

## **Shreya Mehta, WA – 2022**

In fifth grade, my teacher had my class learn the preamble by creating a rap song. A few lines I remember are “tran-tran-quility, tran-tran, tran-quility, tran-tran-quility, that means PEACE”. Since then, the words have been seared into my head, particularly the part about a more perfect union.

Washington Week was an incredible experience to learn how different leaders have interpreted our framers’ ideals on how to create a more perfect union. Hearing from speakers like United States Associate Attorney General Vanita Gupta and Former Justice Anthony Kennedy filled me with so much inspiration to discover my personal interpretations on constitutionality and an ever-evolving definition of justice.

Senate Historian, Dr. Koed’s speech on the cyclical nature of history furthered my belief in this constant reevaluation. I was incredibly grateful to even get to ask her about how retroactive identity labels have been framed as “revisionist history” and was delighted to share a laugh with her over how all history is “revisionist.” Since this speech I’ve found myself more and more interested in pursuing a major in history at Stanford next year.

I am so thankful for my military mentor Alex Miller, and my group, the Chocolate Millers. I was able to meet my soul sister, Yunseo, who’s town shares an almost identical history to my own, even though we’re about a 5-hour flight apart!

It was wonderful to meet such bright youth from across the nation, and it was hilarious to find out how many similarities our states shared (like cows!)