

UNITED STATES SENATE YOUTH PROGRAM

FIFTY-FOURTH ANNUAL WASHINGTON WEEK
WASHINGTON, D.C. MARCH 5-12, 2016



The constitutional authority and responsibility does not lie with the leadership. It lies with all of us individually, collectively, and equally. In the end, that principle cannot be made to prevail by rules. It can prevail only if there is a high degree of accommodation, mutual restraint, and a measure of courage—in spite of our weaknesses—in all of us. It can prevail only if we recognize that, in the end, it is not the Senators as individuals who are of fundamental importance. In the end, it is the institution of the Senate. It is the Senate itself as one of the foundations of the Constitution. It is the Senate as one of the rocks of the Republic.

—MIKE MANSFIELD, UNITED STATES SENATOR OF MONTANA, LONGEST SERVING SENATE MAJORITY LEADER AND CO-FOUNDER OF THE UNITED STATES SENATE YOUTH PROGRAM

(image of painting Mike Mansfield by Aaron Shikler, which hangs in the U.S. Capitol, courtesy of U.S. Senate Collection)

2016 UNITED STATES SENATE YOUTH PROGRAM
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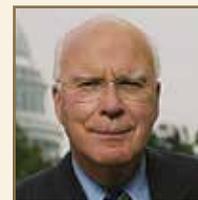
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★ UNITED STATES SENATE RESOLUTION 324

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.



CONGRATULATIONS FROM WILLIAM RANDOLPH HEARST III

Dear Delegates,

Congratulations to the 2016 class of the United States Senate Youth Program!

What an exciting year for the program. The 2016 presidential primary campaign was in full swing, providing the backdrop for many a passionate debate among the delegates and discussions with our speakers. On behalf of everyone at The Hearst Foundations, we commend all of you for the civil, respectful and inclusive tone you employed with one another. You truly embody the spirit of optimism and intellectual energy that are hallmarks of the program and of our nation.

The 54th annual Washington Week marked another milestone in USSYP history. The second Senate Youth Program alumnus to be elected to the Senate, Senator Cory Gardner of Colorado (USSYP-CO 1993) served as a program Co-Chair this year. Senator Gardner was electrifying in his address to the students. He joins Senator Susan Collins of Maine, demonstrating that our program week in Washington, D.C. can spark a life in public service at the highest level.

We were privileged to make an important announcement at the outset of the week: the college scholarship awarded to each delegate was increased to \$10,000 per student beginning this year. The Washington Week and the college scholarship are one inseparable award, combining a unique experience in the nation's capital with financial support to encourage college-level study of government, history and public affairs.

The Hearst Foundations are honored to sponsor this unique and enduring partnership with the United States Senate, the 50 state Departments of Education, the Department of Defense, and such outstanding students.

Now more than 5,500 strong, USSYP alumni excel in prominent public service positions in all branches of government and in all sectors of society. In addition to Senator Collins and Senator Gardner, our alumni roster includes New Jersey Governor Chris Christie; former Chief Judge Robert Henry, U.S. Court of Appeals; former Ambassador to West Germany Richard Burt; former presidential advisors, senior congressional staff and many other accomplished individuals. We salute all of you.

We also wish to express special gratitude to our 2016 program Co-Chairs, Senator Cory Gardner of Colorado, and Senator Mazie Hirono of Hawaii and their staff. Without their help and support throughout the planning year, the program would not have been possible.

Washington Week relies on the continued endorsement of the Senate Committee on Rules and Administration and their excellent staff members. The U.S. Senate and the USSYP also thank the Council of Chief State School Officers and all of the state-level education administrators for their pivotal roles in the student selection process.

The program's mission will continue as long as there are young people in America with a dedication to academic excellence and a desire to serve their country.

WILLIAM RANDOLPH HEARST III



UNITED STATES SENATE ★ YOUTH PROGRAM ★

EDUCATION · LEADERSHIP · PUBLIC SERVICE

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 54th annual Washington Week once again 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 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 also 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.



WELCOME TO WASHINGTON

Excitement and Alumni Mentoring on First Day in D.C.

Traveling from across the nation and overseas, anticipation mounted as delegates were met at the local airports and train station and brought to the historic Mayflower Hotel in downtown D.C. Meeting for the first time, students are welcomed by their military mentors, USSYP alumni and staff. USSYP alumni have distinguished themselves in the fields of government, education, law, healthcare, engineering, information technology, the nonprofit sector, business and journalism, and are on hand at designated mentoring tables to network with the delegates and answer questions about education and careers.

The evening of arrival day is an important moment in the program when all students are gathered for announcements and instructions about program rules and logistics. This is also when the students are formally introduced to their military mentors, seventeen competitively selected male and female officers from each service branch, assigned to support and guide the delegates through the exciting and demanding week to come.

The United States Senate Youth Alumni Association (www.ussyaa.org) has forged and maintained ties with thousands of program alumni. In addition to ongoing activities throughout the year, alumni gather during Washington Week for the association's annual dinner and board meeting.



Alumni President Michael Gonzales (NM—1973) welcomes the 2016 delegates



A photograph of Senator Cory Gardner, a man with short grey hair, wearing a dark suit, white shirt, and red patterned tie. He is smiling and gesturing with his right hand towards the right side of the frame. He is standing behind a podium with a microphone. The background consists of heavy, ornate red and gold patterned curtains with fringe.

REPUBLICAN CO-CHAIR
SENATOR CORY GARDNER
of Colorado

***GO OUT AND DO GREAT THINGS. AND GO BOLD!
BECAUSE OUR COUNTRY IS DEPENDING ON YOU.***

The infectious enthusiasm that Senator Gardner has for the U.S. Senate Youth Program comes with good reason. Not that long ago he was a high school senior sitting at the ceremonial opening night of Washington Week amid the trumpet flourishes of the Color Guard and the Old Guard Fife and Drum Corps. “I’m here in the United States Senate representing the great state of Colorado because of the United States Senate Youth Program,” said the 1993 Colorado alumnus serving as the 2016 Republican Co-Chair. “It was here that I became enchanted with public policy, having discussions with the other delegates around the tables, hearing viewpoints that I’d never been exposed to, with people who, like me, were so interested in politics.” He regaled the students with stories from his time at the program, flying on an airplane alone for the first time, hearing from Senator John Kerry and Secretary of State Colin Powell and falling asleep from exhaustion mid-sentence while relaying the excitement to his parents on the car ride back from the airport to his small rural town of Yuma. His father provided some early lessons in politics as well, the first-term senator explained, when after his son’s urging, and against the wishes of the mayor, he convinced the City Council to erect a light on a municipal basketball court so Cory and other



teenagers could play after dark. "I realized later that it was about more than that one light on that court; it was a part of a bigger, broader conversation about how we spend tax dollars for services, and how to create a better, brighter future for everyone." Senator Gardner outlined key issues he champions in the Senate today, denoting the 'four corners' of his focus: energy, the economy, education and the environment. Each presents priorities and challenges reflecting the rapid pace of technological change that impacts our economic competitiveness and society at large. "You can't stop innovation," he said. "What if we had said to Ford, you know what, we like the car but the problem is the poor buggy workers are going to be out of business? This is a country that marches forward with innovation, but your generation will have to find solutions to the displacement of jobs and manufacturing in the economy of the future." Tying his deep optimism for the future to understanding of the past, Senator Gardner reminded the delegates that, "Two hundred years ago political scientists and

philosophers were pondering 'how did this ragtag group of rebels and farmers break away from the greatest military power on the face of this earth and create an unprecedented Constitution?'" Quoting Alexis de Tocqueville, he said "It became possible because within the heart of each and every person swelled the passion to rise." "I hope that you will someday realize that you too need to be a part of the fabric of our community, to be leaders" he said. "Look around you. The people who control our future are right here. The people who control our destinies are sitting to your left and to your right, and I hope that you will take that to heart. I hope that you go out and do great things and go bold, because our country is depending on you."

Senator Cory Gardner of Colorado with delegates DeAnna Christensen and Se Young Cheong



DEMOCRATIC CO-CHAIR
SENATOR MAZIE K. HIRONO
of Hawaii

A Compassionate Leader Recalls Life of Hardship, Opportunity and Service

Senator Mazie K. Hirono's voice echoed fluidly around the massive domed interior of the National Archives Rotunda. Behind her the original founding documents of our nation glowed softly against the curved stone. "I am the only immigrant serving in the United States House or Senate right now," said the diminutive junior senator from Hawaii, a magnificent geometrically woven ceremonial orchid lei about her neck. "I spent most of my childhood being raised by grandparents on a rice farm in a very rural part of Japan, where there was no running water." Senator Hirono revealed the hard path of her childhood to the delegates, including her mother's courage to escape a difficult family situation and bring her young children, with one shared suitcase, on a steerable immigration passage to the American state

of Hawaii. Her mother's decision, heart-rending as it must have been, led to Senator Hirono's life of opportunity and leadership. "So you see, there are two things I want to talk to you about tonight," Senator Hirono began, "that everyone can make a difference in someone else's life, and that you must have the courage to take risks." "We can all make a difference, whatever station in life, wherever you come from," she said, paraphrasing Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., "We can all be great if greatness is defined by making a positive difference in someone else's life." Senator Hirono, the USSYP 2016 Democratic Co-Chair, embodies the USSYP philosophy of education, leadership and public service, coming to the United States Senate after decades of holding local and statewide elected offices, and serving in the U.S. House.



Senator Hirono also holds the distinction of being the first elected female senator from Hawaii, the first Asian-American woman elected to the Senate and the first U.S. senator born in Japan. The senator's legislative imperatives reflect her personal experience. Speaking of her hope for comprehensive immigration reform, she said, "We should continue to put the family unit as the guiding principle, because no matter how smart or what type of educational attainments an immigrant has, in order to be happy and fulfilled, you need your family around you." On the subject of income inequality, a central topic in the current presidential campaign, she said, "I know what it is like to run out of money by the end of the month and you don't have enough money for rent or food." These experiences "shape a lot of the battles that I fight. I know who I am fighting for. These are people who don't have a powerful voice in the political arena. I was one of those people myself and I certainly empathize with the desire and the importance of creating opportunities for everyone,"

she explained. Senator Hirono serves on five Senate committees, and when eager hands went up for questions, she moved easily from subject to subject. She described the incredible challenge our nation faces in understanding the intentions of the North Korean government, the difficult process of stabilizing the Middle East and spoke passionately about the need for America to accomplish as much as possible through diplomatic channels instead of military intervention. Discussing domestic policy, Senator Hirono engaged with the delegates on the importance of strengthening early education opportunities for all children and understanding the impact of governmental regulation on our nation's small businesses. As the evening closed, Senator Hirono looked out at the faces in her audience saying that she knew she was looking at "future senators, members of the House and presidential candidates," and she urged the USSYP Class of 2016 to make a difference and take the risks needed to venture outside their traditional comfort zones to accomplish great goals.



FORMER CHIEF JUDGE
ROBERT H. HENRY



THOUGHTS ON CIVIL RIGHTS AND CIVIL ENGAGEMENT FROM ESTEEMED ALUMNUS

Distinguished alumnus Robert Henry (USSYP OK—1971) former Chief Judge of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit and current president of Oklahoma City University, began Washington Week with a parable set in Renaissance Rome. Conjuring a conversation between a renowned rabbi, the Pope and a poor Jewish tailor as mediator, Judge Henry used humor to impress upon the delegates how vastly different interpretations of the same messages can occur. The esteemed legal scholar, who also served in the Oklahoma state legislature, as the attorney general for the state and as dean of the law school at the university he now heads, shared his life story and insight into the personalities of the Supreme Court justices. Especially poignant moments were shared during the Q and A, as Judge Henry described the erudition, joviality, intensity and friendship of Justice Antonin Scalia who had suddenly passed away just a few weeks prior. Reiterating wording from some of Justice Scalia’s scathing dissents

as well as recalling the Irish sing-along he shared with Justice Scalia at the piano, the students came to know the late justice in a deeper way through Judge Henry’s heartfelt words. Judge Henry’s keynote breakfast speech set the stage for a day that was focused on the Judicial Branch, what Alexander Hamilton described as “the least dangerous branch.” He compared the styles of the Court’s jurists, noting that Justice Scalia went beyond originalism, to a “kind of originalism called textualism,” where he would refer to dictionaries printed centuries ago to find the meaning of words at the time they were written. Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, who the delegates would meet later that day, has a different philosophy. “She is a purposivist,” he said; “She thinks we need to ask: What is the broad purpose of the Constitution?” He described her perspective as similar to that of Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes in believing that, “the Constitution should be flexible in the joints. It should speak to broad intents and broad virtues.” Judge Henry described

Justice Ginsburg’s early law career as marked by particularly shrewd courtroom strategies to push for gender neutral statutes. If a law specified that a daughter, but not a son, could claim a tax credit for caring for elderly parents, she defended the male rights for equal protection. Her efforts paved the way for many cases supporting women. As he concluded his remarks, Judge Henry held up a small compendium of the nation’s founding documents. Incorporating a quote from the Declaration of Independence, he said, “Washington Week can be an absolute life-changing experience for you. *It is. It will be.* And if you do it right it will inspire you to say, ‘And for the support of this Declaration, with a firm reliance on the protection of divine providence, we must mutually pledge to each other our lives, our fortunes and our sacred honor.’”

Former Chief Judge of the 10th Circuit Robert Henry with Oklahoma delegates Nathan Levitt and Matthew Welborn

JUSTICE RUTH BADER GINSBURG

“We Have Traveled So Far; and in the Right Direction.”

Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg gave the delegates a tour of Supreme Court history utilizing the portraits of chief justices lining the beautiful wood paneled walls of the Supreme Court East Conference Room. Pausing at the portrait of Chief Justice John Marshall, Justice Ginsburg proclaimed him “Perhaps the best of all, for he was responsible for making the Court what it is today,” citing the landmark case *Marbury v. Madison* during his tenure which enforced the Court’s right of judicial review. Justice Ginsburg emphasized that while the constitutions of other countries are sometimes more “aspirational than governing,” under Chief Justice Marshall, the Court expanded its role, concentrating power in the Constitution and strengthening the rule of law. In contrast, she pointed to the image of Roger B. Taney and paraphrased from his infamous opinion in the Dred Scot decision, “That no person who came to this country an African in chains should ever be a citizen.” “He presided over the most terrible decision ever given by this Court,” she said. Her discussion of Chief Justice Morrison Waite,

who served from 1874 to 1888, focused on the case of Belva Ann Lockwood, the pioneering woman who petitioned to be the first female to be admitted to the Bar of the Supreme Court in 1879. Chief Justice Waite was one of three justices who voted in her favor. Pointing to Chief Justice Melville Fuller, she credited him with instituting the valuable tradition of the conference handshakes. “Before the justices go on the Bench or start their private conferences, each justice shakes hands with each of the others,” she said. “For those of you who are not mathematically inclined, that’s thirty-two handshakes,” she jokingly informed the delegates to many laughs. Invited to ask questions, a sea of delegate hands shot into the air. Asked if she had faced barriers in her career she took a positive tone. “In my own life I have seen enormous change,” she said. “When I entered law school in 1956 there were 9 women and more than 600 men in my class. There was no antidiscrimination law at Harvard.” Today, she pointed out, law schools are evenly split men to women, and there are even many women deans of law schools, as was her colleague Justice

Elena Kagan prior to being nominated to the Court. Queried about hard choices she has faced in her life, Justice Ginsburg relayed how obtaining her first job in the law was the real difficulty. Men dominated the field, and getting any position in the law at all was her objective. She took a job in Sweden to help write a book about Swedish civil procedure, and when she returned, the women’s movement had begun and she was able to, “Use my talents as a lawyer to move that issue along,” she said modestly. She told the students that among her role models was Burnita Shelton Matthews, a leader in the suffragist National Woman’s Party and the first woman appointed to serve on a U.S. District Court. When asked about her interests other than law, the diminutive justice broke into a huge smile and said, “The opera, of course!” She said she planned on attending the entire Wagner Ring Cycle when it opened in D.C., and her passion for her work, for history and for life was quite evident.



Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg with New York delegates Liana Van Nostrand and Benjamin Sorkin

JULIE ADAMS AND ELIZABETH MACDONOUGH Senate Officers: Leaders Behind the Scenes



[above] Secretary of the Senate Julie Adams with Iowa delegates Timothy Foley, Jr. and Beau Ragland



[below] Senate Parliamentarian Elizabeth MacDonough with Vermont delegates Ethan McCollister and Marisa Sylvester

The senior officers of the United States Senate are among the highest-ranking public servants most people never meet. Lucky for the USSYP delegates, they get to hear directly from the Senate secretary and parliamentarian each year, learning from these two extraordinary women how they help keep the Senate running smoothly and productively. On the verge of a career as a high school American history teacher, Secretary of the Senate Julie E. Adams, now in her second year in office, made the decision to come to Washington, D.C. to gain “real world experience” before entering the classroom. “Be open to opportunities that may deviate from your plan,” she advised, never dreaming that she would hold her current position, or have the opportunity to work in the White House for First Lady Laura Bush, and for the majority leader of the Senate, as indeed she did. But “one job after another presented itself, and I seized the opportunities before me,” she said with humility. Her current responsibilities truly mix the old and the new. The secretary is concurrently charged with maintaining continuity of the legislative process in an era of high threat levels, while also supplying the “pens and parchment,” or as known today, modern office supplies, for each Senate office. The Senate is a “body of traditions,” she noted, and even in the modern era, much is still done with ink pen and hand delivery. There was a computer system failure a few days into her tenure, she relayed, and the Senate clerks assured her, “As long as we have paper and pens, we can do our job.” Secretary Adams treasures the history associated with her role, one that began with the first secretary of the Senate, Samuel Otis, in the year 1789. Elizabeth MacDonough has served as the first female Senate parliamentarian for the past four years and she offered insight into the day-to-day duties and challenges she faces. In contrast to the secretary, her office has only been in existence since 1935 when the complexities of Senate rules and procedures became too dense for the presiding officer to handle alone. Parliamentarian MacDonough describes her position as “a nonpartisan, apolitical umpire for the Senate; a neutral arbiter of its rules and procedures and an interpreter of federal law and the Constitution as they apply to the Senate’s conduct of business on a day-to-day basis.” Much like being in school, she says, “There’s a lot of work to do, and a great deal of research, listening to opposing or just different points of view, learning a little about a lot of things,” she explained. “You cannot refer a bill to the proper committee if you don’t know what that bill does or what the law behind the text means.” The lively Q and A that followed both officers’ remarks covered a wide range of issues, providing insight on the newest season of *House of Cards* (no spoilers!), term limits and the impact of the 24-hour news cycle on the political process. Both speakers linked life on Capitol Hill with the tenets of the Senate Youth Program. As Secretary Adams explained, “Everyone who works on Capitol Hill has their own story, how they got to where they are now and where they hope to be in the future. No two stories are the same. But the theme you will find in most of them is the desire to make a difference and serve this country. Public service is a noble calling.”



SENATE HISTORIAN—DR. BETTY KOED

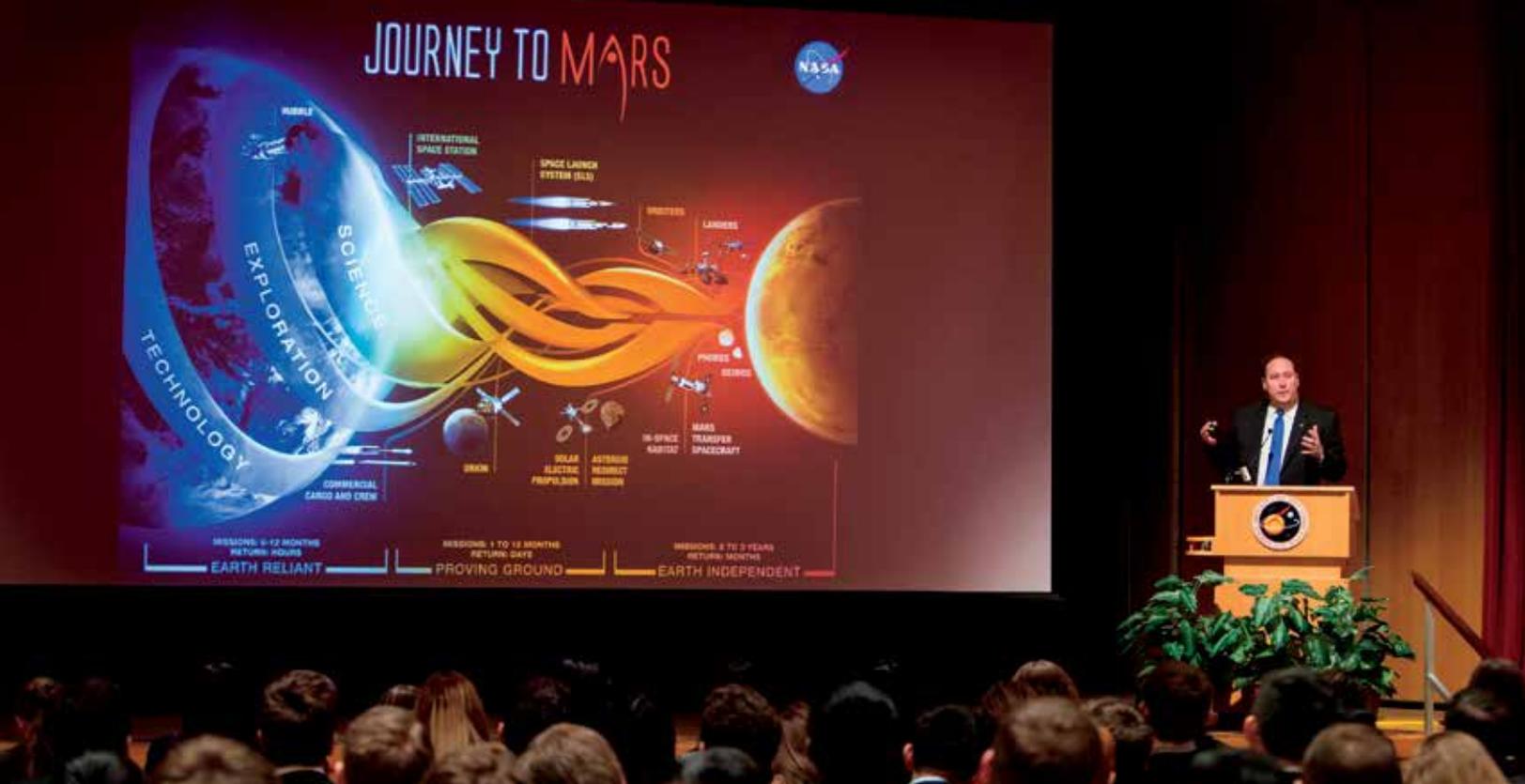
Defining Leadership Through Senate History

Dr. Betty Koed, the Senate's first female historian, brought to life senators from the 19th and 20th century for an inquiry into the true nature of leadership. Senator Henry Wilson of Massachusetts visited Washington in 1836 and was horrified by the sight of a slave auction in the shadow of the Capitol. From that moment on, he fought with complete passion for the cause of emancipation. He declared in 1844, "Freedom and slavery are now arrayed against each other. We must destroy slavery or it will destroy liberty." In 1862, as a senator, he authored the D.C. Compensated Emancipation Act which freed the slaves in the District of Columbia, months before President Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation.

Turning to the 20th century, Senator Margaret Chase Smith of Maine issued her Declaration of Conscience which exemplified courage and leadership at a time when McCarthyism had taken root in the country. Speaking out forcefully, although only a few weeks into her first term, she held firm to her beliefs even when public opinion was running in the other direction. Senator Smith broke barriers all her life. "When people keep telling you that you can't do a thing," she said, "you'd kind of like to try it." She was the first woman to serve in both the House and the Senate, the lone female senator for 15 of the 24 years she served in the Senate, and the first female candidate to run for president on a major party ticket. "I am," she explained, "pioneering the way for a woman in the future, to make it

easier for her to be elected president." Not excluding those who actually held the title of leader, Dr. Koed highlighted the quartet of senators who were the founding fathers of the United States Senate Youth Program. Majority Leader Mike Mansfield of Montana, Minority Leader Everett Dirksen of Illinois, Majority Whip Hubert Humphrey of Minnesota and Minority Whip Thomas Kuchel of California together guided the Civil Rights Act of 1964 through a filibuster that lasted from February to June of that year. This team of Republicans and Democrats worked together to build coalitions, make compromises, provide clause-by-clause explanations of controversial and complex language, and finally claimed legislative victory for the landmark Act on June 10, 1964. Two years earlier, in 1962, this leadership team collaborated on another bold idea: the USSYP. As Dr. Koed concluded, "They believed this program would be an investment in the future, bringing young people to Washington to gain a better knowledge of how our government works, and they were right. Here you are, 54 years later. I call that leadership." Washington Week's Monday address was Dr. Koed's first as the United States Senate historian. The program is fortunate to be able to share in her wisdom and looks forward to many more rewarding and enriching conversations in years to come.

Senate Historian Dr. Betty Koed with California delegates Emily Lu and Zena Meyer



INSPIRATION IN ACTION: A Visit to NASA Goddard Spaceflight Center

The USSYP made an inaugural visit to NASA's Goddard Spaceflight Center just outside of Washington, D.C. where delegates were given an overview of the Goddard mission by NASA leadership and a behind-the-scenes tour. Being just feet away from the newly-installed gold mirrors of the James Webb space telescope, set to launch from South America in 2017, or seeing a prototype of the satellite that may capture a small asteroid from space and bring it to our moon's orbit was a once-in-a-lifetime experience. Goddard is home to the nation's largest organization of scientists, engineers and technologists who build spacecraft, instruments and new technology to study Earth, the sun, our solar system and the universe. Delegates were welcomed by Mr. Chris Scolese, the director of the Goddard Spaceflight Center and Dr. Robert Lightfoot, NASA's associate administrator who deftly explained the literal vast universe of scientific work currently underway in the space agency. From aeronautics, to space weather, climate change, the commercial space industry and landing human explorers on Mars, Dr. Lightfoot shared NASA's vision for the future and stressed the need for strong STEM curriculum in America's schools to ensure that these projects are realized. NASA's Deputy Director of Sciences and Exploration Dr. Piers

Sellers delved into the complexity of climate change. "What about climate change," he asked, "is it an ecological problem?" It certainly is if you are a polar bear living on sea ice. "Is it an economic problem?" he continued. "Yes, it certainly *will be*. People will be displaced; food supplies disrupted." "Is it a social problem?" he wondered. "If I don't have water and I don't have food, I am not going to be happy. One billion people, who are already at the poor end of the world's economic scale are going to be worse off." Dr. Sellers passionately described efforts to understand, prepare for and perhaps prevent one of the most complex challenges to face our planet. But, "there are reasons to be cheerful," he assured. When the USSYP Class of 2016 was in its infancy, the scientific community raised alarm about the shrinking ozone layer in the Southern Hemisphere. Agreements were signed among nations, people changed habits; and in a projected image, Dr. Sellers showed NASA findings indicating that the ozone layer should be repaired to its original state by 2100. Dr. Sellers fielded many thoughtful and complex scientific questions from eager delegates, but it was the final question asked that may have left the most lasting impression. Kentucky delegate Rimsha Nazeer asked the three-time space traveler to share his experience.



“It’s not the size of the dog in the fight, but the size of the fight in the dog,” said four-time USSYP keynote speaker NASA Administrator Charles F. Bolden, Jr., quoting his beloved father. “You can do anything that you want to do if you set your mind to it and you’re willing to study, work hard and not be afraid of failing.” Certain that the 2016 USSYP class was headed toward greatness, he said, “one of you sitting in this room may one day be president—try and keep each other level-headed and on the ground, and don’t forget the idealism you have today.”



“I want you to imagine you’re outside the Space Station, and when you lean your head forward in the visor you can’t see the edges of your helmet, so it’s just like being there, standing there in the open. You’re flying along at five miles a second and can see 1,000 miles in any direction, clear as day,” Dr. Sellers reminisced. “Imagine yourself flying across the Amazon in 15 minutes, Africa in 22 minutes, and then you come around the night side of Earth. The lights go out and you see the great cities of the world—what man has achieved here. All the creativity down there. All seven billion people. And you come through the night side and when the sun rises on the horizon it’s like a nuclear bomb ... POW! ...

a white flash. So, your white sun, black sky, blue world, absolutely beautiful,” he said to a mesmerized audience, concluding, “I highly recommend it!” A comment as the USSYP delegates departed the auditorium summed up the morning’s keynote speeches, “If that’s not inspiration for you, I don’t know what would be.”

[opposite page] Mr. Robert M. Lightfoot, Jr., Associate Administrator of NASA

[above left] NASA Administrator Charles F. Bolden, Jr. with South Carolina delegates Michael Dunster and Quadri Bell

[below left] Mr. Christopher J. Scolese, Director of the NASA Goddard Space Flight Center

[below right] Dr. Piers Sellers, astronaut, and Deputy Director of the Sciences and Exploration Directorate and Acting Director of the Earth Sciences Division at NASA/Goddard with Texas delegates Corina Lobo and Cesia Flores



PRESIDENT BARACK OBAMA You Would Choose Today

The 2016 delegates were waiting with mounting anticipation. They would be the last USSYP class to meet with the 44th Commander in Chief, who had never missed his appointment with the outstanding young leaders through all eight years of his Administration. And suddenly, there he was striding toward them, as applause, gasps and smiles swept simultaneously through the group. President Barack Obama greeted the students with characteristic warmth and hearty congratulations. "You live at a time in history when the world is healthier, wealthier, better educated and less violent than ever before," he said, "where scientific breakthroughs in medicine and revolutionary technologies of all types are taking place. If you could choose any time in history to live without knowing what race or gender you would be, you would choose today." The president urged the students to guard against the cynicism engendered by a season of belligerent political debates, and passionately urged them to "Focus on what you want to do, not who you want to be. Figure out how you will use your passion to contribute to the world; don't worry so much about your title or your resume." With a knowing smile, President Obama assured the delegates, "There is no better time to be young and full of ambition than right now."





WEAPONS, WINDMILLS, QUARKS AND QUAGMIRE: U.S. Energy Secretary Gives Primer on Nexus of Science, Innovation and Security

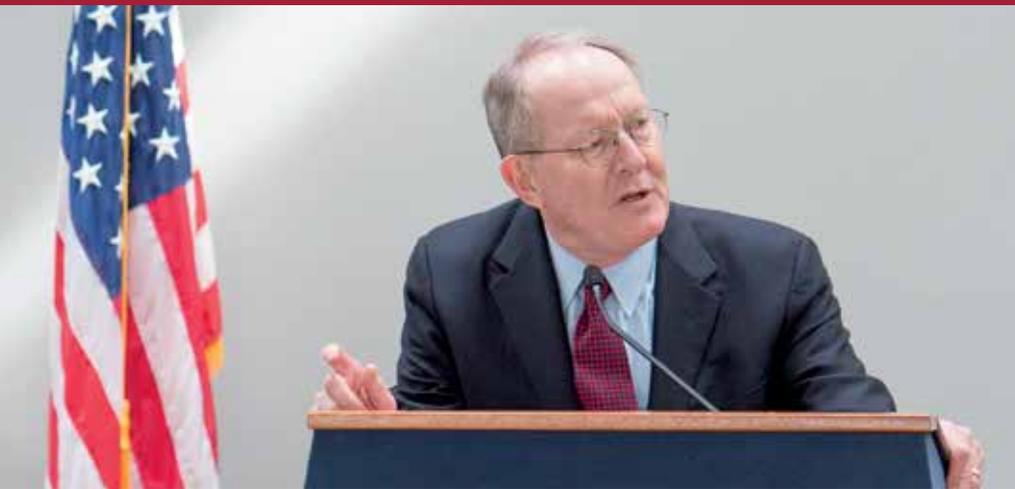
U.S. Secretary of Energy Dr. Ernest Moniz was in his element in a room full of ambitious student leaders. Having served on the faculty and then as head of the Department of Physics at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) for many years, he had the students in the palm of his hand while recalling his 2015 appearance on *The Daily Show with Jon Stewart* with fellow guest Donald Trump. Turning his thoughts to public service, Secretary Moniz spoke encouragingly, “I am very honored that the president has me in my current role, but I want to emphasize that public service has a much broader definition and scope than just a high-ranking federal government position. From working with local civic organizations all the way up to a day job, there are many ways of being involved in public service, and I consider it the most rewarding part of my career.” Prior to his appointment by President Obama, Dr. Moniz served as the founding director of the MIT Energy Initiative and as director of the MIT Laboratory in Energy and the Environment, where he led multidisciplinary technology and policy studies on the future of nuclear power, coal, nuclear fuel cells, natural gas and solar energy. “Weapons and windmills, quarks and quagmires,” is how he summarized the Department of Energy mission, which includes the oversight and security of the U.S. nuclear weapons stockpile, nuclear nonproliferation, renewable energy of all types, expansive scientific laboratories assisting myriad cutting-edge research endeavors and the cleanup of Cold War nuclear apparatus. Response to climate change figures prominently within the mix of priorities, too. The secretary was ready for questions and the delegates were clearly riveted and keenly versed on subjects that

have already impacted their lives. Is a carbon tax a good way to reduce CO² emissions? How significant of a threat is North Korea’s nuclear program? How will private sector innovation help curtail greenhouse gases? What does America’s clean energy future look like? Will fusion nuclear reaction be an answer to the world’s energy needs? The secretary moved deftly from topic to topic. In response to a final question, he looked at energy from a humanitarian viewpoint, and spoke of the obligation to balance the reduction in greenhouse gases with the need to ensure that all the world’s population has access to energy needed for daily living. “We need to think about our moral responsibilities in helping to provide energy services to nearly two billion people in the world who have no or almost no access to energy services. That’s about improving their lives and their safety,” he said. “India still has hundreds of millions of people without electricity.” College and career counsel from Secretary Moniz was welcomed. He described his academic and career trajectory that was greatly influenced by those who took the time to guide and inspire him. Start “finding and never letting go of good mentors” was his advice to the young audience. Sharing his confidence in the abilities of USSYP’s delegates, the secretary stated, “We are counting on you, after all, in the next years and decades to contribute very substantially to our country.”

Energy Secretary Ernest Moniz with Massachusetts delegates Hari Kumar and Jake Jackowski

SENATOR LAMAR ALEXANDER

What Would be the Right Thing to Do?



Chairman of the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee, Senator Lamar Alexander (R-TN) came to the podium of Thursday's luncheon in the Hart Senate Office Building knowing what a potentially life-changing experience a high school government and civics program could be. He reminisced with the group about his own trip to the nation's capital as a teenager with Boys Nation where he served as governor of Tennessee Boys State. The former (real) governor of Tennessee, university president, secretary of education under George H. W. Bush and senator for Tennessee now in his third term, jumped into interactive discussion with the audience with his first statement. "Sometimes you may wonder whether what we do in the Senate has anything directly to do with you. Does anyone know what this may be?" he queried, holding up a folded paper. Everyone in the college-bound audience raised their hands, immediately recognizing the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid). At present, if a student wants to apply for federal aid for college, all 108 questions must be filled out. But as Senator Alexander explained, "What Senator Bennet of Colorado and I figured out, after listening to testimony before the Education Committee, was that we did not need all those questions to give out Pell Grants and student loans. We could do it with two questions: what is the size of your family? And what is your family income?" Not only does it make common sense, he explained, it makes the application process less intimidating to those who may be the first in their family to attend college. The senator spoke candidly about leadership, recalling a story about a Cabinet meeting led by President Dwight Eisenhower where a complicated issue was being debated.

Cabinet members each presented the president with arguments tied to their specific interests, arguing forcibly for viewpoints completely shaped by the lens of their agencies and departments. President Eisenhower's one question was, "What would be the right thing to do?" Everyone at the table stepped back from their parochial positions. "And so the president of the United States turned to his press secretary and said, 'Mr. Hagerty, go out and tell the media that's what we are going to do.' Pretty good lesson I think for any of us at any age, at any stage of our careers." The 2016 presidential campaign and education reform were explored in the Q and A session. Much has changed since Senator Alexander ran for president in 1996 and 2000. Even though it was not that long ago, Senator Alexander was the first candidate to announce his intention to run for president on the internet. Of the current presidential race, the senator encouraged a focus on the positive, "Someone will have to paint a vision of the future, bring out the best in us, and appeal to our better nature," he opined. In closing, Senator Alexander reflected on being a 16-year-old and hearing the governor of Tennessee predict that, "One day, one of you will grow up to be the real governor of Tennessee." The esteemed statesman of the Senate carried that sentiment forward. "Someday one of you, many of you, will have a chance, if you want, to become a United States senator," he said, "And I hope that you do."

Senator Lamar Alexander of Tennessee with Tennessee delegates Justin Cross and Claire Barnett



HAVE AN OVERARCHING DREAM: PASSIONATE AWARD-WINNING JOURNALIST SPEAKS HIS MIND

Washington Post opinion writer Jonathan Capehart knew he was looking out at an audience of hyper-intelligent digital age news junkies, so he dove right in. “I want to talk about the democratization of information,” he began, “This has been an amazing time! 15–20 years ago the major news producers in New York and Washington, along with a handful of strong regional newspapers, would determine what was news. Enter the internet and all of that has changed,” he smiled. “Now you have as much access and information as I do as a journalist, but there’s a responsibility on you, as a news consumer, to make sure that you are effectively synthesizing and using that information.” Having previously served as the youngest member of the *New York Daily News* editorial board which won a Pulitzer Prize during his tenure, and currently appearing as a regular political commentator on MSNBC, Mr. Capehart is at the epicenter of political debate and commentary during the maelstrom of the 2016 presidential primary campaign. He cautioned the delegates to not allow the delivery of information to preclude their deeper understanding of the issues. “Especially on Twitter, people tend to just read the headline and not click the link,” he lamented. “If I wrote the way most people read I’d be fired! Read the pieces. Read them with comprehension. Look for the nuances. We writers, we’re not just throwing things up on a screen; every word, every sentence is considered, so just remember, *read before you tweet!*” Mr. Capehart relayed his personal story of knowing from a very early

age that he wanted to be a journalist. Through a serendipitous route, he came as a high school junior into the *NBC Nightly News* office in New York early one morning, and mounted the courage to strike up a conversation with the one person he saw at a desk. That moment led to the internship that began his professional path. “There are several lessons in that story,” he said, “One, have a dream. Have this overarching dream that you could not possibly think could come true, and it can come true. The second thing is be mindful of guardian angels. Some of them you can see and you know who they are, but there are a lot of guardian angels out there who exert influence over your life without you ever knowing that they’re there.” The delegates had more questions than time allowed, but many subjects were covered including reporting from Syria, the rise of more extreme populist candidates, the tension between transparency and national security and the roiling issues of race relations and civil rights in America. “Things are really bad,” he said somberly, regarding race and police violence against the African American community, “And it’s always an uncomfortable conversation. I think what’s good about this time now is that we’re all talking about it. There’s no way to escape talking about it.”

Washington Post journalist Jonathan T. Capehart with Minnesota delegates Dasom Ham and Grace Greason

The Outstanding 2016

MILITARY MENTOR TEAM

Competitively selected military officers designated by the Office of the Secretary of Defense were led by Senior Military Officer Lieutenant Colonel Sidney M. Cobb, Jr., USA and Assistant Senior Military Officer Major Kurt A. Mabis, USAF.



[from left to right] Major Juan R. Santiago Jr., USA; First Lieutenant Emily J. Meyer, USMC; Captain Natalie L. Meng, USA; Lieutenant Commander Mike McGrail, USCG; Major Breezy Long, USAF; Captain Alea Nadeem, ANG; Captain Erik A. Forestiere, USMC; First Lieutenant Kira Loera, USAF; Major Alvin D. Phillips, ARNG; Lieutenant Colonel Sidney M. Cobb, Jr., USA; Captain Bryanna Appleby, USA; Major Kurt A. Mabis, USAF; Captain Valyncia S. Hill, USAF; Captain Michael H. McCarthy, USMC; Lieutenant Michael J. Keating, USN; Captain Heather C. Kaiser, USA; Captain Jeffrey R. Dierling, USMC



DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Content, Context and Counsel: State Department Spokesperson Offers Insight and Advice

“Adonijah Peacock” were the unexpected first words spoken by Assistant Secretary of State for Public Affairs and State Department Spokesperson John Kirby at the annual USSYP luncheon in the magnificent Benjamin Franklin State Dining Room. “I speak to you of Adonijah Peacock,” he explained, “because he looms large in my family history.” Peacock, Mr. Kirby’s seven-times great grandfather, gave his life in the American Revolution while drying gunpowder needed by General George Washington, and thus began the family tradition of public service. Mr. Kirby, a retired Rear Admiral in the United States Navy after twenty-nine years, also previously served as deputy assistant secretary of defense for media operations and Pentagon spokesperson. “Part of success in life, honestly, is just knowing when to jump on the pony as it rides by you,” he counseled the delegates. “If you can get there, get there. You know if it’s the right thing; don’t overthink it.” Only ten months into his new position at the State Department, Mr. Kirby described the focus of his work as “the three Cs: Content, Context and Counsel.” Content is self-explanatory, he said, but context is more complicated. “A big part of my job is to boil down the



complicated and make it simple, not just so I can stand up at a podium and talk in an intelligent way, but so that what is said is approachable and accessible to people all around the world,” he explained. Lastly he described the meaning of counsel in a message he shares with all future communication professionals, “No spokesman is doing their job if they don’t have the moral courage to tell the boss something that he or she doesn’t want to hear.” Thankfully, he notes, Secretary Kerry welcomes this insight. Mr. Kirby drew from Secretary Kerry’s comments to highlight the role of the State Department in our modern era. “There is nothing foreign about foreign policy,” he quoted, “the kinds of decisions that we’re making and the kinds of interactions that we have around the world are having a direct impact every day on the American people.” The conflict in Syria, the Iran nuclear deal, economic sanctions, social media, the Trans-Pacific Partnership and the presidential election cycle were all points of discussion during a spirited Q and A session. In fact, Mr. Kirby used the insightful USSYP questions to ready himself for the 3:00 p.m. press conference he had on his schedule that day. He inspired many in the audience with his positivity, and, invoking the example of his Revolutionary War ancestor again, assured, “One person really can make a world of difference.”

[opposite page] Assistant Secretary of State for Public Affairs and State Department Spokesperson John Kirby



German Ambassador Peter Wittig speaks at Museum of American Liberty

The historic Anderson House, home to America's Society of the Cincinnati, was the setting for the annual USSYP Ambassador Luncheon. The richly decorated interior, the grand staircase showcasing 14th century Venice in José Villegas Cordero's *The Triumph of the Dogressa* and the intricate display of portraits and objects from the time of George Washington created an unforgettable tableau for an afternoon focused on international relations. German Ambassador Peter Wittig brought more than three decades of diplomatic experience to the podium as he addressed the attentive audience before him. He reflected on his early career, describing long meetings and late nights at the United Nations, saying that it was "particularly rewarding to serve your country in those posts, shaping solutions to problems." He characterized the German-American relationship as a "transatlantic engine," noting that cooperation between the two nations is strong and multifaceted. Ambassador Wittig described several shared challenges facing both countries,

including transitioning to clean energy to alleviate climate change, incorporating immigrant and refugee populations into diverse societies, guarding against the rise of terrorism and maintaining strong economies both at home and globally. Cooperation among strong partners is the key to positive outcomes, he said, noting, "I think the U.S. has a high interest to see a strong Europe—not a European Union that is coming apart." Using the current European migrant crisis as an example, he continued, "Only a joint approach will solve this crisis, a joint approach that addresses the root causes of the refugee influx, especially the war in Syria, the instability in the Middle East and other regions, improving the situation in refugee camps and supporting the transit countries in the region." His audience of high school juniors and seniors seized the opportunity to ask a first question about college affordability, comparing the differing systems in America and Germany. With a knowing nod, the ambassador responded. His own son, a high school senior, was in the midst of the college application



process, and he readily acknowledged the excellence of American higher education. The USSYP annual Ambassador Luncheon always focuses on the interconnectedness of our world, and highlights public service opportunities on an international scale. Ambassador Wittig’s closing words assured the listeners that all are ambassadors; our nations’ partnership depends on “thousands of people-to-people contacts and relationships, from students, to scholars and scientists, to cultural and social figures, to business and political leaders—and these ties especially depend on you and how you and other young people fill them with life.”

Welcoming the group to the magnificent Anderson House was historian Jack Warren, the executive director of the Society of the Cincinnati, the nation’s oldest patriotic organization, founded in 1783 by officers of the Continental Army and their French counterparts who served together in the American Revolution. The Society’s mission is to promote knowledge and appreciation of the achievement of American independence. Mr. Warren brought to

life those who ushered a new form of government to the world stage, forever changing society. “The world that we live in began then,” Mr. Warren said, “when people stood up and said ‘We are going to create a nation for the first time in human history, for the very first time, a nation whose purpose is to promote the interests and defend the liberties of ordinary people.’” Tracing a direct line from our first president to the mission of the USSYP, he recalled a 1789 speech by George Washington, quoting, “It should be the highest ambition of every American to set aside his private interests and recognize that the choices that he makes will have consequences, not just for himself but for generations and generations.”

[opposite page] His Excellency Peter Wittig, Ambassador to the U.S. Embassy of Germany, with Virginia delegates Monica Marciano and William Shangraw

[above] Mr. Jack Warren, executive director, Society of the Cincinnati with District of Columbia delegates Brian Contreras and Max Finkelpearl

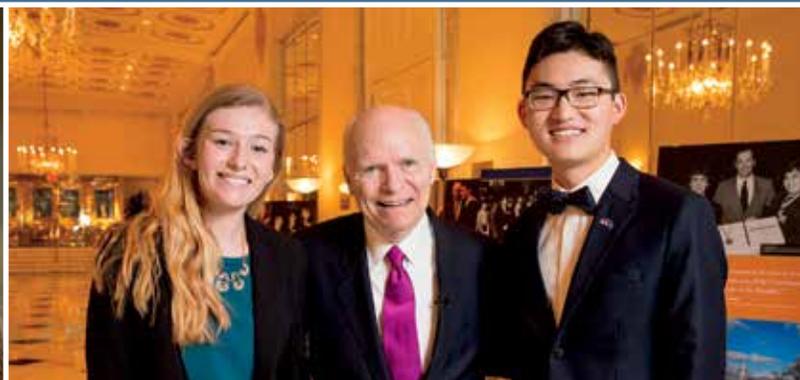
BRIAN LAMB OF C-SPAN

An Oasis of Civilized Debate on National Television

The Grand Ballroom of The Mayflower Hotel transforms into a C-SPAN television studio one morning each year during Washington Week. The lights are in place, the sound system is checked and C-SPAN founder and CEO Brian Lamb welcomes viewers from across the nation to share an hour with 104 of the brightest student leaders in America and their dedicated military mentors. He expertly guides the conversation as delegates reflect on the week they have just experienced, and its impact on their future. What were the most memorable moments? Which speaker said something that made a deep impression? Which sources do you seek for news? Why has the partisan divide in our nation seemingly deepened? Who is your role model? Delegates espousing differing political viewpoints stood side by side as Mr. Lamb sparked impromptu debates on campaign finance reform, the presidential campaign, the First Amendment, domestic economic policy and other hot button issues. In true USSYP fashion, civilized discourse prevailed. West Virginia delegate Adrien Inman explained the tone of the week, "We engage in political discussion and we talk about things we believe in." Despite firmly held convictions, a conversation can end with, "Well, your opinion is very respectable," he said, "We don't hear that in national politics. It's inspiring to see that we're all together, even if we have differing views." Who

has inspired this class of student leaders on the verge of adulthood? Mr. Lamb approached Maine delegate Julia Blackwell who described her own mother's sacrifices to ensure her happiness and success. "She took the time in her life to raise me as an independent woman and I value everything she has taught me," she said with emotion. Louisiana delegate Cade Herman described his father's work ethic seeking the American dream. Teachers, a brother, a school board member, a debate team coach and others were all honored with the heartfelt words of grateful delegates. The C-SPAN founder posed a few final questions to elicit future plans and aspirations. Georgia delegate Meredith McCain described the week as fostering "a passion to give back, to serve the public. No matter what sector or industry we go into, we all want to serve others and be involved in the whole process of American democracy." Serving in the Senate, foreign service or possibly as president were all mentioned as potential career pathways. Mr. Lamb, and the rest of America, may be seeing these faces on C-SPAN again in the future.

C-SPAN Founder Brian Lamb with Indiana delegates Brooke Hanes and Alex Yom





DISTINGUISHED EDUCATORS JOINED DELEGATES FOR THE 54TH ANNUAL WASHINGTON WEEK

The president of the National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP) and selection administrators from the states of the USSYP Senate Co-Chairs are invited to join the delegates each year for Washington Week. We thank our partners in education for all that they do to support the student selection process.

2016 DELEGATE SPEECHES An Evening to Say Farewell

Washington Week 2016 included keynote speeches by the president, a Supreme Court justice, a Cabinet secretary, several senators, an ambassador, an agency head and a renowned journalist. Much like passing the torch to the next generation, USSYP tradition leaves the last two speeches of the week in the hands of the delegates themselves. After intense debate and a caucus, two members of the USSYP Class of 2016, one male and one female, were elected by their peers to offer farewell remarks. Delegates Meredith McCain of Georgia and Benjamin Sorkin of New York inspired and entertained their fellow delegates with uplifting, emotional and thought-provoking speeches. The Farewell Dinner brought solemn closure to the week with a moving flag-folding ceremony conducted by the 2016 military mentors and the Presentation of the Colors by the Joint Armed Forces Color Guard.



MR. MICHAEL ALLISON

President of the National Association of Secondary School Principals

He proudly represents over 90,000 school principals and over 1 million students through NASSP's student programs—the National Honor Society and National Student Council Association.



MS. LYNN BAMBERRY

Director, Competitive Grants and Awards, Colorado Department of Education



MS. TIFFANY FRIAS

Education Specialist, Student Activities, Hawaii State Education Department



[above left] Benjamin Sorkin (NY-2016)

[above right] Meredith McCain (GA-2016)



HONORS FROM THEIR SENATORS



SENATE RECEPTION ATTENDEES

UNITED STATES SENATE YOUTH PROGRAM 2016

Seventy-eight senators and the D.C. delegate to Congress participated in Washington Week 2016, either at speaking events or by attending the 54th annual USSYP Senate Reception where they congratulated their student delegates and presented them with their \$10,000 college scholarship certificates.



ALABAMA

Senator Richard C. Shelby with Deja Chappell and Steven Higgins



ALABAMA

Senator Jeff Sessions with Deja Chappell and Steven Higgins



ALASKA

Senator Daniel Sullivan with Lucas Arthur and Kiera O'Brien



ARIZONA

Senator Jeff Flake with Lydia Chew and Ryley Goulet



ARKANSAS

Senator John Boozman with Anna Cunningham and Hannah Robbins



ARKANSAS

Senator Tom Cotton with Anna Cunningham and Hannah Robbins



CALIFORNIA

Senator Dianne Feinstein with Emily Lu and Zena Meyer



COLORADO

Senator Michael F. Bennet with DeAnna Christensen and Se Young Cheong



COLORADO

Senator Cory Gardner with Se Young Cheong and DeAnna Christensen



CONNECTICUT

Senator Richard Blumenthal with Durga Rathi and Alexandra Prendergast



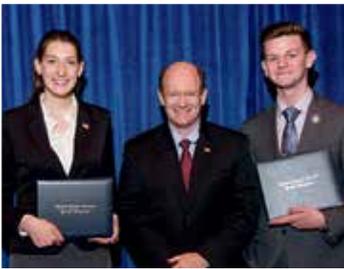
CONNECTICUT

Senator Christopher Murphy with Alexandra Prendergast and Durga Rathi



DELAWARE

Senator Thomas R. Carper with Laura Wagner and Charles Megginson, IV



DELAWARE

Senator Christopher A. Coons with Laura Wagner and Charles Megginson, IV



DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Representative Eleanor Holmes Norton with Brian Contreras and Max Finkelppearl



FLORIDA

Senator Bill Nelson with Adam Kozloski, Kyelee Fitts (DoDEA) and Nii Soja Torto



GEORGIA

Senator Johnny Isakson with Justin Deal and Meredith McCain



HAWAII

Senator Mazie K. Hirono with Perry Arrasmith and Zachary Espino



HAWAII

Senator Brian Schatz with Perry Arrasmith and Zachary Espino



IDAHO

Senator James E. Risch with Mark Jerome and Ashlynn Hall



INDIANA

Senator Daniel Coats with Brooke Hanes and Alex Yom



INDIANA

Senator Joe Donnelly with Brooke Hanes and Alex Yom



IOWA

Senator Charles Grassley with Timothy Foley, Jr. and Beau Ragland



IOWA

Senator Joni Ernst with Beau Ragland and Timothy Foley, Jr.



KANSAS

Senator Jerry Moran with Jared Long and Andrew Figueiredo



KENTUCKY

Senator Rand Paul with Caitlin Hertzendorf and Rimsha Nazeer



LOUISIANA

Senator David Vitter with Nathan Marak and Cade Herman



LOUISIANA

Senator Bill Cassidy with Nathan Marak and Cade Herman



MAINE

Senator Susan M. Collins with Lexie Jamieson and Julia Blackwell



MAINE

Senator Angus S. King, Jr. with Lexie Jamieson and Julia Blackwell



MARYLAND

Senator Barbara A. Mikulski with Matthew Saxton and Alexander McGrath



MARYLAND

Senator Benjamin L. Cardin with Matthew Saxton and Alexander McGrath



MASSACHUSETTS

Senator Elizabeth Warren with Hari Kumar and Jake Jackowski



MASSACHUSETTS

Senator Edward J. Markey with Hari Kumar and Jake Jackowski



MICHIGAN

Senator Gary Peters with Caroline Yapp and Jacob Aymen



MINNESOTA

Senator Amy Klobuchar with Grace Greason and Dasom Ham



MINNESOTA

Senator Al Franken with Grace Greason and Dasom Ham



MISSISSIPPI

Senator Thad Cochran with Joseph Hasbrouck and Jackson Wilkins



MISSISSIPPI

Senator Roger F. Wicker with Joseph Hasbrouck and Jackson Wilkins



MISSOURI

Senator Roy Blunt with Meghana Bharadwaj and Helene Slinker



MONTANA

Senator Jon Tester with Mollie Lemm and Arthur Pettit



MONTANA

Senator Steve Daines with Arthur Pettit and Mollie Lemm



NEBRASKA

Senator Deb Fischer with Sean Lynch, II and Paige Wergin



NEBRASKA

Senator Ben Sasse with Sean Lynch, II and Paige Wergin



NEW HAMPSHIRE

Senator Jeanne Shaheen with Jacob Marcus and with Diab Eid



NEW HAMPSHIRE

Senator Kelly Ayotte with Diab Eid and Jacob Marcus



NEW JERSEY

Senator Robert Menendez with Mahishan Gnanaseharan and Abigail Yashiro



NEW JERSEY

Senator Cory Booker with Mahishan Gnanaseharan and Abigail Yashiro



NEW MEXICO

Senator Tom Udall with André Gonzales and David Rivero



NEW MEXICO

Senator Martin Heinrich with André Gonzales and David Rivero



NEW YORK

Senator Charles E. Schumer with Benjamin Sorkin and Liana Van Nostrand



NORTH CAROLINA

Senators Thom Tillis and Richard Burr with Walter Jackson, IV, Aanand Shah (DoDEA), and Abigail Scholer



NORTH DAKOTA

Senator John Hoeven with Sara Hatlewick and Alexis Vannett



NORTH DAKOTA

Senator Heidi Heitkamp with Sara Hatlewick and Alexis Vannett



OHIO

Senator Rob Portman with Lillian Lin and Richard Hwang



OKLAHOMA

Senator James M. Inhofe with Matthew Welborn and Nathan Levit



OKLAHOMA

Senator James Lankford with Matthew Welborn and Nathan Levit



OREGON

Senator Jeff Merkley with Avery Allen and Jessica Cobian



PENNSYLVANIA

Senator Robert P. Casey, Jr. with Roshni Mehta and Luke Myers



PENNSYLVANIA

Senator Patrick J. Toomey with Roshni Mehta and Luke Myers



RHODE ISLAND

Senator Jack Reed with Keith Jillette and Zachary Johnson



RHODE ISLAND

Senator Sheldon Whitehouse with Keith Jillette and Zachary Johnson



SOUTH CAROLINA

Senator Tim Scott with Quadri Bell and Michael Dunster



SOUTH DAKOTA

Senator John Thune with Caroline Moriarty and Manaal Ali



SOUTH DAKOTA

Senator Michael Rounds with Caroline Moriarty and Manaal Ali



TENNESSEE

Senator Lamar Alexander with Justin Cross and Claire Barnett



TENNESSEE

Senator Bob Corker with Justin Cross and Claire Barnett



TEXAS

Senator John Cornyn with Cesia Flores and Corina Lobo



UTAH

Senator Orrin G. Hatch with Ellie McDonald and Carson Robb



VERMONT

Senator Patrick J. Leahy with Ethan McCollister and Marisa Sylvester



VIRGINIA

Senator Mark R. Warner with William Shangraw and Monica Marciano



VIRGINIA

Senator Tim Kaine with William Shangraw and Monica Marciano



WASHINGTON

Senator Maria Cantwell with Lucy Ma and Hashwinder Singh



WEST VIRGINIA

Senator Joe Manchin, III with Arka Gupta and Adrien Inman



WEST VIRGINIA

Senator Shelley Moore Capito with Arka Gupta and Adrien Inman



WISCONSIN

Senator Ron Johnson with Alesha Guenther and Elyssa Vondra



WISCONSIN

Senator Tammy Baldwin with Alesha Guenther and Elyssa Vondra



WYOMING

Senator Michael B. Enzi with Madeline Moreno and Joshua Calvert

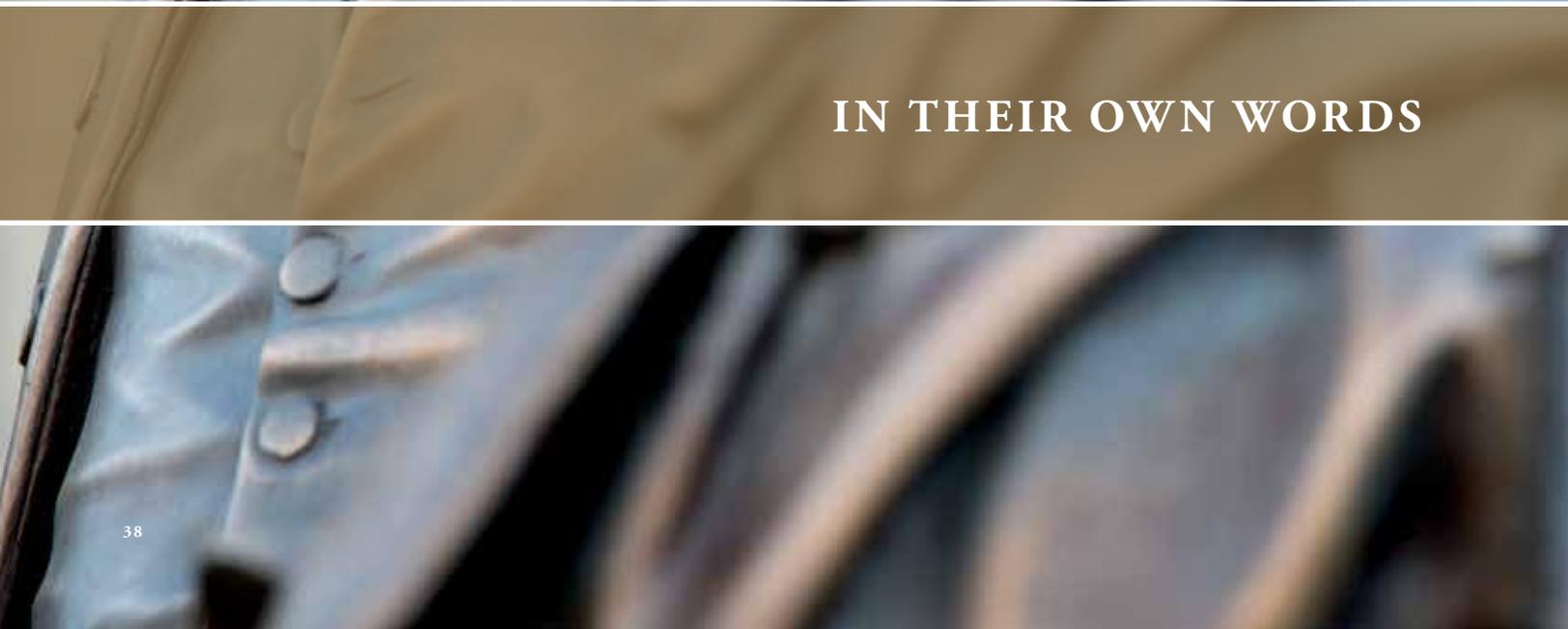


WYOMING

Senator John Barrasso with Madeline Moreno and Joshua Calvert



IN THEIR OWN WORDS



The thing you notice about Washington Week is just how reasonable every single person you have the opportunity to speak with is, even the people you disagree with. You even realize that you agree with quite a bit of what conservative senators like Lamar Alexander or Cory Gardner are saying. Senator Gardner's four point plan of Energy, Economy, Education and Environment incorporated many common sense solutions. His plan to make buildings owned by the federal government more energy efficient spoke to me. I know that many of the Republicans I talked to had the same experience listening to liberals like Senator Mazie Hirono and Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg.

ARTHUR PETTIT, MT-2016

"You don't know what is out there until you've stumbled across it," said the parliamentarian of the Senate, a woman by the name of Elizabeth MacDonough. Before traveling to Washington, D.C. as a part of the United States Senate Youth Program, I didn't even know enough to realize how true that statement was.

MOLLIE LEMM, MT-2016

Dear Political Leaders, Elected Officials, and Other Speakers: Thank you all so very much for taking time to speak with us during our Washington Week. It is people like you who we all look up to and aspire to be one day. I will always remember that I do belong. To be mindful of my guardian angels. To remember that public service is a noble calling. That there is so much more to leadership and being a leader than just a title. To take risks in life. That America is an exceptional country. To find and never let go of good mentors. To question. To fight against lower standards every day. That one person really can make a world of difference. And, if I ever get the chance, to take a trip up to space and see the phenomenal view recommended by THE INCREDIBLE Dr. Piers Sellers. You all inspire our generation. We are so grateful to have people like you to look up to.

ALEXIS VANNETT, ND-2016



My only advice about Washington Week for those future delegates scouring the pages of the USSYP website is this: take notes and be in the moment.

JAKE JACKOWSKI, MA-2016

When Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg spoke to us, one particular detail especially stuck with me. She said that justices at the end of each day, regardless of their differing beliefs and opinions, would shake hands with one another. She said, "We recognize that we're serving an institution ever so more important than individuals."

DURGA RATHI, CT-2016

Listening to Justice Ginsburg speak impacted me in a way I hadn't expected. As a conservative and someone relatively new to loving politics and government, I did not grow up idolizing her as many of the girls in our group did. I understood how influential she has been to the American court system and civil rights in our country, but what the media could not capture was her tremendous wit. I was fortunate to sit in the front row while she spoke, and I was absorbed by her story the entire time. Listening as she described her struggles as a woman in college, law school and in her early career struck me because she lived through a time of such inequality that I can hardly imagine as a young woman growing up today. I realized that not only did she live through this time, but she was also one of the most influential people working toward remedying such inequality, and she was standing in that room, talking to us. Having read her dissents, I was surprised by how soft spoken she was, and the unexpected way she managed to interject witty comments into a dialogue about court cases that defined our nation. I wish everyone my age could have the opportunity to hear her speak because listening to her gave me a new appreciation for my rights and a deepened respect for those who fight to ensure them.

KIERA O'BRIEN, AK-2016

Growing up in a rather homogenous suburban society, I never truly realized how isolated I was in my exposure to differing opinions. The discussions I have always had at home with my classmates about the problems facing the nation and the world in no way can compare to the serious intellectual exchanges I had with my fellow USSYP delegates at Washington Week. From the possibility of a federal mandate of vaccines to intriguing discussions of what it means to be trans-racial, I learned more in the span of a week at USSYP than I could have in the span of months elsewhere. We sat together in the same rooms, at the same tables, listening intently to each distinguished speaker. The pen marks on our hands, our sore wrists, our unwavering concentration and our copious pages of notes attest to the amount of information we absorbed.

NII SOJA TORTO, FL-2016

One of the most memorable speakers for me was Senator Cory Gardner from Colorado, a USSYP alum himself. However, it was not his political opinions that struck me the most, rather his personal advice and eloquence. Senator Gardner said, "You don't have to act like you belong because you do belong. You belong in this nation, not as passive observers but as active participants who will solve great challenges." This especially struck a chord with me because I have often felt out of place in my high school, but Senator Gardner's words summed up my entire Washington Week experience by reminding me that whatever path I choose to pursue, my greatest goal needs to remain helping others.

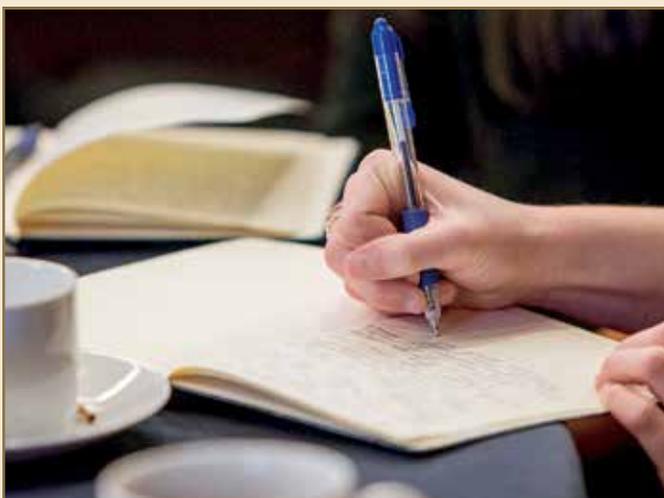
CAITLIN HERTZENDORF, KY-2016

President Obama reminded us of a hopeful reality with the inspiring proclamation that we "live in a time that is healthier, wealthier, more educated, more tolerant, less violent and more accepting of each other's differences than ever before." Our own president urged us to remain optimistic in the face of increasingly negative media and debates, focusing instead on the positive changes we have made, including tolerance and the importance of diverse perspectives in politics.

MARISA SYLVESTER, VT-2016

The biggest takeaway of the week for me was a quotation from President Obama. He told us to "not focus on what you want to be, focus on what you want to do." During Washington Week, I was surrounded by people who are focusing on what they want to do. All of us are in high-pressure high school environments that often focus on numbers and superficiality. But all of the other delegates I was so fortunate to meet and talk to were passionate, especially regarding government and politics. And if our next generation of leaders are do-ers instead of be-ers—that gives me hope.

WILLIAM "JACK" SHANGRAW, VA-2016



I most enjoyed listening to the inspiring words of the Secretary of the Senate Julie Adams and the Parliamentarian of the Senate Elizabeth MacDonough. As a woman with aspirations in the fields of law and public service, both women motivated me with their life stories. I had the privilege of asking Ms. MacDonough about her experience at law school and her account cemented my plans to attend law school upon completion of my undergraduate degree. The inspiration that I received from these leaders during the United States Senate Youth Program is matchless.

ANNA CUNNINGHAM, AR-2016

Washington Week is an experience that I will never forget. I am no longer another political cynic. I am more open to those who do not believe in the same positions I do, and I work to make my beliefs less partisan and more American.

CAROLINE MORIARTY, SD-2016

I was under the assumption that Washington Week was merely a time to meet some cool people, shake their hands, get a picture and rejoice in my achievement of being selected as a delegate. However, one by one, each speaker and leader we met with offered so much more than aesthetics. Jeffrey Herbst, president and CEO of the Newseum, gave a lecture on the relationship between technology, media and consumers. In his speech, he explained how consumer-driven social media algorithms are being used to feed people news and opinions they agree with, thereby creating internet "safe-spaces" where one rarely hears the opinions of the other side. He, along with a later speaker, MSNBC correspondent Jonathan Capehart, challenged us to seek out people who disagree with us and like their pages and feeds to learn more about their opposing viewpoint. This is just one of many examples when a speaker unexpectedly gave insight that changed my intellectual philosophy.

DIAB EID, NH-2016

All the experiences I had throughout the week impacted me greatly, but there was a particular night that stood out from the rest. On Tuesday, we had dinner at the National Archives next to the original Declaration of Independence and Constitution. We ate Hawaiian cuisine in honor of our special guest speaker, Senator Mazie Hirono. Despite tasting the best food I've ever eaten, this amazing woman captured my attention. An immigrant like my parents, she shared intricate tales of her American success story: anecdotes laced with values of perseverance and visions for the future. In the middle of her speech, she reminded us, "We can all make a difference—whatever station in life, wherever you come from." She, like myself, is an Asian female with an ambition for public service. The most invaluable gift I received from her was inspiration. The inspiration that I could, someday, also make a difference in the country that I love.

LILLIAN LIN, OH-2016



While all of the speakers were amazing and influenced me in one way or another, my favorite speaker had to be Dr. Piers Sellers. Of course, I am not often able to listen to a climate change presentation by an astronaut, but his wit and knowledge about climate change are what truly stood out to me. I will always remember that the enemy of scientific progress is “the Kardashians” and that planes are just “aluminum wrapped around a theory.” I will also take Dr. Sellers’ advice to be optimistic about the Paris Climate Change Treaty because it sets the tone for future action against climate change. I was truly inspired by his presentation and learned a lot about humanity’s impact on the earth and what we are doing to fix the problem.

STEVEN HIGGINS, AL-2016

I was amazed at how close I got with various military mentors during the week and how much I appreciated them. They served as more than just points of information; they truly created a family within our military mentor groups. The military mentors connected with the delegates in a way I couldn’t have even imagined, despite the difference in age and life experience between us. Captain Mike McCarthy provided support, humor and a rare smile that made my experience at Washington Week exponentially better. These heavily accomplished, well-decorated, yet compassionate and caring leaders of our nation’s military give me confidence and reassurance in the strength and character of our military and our nation as a whole.

BENJAMIN SORKIN, NY-2016

The military mentors, somehow, herded us sleep-deprived delegates all day long, cared for us, gave us advice, trained us not to eat like an immature 16-year-old after swim practice, danced with us, dispensed valuable advice, held bags and inspired us. I feared that my highly-decorated military mentor would yell at me to do pushups in the middle of the night, but instead, Major Breezy Long shared her experiences with the armed services, laughed with us, hugged us, congratulated us, cared about us and taught us about the importance of kindness, service and poise.

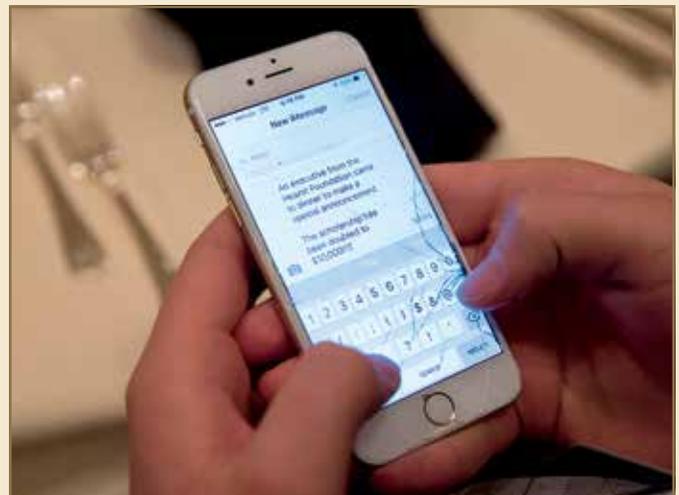
ZENA MEYER, CA-2016

People say they want to change the world all the time, but most of the time, nothing comes to fruition. I guess the most accurate way of describing the influence of USSYP is that Washington Week truly moved me and motivated me. Rather than simply saying I am interested in changing the world, I now want to do something. I want to be active. I want to play a role shaping the future of United States of America. As Secretary of Energy Ernest Moniz said to all 104 of us, “We are counting on you after all.” After USSYP, I hope I won’t let anyone down.

RICHARD HWANG, OH-2016

Very rarely does an event occur which indelibly leaves an impact upon a person in which their entire life is transformed and the core of who they are is altered for the better. Even more rarely do these events occur in one’s adolescent years. And yet, all it took was seven days in D.C. and my identity as a student, an aspiring politician and foremost, as an American were positively influenced. For me, the program’s most positive impact was reaffirming my desire to actively pursue a career in politics. Being surrounded by some of the nation’s most intelligent and passionate students comprised an environment in which everyone wanted to give back to the country that molded them. To be a part of such a great community was a reminder that there are people within my generation who do have the yearning to make the world a better place, a stark contrast to the sometimes bleak and grim reality our generation is faced with.

HASHWINDER SINGH, WA-2016



After spending a week listening to professional orators, talking with journalists and policy writers and lawyers and engaging with other students insistent on filling every waking moment with one debate or another, I at the very least have to believe that with the right words, the world can truly be changed.

BRIAN CONTRERAS, DC-2016



DELEGATES TOURED HISTORIC SITES IN THE NATION'S CAPITAL







CANDID PHOTOS FROM WASHINGTON WEEK 2016







OFFICIAL SENATOR AND STUDENT DELEGATE ROSTER

UNITED STATES SENATE YOUTH PROGRAM 2016

ALABAMA



Senator
Richard C. Shelby



Senator
Jeff Sessions



Deja Chappell
Loveless Academic
Magnet Program High
School



Steven Higgins
Brewbaker Technology
Magnet High School

ALASKA



Senator
Lisa Murkowski



Senator
Daniel Sullivan



Lucas Arthur
Mat-Su Career &
Technical High School



Kiera O'Brien
Ketchikan High School

ARIZONA



Senator
John McCain



Senator
Jeff Flake



Lydia Chew
Hamilton High School



Ryley Goulet
Mesquite High School

ARKANSAS



Senator
John Boozman



Senator
Tom Cotton



Anna Cunningham
DeWitt High School



Hannah Robbins
Rogers Heritage High
School

CALIFORNIA



Senator
Dianne Feinstein



Senator
Barbara Boxer



Emily Lu
Maria Carrillo High
School



Zena Meyer
Orange County School
of the Arts

COLORADO



Senator
Michael F. Bennet



Senator
Cory Gardner



Se Young Cheong
D'Evelyn Jr./Sr. High
School



DeAnna Christensen
William J. Palmer High
School

CONNECTICUT



Senator
Richard Blumenthal



Senator
Christopher Murphy



Alexandra Prendergast
Danbury High School



Durga Rathi
Cheshire High School

DELAWARE



Senator
Thomas R. Carper



Senator
Christopher A. Coons



Charles Megginson, IV
Sussex Central High
School



Laura Wagner
Caesar Rodney High
School

DISTRICT OF
COLUMBIA



Representative
Eleanor Holmes Norton



Brian Contreras
School Without Walls
High School



Max Finkelpearl
Woodrow Wilson High
School

FLORIDA



Senator
Bill Nelson



Senator
Marco Rubio



Kyelee Fitts
Seoul American High
School, South Korea
DoDEA



Adam Kozloski
Design and Architecture
Senior High School



Nii Soja Torto
Eastside High School

GEORGIA



Senator
Johnny Isakson



Senator
David Perdue



Justin Deal
Northwest Whitfield
High School



Meredith McCain
Johns Creek High School

HAWAII



Senator
Brian Schatz



Senator
Mazie K. Hirono



Perry Arrasmith
Aiea High School



Zachary Espino
Kailua High School

IDAHO



Senator
Michael Crapo



Senator
James E. Risch



Ashlynn Hall
Canyon Ridge High
School



Mark Jerome
Borah High School

ILLINOIS



Senator
Richard J. Durbin



Senator
Mark Kirk



Kiley Marron
William Jones College
Preparatory High School



Corbin Robinson
Mascoutah High School

INDIANA



Senator
Daniel Coats



Senator
Joe Donnelly



Brooke Hanes
Hamilton Southeastern
High School



Alex Yom
Carmel High School

IOWA



Senator
Charles Grassley



Senator
Joni Ernst

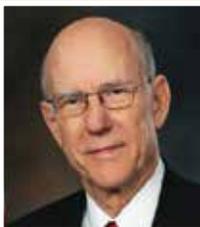


Timothy Foley, Jr.
Valley High School



Beau Ragland
Marshalltown High
School

KANSAS



Senator
Pat Roberts



Senator
Jerry Moran



Andrew Figueiredo
Wichita High School East



Jared Long
Beloit Jr./Sr. High School

KENTUCKY



Senator
Mitch McConnell



Senator
Rand Paul



Caitlin Hertzendorf
Fort Campbell High
School



Rimsha Nazeer
Kentucky Country Day
High School

LOUISIANA



Senator
David Vitter



Senator
Bill Cassidy



Cade Herman
Sulphur High School



Nathan Marak
Loyola College Prep

MAINE



Senator
Susan M. Collins



Senator
Angus S. King, Jr.



Julia Blackwell
North Yarmouth
Academy



Lexie Jamieson
Scarborough High
School

MARYLAND



Senator
Barbara A. Mikulski



Senator
Benjamin L. Cardin



Alexander McGrath
Severna Park High
School



Matthew Saxton
Century High School

MASSACHUSETTS



Senator
Elizabeth Warren



Senator
Edward J. Markey



Jake Jackowski
Longmeadow High
School



Hari Kumar
Shrewsbury High School

MICHIGAN



Senator
Debbie Stabenow



Senator
Gary Peters



Jacob Aymen
Bad Axe High School



Caroline Yapp
Hackett Catholic Prep

MINNESOTA



Senator
Amy Klobuchar



Senator
Al Franken



Grace Greason
Mayo High School



Dasom Ham
East Ridge High School

MISSISSIPPI



Senator
Thad Cochran



Senator
Roger F. Wicker



Joseph Hasbrouck
Pascagoula High School



Jackson Wilkins
Sacred Heart Catholic
School

MISSOURI



Senator
Claire McCaskill



Senator
Roy Blunt



Meghana Bharadwaj
Lafayette High School



Helene Slinker
Raytown South Senior
High

MONTANA



Senator
Jon Tester



Senator
Steve Daines



Mollie Lemm
Polson High School



Arthur Pettit
Loyola Sacred Heart
High School

NEBRASKA



Senator
Deb Fischer



Senator
Ben Sasse



Sean Lynch, II
Skutt Catholic High
School



Paige Wergin
Aurora High School

NEVADA



Senator
Harry Reid



Senator
Dean Heller



Miranda Cross
Reno High School



Katherine Krolicki
George Whittell High
School

NEW HAMPSHIRE



Senator
Jeanne Shaheen



Senator
Kelly Ayotte



Diab Eid
Nashua High School
South



Jacob Marcus
Merrimack High School

NEW JERSEY



Senator
Robert Menendez



Senator
Cory Booker



Mahishan Gnanaseharan
Saint Benedict's
Preparatory School



Abigail Yashiro
Bergen Arts and Science
Charter School

NEW MEXICO



Senator
Tom Udall



Senator
Martin Heinrich



André Gonzales
Centennial High School



David Rivero
Lovington High School

NEW YORK



Senator
Charles E. Schumer



Senator
Kirsten E. Gillibrand



Benjamin Sorkin
Staten Island Technical
High School



Liana Van Nostrand
Bard High School Early
College

NORTH
CAROLINA



Senator
Richard Burr



Senator
Thom Tillis



Walter Jackson, IV
Scotland High School



Abigail Scholer
John T. Hoggard High
School



Aanand Shah
Kadena High School,
Japan
DoDEA

NORTH
DAKOTA



Senator
John Hoeven



Senator
Heidi Heitkamp



Sara Hatlewick
Gackle-Streeter Public
School



Alexis Vannett
 Fargo North High School

OHIO



Senator
Sherrod Brown



Senator
Rob Portman



Richard Hwang
Athens High School



Lillian Lin
Dublin Coffman High
School

OKLAHOMA



Senator
James M. Inhofe



Senator
James Lankford



Nathan Levit
Booker T. Washington
High School



Matthew Welborn
Norman North High
School

OREGON



Senator
Ron Wyden



Senator
Jeff Merkley



Avery Allen
Corvallis High School



Jessica Cobian
Lost River Jr./Sr. High
School

PENNSYLVANIA



Senator
Robert P. Casey, Jr.



Senator
Patrick J. Toomey



Roshni Mehta
Spring-Ford Senior High
School



Luke Myers
Governor Mifflin High
School

RHODE ISLAND



Senator
Jack Reed



Senator
Sheldon Whitehouse



Keith Jillette
Woonsocket High
School



Zachary Johnson
East Greenwich High
School

SOUTH
CAROLINA



Senator
Lindsey Graham



Senator
Tim Scott



Quadri Bell
Manning High School

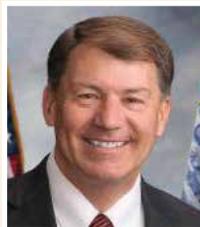


Michael Dunster
Mauldin High School

SOUTH
DAKOTA



Senator
John Thune



Senator
Michael Rounds



Manaal Ali
Harrisburg High School



Caroline Moriarty
Roosevelt High School

TENNESSEE



Senator
Lamar Alexander



Senator
Bob Corker

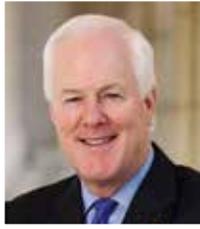


Claire Barnett
Rossvie High School



Justin Cross
L&N STEM Academy

TEXAS



Senator
John Cornyn



Senator
Ted Cruz



Cesia Flores
South Texas Business,
Education & Technology
Academy



Corina Lobo
Young Women's
Leadership Academy

UTAH



Senator
Orrin G. Hatch



Senator
Mike Lee

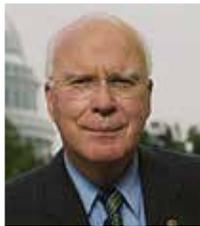


Ellie McDonald
Hurricane High School



Carson Robb
Davis High School

VERMONT



Senator
Patrick J. Leahy



Senator
Bernard Sanders



Ethan McCollister
U-32 High School



Marisa Sylvester
Rice Memorial High
School

VIRGINIA



Senator
Mark R. Warner



Senator
Tim Kaine



Monica Marciano
Wakefield Country Day
School



William Shangraw
Potomac Falls High
School

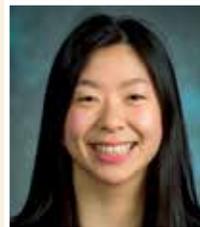
WASHINGTON



Senator
Patty Murray



Senator
Maria Cantwell



Lucy Ma
Interlake High School



Hashwinder Singh
Sumner High School

WEST VIRGINIA



Senator
Joe Manchin, III



Senator
Shelley Moore Capito



Arka Gupta
George Washington
High School



Adrien Inman
Spring Mills High School

WISCONSIN



Senator
Ron Johnson



Senator
Tammy Baldwin



Alesha Guenther
Berlin High School



Elyssa Vondra
Platteville High School

WYOMING



Senator
Michael B. Enzi



Senator
John Barrasso



Joshua Calvert
Wheatland High School



Madeline Moreno
Laramie High School

A FAMILY, A FOUNDATION, A LEGACY



GEORGE HEARST

For 54 years, the United States Senate Youth Program has brought thousands of America's brightest young students to Washington, returning them home with insight into their heritage and scholarships to further their education. Each year the students leave with lasting impressions of their week including new friendships forged in shared experiences that many term "life-changing."



PHOEBE A. HEARST

Although they did not live to see the program's creation, the progenitors of The Hearst Foundations are with the USSYP delegates each year in spirit. An exemplar of American success, George Hearst was born on a farm in Missouri and went west to seek his fortune in mining. Through industry and acumen he developed the family fortune, eventually becoming a U.S. Senator for California. At the time of his death in 1891, he had served four years of his six-year term. His wife, pioneering philanthropist Phoebe Apperson Hearst, distinguished herself as one of America's most accomplished women, dedicated to educational and children's causes. She co-founded the National Parent Teachers Association in 1897, and after she died one educator said, "Her charities were as broad as the sea and as silent as the quiet of the night."



WILLIAM R. HEARST

William Randolph Hearst, their only child, was born in 1863 and became one of the great legends of American journalism—establishing vast media holdings and new forms of communication as his newspapers detailed the history of the 20th century. During his life he gave millions of dollars to colleges, hospitals, kindergartens and museums, and in the decade before his death he established the two foundations that bear his name.



GEORGE R. HEARST, SR.

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. Millicent Hearst Boudjakdji, granddaughter of William Randolph Hearst, continued the legacy of leadership and support for the program in her role as foundation president. 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. The Hearst Foundations fully fund and administer all operational aspects of the program including college scholarships and yearly grants to the state departments of Education to support the selection of delegates.



RANDOLPH A. HEARST

The Hearst Foundations continue to support numerous charitable and educational organizations across the country. 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 across the country.



MILLICENT HEARST
BOUDJAKDJI

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE HEARST FOUNDATIONS PLEASE ACCESS: WWW.HEARSTFDN.ORG



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