

Cyrus Gilmore Dutton IV, KY - 2015

When I start recalling my Washington week the first person I recall, out of all the amazing speakers, is Major Erick Smith. The Military Mentors are truly what made the week for me. I got to spend time with men and women I never thought I would get the opportunity to talk to personally. Major Smith was the man; he led us with an "outstanding" display of character. If he reapplies to be a mentor next year this is his first recommendation.

During my Washington Week I did not write down any notes I only kept the papers and souvenirs we received. I do not regret this action because I do have a decent memory that usually retains the things that stand out to me - so far so good. While notes might have been a good idea, I still believe that they wouldn't have captured the moments I had with my fellow delegates that will never be forgotten. One occasion that stands out in my head would be when Robert, the delegate from Mississippi, sat on one of the Francis Scott Key chairs. (Please don't arrest him after hearing this information). The nights I had to beat Talha to sleep because he wouldn't stop talking to his girlfriend, and having to explain to him what types of conversations were appropriate during certain situations. What can I say? I had an awesome roommate!

Getting to the speakers, by far my favorite speaker was Justice Breyer. To be truthful when all the delegates saw that we were getting to meet Justice Breyer we were kind of disappointed because, out of all the justices, he is pretty normal. Why not a Scalia or a Kennedy? Even though he wasn't the justice who is the swing vote or an outspoken justice he was extremely wise. I was very impressed by his humility. I always had imagined a justice looking down on us lesser-educated persons. I was also beyond impressed by his quotation and citation of the Federalist papers. I was in the middle of reading these eighty-five essays while this program was occurring. He talked about paper number fifty-seven, which happened to be the exact paper where I had stopped previously.

Overall my Washington Week was a time I will remember and brag about forever. Spending time with Harvard's freshman class is always something cool to tell your public school friends about. I don't believe I deserve to be treated the way I was treated while I was in Washington, but I loved accepting your generosity. My Washington Week was one of the pivotal moments of my life.