

Casandra Rutschke, ND - 2015

As I reflect on Washington Week, many memories come to mind. Whether it was touring Mt. Vernon or visiting the Supreme Court, every tour, monument, and speaker made this a week I will never forget. However, it is not the things the speakers said that will stick with us; it's the things we said to each other that will. Our discussions about political polarization and other issues exposed us to new viewpoints, while giving each of us the opportunity to share our thoughts and opinions in a way many of us never have.

Upon arriving in Washington, D.C., everyone was excited to begin this week-long journey. We were all determined to learn everyone's name, but soon realized how daunting this task was. Regardless of the fact that some of us were still learning names on Friday, we all became one large family connected by a life-changing experience none of us will ever forget.

"Some things don't last forever, but some do." Although the memories may fade, the friendships we formed and the experience we had will not. We will be forever united by this experience that changed our life. I have no doubt that all the delegates will continue to excel at everything they do. I will be hearing about everyone's successes for years to come and will beam with pride that I knew each of you.