

The background of the entire page is a photograph of the United States Capitol dome in Washington, D.C. The dome is white with gold accents and a green statue on top. Two young people, a man in a blue suit and a woman in a black suit, are walking down the steps of the Capitol in the lower right corner. They are both wearing lanyards with ID badges.

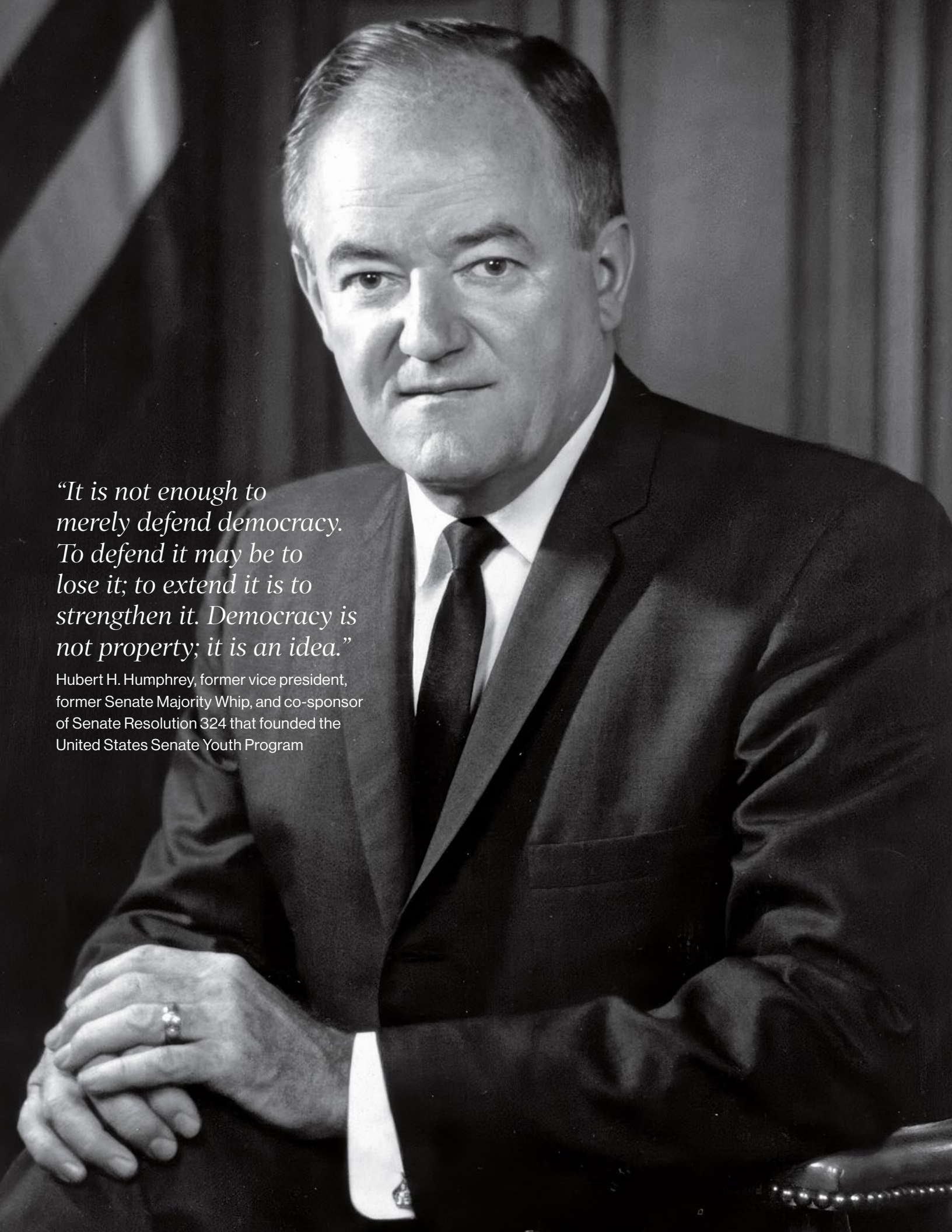
# UNITED STATES SENATE ★ YOUTH PROGRAM ★

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**SIXTY-SECOND ANNUAL WASHINGTON WEEK  
WASHINGTON, D.C. | MARCH 2-9, 2024**

**SPONSORED BY THE UNITED STATES SENATE  
FUNDED AND ADMINISTERED BY THE HEARST FOUNDATIONS**



A black and white portrait of Hubert H. Humphrey, a middle-aged man with receding hair, wearing a dark suit, white shirt, and dark tie. He is seated, with his hands clasped in his lap, and is looking directly at the camera with a slight smile. The background is dark and out of focus, with a portion of an American flag visible on the left side.

*"It is not enough to  
merely defend democracy.  
To defend it may be to  
lose it; to extend it is to  
strengthen it. Democracy is  
not property; it is an idea."*

Hubert H. Humphrey, former vice president,  
former Senate Majority Whip, and co-sponsor  
of Senate Resolution 324 that founded the  
United States Senate Youth Program



# UNITED STATES SENATE ★ YOUTH PROGRAM ★

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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 State 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

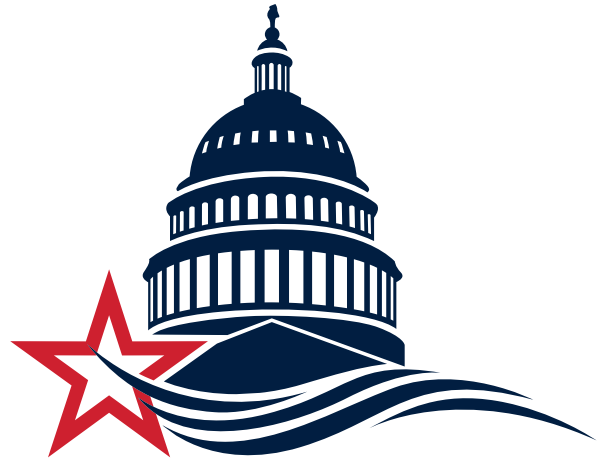
**WHEREAS** in the high schools of the United States, there exists among students who have been elected to student body offices in their junior or senior year a potential reservoir of young citizens who are experiencing their first responsibilities of service to a constituency and who should be encouraged 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 Department of Defense education system for dependents in overseas areas.



## UNITED STATES SENATE ★ YOUTH PROGRAM ★

EDUCATION • LEADERSHIP • PUBLIC SERVICE • RESPECT

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 62<sup>nd</sup> annual Washington Week 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 since inception, the USSYP utilizes no government funds. The program is highly competitive and merit based. Qualified students — those already serving in an elected or appointed capacity with excellent academic performance — are nominated by their teachers, principals and guidance counselors and are ultimately selected by their state departments of education. Delegates are each awarded a \$10,000 college scholarship with certificates often personally presented by their U.S. Senators, and are encouraged to continue coursework in history, government and public affairs.



## HONORARY CO-CHAIRS



**Vice President  
Kamala D. Harris**  
President of the Senate



**Senator  
Charles E. Schumer**  
Majority Leader



**Senator  
Mitch McConnell**  
Republican Leader

## SENATE CO-CHAIRS



**Catherine  
Cortez Masto**  
of Nevada



**John Barrasso, M.D.**  
of Wyoming

### 2024 UNITED STATES SENATE YOUTH PROGRAM

## Senate Advisory Committee

## SENATE ADVISORY COMMITTEE



**John Fetterman**  
of Pennsylvania



**Maggie Hassan**  
of New Hampshire



**Edward J. Markey**  
of Massachusetts



**Alex Padilla**  
of California



**John Boozman**  
of Arkansas



**Katie Britt**  
of Alabama



**John Hoeven**  
of North Dakota



**Thom Tillis**  
of North Carolina

## SPEAKER QUOTES

*“Show me your friends and I’ll show you your future. You are confident, optimistic, resilient and exceptional. Stay connected throughout your lives.”*

Senator John Barrasso

*“I hope you get infected with this disease called politics. The good is still here in Washington, and the nation is better off if you come here with a purpose.”*

Congressman and former chair of the Congressional Black Caucus  
Emanuel Cleaver (D-MO 5<sup>th</sup>)

*“Although our country is not perfect, the fact that we believe in freedom and human rights is essential. I hope that we can all appreciate and respect that. Let’s keep this democracy strong and not have it be undermined.”*

Judy Woodruff, senior correspondent,  
former anchor and managing editor,  
*The PBS NewsHour*

*“Over the course of human development, almost every successive generation has improved upon the one that preceded it. I have no doubt that if you choose to invest yourselves in public service, you will do more for our country in your generation than we have.”*

Secretary of State Antony Blinken

*“Never give up hope. As Plato said, ‘The penalty good people pay for not being involved in politics is to be governed by those inferior to themselves.’ We always have a chance to make a difference.”*

President Joe Biden

*“Individuals without recognition or reward have had a lasting impact on our shared history. Every individual matters. Each of us can make a difference or bring about change.”*

Senate Historian Katherine Scott



*“Talent will get you far, but the right attitude will take you the rest of the way.”*

Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff  
General Charles Q. Brown, Jr.

*“I’m going to try to represent everyone’s best interests, so that we all succeed. It is true that a rising tide lifts all boats. That’s what public service is.”*

Senator Catherine Cortez Masto

*“Spend time with people who fill the gaps within your own personality.”*

Justice Elena Kagan

*“Remember that there is something in everyone’s life they perceive to be an obstacle to their greatest potential. I have learned through experience that your greatest weakness can often be your greatest strength, and vice versa.”*

Senator Bill Cassidy

*“I encourage you to use your voice. Think about where we need lawmakers to shine a light. Think about how we can build a record to make the case for new laws, so that in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, we are fully prepared to promote justice and equity in our country.”*

Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights Kristen Clarke

*“Listen with compassion. Lead with empathy.”*

Braver Angels Co-Founder Bill Doherty

*“I somehow imbibed the message that success meant getting out. The further away I got from home, the more I realized how much it mattered that I was actually from somewhere.”*

Secretary of Transportation Pete Buttigieg  
(USSYP – IN 2000)

*“I encourage you to work on restoring faith in government, our institutions and our political process by doing three things: commit to serve, think big and take bold and ethical action, especially in times of crisis.”*

Former Senior National and Homeland Security  
Advisor Brian Kamoie (USSYP – PA 1989)

## CONGRATULATIONS FROM

# William Randolph Hearst III



Dear Delegates,

What a remarkable week we shared during the 62<sup>nd</sup> annual United States Senate Youth Program! From hearing esteemed alumni speak, to visiting four cabinet agencies and of course receiving an invitation to watch the State of the Union address live at the White House, it was indeed an experience of a lifetime. Throughout the rigorous week, your intellectual curiosity, eloquence and passion for listening, learning and civil discourse was on constant display. Congratulations delegates on your excellent service representing your states, schools and communities.

The highest levels of leadership in all three branches of government gave generously of their time to meet with you and allow the opportunity to ask questions and converse in a way that is unique to this historic program. We send our deep appreciation to the 2024 Senate Co-Chairs, Senator Catherine Cortez Masto and Senator John Barrasso. Without the help and support of our Senate Co-Chairs and their outstanding staff throughout the planning year, the program would not be possible.

In addition to the educational experience of the week, each delegate receives a \$10,000 college scholarship in the name of the United States Senate. The week in Washington and the college scholarship are an inseparable award, combining the encouragement and guidance given by the esteemed speakers with financial support to pursue college-level study of government, history and public affairs. The Hearst Foundations are honored to sponsor this enduring partnership with the United States Senate, the state departments of education nationwide and the Department of Defense.







Numbering more than 6,100, USSYP alumni continue to excel in prominent public service positions in all branches of government and in all sectors of society. Senator Susan Collins of Maine is the first delegate to be elected to the U.S. Senate; Secretary of Transportation Pete Buttigieg is the first delegate to be appointed as a Cabinet Secretary; former Senator Cory Gardner of Colorado is the first delegate to be elected to the U.S. House of Representatives and the second to be elected to the Senate. Our alumni have taken many paths, in public and private sectors, and in military service — all imbued with the inspiration to serve the greater good.

Washington Week could not take place without the continued endorsement of the Senate Committee on Rules and Administration and the close collaboration with the Department of Defense. We also thank all of the state-level departments of education throughout the country and the state education administrators, principals, teachers and school counselors 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*

**William Randolph Hearst III**





**MARCH 2–9, 2024**

# 62<sup>nd</sup> Annual Washington Week Agenda

## **SATURDAY, MARCH 2**

Arrival and Welcome Day

**Taylor Oster** (USSYP ND-2012)  
United States Senate Youth  
Alumni Association President

**Tuqa Alibadi** (USSYP OK-2023)  
College Alumni Leader

**Bill Doherty**  
Co-Founder, Braver Angels

Welcome Remarks

**Donna Kalajian Lagani**  
Vice President and Eastern Director  
The Hearst Foundations

*Announcements and meeting of  
Military Mentor Groups*

## **SUNDAY, MARCH 3**

Historic tour of **GEORGE  
WASHINGTON'S MOUNT VERNON**

Visit to **THE SMITHSONIAN  
AMERICAN ART MUSEUM** –  
The National Portrait Gallery

Formal Introduction of Military Mentors  
and program welcome by

**Dino Dinovitz**  
Executive Director  
The Hearst Foundations

## **MONDAY, MARCH 4**

**CABINET SECRETARY BREAKFAST**

**Pete Buttigieg** (USSYP IN-2000)  
Secretary of Transportation

**SENATE VIST**

**Sonceria Ann Berry**  
Secretary of the Senate

**Elizabeth MacDonough**  
Senate Parliamentarian

**LIBRARY OF CONGRESS LUNCHEON**

**Dr. Carla Hayden**  
Librarian of Congress

**Dr. Katherine Scott**  
Senate Historian

**SUPREME COURT VISIT**

**Elena Kagan**  
Associate Justice of the  
U. S. Supreme Court

**OPENING DINNER**

**Senator Catherine Cortez Masto**  
Democratic Co-Chair of the  
62<sup>nd</sup> Annual United States  
Senate Youth Program

## **TUESDAY, MARCH 5**

**STATE DEPARTMENT VISIT:**

Diplomacy Simulation – International  
Refugee Crisis

**Lauren Fisher**  
Education Program Specialist

**LUNCHEON: THE BENJAMIN  
FRANKLIN STATE DINING ROOM**

**Antony Blinken**  
Secretary of State

**Bill Russo**  
Assistant Secretary of State in the  
Bureau of Global Public Affairs

**Naz Durakoğlu**  
Assistant Secretary of State  
for Legislative Affairs

**Rebecca Gonzales**  
Ambassador and Director of  
Office of Foreign Missions

Tour of the **DIPLOMATIC  
RECEPTION ROOMS**

Visit to **THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES**

Tour and lecture:  
**Dr. Colleen Shogan**  
Archivist of the United States

**SENATE CO-CHAIR DINNER**

**Senator John Barrasso, M.D.**  
Republican Co-Chair of the  
62<sup>nd</sup> Annual United States  
Senate Youth Program





## WEDNESDAY, MARCH 6

**Brian Kamoie** (USSYP PA-1989)  
Managing Director, Cyber and  
Strategic Risk, Deloitte

Cabinet visit: **THE DEPARTMENT  
OF COMMERCE** keynote and  
panel discussion

**Dr. Richard Spinrad**

Administrator, National Oceanic and  
Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)

### HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES PERSPECTIVE LUNCHEON

**Congressman Emanuel Cleaver**  
(D-MO-5<sup>th</sup>)

Former Chair,  
Congressional Black Caucus

### 62<sup>ND</sup> ANNUAL UNITED STATES SENATE YOUTH PROGRAM SENATE RECEPTION

Hosts:

**Senator Catherine Cortez Masto**  
of Nevada

**Senator John Barrasso, M.D.**  
of Wyoming

Co-Chairs of the 62<sup>nd</sup> Annual  
United States Senate Youth Program

## THURSDAY, MARCH 7

### JOURNALISM BREAKFAST

**Judy Woodruff**

Senior Correspondent, former  
anchor and managing editor,  
*The PBS NewsHour*

### SENATOR AND USSYP ALUM ON THE HILL LUNCHEON

**Senator Bill Cassidy, M.D.** (R-LA)

**Aaron Weber** (USSYP ND-2013)

Legislative Policy Advisor  
Office of Senator John Hoeven (R-ND)

Cabinet visit: **THE DEPARTMENT OF  
JUSTICE**, Civil Rights Division keynote  
and panel discussion

**Kristen Clarke**

U.S. Assistant Attorney General  
for Civil Rights

Visit to the **WHITE HOUSE**  
**STATE OF THE UNION WATCH PARTY**  
and meeting with  
**THE PRESIDENT AND FIRST LADY**

## FRIDAY, MARCH 8

Visit to **ARLINGTON NATIONAL  
CEMETERY**

Wreath-laying ceremony at  
the Tomb of the Unknowns

**PENTAGON VISIT:** Speakers and Tour

**Melissa Dalton**

Deputy Undersecretary  
of Defense for Policy

**General Charles Q. Borwn, Jr.**

Charman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff

### FAREWELL DINNER

Delegate Address, Coach Spirit  
Awards and Flag Folding ceremony

## SATURDAY, MARCH 9

Departure of delegates











## Welcome to Washington!

Delegates travel from across the nation and overseas, and anticipation mounts as they are met at the local airports and train station and brought to the historic Mayflower Hotel. Meeting in person for the first time, students are welcomed by their Military Mentors, USSYP alumni and staff. This year, Arrival Day speakers included USSYP Alumni Association President Taylor Oster (ND – 2012), USSYP College Alumni Leader Tuqa Alibadi (OK – 2023) and Braver Angels Co-Founder Bill Doherty.

After dinner, students gather for an in-depth orientation defining program rules, logistics and expectations. They learn new levels of protocol and decorum to fulfill their roles as public representatives of their schools, communities and states. Students are then formally introduced to their Military Mentors, 17 competitively selected officers from each service branch. Two Senior Mentors assist with the overall execution of the program, and 15 smaller groups of students are each assigned one Military Mentor to support and guide them through the exciting and demanding week to come.

*The United States Senate Youth Alumni Association ([ussyaa.org](https://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.*



(TOP)  
Taylor Oster



(RIGHT)  
Bill Doherty





Senator Cortez Masto with Nevada delegates Robert Barsel and Max Grinstein

## DEMOCRATIC CO-CHAIR

# Senator Catherine Cortez Masto of Nevada

*I'm not afraid to walk into any room and say, 'Okay. Let's find common ground.'*

A beloved USSYP tradition, the opening Co-Chair dinner includes a rousing performance of the Old Guard Fife and Drum Corps, the solemnity of the Joint Armed Forces Color Guard and a three-course dinner capped off by the famous white chocolate Capitol Domes. But the highlight of the evening is a keynote speech, this year given by Senator Catherine Cortez Masto, who offered her thoughts on her current job. "As a United States Senator, you wear two hats. One is from your state, and I'm going to fight for Nevadans in every way. The other is as an American, defending this great country and Constitution and making sure our democracy continues to thrive and grow at home and with our allies around the world." Nevada's first female and Latina senator, and the state's former attorney general, Senator Cortez Masto underscored the importance of listening to meet constituents' needs and address emerging challenges. Her recent bipartisan legislation on mental health and affordable housing are cases in point. Fielding numerous questions, she suggested that a good public servant needs to filter out negativity on social media to be able to concentrate on serious issues, and that a rules change requiring an in-person filibuster would lead to a more substantial debate on the Senate floor. "Find what you truly believe in and follow that passion into public service," she counseled, noting that the fulfillment she feels in serving others goes far beyond material gain. "I love making positive change and finding solutions to help others, and this is what sustains me every day." Many in her audience seemed ready to follow her lead.



(RIGHT)  
Old Guard Fife  
and Drum Corps



*“Find what you truly believe in and follow that passion into public service.”*

Democratic Co-Chair  
Senator Catherine  
Cortez Masto





## REPUBLICAN CO-CHAIR

# Senator John Barrasso, M.D. of Wyoming

*Show me your friends and I'll show you your future.*

*"You are confident, optimistic, resilient and exceptional. Continue to imbue these qualities into your future."*

Republican Co-Chair  
Senator John Barrasso, M.D.

The 2024 delegates enjoyed an unparalleled visit to the National Archives that concluded with dinner facing original copies of the Declaration of Independence, the Bill of Rights and the Constitution. Senator John Barrasso of Wyoming, a former orthopedic surgeon, known as "Wyoming's Doctor," recounted, "In 1961, when I was eight, my father brought me to Washington to the inauguration of John Fitzgerald Kennedy, where the new president spoke his famous words, 'Ask not what your country can do for you. Ask what you can do for your country.'" From that moment on, the now-third ranking Senate Republican leader was committed to serve, and as a young man he attended a program similar to the USSYP. "Only two from each state were selected to come to Washington, and the day that I got sworn into the United States Senate, a number of my friends from that week came to watch the ceremony. So, embrace those who are here with you today, stay together, grow and learn from each other, assist each other, because the world is yours to take and make the best you can." He gazed out upon the group. "You are confident, optimistic, resilient and exceptional. Continue to imbue these qualities into your future." In addition to receiving this inspirational personal and professional guidance, the delegates met with Dr. Colleen Shogan, the 11<sup>th</sup> archivist in history and the first woman to hold the position, who underscored the essential role of the institution as the record keeper in our democracy.





(TOP)  
Senator Barrasso with Wyoming delegates  
Casey Toner and Grace Zhou

(ABOVE)  
Archivist of the United States Colleen Shogan with  
Maine delegates Claire Oullette and Ryan Hafener





(USSYP – PA 1989)

## Brian Kamoie

*Those who are crazy enough to think they can change the world actually do.*

National and cyber security expert Brian Kamoie (USSYP PA– 1989) began with a hearty greeting for the 2024 delegates: “Welcome to Washington. We need you!” His advocacy for a career in public service began at once. “I encourage you to work on restoring faith in our government institutions and our political process by doing three things: commit to serve, think big and take bold and ethical action, especially in times of crisis.” The former senior advisor to President Obama and former chair of leadership at the U.S. Naval Academy described some of his most memorable experiences in government, noting, “Days in public life will not be boring. The hours will be long, but I assure you, it is worth it.” Looking at the agenda ahead, he encouraged the delegates to take advantage of this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. “I hope this program gives you the confidence to engage public officials who are accountable to you. Do so respectfully, but engage them.” The spirited Q&A session covered topics such as the Deepwater Horizon oil spill, imposter syndrome, the increasing severity of hurricanes and natural disasters and finding balance and motivation in one’s personal life. He concluded by lauding the strong alumni network that past delegates have formed. Pennsylvania delegate Edan Kauer quoted Mr. Kamoie in her appreciation remarks: “Those who think they are crazy enough to change the world are the ones that actually do.” She thanked him for his personal determination: “You don’t turn away in times of crisis, but rise to the challenge when leaders are needed most.”



(ABOVE)  
Mr. Kamoie with  
Pennsylvania  
delegates Alex Chen  
and Edan Kauer







## ASSOCIATE JUSTICE OF THE SUPREME COURT

# Elena Kagan

*Always be able to speak to those with whom you disagree.*

During Washington Week, delegates often express true delight and amazement when meeting the real people behind vaunted titles. Nowhere is that truer than at the Supreme Court, where students partake in a private question-and-answer session with a justice. Inside the hushed and magnificent courtroom, Associate Justice Elena Kagan, the former dean of Harvard Law School and the nation's first female solicitor general, plunged into a spirited discussion about her own career path, learning from colleagues, the importance of civil debate and her judicial philosophy. "It starts in law school," she said encouragingly. "Many justices still invoke law professors who made a big impact on them." She noted her clerkship with Justice Thurgood Marshall as pivotal to her career, referring to him as the greatest lawyer of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Justice Kagan's enthusiasm for both academic and professional rigor was clearly on display. "The best jobs in life are those with the highest learning curve," she said, explaining that lawyers arguing before the Court as she once did must "really listen and answer each key point in a justice's question. It's fun, but very hard," she smiled. The justice spoke fondly of her friendship with the late justice Antonin Scalia, with whom she shared a close relationship despite their professional differences. "You have to be able to talk to people you may disagree with; you can learn from each other and be great friends," she said, adding, "Try to surround yourself with people who fill the gaps in your own personality."





Secretary Berry with Alabama delegates Ashland Ross and Edward Pang



Senate Parliamentarian MacDonough with Vermont delegates Christopher Alfano and Eva Gould

## SENATE OFFICERS

# Sonceria Ann Berry & Elizabeth MacDonough

Each year, delegates meet the critically important but often behind-the-scenes Senate leaders: the secretary of the Senate and the Senate parliamentarian. Secretary Berry, the first African American to serve in the position, described a highlight of her current role as “The opportunity to support, lead and nurture a remarkable group of colleagues who have protected our democracy. They are the unsung heroes of our Republic.” She shared that, “I have done things I’d never dared to dream of in my career, and I saved the best for last. I have learned that the journey, with all its twists and turns, is what life is really about. The journey is the choices you make, large and small. So, be kind to people, and be the kind of person you want others to be.” Senate Parliamentarian Elizabeth MacDonough, the first female parliamentarian, defined her role as the neutral arbiter of Senate rules. “Follow some of the opportunities that present themselves to you,” she offered. “Take them with gusto, and throw yourself fully into the work, even if it turns out that your career path changes.” She also lauded her colleagues in public service: “The truth is, your government is really three million of your fellow citizens – people just like us, working really hard to help you, to help foreign nations, to make the drinking water cleaner and fill the potholes, to serve the country.” Alabama delegate Edward Pang summed up the morning, saying, “As we step into the future as leaders, innovators and problem solvers, today’s words will guide us as we strive to succeed and break our own glass ceilings.”





## LUNCHEON AT THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS WITH THE

# Senate Historian & Librarian of Congress

The 14<sup>th</sup> Librarian of Congress welcomed the delegates by describing herself as “a three-fer: first woman, first person of color and also the first person to be librarian who had library experience in 70 years.” Dr. Carla Hayden gave the students an idea of the Library’s many treasures — the papers of 23 presidents from Washington to Coolidge, 38 Supreme Court justices, including Sandra Day O’Connor and Ruth Bader Ginsburg, and the world’s largest collection of comic books, photographs and films. The delegates were riveted as she described the box that holds the contents of President Lincoln’s pockets on the night he was assassinated: “It was given to us by his granddaughter. It has two pairs of glasses, a billfold wallet with his initials and a handkerchief. But what gets you is there’s a button. Think about it: If your button comes off, you’re going to put it in your pocket. That just humanizes him.” Senate Historian Dr. Katherine Scott then shared stories of the Senate’s unsung heroes, including Maud Younger, a female lobbyist who at the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century changed the course of the women’s suffragist movement. She recounted the life of Dennis Chavez, the first Hispanic person elected to the House and Senate. “These are individuals who, without recognition or reward, had a lasting impact on our shared history. Their stories remind us that we all have a story. Every individual matters, and each of us can make a difference or bring about change.”



(TOP RIGHT)  
Librarian of  
Congress Hayden

(ABOVE MIDDLE)  
Senate Historian Scott  
with New Mexico  
delegates Angela  
Hummingbird and  
Abhishek Narahari





## A DAY AT THE

# Department of State

The delegates spent the first part of their day at the State Department at the National Museum of American Diplomacy, where they enacted what the leaders they would soon meet practice on a daily basis. Dining in the elegant Benjamin Franklin State Dining Room, they heard from a variety of high-level personnel in roles across the globe. The highlight was the much-anticipated appearance by Secretary of State Antony Blinken, who shared his passion for mentoring and engagement with the next generation of public servants. “The people I work with every day in this department and across government are here because they are trying to do the right thing, to make this country a little bit stronger, a little bit better and more full of opportunity. Having that flag behind your back every single day, either literally or figuratively, there is nothing quite like it.” Following the secretary, Director of the Office of Foreign Missions Ambassador Rebecca Gonzales described the broad reach of the department, working on “everything from global health issues, climate change, energy, cyber issues and more to protect and promote U.S. security, prosperity and democratic values.” She continued, “I often say pick any challenging issue, and there is an office in the State Department that is dedicated to it.” Ambassador Gonzales offered priceless advice: “My mother and father instilled in me the importance of hard work, service to others, kindness and respect. As the phrase goes, ‘iron shapes iron.’ So embrace your challenges, and you will be much stronger for it. Remember your roots, be authentic and do your best.... I know a great future awaits you.”



(ABOVE)  
Assistant Secretary of State for Legislative Affairs Naz Durakoğlu

(LEFT)  
Assistant Secretary of State for Global Public Affairs Bill Russo





(TOP)  
Secretary of State Blinken

(LEFT)  
Ambassador Gonzales, Director, Office of Foreign Missions,  
with Texas delegates Samantha Mujica and Colin Shen







# Senator Bill Cassidy, M.D. of Louisiana

## USSYP ALUM ON THE HILL

### Aaron Weber (USSYP – ND 2013)

Luncheon in the Hart Senate Building with Senator Bill Cassidy of Louisiana offered fresh perspectives on pathways to success in the Senate. A gastroenterologist who taught at LSU Medical School for 25 years and worked in a hospital for the uninsured, Senator Cassidy now serves as a senior member of the committee overseeing health and education. “Everything I have learned as a physician, how to analyze data and to serve, now just has different applications.” He also remarked, “I learned through life that your greatest weakness is often your greatest strength, and vice versa,” noting that his diagnosis of attention deficit disorder is an asset in moving rapidly through various meetings and topics throughout the hectic Senate schedule. USSYP Alum on the Hill speaker Aaron Weber (ND-2013) then shared his experiences working for Senator John Hoeven (R-ND) as a legislative policy advisor. “While my day varies completely, my role is to prepare the senator for anything in his policy purview, a vote on the floor, a hearing in the Senate Agriculture Committee and many, many meetings. If you like meeting people, the Hill is the place for you.” His closing words were eagerly absorbed: “If you were like me in high school, especially at a smaller school where you’re the one kid who likes politics and history and current events, I’ve got good news: You’re not alone. There’s an entire city full of you. You’re in it right now.”



(TOP)  
Senator Cassidy with Louisiana delegates  
Joshua Blake and Dylan Rhoton

(ABOVE)  
Mr. Weber with North Dakota delegates  
Lauren Beck and Brianna Schmitz



(USSYP – IN 2000)

# Secretary of Transportation, Pete Buttigieg

*To sustain your passion and success,  
find your reason for public service.*

U.S. Secretary of Transportation Pete Buttigieg the first alum of the program to become a cabinet secretary and the second to run for president, entered the Mayflower's Grand Ballroom to a standing ovation. He instantly related to the wowed students before him, recounting a personal story about going to the mall with his mom to buy his first suit for Washington Week. Summing up his job in three categories: "Build, Run and Protect," he shared that "American greatness is going to depend on focusing on the future, not turning back the clock." He described some of the nuts and bolts of creating and updating new roads and bridges, running systems critical to modern transportation such as the air traffic control network and protecting Americans, with a focus on safety. "Find your reason why for choosing public service," he counseled. For him, it's remembering "that hundreds of millions of everyday lives could be made a little better or a little worse — whether it's a commute, income, the quality of the air we breathe — depending upon whether we get something right or whether we get something wrong." During an intensive Q&A session, Secretary Buttigieg described infrastructure as a perfect arena to find common ground: "The point of a road is to connect, not to divide." Indiana delegate Kyle Davis closed eloquently, "Many of us in this room have ideas and dreams about a world we would like to live in, but what separates dreamers from true public servants is the ability to translate those dreams into progress."



(ABOVE)  
Secretary of Transportation Pete Buttigieg

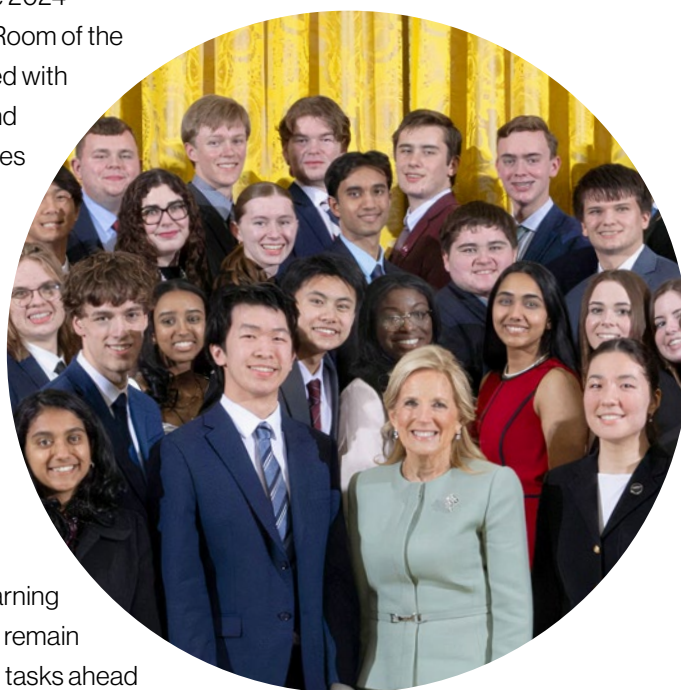






## Welcome to the White House!

For 61 years, the annual State of the Union address had never taken place during Washington Week. Luckily, a surprise was in store for the 2024 delegates: an invitation to a private live watch party in the East Room of the White House! The students enjoyed popcorn, soda and M&Ms adorned with the presidential seal as they waited for the speech to begin. Riveted and cheering as the apex moment in national politics unfolded, the delegates recognized many other of the week's speakers gathered in the House Chamber. Following the long address and ceremony, the motorcade's wail could be heard. First Lady Jill Biden appeared first, waving and congratulating the elated young leaders. As Dr. Biden bid them goodbye, tension mounted. It was close to midnight. Suddenly, with hands outstretched, the president they had just seen on national television strode into the room. "How are we tonight?" he greeted them with an enormous smile, shaking many hands. Speaking at length to the students about starting his career as a young politician, President Biden noted that it was not personal ambition that fueled his rise in public service, but rather a gradual evolution of responsibility, learning and living up to his civic commitments. He encouraged the students to remain strong in their desire to serve their country, not to be intimidated by the tasks ahead and to always have hope for the future. It was truly a night for the history books.















(ABOVE)  
Representative Cleaver with Missouri  
delegates Andrew Puthumana and Elana Hadi



## PERSPECTIVE FROM THE HOUSE

# Congressman Emanuel Cleaver

*Each generation must take our country to the next level.*

Congressman Emanuel Cleaver, now in his tenth term in the House, is the ranking member on the House Subcommittee on Housing and Insurance, a position that reflects his impactful advice to the USSYP class of 2024. “I hope you get infected with the disease called politics,” he said. “But find your purpose for coming to D.C. The nation is better if people come here with a purpose.” The first African American mayor of Kansas City and former chair of the Congressional Black Caucus described the harrowing poverty of his childhood, growing up in public housing, a six-person family in a two-person dilapidated home. “I didn’t want a single person to ever have to grow up like I did,” he said of the experience that charted his course as a leader responsible for national housing policy. During an extensive Q&A session, the Congressman revealed the continuous advocacy for improvement in race relations and equality that has been the hallmark of his public service: “There is nothing that should ever deter us from pursuing justice, although progress may be slow.” Rooted in optimism and faith, Congressman Cleaver inspired the young leaders in his audience: “Remember, the world looks to America as the Garden of Eden. And we are a good and decent nation. But each generation of leaders must take the country to the next level.”

# USSYP Journalism Breakfast

*The key role of evidence-based journalism in democracy.*



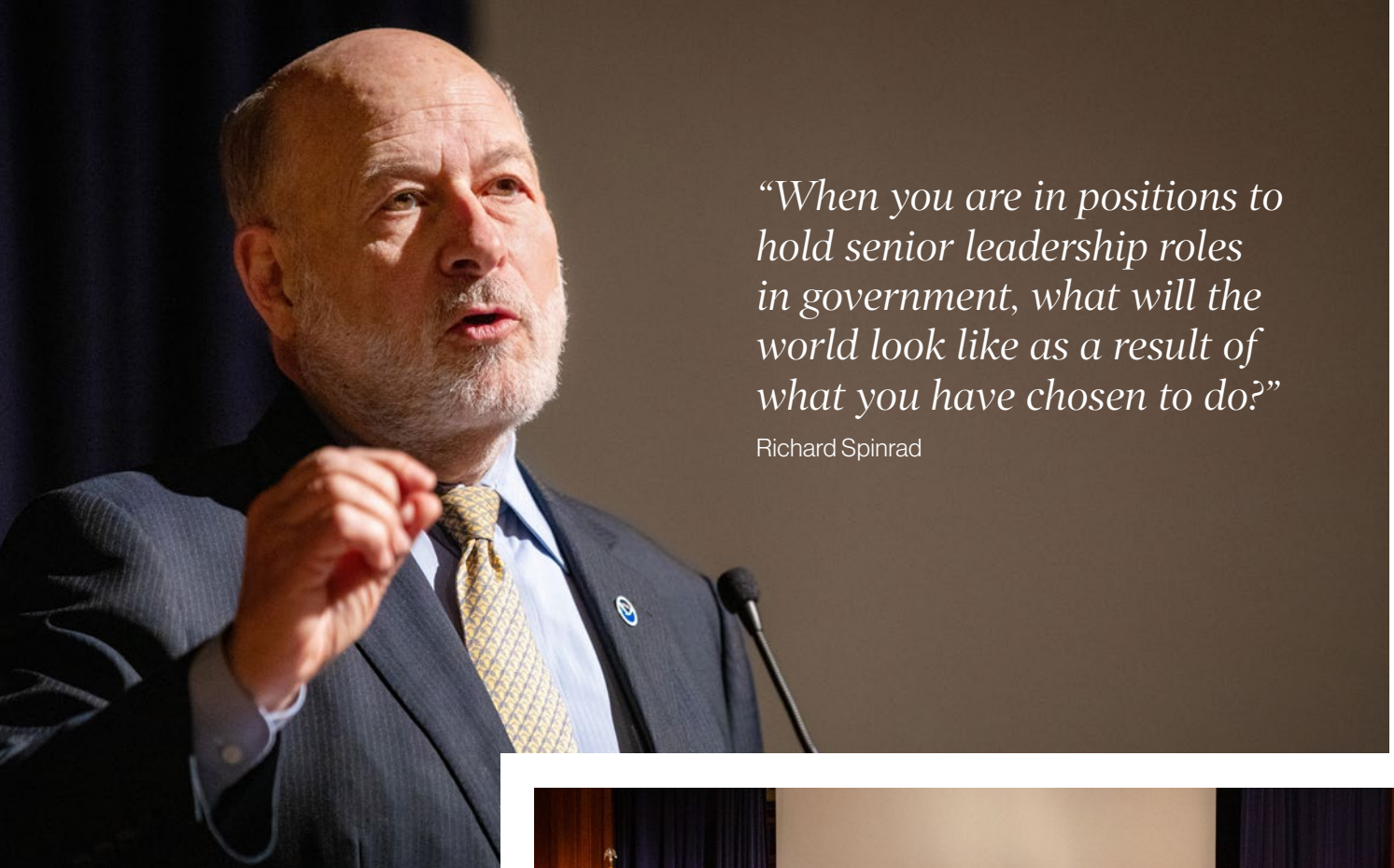
Judy Woodruff began by thanking a former professor who switched her passion to political science in college, thus launching a storied career. The veteran journalist and former nightly anchor of *The PBS NewsHour* reminded delegates of the world she was stepping into. “Terrible things were happening, the assassination of a president, the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and then, of course, the president’s brother, Bobby Kennedy, as he was running for president. It galvanized my desire to understand what was going on in our country and government.” Her drive to analyze and report on American politics never waned, through commercial and public media coverage of every political convention and presidential election since 1976. Currently spearheading *America at a Crossroads*, an in-depth national reporting project on polarization in America, she defined the critical challenge we face: “We can no longer view compromise as the enemy. We must believe that it’s okay to give up some of the things that you want on your side so that you come to solutions on tough issues like spending, immigration, climate change, the environment and education. We have to figure out a way to come together to work it out.” She emphasized the important difference between opinion and evidence-based reporting, warning that we must fight to always preserve the latter. “Real journalism has never been as important as it is today. We must make sure that we have a strong, robust, active, healthy press. Our democracy depends on evidence-based reporting and fact-based information that we can count on.”

(BELOW)

Judy Woodruff with Rhode Island delegates  
Ryan Lukowicz and Dominic Muratore







*“When you are in positions to hold senior leadership roles in government, what will the world look like as a result of what you have chosen to do?”*

Richard Spinrad







NOAA Administrator Spinrad with New York delegate Kyle Chan, Connecticut delegate Snigtha Mohanraj, Oregon delegate Sophie Minot and Montana delegate Jesse McCormick



## Visit to NOAA

### AT THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

A visit to the U.S. Department of Commerce gave the delegates an insider's view of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), whose scientific research, monitoring and communications mission helps protect the environment and affects more than one-third of America's gross domestic product. NOAA Administrator Dr. Richard Spinrad made that connection clear: "Last year, due to changing weather patterns, we had 23 billion-dollar natural disasters. In the 1970s, we would typically have four billion-dollar disasters each year, adjusted for inflation." He encouraged many STEM-focused delegates in the audience to consider the impact of directing their talents toward the nexus of science and public service: "When you are in positions to hold senior leadership roles in government, what will the world look like as a result of what you have chosen to do?" A panel of NOAA scientists followed, showcasing a wide range of professions within the agency, from hurricane hunter pilots and shark experts to policy strategists, meteorologists and marine biologists. Dr. Spinrad shared, "It is important for us at NOAA to not just do the cool science, launch the cool satellites, fly the airplanes and drive the ships, but also to make sure that every American citizen understands why and to what effect. The American public at large needs to have a good handle on the science we produce to help government make science-informed decisions."



# Honors From Their Senators

















# 2024 Senate Reception Attendees



## Alaska

Lisa Murkowski with  
Elizabeth Djajalie and Felix Myers



Dan Sullivan with  
Elizabeth Djajalie and Felix Myers



## Arizona

Kyrsten Sinema with  
Camillia Baker and Isaac Ormand



## Arkansas

John Boozman with  
Bannon Price and Joshua Ofodile



## Arkansas

Tom Cotton with  
Bannon Price and Joshua Ofodile



## California

Laphonza Butler with  
Emi Sakamoto and Aaron Combs



## Colorado

Michael F. Bennet with  
Riya Singh and Siddharth Nareddy



John Hickenlooper with  
Riya Singh and Siddharth Nareddy



## Connecticut

Richard Blumenthal with  
Snigtha Mohanraj and  
Yasmeen Galal



## Delaware

Thomas R. Carper with  
Mert Kayabas and  
Iveena Mukherjee



Christopher A. Coons with  
Iveena Mukherjee and  
Mert Kayabas



## Florida

Rick Scott with  
Brittany Berlin and Maurits Acosta



*Seventy-eight senators participated in Washington Week 2024 attending the 62<sup>nd</sup> Annual USSYP Senate Reception, where they congratulated their student delegates and presented them with their \$10,000 college scholarship certificates.*



## Georgia

Raphael Warnock with  
Jackson Bost and Viveka Mehrotra



## Hawaii

Brian Schatz with  
Lehua Norris and  
Ahryanna McGuirk



Mazie K. Hirono with  
Lehua Norris and  
Ahryanna McGuirk



## Idaho

Mike Crapo with  
Alyson Reed and AnnMarie Wolfley



## Idaho

James E. Risch with  
AnnMarie Wolfley and Alyson Reed



## Illinois

Tammy Duckworth with  
Anoushka Lal and Chelsea Osei



## Indiana

Todd Young with  
Layla Kelly and Kyle Davis



Mike Braun with  
Layla Kelly and Kyle Davis



## Iowa

Joni K. Ernst and  
Charles Grassley with  
Anika Yadav and Reem Kirja



## Kansas

Jerry Moran with  
Robert Rasmussen III,  
Madisen Finch and Tucker Leck



Roger Marshall with  
Tucker Leck, Madisen Finch  
and Robert Rasmussen III



## Kentucky

Rand Paul with  
Ariel Fader and Minhal Nazeer



# 2024 Senate Reception Attendees



## Louisiana

Bill Cassidy with  
Joshua Blake and Dylan Rhoton



## Maine

Susan M. Collins with  
Ryan Hafener and Claire Ouellette



Angus S. King with  
Claire Ouellette and Ryan Hafener



## Maryland

Chris Van Hollen with  
Angelina Xu and James Howard



## Massachusetts

Elizabeth Warren with  
Julianna Lee and Edward Mukalazi



Edward J. Markey with  
Julianna Lee and Edward Mukalazi



## Michigan

Debbie Stabenow with  
Sarah Yousif and Aanya Shah



Gary Peters with  
Sarah Yousif and Aanya Shah



## Minnesota

Amy Klobuchar with  
Sydney McGrath and Deepti Pillai



Tina Smith with  
Sydney McGrath and Deepti Pillai



## Mississippi

Roger F. Wicker with  
Iris Xue and Katherine Farthing



Cindy Hyde-Smith with  
Katherine Farthing and Iris Xue







# 2024 Senate Reception Attendees



## Missouri

Josh Hawley with  
Elana Hadi and Andrew Puthumana



Eric Schmitt with  
Elana Hadi and Andrew Puthumana



Jon Tester with  
Faith You and Jesse McCormick



Steve Daines with  
Jesse McCormick and Faith You



## Nebraska

Pete Ricketts with  
Isabella Meyer and Hannah Tang



Catherine Cortez Masto  
with Robert Barsel and  
Max Grinstein



Jacky Rosen with  
Robert Barsel and Max Grinstein



## New Hampshire

Jeanne Shaheen with  
Michael Blair and James Thibault



## New Hampshire

Maggie Hassan with  
Michael Blair and James Thibault



## New Jersey

Robert Menendez with  
Anika Dugal and Grace Yoon



Cory Booker with  
Grace Yoon and Anika Dugal



## New Mexico

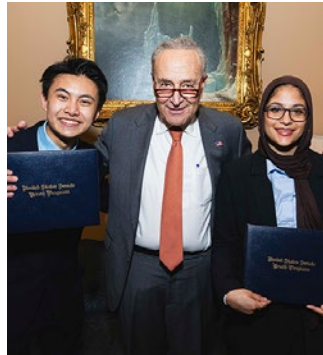
Martin Heinrich with  
Angela Hummingbird and  
Abhishek Narahari





## New Mexico

Ben Ray Luján with  
Angela Hummingbird  
and Abhishek Narahari



## New York

Charles E. Schumer with  
Kyle Chan and Nada Ibrahim



## North Carolina

Thom Tillis with  
William Drake and Anne Eilers



Ted Budd with  
William Drake and Anne Eilers



## North Dakota

John Hoeven with  
Lauren Beck and Brianna Schmitz



Kevin Cramer with  
Brianna Schmitz and Lauren Beck



## Oklahoma

James Lankford with  
Victoria Nwankwo and Ella Calvert



Markwayne Mullin with  
Ella Calvert and Victoria Nwankwo



## Oregon

Jeff Merkley with  
Alexandra Coltman  
and Sophie Minot



## Rhode Island

Jack Reed with  
Dominic Muratore  
and Ryan Lukowicz



Sheldon Whitehouse with  
Dominic Muratore  
and Ryan Lukowicz



## South Carolina

Tim Scott with  
Peyton White and Austin Rios



# 2024 Senate Reception Attendees



## South Dakota

John Thune with  
Leila Balsiger and Katie Schulte



Michael Rounds with  
Leila Balsiger and Katie Schulte



## Tennessee

Marsha Blackburn with  
Carlton Madison III and Ira Sharma



Bill Hagerty with  
Ira Sharma and Carlton Madison III



## Utah

Mike Lee with  
Diya Oommen, Noah Canada  
and Baden Francis



Mitt Romney with  
Noah Canada, Diya Oommen  
and Baden Francis



## Vermont

Bernard Sanders with  
Eva Gould and Christopher Alfano



Peter Welch with  
Christopher Alfano and Eva Gould



## Virginia

Mark R. Warner with  
Caleb Quiroga and Landon Jones



Tim Kaine with  
Caleb Quiroga and Landon Jones



## Washington

Maria Cantwell and  
Mahika Malladi and Gianna Frank



## West Virginia

Joe Manchin III with  
Peyton Barker and  
Bryson Riggelman





## West Virginia

Shelley Moore Capito with  
Peyton Barker and  
Bryson Riggleman



## Wisconsin

Ron Johnson with  
Marisa D'Amico and  
Cooper Antczak



Tammy Baldwin with  
Marisa D'Amico and  
Cooper Antczak



## Wyoming

John Barrasso with  
Grace Zhou and Casey J. Toner



Cynthia Lummis with  
Grace Zhou and Casey J. Toner







# The Department of Justice

“Voting rights are deemed to be the right most central to our democracy. It is the right from which all others flow,” said U.S. Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights Kristen Clarke, addressing the delegates at the Department of Justice on the 59<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the violent events on the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma, Alabama. “We believe that our democracy thrives when every eligible American has a voice.” The fight against hate crimes is another priority of her work, she said, describing the principles behind the Matthew Shepherd and James Byrd, Jr. Act of 2009. “In this country, no one should be subject to hate based on where they are from, what they look like, where they worship or who they love.” She discussed the illegality of modern-day “redlining,” explaining that if banks are excluding neighborhoods, or whole communities, solely based on race, the Department of Justice takes steps to reverse that. “There are families in our country that want to access the American dream, that want the chance to purchase a home and to pass down generational wealth to their children. They are unable to because of misconduct at the hands of banks.” The assistant AG and a talented panel of attorneys then fielded many questions, discussing the personal impact when working on highly stressful and emotional cases, racial gerrymandering and disparity in college debt. Tennessee delegate Carlton Madison III quoted Ms. Clarke in his introduction, saying that her goal is “To turn the page on hate and close the door on discrimination by enforcing our civil rights laws.” As a student at the Martin Luther King, Jr. Magnet High School in Nashville, her words served as an inspiration to him and the entire 2024 USSYP class.

*“We believe that our democracy thrives when every eligible American has a voice.”*

Kristen Clarke  
U.S. Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights



(BELOW)

Kristen Clarke with Tennessee delegates Ira Sharma and Carlton Madison III







*“It doesn’t  
matter if you  
see the glass  
as half full  
or half empty;  
it’s how you  
fill the glass.”*

Chairman of the Joint Chiefs  
of Staff Charles Q. Brown, Jr.

## The Department of Defense

The Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff General Charles Q. Brown, Jr. is the highest-ranking and most senior member of the United States Armed Forces and the principal military advisor to the president and secretary of defense. But the former F-16 fighter pilot and instructor made time to inspire the 2024 delegates during Washington Week Pentagon Day. “The measure of a leader is not where they stand in moments of comfort and convenience,” he quoted Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.. “It is where they stand in times of challenge and controversy.” The former chief of staff for the Air Force relayed that early on he thought he was going to be an architect or designer, but that was not to be. “It’s always important to have a back-up plan,” he noted with a smile. “Just believe in yourself and all that you are, and never take short-term satisfaction in place of your long-term goals.” He also advised the delegates to be Learning Leaders, to stay curious, read and keep expanding their horizons throughout life. Deputy Undersecretary for Policy Melissa Dalton offered, “Know your policy brief and be the kind of person others want to work with.” She generously answered many questions on China, Ukraine, NATO and European security. Surrounded by their Military Mentors, the delegates were given a rare window to the highest echelons of service, leadership and dedication in government, as the week drew to a close.





(MIDDLE LEFT)  
Charles Q. Brown, Jr. with DoDEA delegates Baden Francis and Robert Rasmussen III

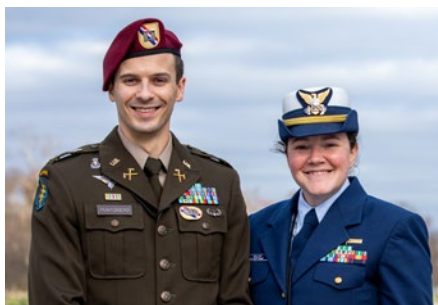
(BELOW)  
Melissa Dalton





# The Outstanding 2024 Military Mentor Team

Competitively selected military officers designated by the Office of the Secretary of Defense were led by Senior Military Officer Lieutenant Commander Alexandra Miller, USCG and Assistant Senior Military Officer Captain Joseph Puntoriero, USA.



1st Lieutenant Samuel Barge, USMC; Captain Amelia Weaver, USA; Captain Josue Duarte, USA; Captain Catherine Grizzle, USA; Lieutenant Commander Alexandra Miller, USCG; Captain Joseph Puntoriero, USA; Major Mai Chi Tran, USSF; Major Matthew Pellegrine, USAF; Lieutenant Aaliefah Billings, USN; Captain Daniel McGurkin, USMC; Captain Andrew Carroll, USAF; Lieutenant Maude Manzi, USN; Captain Hanna Durbin, USAF; Lieutenant James Eggers, USCG; 1st Lieutenant Katherine Krollicki, USAF; Lieutenant Kathryn Rubio, USCG; Lieutenant Clayton Shepherd, USN







## QUOTES FROM DELEGATES

*“I walked into the Mayflower Hotel on the afternoon of March 2 not knowing that a single week would secure my faith in the future of our country, ignite a desire within me to make a difference in the world, and introduce me to exceptional young leaders who will certainly be lifelong friends.”*

Noah Canada (UT – 2024)

*“This brings me to Mr. Kamoie’s second lesson: ‘We need you.’ Not only do we belong, but we are necessary. On one hand, being needed is a burden. But embracing the opportunity to shape the landscape of democracy is the honor of a lifetime.”*

Emi Sakamoto (CA – 2024)

*“The speaker from my state, Congressman Emanuel Cleaver, referred to public service as an opportunity in addition to being an obligation. He focused on his own experiences and forming them into proactive change for the nation. My vision of opportunity has expanded to a degree where now so many paths for such change have been illuminated, and I am excited to see which I pursue.”*

Elana Hadi (MO – 2024)

*“Two of our speakers, Senator Bill Cassidy and Senator John Barrasso, both had careers practicing medicine prior to running for political office. Their multidisciplinary experiences simultaneously inspired me to chase my calling as a physician and galvanized me to work as a public servant. No matter our title, we all have a civic duty to serve the people around us.”*

Hannah Tang (NE – 2024)

*“To fellow aspiring public servants, I’d like to share the words of Senator Catherine Cortez Masto: ‘There is incredible opportunity if we only have the courage to seek it.’ Now, more than ever, youth belong in the civic sphere, and it is time to realize our might.”*

Ariel Fader (KY – 2024)



*“One aspect of the week that words would fail to capture is the electricity that crackled in the atmosphere. I can only describe it as the energy of hope.”*

Ahryanna McGuirk (HI – 2024)

*“I learned how everyone in government is just someone who is trying to help others in their own way, and whether we agree with them or not, we must recognize and respect those who carry out their work with that intention. For me, this realization humanized the branches of government, the officials, and their offices, as I could now truly imagine myself being a part of the vanguard of change.”*

Edward Mukalazi (MA – 2024)

*“One of the most impactful moments of the whole week was looking out the window of the coach as we drove through Arlington National Cemetery. As we traveled, one of the Military Mentors asked, ‘Did you do all that you could?’ I have reflected on that question almost daily since the end of Washington Week. It has become a motto in my daily actions. Am I doing all I can to use what I have been blessed with to do good in this world?”*

Bannon Price (AR – 2024)

*“Our once-in-a-lifetime experience in the White House was nothing short of a dream. I will never forget the look the president gave us while entering the room, sharing his experiences as a young Senator and his life in politics. What struck me most was that he took the time to make eye contact with each and every one of us; he saw us, recognized us, and connected with us. In doing so, he cemented another of the week’s most critical themes: Everyone is valuable, everyone must be recognized. We all have something to offer.”*

Austin Rios (SC – 2024)

*“During the United States Senate Youth Program’s luncheon at the Hart Senate Office Building, Senator Bill Cassidy introduced an idea that perfectly encapsulates the Washington Week experience: pass the baton.”*

Dylan Rhoton (LA – 2024)

*“I had the honor of delivering appreciation remarks for Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights Kristen Clarke at the Department of Justice. As she discussed working on hate crime cases, holding police departments accountable, and preserving voting rights for all, I found myself smiling — it was a modern affirmation of Dr. King’s message and his quest for justice.”*

Ira Sharma (TN – 2024)



# Historical Sites











(ABOVE)  
South Carolina  
delegate Peyton White



(RIGHT)  
Montana delegate  
Faith You

## A Night to Say Farewell

After memorable moments with dignitaries, journalists, diplomats and the highest-level officials in the nation, the last speakers to address the program are chosen by the students themselves. Two delegates, selected by their peers through a democratic process, have the opportunity to reflect on their shared experience and offer their vision for the future. The heartfelt remarks from Faith You of Montana and Peyton White of South Carolina were a fitting conclusion to a once-in-a-lifetime week. The entire audience was on their feet for the first-ever Coach Spirit Award competition, won by the choreographed dance moves from Coach Two. A superbly reimagined Hamilton moment and a rousing rendition of "Take Me Home, Country Roads" got honorable mentions. The Farewell Dinner also brought closure to the week with a solemn flag folding ceremony conducted by the dedicated 2024 Military Mentor team and the Presentation of Colors by the Joint Armed Forces Color Guard.







**Ms. Jaynie Malorni**  
Education Program  
Lead, Office of Teaching  
and Learning, Nevada  
Department of Education



**Ms. Madison Lacey**  
Hathaway Scholarship  
Consultant, Wyoming  
Department of Education

## Distinguished Educators Joined Delegates for the 62<sup>nd</sup> Annual Washington Week

The selection administrators from the states of the USSYP Senate Co-Chairs were invited to join the delegates for Washington Week. We thank our partners in education for all that they do to support the student selection process.





# Washington Week 2024









# 2024 USSYP Senator and Delegate Roster

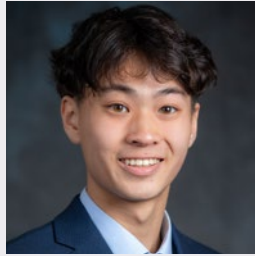
## ALABAMA



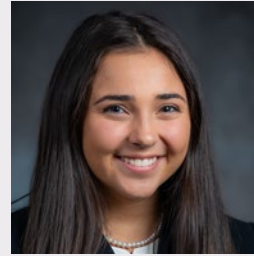
**Senator  
Tommy Tuberville**



**Senator  
Katie Britt**



**Edward Pang**  
Vestavia Hills  
High School



**Ashland Ross**  
Satsuma High School

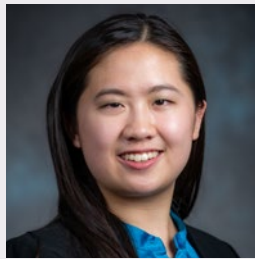
## ALASKA



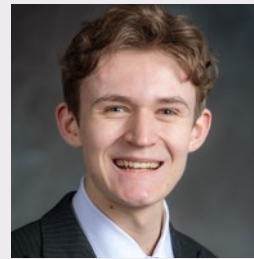
**Senator  
Lisa Murkowski**



**Senator  
Daniel Sullivan**



**Elizabeth Djajalie**  
Thunder Mountain  
High School



**Felix Myers**  
Sitka High School

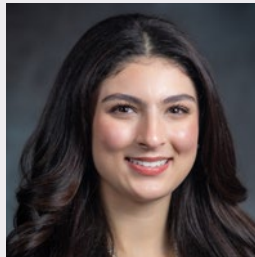
## ARIZONA



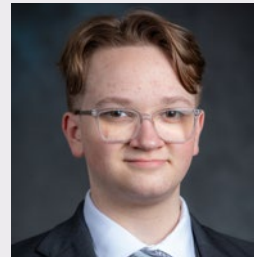
**Senator  
Kyrsten Sinema**



**Senator  
Mark Kelly**



**Camillia Baker**  
Arizona College  
Prep High School



**Isaac Ormand**  
Hidden Treasures  
Academy

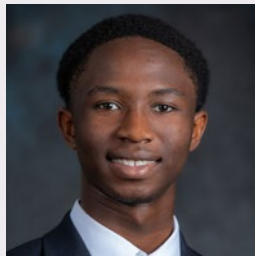
## ARKANSAS



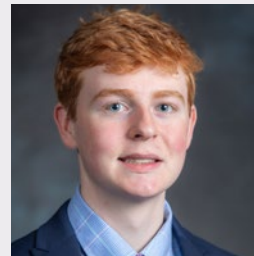
**Senator  
John Boozman**



**Senator  
Tom Cotton**



**Joshua Ofodile**  
Haas Hall Academy



**Bannon Price**  
Ashdown High School



## CALIFORNIA



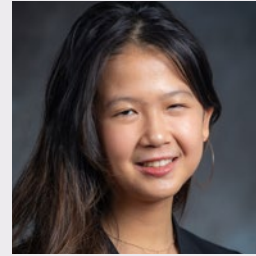
**Senator  
Alex Padilla**



**Senator  
Laphonza Butler**



**Aaron Combs**  
Canyon Crest  
Academy



**Emi Sakamoto**  
Culver City  
High School

## COLORADO



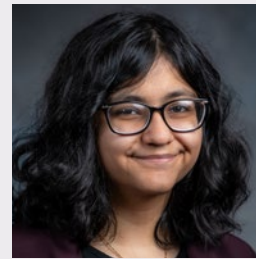
**Senator  
Michael F. Bennet**



**Senator  
John Hickenlooper**



**Siddharth Nareddy**  
Peak to Peak  
Charter School



**Riya Singh**  
Pueblo West  
High School

## CONNECTICUT



**Senator  
Richard Blumenthal**



**Senator  
Christopher Murphy**



**Yasmeen Galal**  
Woodland Regional  
High School



**Snigtha Mohanraj**  
Engineering and  
Science University  
Magnet School

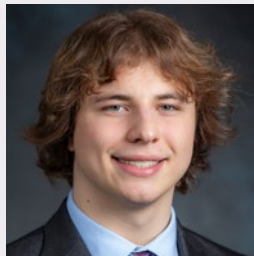
## DELAWARE



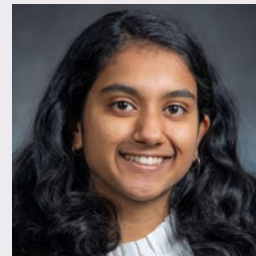
**Senator  
Thomas R. Carper**



**Senator  
Christopher  
A. Coons**



**Mert Kayabas**  
Caesar Rodney  
High School



**Iveena Mukherjee**  
Charter School  
of Wilmington



# 2024 USSYP Senator and Delegate Roster

## DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA



**Representative  
Eleanor Holmes  
Norton**



**Ezekiel Lu**  
Templeton  
Academy DC



**Bruktawit Tesfaye**  
Capital City Public  
Charter School

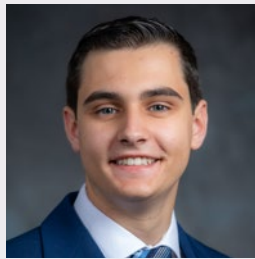
## FLORIDA



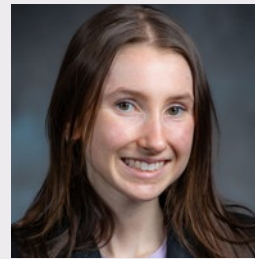
**Senator  
Marco Rubio**



**Senator  
Rick Scott**

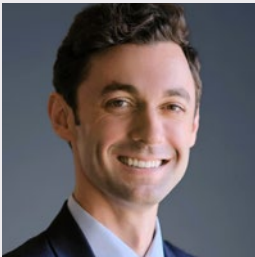


**Maurits Acosta**  
Hialeah-Miami Lakes  
Senior High School



**Brittany Berlin**  
Florida Atlantic  
University High School

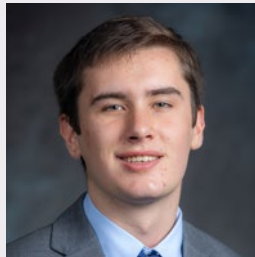
## GEORGIA



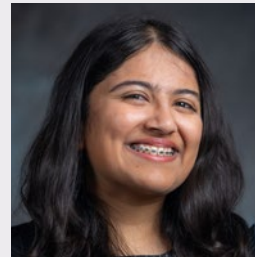
**Senator  
Jon Ossoff**



**Senator  
Raphael Warnock**



**Jackson Bost**  
Madison County  
High School



**Viveka Mehrotra**  
North Oconee  
High School

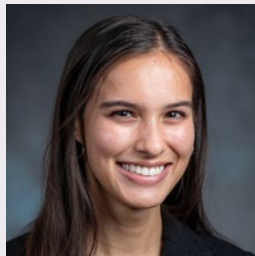
## HAWAII



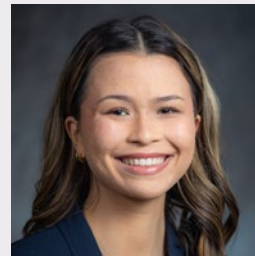
**Senator  
Brian Schatz**



**Senator  
Mazie K. Hirono**



**Ahryanna McGuirk**  
Kalaheo High School



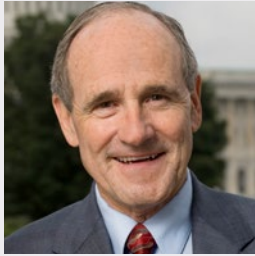
**Lehua Norris**  
Konawaena  
High School



## IDAHO



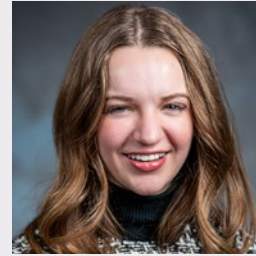
**Senator  
Mike Crapo**



**Senator  
James E. Risch**



**Alyson Reed**  
North Gem  
High School



**AnnMarie Wolfley**  
Snake River  
High School

## ILLINOIS



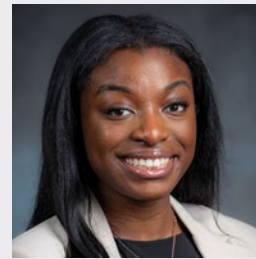
**Senator  
Richard J. Durbin**



**Senator  
Tammy Duckworth**



**Anoushka Lal**  
Walter Payton  
College Preparatory  
High School



**Chelsea Osei**  
Lockport Township  
High School

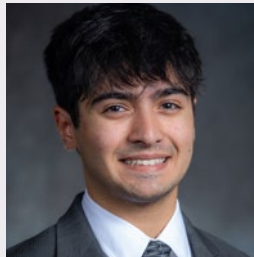
## INDIANA



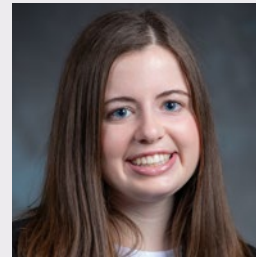
**Senator  
Todd Young**



**Senator  
Mike Braun**

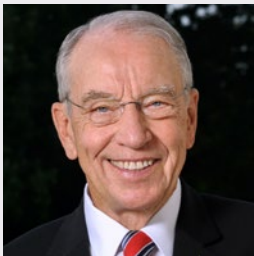


**Kyle Davis**  
Bloomington High  
School South



**Layla Kelly**  
Homestead  
High School

## IOWA



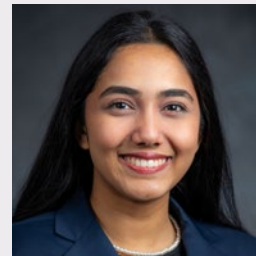
**Senator  
Charles Grassley**



**Senator  
Joni K. Ernst**



**Reem Kirja**  
Iowa City West  
High School



**Anika Yadav**  
Waukee High School



# 2024 USSYP Senator and Delegate Roster

## KANSAS



**Senator  
Jerry Moran**



**Senator  
Roger Marshall**



**Madisen Finch**  
Leavenworth Sr.  
High School



**Tucker Leck**  
Neodesha  
High School



**Robert Rasmussen III**  
Vilseck High School  
DODEA – Germany

## KENTUCKY



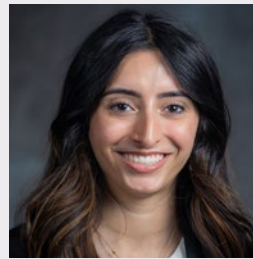
**Senator  
Mitch McConnell**



**Senator  
Rand Paul**



**Ariel Fader**  
Larry A. Ryle  
High School

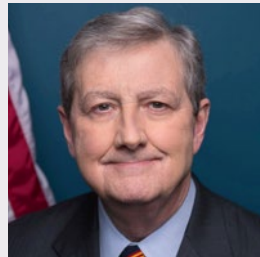


**Minhal Nazeer**  
Kentucky Country  
Day School

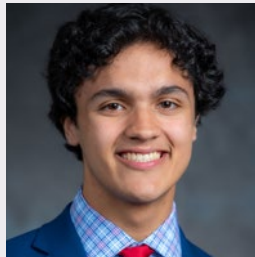
## LOUISIANA



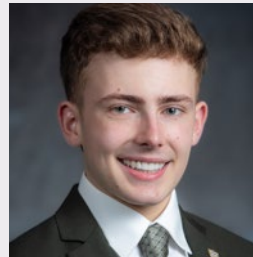
**Senator  
Bill Cassidy**



**Senator  
John N. Kennedy**



**Joshua Blake**  
Lakeshore  
High School

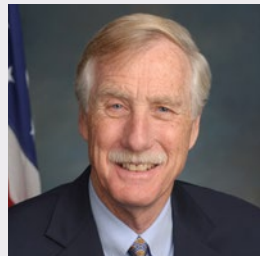


**Dylan Rhoton**  
Brother Martin  
High School

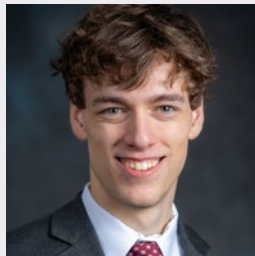
## MAINE



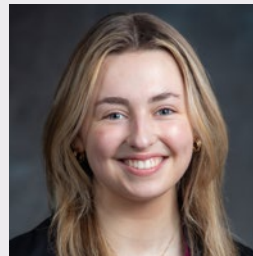
**Senator  
Susan M. Collins**



**Senator  
Angus S. King**



**Ryan Hafener**  
Hampden Academy



**Claire Ouellette**  
Caribou High School



## MARYLAND



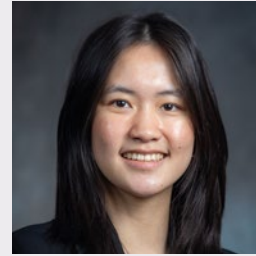
**Senator  
Benjamin L. Cardin**



**Senator  
Chris Van Hollen**



**James Howard**  
Gilman School



**Angelina Xu**  
Richard Montgomery  
High School

## MASSACHUSETTS



**Senator  
Elizabeth Warren**



**Senator  
Edward J. Markey**



**Julianna Lee**  
Duxbury High School



**Edward Mukalazi**  
Andover High School

## MICHIGAN



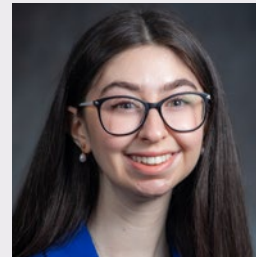
**Senator  
Debbie Stabenow**



**Senator  
Gary Peters**



**Aanya Shah**  
Troy High School



**Sarah Yousif**  
Saline High School

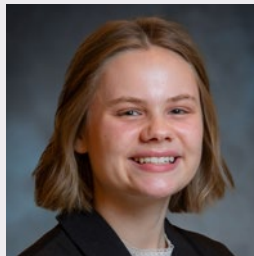
## MINNESOTA



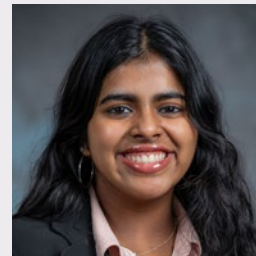
**Senator  
Amy Klobuchar**



**Senator  
Tina Smith**



**Sydney McGrath**  
Roosevelt  
High School



**Deepti Pillai**  
Minnetonka  
High School



# 2024 USSYP Senator and Delegate Roster

## MISSISSIPPI



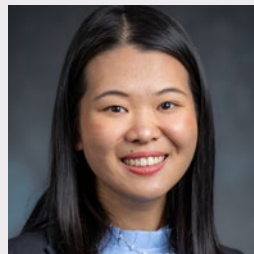
**Senator  
Roger F. Wicker**



**Senator  
Cindy Hyde-Smith**



**Katherine Farthing**  
Madison Central  
High School

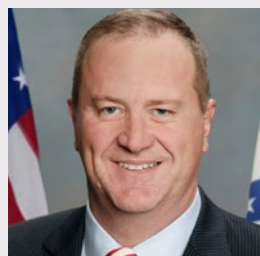


**Iris Xue**  
The Mississippi School  
for Mathematics  
and Science

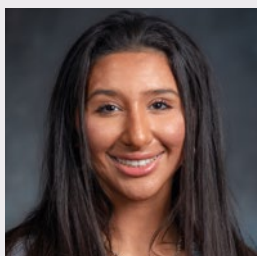
## MISSOURI



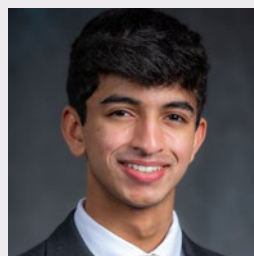
**Senator  
Josh Hawley**



**Senator  
Eric Schmitt**



**Elana Hadi**  
Central High School



**Andrew Puthumana**  
Rockhurst  
High School

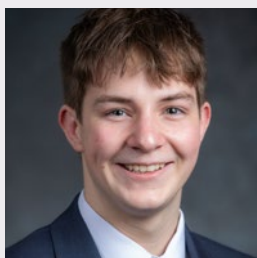
## MONTANA



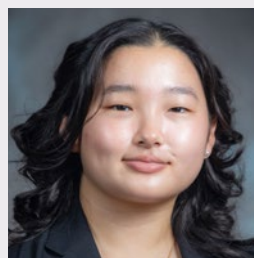
**Senator  
Jon Tester**



**Senator  
Steve Daines**



**Jesse McCormick**  
Sentinel High School



**Faith You**  
Hellgate High School

## NEBRASKA



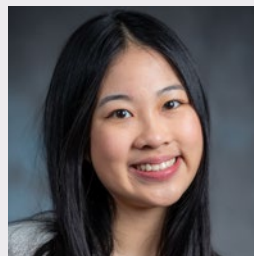
**Senator  
Deb Fischer**



**Senator  
Pete Ricketts**



**Isabella Meyer**  
Boone Central  
High School



**Hannah Tang**  
Lincoln East  
High School







# 2024 USSYP Senator and Delegate Roster

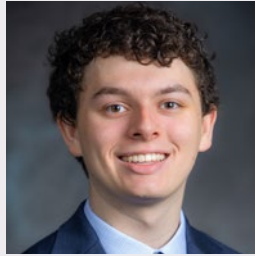
## NEVADA



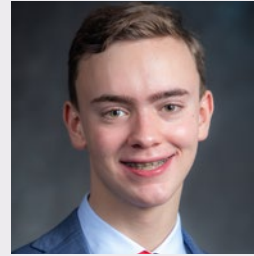
**Senator  
Catherine  
Cortez Masto**



**Senator  
Jacky Rosen**



**Robert Barsel**  
The Meadows School



**Max Grinstein**  
Davidson Academy  
of Nevada

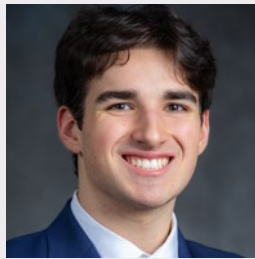
## NEW HAMPSHIRE



**Senator  
Jeanne Shaheen**



**Senator  
Maggie Hassan**



**Michael Blair**  
Manchester Central  
High School



**James Thibault**  
Winnisquam Regional  
High School

## NEW JERSEY



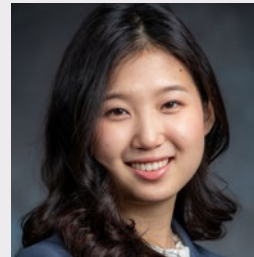
**Senator  
Robert Menendez**



**Senator  
Cory Booker**



**Anika Dugal**  
Old Bridge  
High School



**Grace Yoon**  
Cherry Hill High  
School East

## NEW MEXICO



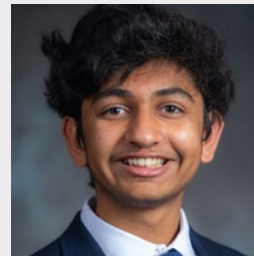
**Senator  
Martin Heinrich**



**Senator  
Ben Ray Luján**



**Angela Hummingbird**  
Albuquerque Institute  
for Mathematics  
and Science



**Abhishek Narahari**  
Albuquerque  
Academy



## NEW YORK



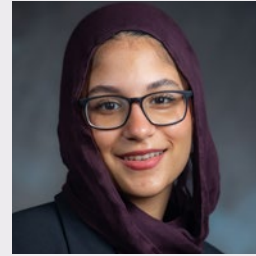
**Senator  
Charles E. Schumer**



**Senator  
Kirsten E. Gillibrand**



**Kyle Chan**  
Stuyvesant  
High School



**Nada Ibrahim**  
Manhattan Hunter  
Science High School

## NORTH CAROLINA



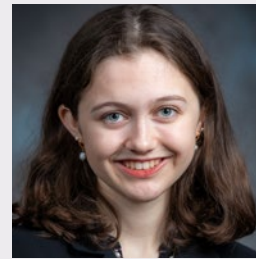
**Senator  
Thom Tillis**



**Senator  
Ted Budd**



**William Drake**  
Woods Charter  
School



**Anne Eilers**  
Providence  
High School

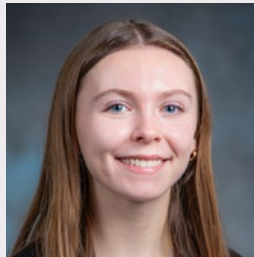
## NORTH DAKOTA



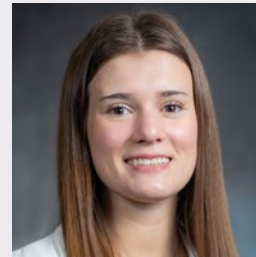
**Senator  
John Hoeven**



**Senator  
Kevin Cramer**



**Lauren Beck**  
Legacy High School



**Brianna Schmitz**  
Oakes High School

## OHIO



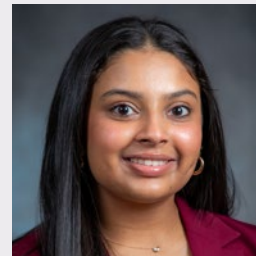
**Senator  
Sherrod Brown**



**Senator  
J. D. Vance**



**Wright Chen**  
Oakwood High School



**Sudhiksha Ramesh**  
Solon High School



# 2024 USSYP Senator and Delegate Roster

## OKLAHOMA



**Senator  
James Lankford**



**Senator  
Markwayne Mullin**



**Ella Calvert**  
Stillwater High School



**Victoria Nwankwo**  
Putnam City North  
High School

## OREGON



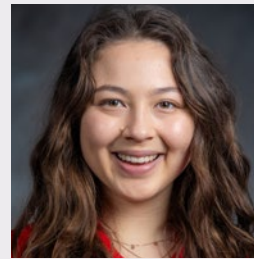
**Senator  
Ron Wyden**



**Senator  
Jeff Merkley**

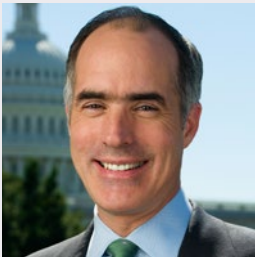


**Alexandra Coltman**  
Lincoln High School



**Sophie Minot**  
Crescent Valley  
High School

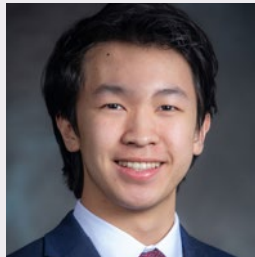
## PENNSYLVANIA



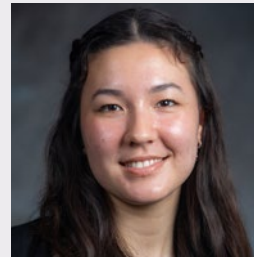
**Senator  
Robert P. Casey**



**Senator  
John Fetterman**

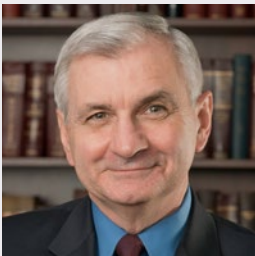


**Alex Chen**  
West Chester East  
High School



**Edan Kauer**  
Council Rock South  
High School

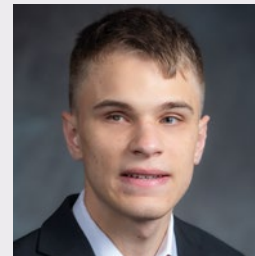
## RHODE ISLAND



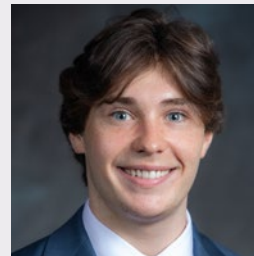
**Senator  
Jack Reed**



**Senator  
Sheldon Whitehouse**



**Ryan Lukowicz**  
North Kingstown  
High School



**Dominic Muratore**  
La Salle Academy



## SOUTH CAROLINA



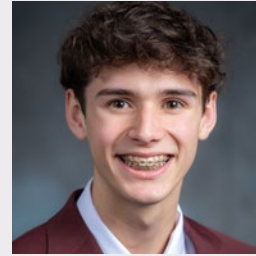
**Senator  
Lindsey Graham**



**Senator  
Tim Scott**



**Austin Rios**  
Lexington High School



**Peyton White**  
Travelers Rest  
High School

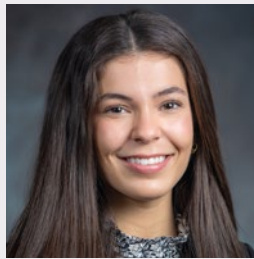
## SOUTH DAKOTA



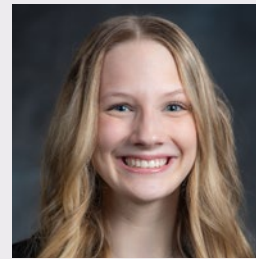
**Senator  
John Thune**



**Senator  
Michael Rounds**



**Leila Balsiger**  
Winner High School



**Katie Schulte**  
Yankton High School

## TENNESSEE



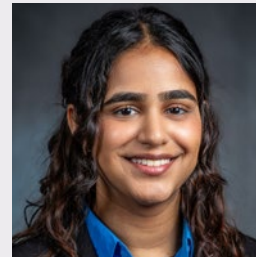
**Senator  
Marsha Blackburn**



**Senator  
Bill Hagerty**



**Carlton Madison III**  
Martin Luther King,  
Jr. Academic Magnet  
High School

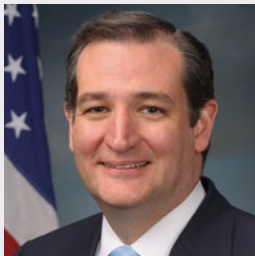


**Ira Sharma**  
White Station  
High School

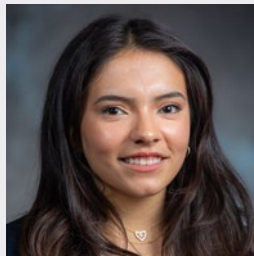
## TEXAS



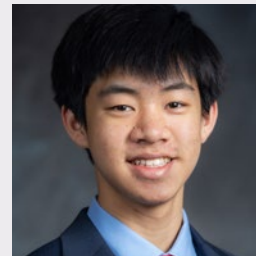
**Senator  
John Cornyn**



**Senator  
Ted Cruz**



**Samantha Mujica**  
Lytle High School



**Colin Shen**  
Clear Lake  
High School



# 2024 USSYP Senator and Delegate Roster

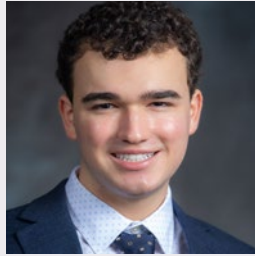
## UTAH



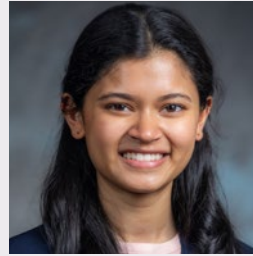
**Senator  
Mike Lee**



**Senator  
Mitt Romney**



**Noah Canada**  
Park City High School



**Diya Oommen**  
West High School



**Baden Francis**  
Kadena High School  
DODEA – Japan

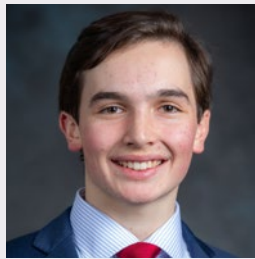
## VERMONT



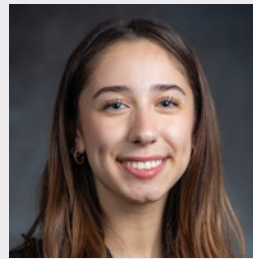
**Senator  
Bernard Sanders**



**Senator  
Peter Welch**



**Christopher Alfano**  
Burr and Burton  
Academy



**Eva Gould**  
Brattleboro  
High School

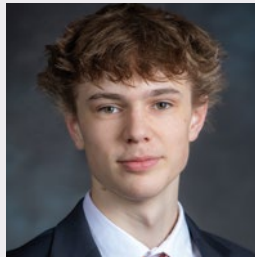
## VIRGINIA



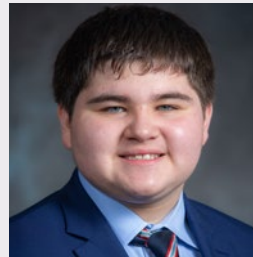
**Senator  
Mark R. Warner**



**Senator  
Tim Kaine**



**Landon Jones**  
Halifax County  
High School



**Caleb Quiroga**  
West Springfield  
High School

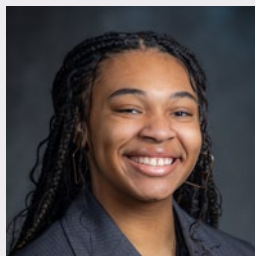
## WASHINGTON



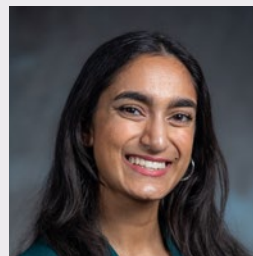
**Senator  
Patty Murray**



**Senator  
Maria Cantwell**



**Gianna Frank**  
Marysville Pilchuck  
High School



**Mahika Malladi**  
The Overlake School



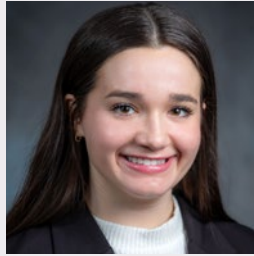
## WEST VIRGINIA



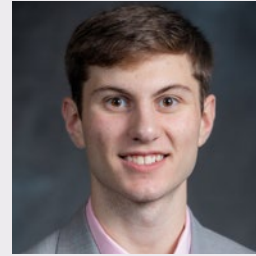
**Senator  
Joe Manchin III**



**Senator  
Shelley Moore Capito**



**Peyton Barker**  
Greenbrier East  
High School



**Bryson Rigglesman**  
Petersburg  
High School

## WISCONSIN



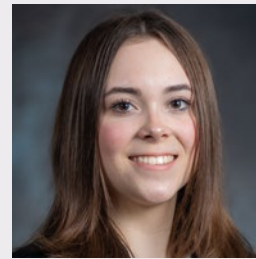
**Senator  
Ron Johnson**



**Senator  
Tammy Baldwin**



**Cooper Antczak**  
Chetek-Weyerhaeuser  
High School



**Marisa D'Amico**  
Cedarburg  
High School

## WYOMING



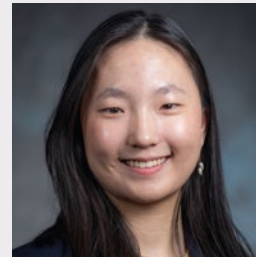
**Senator  
John Barrasso, M.D.**



**Senator  
Cynthia Lummis**



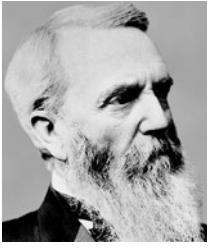
**Casey J. Toner**  
Glenrock Jr/Sr  
High School



**Grace Zhou**  
Laramie High School



# Family, Foundation, Legacy



George Hearst



Phoebe A. Hearst



William R. Hearst



George R. Hearst, Sr.



Randolph A. Hearst



Millicent A. Boudjakdj

For 62 years, the United States Senate Youth Program has brought thousands of America's brightest young leaders to Washington, returning them home with insight into the history and heritage of their democracy and encouragement to be leaders of the future. Each year the students leave with lasting impressions of their week including new friendships and bonds that many term "life-changing."

## 1820

An exemplar of American success, George Hearst, born in 1820, went west to seek a future in mining and developed the family fortune. He served in the California State Legislature representing San Francisco and was appointed to the U.S. Senate in 1886 and served until his death in 1891. His wife, pioneering philanthropist Phoebe Apperson Hearst, distinguished herself as one of America's most accomplished women, dedicated to historic, educational and children's causes. She co-founded the National Parent Teachers Association in 1897 and was instrumental in the reclamation and rehabilitation of George Washington's Mount Vernon property.

## 1863

William Randolph Hearst, their only child, was born in 1863 and became one of the great legends of American journalism, establishing vast media holdings at the forefront of new communications technologies, including radio, television and specialty magazines. An avid student of history and politics, Hearst newspapers detailed the history of the 20th century, and his public service included two terms as a Democratic Congressman from New York. During his life he gave millions of dollars to colleges, hospitals, kindergartens and museums, and in the decade before his death, he established the charitable foundations that bear his name.

## 1962

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.

## TODAY

For more than 75 years, The Hearst Foundations have continued to support numerous charitable organizations across the country in the fields of education, health, culture and social service. The Foundations' two flagship initiatives are the United States Senate Youth Program and the annual William Randolph Hearst Journalism Awards Program, founded in 1960, to encourage journalistic excellence and to support education at accredited undergraduate schools of journalism nationwide.

For more information about The Hearst Foundations, please access [hearstfdn.org](http://hearstfdn.org)









# UNITED STATES SENATE ★ YOUTH PROGRAM ★

EDUCATION • LEADERSHIP • PUBLIC SERVICE • RESPECT

**SPONSORED BY THE UNITED STATES SENATE  
FUNDED AND ADMINISTERED BY THE HEARST FOUNDATIONS**

**THE HEARST FOUNDATIONS**  
**90 New Montgomery Street, Suite 1212**  
**San Francisco, CA 94105**

**USSENATEYOUTH.ORG**

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