

Eben Cowger, WY – 2015

I am utterly lost for words looking back on Washington Week. How lucky am I to have been awarded this amazing experience! This is a week that I will treasure and cherish for the rest of my life. Beyond words, I am so appreciative of every aspect about it.

Not only was I given another chance to visit my favorite city again, much more importantly I had the experience of a lifetime. I met amazing people; 103 like-minded students who are passionate and devoted to making a difference in this world. There are also 17 individuals who especially deserve some recognition: the Military Mentors. These outstanding men and women taught me invaluable lessons during this week. They are people of quality, humility, humbleness, and are true patriots. The United States Senate Youth Program delegates are downright lucky to have them there during the week.

Washington Week allowed me to see some awesome places, eat meals fit for a king, and listen to awe-inspiring speakers. The speakers we heard always had very interesting facts and stories for us, and always had valuable lessons and themes for us to remember. Getting to know the ideals, morals, backgrounds and opinions of the fellow delegates was great for me. We held informed, sophisticated political discussions, and everyone's varying opinion brought something new and valuable to the table. It restores faith in me to know that these intelligent individuals will be in important positions of leadership, for I know that they are all smart, motivated people.

The end of the week was difficult for all of us. The times we had together were simply priceless. But the knowledge and lessons we took from this program will serve to further open our minds and prepare us for the endeavors we are all getting ready for, whatever they may be. I am forever grateful to The Hearst Foundations for this opportunity.