of the National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP) and selection administrators from the states of the USSYP Senate Co-Chairs are invited to join the delegates each year for Washington Week. The program thanks our partners in education for all that they have done for fifty-one years to support the student selection process.

2013 FAREWELL SPEAKERS

Olivia Castor from New York & Owen Lyons from Vermont

Washington Week tradition gives two student delegates, who have been selected by their peers, an opportunity to provide farewell remarks for the group. Olivia Castor from New York and Owen Lyons from Vermont delighted and inspired their fellow delegates with a lovely speech by Ms. Castor that harkened back to her Haitian roots, and an inimitable original rap performance by Mr. Lyons. The evening also included the deeply meaningful flag folding ceremony by the Military Mentors and the pageantry of the Presentation of Colors by the Joint Armed Forces Color Guard.



MS. DENISE GREENE-WILKINSON

has served as principal of Polaris K-12 School in Anchorage, Alaska and is currently serving as the President of the National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP).



MS. LORI TEMPLE

is the selection administrator for the USSYP and public information officer at the Department of Education in New Hampshire.



MS. MICHELLE MCLAUGHLIN

currently serves as the selection administrator for the USSYP and as K-12 social studies consultant with the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction.





HONORS FROM THEIR SENATORS



SENATE RECEPTION ATTENDEES

UNITED STATES SENATE YOUTH PROGRAM 2013

70 Senators participated in Washington Week 2013, either at speaking events or by attending the 51st Annual USSYP Senate Reception where they congratulated their student delegates and presented them with their \$5,000 college scholarship certificates.



ALABAMA

Senator Richard C. Shelby with John Hicks and Kyle Campbell



ALABAMA

Senator Jeff Sessions with John Hicks and Kyle Campbell



ALASKA

Senator Lisa Murkowski with Thomas Krasnican and Madison Manning



ALASKA

Senator Mark Begich with Thomas Krasnican and Madison Manning



ARIZONA

Senator Jeff Flake with Benjamin Horwitz and Elizabeth Bradley



ARKANSAS

Senator John Boozman with John Williams and Jace Motley



COLORADO

Senator Mark Udall with Sean Weller and Connie Hammond



COLORADO

Senator Michael F. Bennett with Sean Weller and Connie Hammond



CONNECTICUT

Senator Richard Blumenthal with Rebecca Salustri and Jason Nagel



DELAWARE

Senator Thomas R. Carper with John Micklos and Thurston Brevett



DELAWARE

Senator Christopher A. Coons with John Micklos and Thurston Brevett



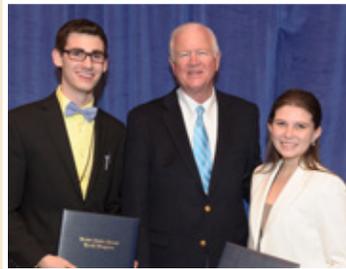
FLORIDA

Senator Bill Nelson with Kailyn Allen, Danari White and Amy Sapp



FLORIDA

Senator Marco Rubio with Danari White, Amy Sapp and Kailyn Allen



GEORGIA

Senator Saxby Chambliss with Eric Beeler and Caitlin Felt



GEORGIA

Senator Johnny Isakson with Eric Beeler and Caitlin Felt



HAWAII

Senator Mazie K. Hirono with Keagan Sakai-Kawada and Michael Kikukawa



HAWAII

Senator Brian Schatz with Michael Kikukawa and Keagan Sakai-Kawada



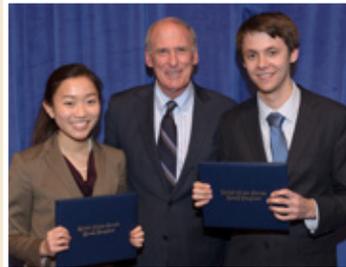
IDAHO

Senator Michael Crapo with Zachary Reider and Jennifer Baird



IDAHO

Senator James E. Risch with Jennifer Baird and Zachary Reider



INDIANA

Senator Daniel Coats with Emma Hong and Nicholas Mitch



INDIANA

Senator Joe Donnelly with Emma Hong and Nicholas Mitch



IOWA

Senator Tom Harkin with Cormac Broeg and Syed Farooq



IOWA

Senator Charles Grassley with Syed Farooq and Cormac Broeg



KENTUCKY

Senator Rand Paul with Kayla Rowsey and Alexis Weedman



LOUISIANA

Senator Mary L. Landrieu with Jon Mitchell and Margaret Lie



MAINE

Senator Susan M. Collins with Thomas Philip Poblador and Jackson Beck



MAINE

Senator Angus S. King, Jr. with Thomas Philip Poblador and Jackson Beck



MASSACHUSETTS

Senator William Cowan with Andrew Meshnick and Reily Connaughton



MINNESOTA

Senator Amy Klobuchar with Apurv Shekhar and Alexandra Shilko



MISSISSIPPI

Senator Thad Cochran with Ethan Cartwright and Brian Harrison



MISSISSIPPI

Senator Roger F. Wicker with Brian Harrison and Ethan Cartwright



MISSOURI

Senator Roy Blunt with Zachary Bequette and Anjali Fernandes



MONTANA

Senator Max Baucus with Allison Sawyer and Aidan Reichman



MONTANA

Senator Jon Tester with Allison Sawyer and Aidan Reichman



NEBRASKA

Senator Mike Johanns with Justin Korth and Alex Brechbill



NEBRASKA

Senator Deb Fischer with Justin Korth and Alex Brechbill



NEVADA

Senator Dean Heller with Cindy Thai and Natasha Greene



NEW HAMPSHIRE

Senator Kelly Ayotte with Allison Thompson and John Parsons



NEW JERSEY

Senator Robert Menendez with Roman Papademetriou and Simone Klein



NEW MEXICO

Senator Tom Udall with Jesse Martinez and Hannah Yearsley



NEW MEXICO

Senator Martin Heinrich with Jesse Martinez and Hannah Yearsley



NEW YORK

Senator Charles E. Schumer with Olivia Castor and Aaron Miller



NEW YORK

Senator Kirsten E. Gillibrand with Olivia Castor and Aaron Miller



NORTH CAROLINA

Senator Richard Burr with Aditya Garg and Noah Ponton



NORTH CAROLINA

Senator Kay R. Hagan with Aditya Garg and Noah Ponton



NORTH DAKOTA

Senator John Hoeven with Aaron Weber and Daniel Wassim



NORTH DAKOTA

Senator Heidi Heitkamp with Daniel Wassim and Aaron Weber



OKLAHOMA

Senator James M. Inhofe with Jonathan Young and Emma Hutchison



PENNSYLVANIA

Senator Robert P. Casey, Jr. with Dylan Brown and Sarah Rudasill



PENNSYLVANIA

Senator Patrick J. Toomey with Dylan Brown and Sarah Rudasill



RHODE ISLAND

Senator Jack Reed with Karl Aspelund and Bridget Hall



RHODE ISLAND

Senator Sheldon Whitehouse with Bridget Hall and Karl Aspelund



SOUTH CAROLINA

Senator Lindsey Graham with William Gaskins and Christian Ward



SOUTH CAROLINA

Senator Tim Scott with Christian Ward and William Gaskins



SOUTH DAKOTA

Senator Tim Johnson with Samantha Beck and Elizabeth Renner



SOUTH DAKOTA

Senator John Thune with Elizabeth Renner and Samantha Beck



TENNESSEE

Senator Lamar Alexander with James Roland Markos and Samira Ibrahim



TEXAS

Senator John Cornyn with Pooja Patel and John Michael Getz



TEXAS

Senator Ted Cruz with John Michael Getz and Pooja Patel



UTAH

Senator Orrin G. Hatch with Arthur Wardle and Austen Van Burns



UTAH

Senator Mike Lee with Arthur Wardle and Austen Van Burns



VERMONT

Senator Patrick J. Leahy with Owen Lyons and Avni Nahar



VIRGINIA

Senator Tim Kaine with Samuel Tobin, Makayla Palazzo and Mitchell Croom



WEST VIRGINIA

Senator Joe Manchin, III with Isaac Jones and Julian Pecora



WISCONSIN

Senator Ron Johnson with Gillian McBride and Kate Wehrman



WISCONSIN

Senator Tammy Baldwin with Gillian McBride and Kate Wehrman



WYOMING

Senator Michael B. Enzi with Joshua Dillinger and Tyler Shockley



WYOMING

Senator John Barrasso with Joshua Dillinger and Tyler Shockley



IN THEIR OWN WORDS



Through countless debates on the bus, at the dinner table, and during mentor meetings, I was exposed to a diversity of opinion and experience I have never seen, and likely will not see again. The intelligence and knowledge of my fellow delegates not only renewed my humility, it enriched the entire trip. Listening to the thoughtful questions the other students posed and hearing the perspectives of people who have lives completely unlike my own truly helped me to become a more cultured and more aware person. I started the United States Senate Youth Program as a high school student who was fairly sure she was considering a career in public service. I ended as a person who is sure she wants to make a change in the world, no matter what career path it may lead her down, with a greater understanding of democracy and a larger exposure to the opinions and perspectives of others.

ANAIS CARELL – IL 2013

I found to follow one's heart and never to constrain oneself to specific goals and ambitions an underlying theme during Washington week. Justice Elena Kagan quipped, "The key in life is to enjoy new opportunities even if they are not what [one] would have thought to have achieved," because "a lot of things in life are serendipity." I fully related to her advice because by merely opening my mind to government, politics, and community service, I received the unimaginable honor of being one of two delegates from California for a program as surreal as this. President Obama also covered this topic when he advised us not to strive for material positions of wealth and fame, but rather to look for areas in which society needs help, such as energy efficiency. I believe that man's contribution to society is everlasting, and materialism is rather short-served and penetrable through the waves of time. Thus, this week taught me to find my niche in society where I can follow my passions, become a leader, and add to man's everlasting tree of knowledge from which future generations can learn.

DEEKSHA GOYAL – CA 2013



I come away from the Senate Youth Program determined that one day I will come back to Washington, D.C. and enter politics. Because of the remarkable military mentors, I have a newfound appreciation for the military. I am inspired by my fellow delegates and all of their accomplishments. I am also astounded by our ability to connect with one another. I treasure the friendships I made. I cannot wait to see members of the Senate Youth Program again as our lives intersect. We have shared an awe-inspiring and life-changing experience.

ALEXANDRA SHILKO – MN 2013

The week left us with a sense of optimism—a sense of hope for a more collaborative future. This hope is attached to a new responsibility. As we all return to our communities, we have a responsibility to work relentlessly in pursuit of greater civic engagement and awareness. We must drive forward with the knowledge that it will not be easy. It won't be easy to explain what we took away from every guest speaker we had. It won't be easy to face apathy, skepticism, and pessimism from those around us. But we also drive forward with the knowledge that because our duty is difficult, it will also be worthwhile.

JOSEPHINE KAO – CA 2013

The application for this program is long and daunting, but I would do it over again a hundred times if it meant I could attend Washington Week again. After this program, I will never view my generation, my country, my leaders, or myself the same way, and I am motivated and optimistic about my future and the future of the United States. NASA Administrator Charles Bolden said in his speech, "each of you has the potential to make a tremendous mark on the history of our great nation." While I may not have believed that two months ago, I realize that this statement is of the utmost truth. The United States Senate Youth Program has changed my life, and I am ecstatic to see its long-term effects on my fellow delegates and myself. We truly are the future of this nation, and after this experience, I see the future burning bright.

MAKAYLA PALAZZO – DODEA 2013

One person who stood out in particular for me was Secretary of State John Kerry. He spoke to us about our role in the future of this country. He said, "The future is not around the corner, it's now." Hearing Secretary Kerry had a deep impact on my view of the future. Until then, I had always thought of the future as this distant place; an unreachable destination. When he finished speaking I absorbed what he said. We are the future, and the future is now. The USSYP class of 2013 has a chance to change the world, and we owe it to ourselves to seize that opportunity.

AARON WEBER – ND 2013



The distinguished public servants who took the time to come to speak with our group were not the only people who made USSYP an unforgettable and life-changing experience. The 17 military mentors who guided us through the week, especially my mentor Major Justin Woodruff (USMCR), had an incredible impact on me. My personal and group conversations with Major Woodruff, a Marine helicopter pilot and Naval Academy graduate who has seen combat multiple times in Afghanistan and Iraq, inspired me and helped solidify my commitment to public service. His words and humble, servant-leader attitude galvanized my desire to someday serve my country, perhaps in the same way he has. Other military mentors also went out of their way to facilitate meaningful conversations over meals, tell stories of their life experiences, and bring unique perspective to the speakers we heard and the places we visited.

THOMAS KRASNICAN – AK 2013

Unquestionably, one specific speaker completely blew away my expectations: NASA administrator Charles Bolden. One word of advice Mr. Bolden offered us still rings true in my mind: “The future is as bright as you make it.” In other words, the future of my country rests in the palms of my own hands. Despite societal misconceptions, I, along with every other perseverant student leader, will work together to create a bright and prosperous future for our nation. Interestingly, Mr. Bolden noted that he strives, as the NASA administrator, to “make life better for someone every day.” No doubt, through this quip of insight, Mr. Bolden challenged me to repeat that quote whenever possible. I now ask myself every day, “Have I made life better for one specific individual today?” I have learned that the beauty of life does not necessarily rest in garnering success for oneself; rather, true happiness resides in touching another’s life in some meaningful, lasting manner.

AMY SAPP – FL 2013

Another speaker who has had a profound effect on my outlook was President Barack Obama. I was nervous at first, but after a while I started to understand that he is an American citizen just like we are. Nonetheless, I will never forget when he said, “Don’t try to be something. Try to do something.” I did a self-check of what was really important and through this moment I found that I was passionate about stopping youth violence. I saw how this issue affects so many people, especially those my age in his hometown of Chicago and mine of D.C., so today that is the something that I am trying to do.

RAY CLARK – DC 2013

Senator Burr covered many topics in his speech. He shared stories about his time in office and the close relationships he shares with his colleagues. He talked about our nation’s history and the founding fathers who came together to establish it, despite their differences. He talked about leadership. He stressed the importance of doing what is right for our country and not what is right for one’s own political gain. My favorite part of the speech was when the Senator spoke about the founding of our nation and the documents that our forefathers crafted in order to establish a government for the people and by the people. I remember at that point in his speech, looking past the speaker’s podium and to where our founding documents all silently rested. This is an image I will have engraved in my mind forever.

NOAH PONTON – NC 2013

I was excited to interact with my mentor group, but I had no idea how influential Lt. Jaspreet Saini would be for me. As I read the biography of our mentor, I was awestruck by her resume. Lt. Saini had gone to incredible colleges and interned in some of the most inhospitable locations in the world working for human rights. She joined the Navy and practiced law in Guantanamo Bay. She had accomplished so much, yet she was one of the most unassuming people I have ever met in my life. As the week went on and everyone became closer, Lt. Saini quickly became a role model for my entire mentor group. She talked to us about the hardships, as well as the importance, of young women like us entering the workforce and following our dreams, even if the fields we were interested in were still male-dominated. She provided us with someone to look up to who not only talked about these topics, but had actually lived them.

CAITLIN FELT – GA 2013

Never had I ever been so compelled to meet so many new people in the duration of a week. As it turns out, success, confidence, and love of community service are contagious, especially when surrounded by over a hundred people who not only carry, but epitomize, these qualities. From the other delegates to the military mentors to the other adults present during the week, I can honestly say my favorite part of the United States Senate Youth Program was spending time with such a remarkable group of people. I am no stranger to diversity living on a South Korean military base, but nothing surpasses the USSYP crew. Not only are they diverse in terms of ethnic background, but also in religious beliefs, political views, interests, and experiences. Having a group of friends who like to converse about the same topics I do and who allow me to stretch the borders of my mind is such a blessing. There is no better motivation for an 11th grader than logging on to Facebook every day to see over ninety of her friends being accepted into the universities and scholarship programs of their dreams, and then thinking, "Wow, those colleges don't know how lucky they are."

DANARI WHITE – DODEA 2013

It was inherent to look at the titles of the governmental officials and search for the step-by-step process of how to be in their shoes. But, in Justice Elena Kagan's words, "It's okay for everything not to prepare you for everything." She emphasized how life is not linear and how most of life is sheer serendipity. What really affected me was when President Obama told our group that though our generation is smarter than ever, we seek instant gratification. "Nothing great comes easy," he proclaimed, as he emphasized the importance of identifying a passion to follow. So, the truth seemed to be that there was no secret, that dreams and concrete career goals are insignificant compared to the persistence needed to follow holistic passions and vision for one's purpose in life.

EMMA HONG – IN 2013

Contrary to popular perception, the Washington I saw was one of hope, with politicians from both parties diligently working to guide the ship of state. Talking with leaders from across the political spectrum, I became genuinely hopeful that they would be able to reach compromise on issues such as the budget, immigration reform and gun control. The Washington I saw is the center of our great political experiment called democracy. Five-hundred and thirty-five people from across a continent are elected by the people to run a country and, somehow, they slowly figure it out.

ANDREW MESHNICK – MA 2013



The value of the United States Senate Youth Program to the delegates that participate in it cannot be understated. It is in many aspects a lifetime opportunity to see many amazing places, listen to many amazing politicians, and spend time with many amazing people. The experience is educational in providing an unparalleled view of the United States government and its workings, but it also puts the nation as a whole in perspective. The Program brings together many different individuals with many different ideas. It renders a group of young Americans who look to their similarities, more so than to their differences, into a united group looking to improve the United States and continue the Great American Experiment.

BRIAN HARRISON – MS 2013

Japanese Ambassador Kenchiro Saesae's speech was also one of the biggest highlights during USSYP. His speech focused on the cooperation between the United States and Japan in different times of need. One example he referred to was that of the American efforts after the Japanese earthquake and tsunami. After all was said and done, in one particular town, citizens collected debris and spelled out "Arigato," the Japanese word for "thank you." The American and Japanese cultures are vastly different. The nations have different economies, struggle with different geopolitical differences, and vary in their outlook on the world. But Ambassador Saesae reminded us that despite all of the differences between the countries, the people of both shared the same humanity and sense of togetherness.

SYED UMAR FAROOQ – IA 2013

Every day presented unique opportunities that provided student delegates with a comprehensive, revealing view of the federal government in action. For example, after we finished lunch in the Hart Senate Office Building, Senator Bob Corker greeted us and talked about how he and other Senate Republicans had recently dined with President Obama, whom we would be seeing only a few hours later in the White House. Senator Corker expressed optimism regarding compromise, saying the meeting had gone very well. That week, the media reported an unusual level of communication between President Obama and Senate Republicans, and we were in Washington as it all unfolded.

JACKSON BECK – ME 2013

All of these opportunities for public service that were presented surely caused all delegates to consider a career in public service—which is why I have described Washington Week to my friends back home as “the best job fair imaginable!” It opens doors that many students were previously unaware of. Since Washington Week, serving as a Foreign Service officer (as an agricultural attaché, of course!) or working in the Defense Department has suddenly pinged my career radar. I am positive that future USSYP delegates will continue to have similar experiences with the program.

ETHAN CARTWRIGHT – MS 2013

While every speaker we had was definitely amazing, the two speakers that remain paramount in my minds are Supreme Court Justice Elena Kagan and Senator Richard Burr, mainly due to their lively and energetic personalities and passion for their jobs. I feel that, I, along with many of my fellow delegates, enjoyed Justice Kagan because she truly opened up the Supreme Court for us. Whether through her outgoing nature or the memorable stories about her life experiences and relations with the other justices, Justice Kagan changed our perspective on the Supreme Court. The once distant final arbiters of justice and constitutionality seemed far more personal. As she talked with us, the most surprising thing was her humility, a trait that I noticed throughout Washington. No matter her position or status, each of our speakers was humble and relatable.

ADITYA GARG – NC 2013

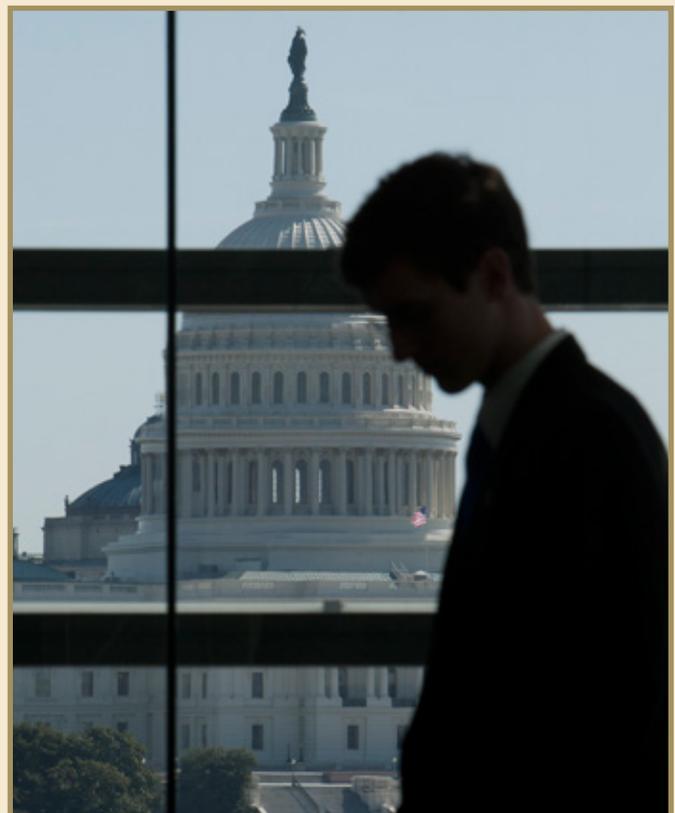
When I come to the realization of what USSYP showed me I could be, my small-town life seems like a prologue to a great novel. School, soccer practices, drama meetings, the intricacies of high school, they all feel different now. They feel foreign, I feel anxious. USSYP has given me hope for the future, rejuvenated my dreams. Washington Week made me feel like anything was possible.

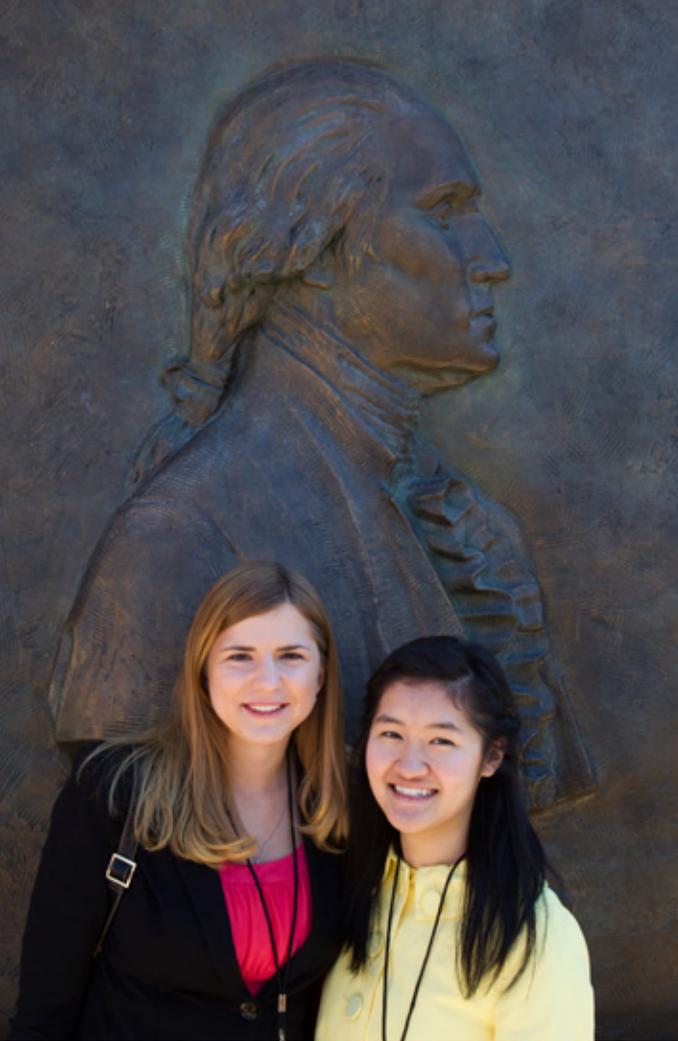
CORMAC BROEG – IA 2013



Much like our country, we have a lot of causal decisions to make in the coming months. Our choices will determine our identity, our future. My hope for all of us is that we will make our choices by gearing toward that long stretch of common ground, which is prosperous and prominent and should not be forgotten. Finding it will not always be instant coffee; it will be a lot of hard work—but it will always be possible. Essentially, that common ground is our shared love for the United States of America. If we showed the other party a fraction of the reverence we show our great nation, imagine what we could achieve.

ALLISON SAWYER – MT 2013







DELEGATES TOURED HISTORIC SITES IN THE NATION'S CAPITAL







CANDID PHOTOS FROM WASHINGTON WEEK 2013





OFFICIAL SENATOR AND STUDENT DELEGATE ROSTER

UNITED STATES SENATE YOUTH PROGRAM 2013

ALABAMA



Senator
Richard C. Shelby



Senator
Jeff Sessions



Kyle Campbell
Bob Jones High School



John Hicks
New Hope High School

ALASKA



Senator
Lisa Murkowski



Senator
Mark Begich



Thomas Krasnican
Robert Service
High School



Madison Manning
Meshik School

ARIZONA



Senator
John McCain



Senator
Jeff Flake



Elizabeth Bradley
Hamilton High School



Benjamin Horwitz
BASIS Oro Valley

ARKANSAS



Senator
Mark L. Pryor



Senator
John Boozman



John Williams Greene
County Tech
High School



Jace Motley
Conway High
School – West

CALIFORNIA



Senator
Dianne Feinstein



Senator
Barbara Boxer



Deeksha Goyal
Redlands East
Valley High School



Josephine Kao
Mira Loma High School

COLORADO



Senator
Mark Udall



Senator
Michael F. Bennet



Connie Hammond
Colorado Springs
Christian High School



Sean Weller
Air Academy
High School

CONNECTICUT



Senator
Richard Blumenthal



Senator
Chris Murphy



Jason Nagel
Trumbull High School



Rebecca Salustri
Bolton High School

DELAWARE



Senator
Thomas R. Carper



Senator
Christopher A. Coons



Thurston Brevett
Cab Calloway
School of the Arts



John Micklos
Newark High School

DISTRICT
OF COLUMBIA



Representative
Eleanor Holmes Norton



Katherine
Thomas-Canfield
School Without Walls



Ray Clark
Benjamin Banneker
Academic High School

FLORIDA



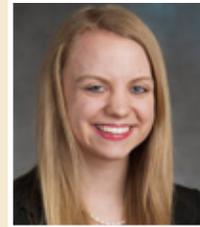
Senator
Bill Nelson



Senator
Marco Rubio



Kailyn Allen
P. K. Yonge Developmental
Research School



Amy Sapp
J. M. Tate High School



Danari White
Seoul American High
School, Korea, DoDEA

GEORGIA



Senator
Saxby Chambliss



Senator
Johnny Isakson



Eric Beeler
Centennial High School



Caitlin Felt
Madison County
High School

HAWAII



Senator
Mazie K. Hirono



Senator
Brian Schatz



Michael Kikukawa
Molokai High School



Keagan Sakai-Kawada
Waikeha High School

IDAHO



Senator
Michael Crapo



Senator
James E. Risch



Jennifer Baird
Madison High School



Zachary Reider
Meridian Medical Arts
Charter High School

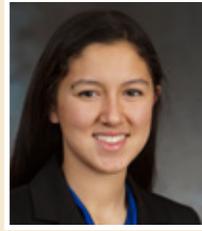
ILLINOIS



Senator
Richard J. Durbin



Senator
Mark Kirk



Anais Carell
Hinsdale Central
High School



Thomas Clark
Oswego High School

INDIANA



Senator
Daniel Coats



Senator
Joe Donnelly



Emma Hong
Munster High School



Nicholas Mitch
Columbus North
High School

IOWA



Senator
Charles Grassley



Senator
Tom Harkin



Cormac Broeg
Williamsburg
High School



Syed Farooq
Gilbert High School

KANSAS



Senator
Pat Roberts



Senator
Jerry Moran



Logan Brown
Free State High School



Ami Purohit
Shawnee Mission
West High School

KENTUCKY



Senator
Mitch McConnell



Senator
Rand Paul



Kayla Rowsey
Fort Knox High School



Alexis Weedman
Frederick Fraize
High School

LOUISIANA



Senator
Mary L. Landrieu



Senator
David Vitter



Margaret Lie
St. Louis Catholic
High School



Jon Mitchell
Pearl River High School

MAINE



Senator
Susan M. Collins



Senator
Angus S. King, Jr.



Jackson Beck
South Portland
High School



Thomas Philip Poblador
Noble High School

MARYLAND



Senator
Barbara A. Mikulski



Senator
Benjamin L. Cardin



Abigail Hoyt
Broadneck High School



Jacob Rosenblum
Walt Whitman
High School

MASSACHUSETTS



Senator
Elizabeth Warren



Senator
William Cowan



Reily Connaughton
Foxborough Regional
Charter School



Andrew Meshnick
Andover High School

MICHIGAN



Senator
Carl Levin



Senator
Debbie Stabenow



Chloe Pan
West Bloomfield
High School



Jacob Podell
West Bloomfield
High School

MINNESOTA



Senator
Amy Klobuchar



Senator
Al Franken

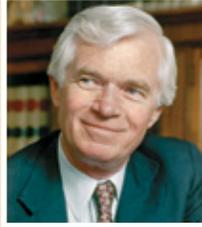


Apurv Shekhar
The Blake School



Alexandra Shilko
Maple Grove
Senior High

MISSISSIPPI



Senator
Thad Cochran



Senator
Roger F. Wicker



Ethan Cartwright
Starkville High School



Brian Harrison
Richland High School

MISSOURI



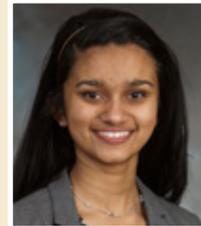
Senator
Claire McCaskill



Senator
Roy Blunt



Zachary Bequette
Hallsville High School



Anjali Fernandes
Pattonville Senior
High School

MONTANA



Senator
Max Baucus



Senator
Jon Tester



Aidan Reichman
Ronan High School



Allison Sawyer
Loyola Sacred
Heart High School

NEBRASKA



Senator
Mike Johanns



Senator
Deb Fischer



Alex Brechbill
Aurora High School



Justin Korth
Randolph High School

NEVADA



Senator
Harry Reid



Senator
Dean Heller



Natasha Greene
Las Vegas High School



Cindy Thai
Durango High School

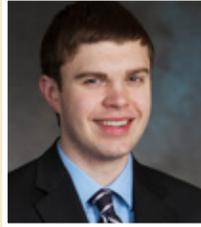
NEW
HAMPSHIRE



Senator
Jeanne Shaheen



Senator
Kelly Ayotte



John Parsons
Oyster River High School



Allison Thompson
Nashua High School
South

NEW JERSEY



Senator
Frank R. Lautenberg
(Deceased June 3, 2013.)



Senator
Robert Menendez



Simone Klein
South Brunswick
High School



Roman Papademetriou
Mainland Regional
High School

NEW MEXICO



Senator
Tom Udall



Senator
Martin Heinrich



Jesse Martinez
Piedra Vista High School



Hannah Yearsley
Goddard High School

NEW YORK



Senator
Charles E. Schumer



Senator
Kirsten E. Gillibrand



Olivia Castor
Spring Valley
Sr. High School



Aaron Miller
Solomon Schechter
School of Westchester

NORTH
CAROLINA



Senator
Richard Burr



Senator
Kay R. Hagan



Aditya Garg
The Early College
at Guilford



Noah Ponton
Isaac Bear Early
College High School

NORTH
DAKOTA



Senator
John Hoeven



Senator
Heidi Heitkamp



Daniel Wassim
Century High School



Aaron Weber
Wishek High School

OHIO



Senator
Sherrod Brown



Senator
Rob Portman



Roman Fleetwood
Dayton Christian
High School



Daniel Regan
Parma Senior
High School

OKLAHOMA



Senator
James M. Inhofe



Senator
Tom Coburn



Emma Hutchison
Putnam City
North High School



Johnathan Young
Vian High School

OREGON



Senator
Ron Wyden



Senator
Jeff Merkley



Lindsay Overhage
Westview High School



Dylan Tingley
Ulysses S. Grant
High School

PENNSYLVANIA



Senator
Robert P. Casey, Jr.



Senator
Patrick J. Toomey



Dylan Brown
Delaware Valley
High School



Sarah Rudasill
New Oxford High School

RHODE ISLAND



Senator
Jack Reed



Senator
Sheldon Whitehouse



Karl Aspelund
Barrington High School



Bridget Hall
North Smithfield
High School

SOUTH
CAROLINA



Senator
Lindsey Graham



Senator
Tim Scott



William Gaskins
Andrews High School



Christian Ward
Sumter High School

SOUTH DAKOTA



Senator
Tim Johnson



Senator
John Thune



Samantha Beck
TF Riggs High School



Elizabeth Renner
West Central
High School

TENNESSEE



Senator
Lamar Alexander



Senator
Bob Corker



Samira Ibrahim
Sevier County
High School



James-Roland Markos
University School
of Jackson

TEXAS



Senator
John Cornyn



Senator
Ted Cruz



John Michael Getz
Lubbock-Cooper
High School



Pooja Patel
Robert E. Lee
Senior High School

UTAH



Senator
Orrin G. Hatch



Senator
Mike Lee

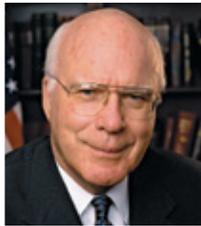


Austen Van Burns
Rowland Hall



Arthur Wardle
Sky View High School

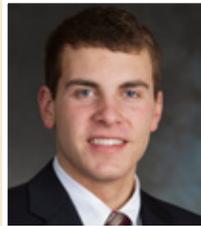
VERMONT



Senator
Patrick J. Leahy



Senator
Bernard Sanders



Owen Lyons
Rice Memorial
High School



Avni Nahar
South Burlington
High School

VIRGINIA



Senator
Mark R. Warner



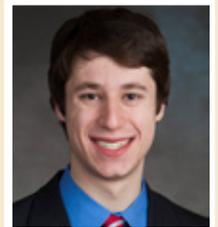
Senator
Tim Kaine



Mitchell Croom
Tabb High School



Makayla Palazzo
Kubasaki High School,
Japan, DoDEA



Samuel Tobin
Lake Braddock
Secondary School

WASHINGTON



Senator
Patty Murray



Senator
Maria Cantwell



Zain Abid
North Thurston
High School



Joel Bervell
Kamiak High School

WEST VIRGINIA



Senator
John D. Rockefeller, IV



Senator
Joe Manchin, III



Isaac Jones
Capital High School



Julian Pecora
Notre Dame High School

WISCONSIN



Senator
Ron Johnson



Senator
Tammy Baldwin



Gillian McBride
Wauwatosa East
High School



Kate Wehrman
Hamilton High School

WYOMING



Senator
Michael B. Enzi



Senator
John Barrasso



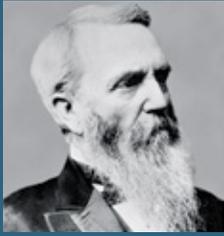
Joshua Dillinger
Buffalo High School



Tyler Shockley
Wheatland High School



A FAMILY, A FOUNDATION, A LEGACY



GEORGE HEARST



PHOEBE A. HEARST



WILLIAM R. HEARST



GEORGE R. HEARST, SR.



RANDOLPH A. HEARST

For 51 years, the United States Senate Youth Program has brought thousands of America's brightest young students to Washington, returning them home with insight into their heritage and scholarships to further their education. Each year the students leave with lasting impressions of their week including new friendships forged in shared experiences which many term "life-changing."

Although they did not live to see the program's creation, the progenitors of The Hearst Foundations are with the USSYP delegates each year in spirit. An exemplar of American success, George Hearst was born on a farm in Missouri and went west to seek his fortune in mining. Through industry and acumen he developed the family fortune, eventually becoming a U.S. Senator for California. At the time of his death in 1891, he had served four of his six-year term. His wife, pioneering philanthropist Phoebe Apperson Hearst, distinguished herself as one of America's most accomplished women, dedicating herself to educational and children's causes. She co-founded the National Parent Teachers Association in 1897, and when she died one educator said, "Her charities were as broad as the sea and as silent as the quiet of the night."

William Randolph Hearst, their only child, was born in 1863 and became one of the great legends of American journalism—establishing vast media holdings and new forms of communication as his newspapers detailed the history of the 20th century. During his life he gave millions of dollars to colleges, hospitals, kindergartens and museums and in the decade before his death he established the two foundations that bear his name.

The United States Senate Youth Program was envisioned by William Randolph Hearst's sons, George R. Hearst and Randolph A. Hearst, who worked with the Senate Leadership of the day—Senators Kuchel, Mansfield, Dirksen and Humphrey—to establish and authorize the program in 1962. Since inception, the Senate Majority and Minority Leaders and the Vice President of the United States have served as the program's Honorary Co-Chairs; two Senators, one of each party, serve as annual Co-Chairs; and an eight-Senator bipartisan panel serves as the annual Advisory Committee. The Hearst Foundations fully fund and administer all operational aspects of the program including college scholarships and yearly grants to the state departments of education to support the selection of delegates.

The Hearst Foundations continue to support numerous charitable and educational organizations across the country. The Foundations' two flagship initiatives are the United States Senate Youth Program and the annual William Randolph Hearst Journalism Awards Program, begun in 1960, to encourage journalistic excellence and to support journalism education at accredited undergraduate schools of journalism across the country.



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