UNITED STATES SENATE YOUTH PROGRAM

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FIFTY-THIRD ANNUAL WASHINGTON WEEK WASHINGTON, D.C. MARCH 7-14, 2015



The best way of foretelling the future is to help create it.

MARGARET CHASE SMITH, UNITED STATES SENATOR OF MAINE

2015 UNITED STATES SENATE YOUTH PROGRAM SENATE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

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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,

It is my pleasure to congratulate the 2015 class of the United States Senate Youth Program.

On behalf of everyone at The Hearst Foundations we thank you for your high level of participation and the rigorous questions you brought to the sessions with our esteemed speakers. We also commend you for your spirit of camaraderie and respectful debate as you exchanged views with your peers from around the nation and across the political spectrum. You fully embodied the spirit of inclusiveness and intellectual energy that are hallmarks of the program.

The 53rd annual Washington Week offered you as delegates an unparalleled array of experiences. You were the first USSYP delegates to meet with the two alumni now serving in the Senate: Senator Susan Collins of Maine and recently elected Senator Cory Gardner of Colorado. Other highlights of the week included: an in-depth session with Justice Stephen Breyer at the Supreme Court; a visit to NASA headquarters hosted by Administrator Charles Bolden; a Socratic seminar breakfast with Secretary of Homeland Security Jeh Johnson, as well as conversations with World Bank President Jim Yong Kim and State Department leaders who brought a global perspective to the program. President Obama gave generously of his time in speaking to you and answering your questions. During our annual Senate Reception, 80 senators came to meet you, take pictures and share words of encouragement and inspiration. The seventeen military officers who served as your mentors and guides throughout the week formed lasting bonds with you and epitomized the meaning of service and sacrifice.

Many memories were made that week, which you will treasure for years to come.

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

Now more than 5,000 strong, USSYP alumni continue to excel in prominent public service positions in all sectors of society. In addition to Senator Susan Collins of Maine, the first delegate elected to the U.S. Senate, and Senator Cory Gardner of Colorado, the first delegate elected to the U.S. House of Representatives and the second to be elected to the Senate, 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 our gratitude to our 2015 program Co-Chairs, Senator Johnny Isakson of Georgia and Senator Joe Manchin III of West Virginia. Without their help and support throughout the planning year, the program would not have been possible.

Finally, Washington Week could not take place without the continued endorsement of the Senate Committee on Rules and Administration and their excellent staff. The U.S. Senate and USSYP also thank the Council of Chief State Schools Officers and all of the state-level education administrators for their pivotal roles in the student selection process.

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



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 53rd 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 \$5,000 college scholarship with certificates often personally presented by their U.S. senators, and are encouraged to continue coursework in history, government and public affairs.

For more information about how to apply for the program please see: www.ussenateyouth.org









WELCOME TO WASHINGTON

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

Delegates travel from every part of the country and overseas to Washington, D.C.'s local airports and train station where they are greeted by their Military Mentors and brought to the historic Mayflower Hotel. Students then meet each other for the first time and are welcomed by USSYP staff and alumni. 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.

On the evening of arrival day the students are formally introduced to their Military Mentors, seventeen competitively selected male and female officers from each service branch, assigned to help guide the delegates through the logistics and protocol of the demanding week to come.

The United States Senate Youth Alumni Association (www.ussyaa.org) maintains 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 Chad Robinson (DE – 2001) welcoming the 2015 delegates



DEMOGRATIC CO-CHAIR SENATOR JOE MANCHIN III of West Virginia

NO ONE CARES HOW MUCH YOU KNOW UNTIL THEY KNOW HOW MUCH YOU CARE.

Senator Joe Manchin III of West Virginia won the hearts and minds of the 2015 delegates with a very personal speech that revealed much about his boyhood in the small rural town where he grew up "between the creek and the railroad tracks." As the keynote speaker for Washington Week's opening night dinner, the Democratic Co-Chair transported the students from the elegant surroundings of The Mayflower Hotel's Grand Ballroom to the three bedroom garage apartment he shared with his four siblings and his parents. "I grew up a privileged child in a small coal mining town – privileged because I was given unconditional love and a lot was expected from me," he began. Starting work at age ten in his father's small furniture store, he relayed the wisdom gleaned from his grandparents that shaped his life and philosophy as he progressed through a career as a state senator, governor and eventually U.S. senator for the Mountain State. "My grandfather told me to keep myself strong mentally, physically and financially if I ever wanted to be able to help anyone else, and I learned the meaning of real service to others from my grandmother, Mama Kay." It was his grandmother who, in providing a safe haven, work and



meals for those in need, showed her young grandson a template for government to serve as a helping hand. She also taught him these indelible words: "No one cares how much you know until they know how much you care." The moderate Democrat, who serves on the Senate Energy, Commerce, Armed Services and Veterans' Affairs Committees is known for being a dealmaker interested in bipartisan solutions to major challenges such as balancing the federal budget. He shed light on several other issues he is passionate about including climate change and energy use, ways to improve early childhood health and education and finding new pathways to building connections and comity among senators on both sides of the aisle. Creating a new Public Service Corps modeled in part on the Peace Corps was another initiative he discussed, reflecting his core values and commitment to the nation. He spoke frankly to the delegates about the perceived price of being involved in public life and the intensive scrutiny it engenders. "Wouldn't this be a heck of a place to live if everyone was afraid of that risk and wouldn't serve?" he reflected. "It's such a small price to pay for democracy, such a small price."

REPUBLICAN CO-CHAIR SENATOR JOHNNY ISAKSON of Georgia

In the United States of America, you can be anything you want to be, if you're only willing to dream it, and make the commitments that are necessary to succeed in life.

The reverential backdrop of the National Archives Rotunda was the setting for the Republican Co-Chair keynote dinner featuring Senator Johnny Isakson of Georgia, one of the Senate's most senior and universally respected members. Senator Isakson, who is currently chairing two full Committees in the 114th Congress, began his remarks by congratulating the delegates and reviewing the impressive events and individuals on the week's agenda. "This program is all about opening your eyes to the opportunities that are available to you," he said. "And if you wonder if you could do such things one day, I will tell you, in the United States of America, you can be anything you want to be, if you're only willing to dream it, and make the commitments that are necessary to succeed in life." The room erupted in rousing applause, and with the founding documents glowing faintly in their cases behind him, the senior senator from the Peach State enumerated a list of "six essential pieces of advice that can make a difference in your life and our country." The first is to **never stop learning**. He pointed out that when you graduate from college it is not the end of your education. "The ceremony is called 'commencement' not 'terminal'," he said with a smile. Secondly, he counseled, life is all about relationships: **you must have respect**

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for your fellow human beings. Noting that every single person has something to contribute, he quoted Dr. Martin Luther King, "Always judge a man by the content of his character, never by the color of his skin." Third, the Chairman of the Senate Select Committee on Ethics advised, you must lead an ethical life and treat others as you would like to be treated, tossing out a favorite quote by Mark Twain, "When confronted with a difficult decision, do what's right. You'll astound a few and you'll amaze the rest." The fourth piece of advice he offered is to love. "Love your country, your family, friends and schools," he said, "But remember this from the last speech given by Will Rogers: Love people and use things. Don't ever use people and love things." He spoke of faith as the fifth essential principle, saying there was no right or wrong pathway to faith, only that, "You will need a deep and abiding faith to you get you through difficult times." Lastly, he offered, "Be willing to dream, for in America you have the opportunity to be whatever you dream you want to be, if you prepare through your ethics, through your respect for your fellow man, through loving your fellow man, through respecting the institutions that have gotten you here, and learning every single day." Senator Isakson then opened the floor to take many questions from the eager delegates who thoroughly enjoyed their evening with a true statesman and southern gentleman.

[top right] Senator Johnny Isakson with Georgia delegates Jacob Pierce and Kylon Harris [bottom left] Archivist of the U.S. David S. Ferriero with Massachusetts delegates William DiGravio and Jenna Wong



FORMER CHIEF JUDGE ROBERT H. HENRY

[top] Former Chief Judge Robert Henry with Oklahoma delegates Mohamed Aly and John Teague

THOUGHTS ON CIVIL RIGHTS AND CIVIL ENGAGEMENT FROM ESTEEMED ALUMNUS

One of the most renowned judicial minds in America, Judge Robert H. Henry (USSYP -OK 1971), former Chief Judge of the U.S. Tenth Circuit Court of Appeals and now the president of Oklahoma City University, welcomed the delegates with enthusiasm and humor at the kick-off breakfast for Washington Week 2015. He began by noting that the 53rd annual program year coincided with the 50th anniversary of the landmark Voting Rights Act, and that cases before the current Supreme Court were also likely to prove of great import to our lives and society. He set the stage for discussing judicial philosophy by evoking the mindset of the nation in the early 1960s and the bravery and skill of Dr. Martin Luther King and Associate Justice Thurgood Marshall, the first African American to sit on the Supreme Court. Dr. King led through nonviolent protest, and Justice Marshall took his case to the courts, Judge Henry said, describing one particular case that revealed the core of segregation at the heart of the country. "When he came to Norman,

Oklahoma, to represent my friend, Ada Lois Sipuel Fisher, the first black woman to try to go to law school in Oklahoma, they went to court that morning. They adjourned for lunch in Norman, and no restaurant in the city would serve lunch to the greatest lawyer of the century. They ate peanuts from a vending machine in the courthouse. Thurgood Marshall told Ada Lois Fisher, 'Ada, honey, I'll handle the law. You handle the bologna sandwiches." Judge Henry encouraged the delegates to learn more about Justice Marshall, who "beat segregation at its own game," to read Dr. King's speech entitled "I've Been to the Mountaintop," and to see the newly released movie "Selma." He pointed to several Supreme Court cases to be decided in the current session that could have a profound impact on the lives of all Americans, including rulings on the Affordable Care Act and state redistricting plans. The essence of these momentous decisions will boil down to two views, he said, "Do you interpret legal texts based upon their purpose,

what they are trying to accomplish, or do you base them on the exact text that was used?" He emphasized the dichotomy by quoting the esteemed Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes. "The Constitution should be construed with flexibility in the joints," in counterpoint to current Justice and strict originalist Antonin Scalia who sometimes uses a dictionary from the era of the Constitution to define exact meanings of words. In closing he exhorted the delegates to participate, regardless of branch or party. "Politics is who gets what, when, where, how and why. Politics, my friends, is about stuff. If you want stuff, you play politics. If you don't want stuff, try to become some member of a mendicant, hermetic, religious group that lives on brown rice and water, on some island, because politics is all about stuff, and stuff is student loans, stuff is mortgages, stuff is rights, stuff is the right to marriage, stuff is redistricting. So if you want to have anything to say about stuff, you need to get involved in politics."

JUSTICE STEPHEN BREYER Professorial and Pragmatic: Justice Breyer Gives Lessons in Law and Life

Associate Justice of the Supreme Court Stephen Breyer was the final speaker of Washington Week 2015, hosting the group at his workplace before the farewell dinner ceremonies began. Visiting the Supreme Court late on a Friday afternoon seemed a fitting close to a week filled with passionate debate and exchange of ideas, as the delegates ascended the magnificent marble stairs, filed between the massive Corinthian marble columns and entered the neoclassical building, a true temple to justice. Inside the Courtroom, Justice Breyer began with a down-to-earth rendering of how the Justices do their jobs and a thorough technical summary of the role of the courts in our system of government. "What I do all day is a lot like being in school," he joked, "I read, I write . . . " He explained that most law gets settled in state courts and that state law most affects people's lives, encouraging the delegates to consider working in that arena if they consider the law as a career. Noting that the Supreme Court deals only with federal law when the lower courts cannot agree, he explained the process by which Justices decide on cases to hear, narrowing down to approximately 80 cases out of 80,000 - 100,000 requests a year. "Nonstop newspaper headlines do not mean a case is the most important case to hear," he said, describing the respectful debate and back and forth among the Justices when they sit in closed conference as they try to decipher law and find agreement. The students sat in rapt attention as he described his underlying judicial philosophy, saying that some people think you have to go back in time to 1789 to understand the precise meaning of the words in the Constitution. "Times change. Circumstances change. The values that

underlie the words of the Constitution remain unchanged," he said, noting, "You put a lot of weight on what the words meant at the time, but not ALL the weight." Offering the students advice his father gave him upon learning President Clinton had nominated him for the Court, Justice Breyer quoted, "Try to do your job as well as you can – and stay on the payroll!" he laughed with the delegates. But in closing he vigorously reminded the students that the Constitution demands that we all participate in the public life of the country, saying, "Give what you have to offer."









[above] Secretary of the Senate Julie Adams with Iowa delegates Jack Hostager and Joshua Hughes

[middle] Senate Parliamentarian Elizabeth MacDonough with Vermont delegates Isabelle Moody and Tanmatra Bhanti JULIE ADAMS AND ELIZABETH MACDONOUGH Insight on Senate History, Procedures and Career Paths in Public Service

Spending the morning with the Secretary of the Senate and the Senate Parliamentarian is always a highlight of Washington Week, and this year newly elected Secretary of the Senate Julie Adams made her first Washington Week speech to an eager and attentive group in the historic Kennedy Caucus Room. The position of Secretary of the Senate was created in 1789 and Ms. Adams is the 33rd individual to serve in that capacity. Her instant rapport with the delegates reflected her initial goal of becoming a high school history and civics teacher. She came to Washington to gain real life experience to bring to that teaching role, and thus began her remarkable journey. "Be open to all of life's opportunities," she advised, relaying how her career path took her to places she had not imagined. Joining the staff of her hometown representative, she was subsequently tapped to move to the Senate for a spot in Senator Mitch McConnell's press office. From there, she went to the White House to serve First Lady Laura Bush, and now, upon Senator McConnell becoming Majority Leader, she was chosen to serve as the most senior of all Senate officers. To succeed in the Senate, Secretary Adams noted, you need a strong work ethic, quick acumen and the ability to treat all colleagues with respect. Ms. Adams loves that the Senate reminds her of being in school; "You are learning something new every day and are surrounded by really smart, hard-working people." The Senate Parliamentarian is a newer position, created 78 years ago. Elizabeth MacDonough has served as the Parliamentarian for three years, although she has more than twenty years of Senate experience, many of them assisting the previous Parliamentarian. Ms. MacDonough serves as the nonpartisan, apolitical arbiter of Senate rules and procedures. She says, "I always have, as my primary charge, the best interest of the Senate as an institution in mind." The USSYP is privileged that Ms. MacDonough reserves her one speech a year for the student delegates of Washington Week. Both she and Secretary Adams are leaders who exemplify public service, brilliance, hard work and compassion.



DON RITCHIE Senate Historian Teaches About Congress and The White House Through the Years

Longtime Senate Historian and cherished annual Washington Week speaker Dr. Donald A. Ritchie took the podium to share his expertise about the executive branch's dealings with Congress in the 20th century, to shed light and historical perspective on the years of political stalemate in recent time. "In many ways, the White House and Capitol Hill are different worlds," the esteemed historian pointed out. "Presidents are limited to two terms and want to hit the ground running with their legislative priorities. Members of Congress can serve for decades or longer. President Lyndon Johnson used to say that presidents and Congress run on separate clocks." Presidents who came from the Hill didn't always have an easy time with their former colleagues, he said, noting that Lyndon Johnson was a master at managing legislation while Presidents Kennedy and Ford had faced challenges from both Houses. When did presidents start the process of wooing Congress? Dr. Ritchie described dinners that George Washington used to host for members of the House and Senate, noting "It's a tradition as old as our Republic." "The American people should not feel that the current state of affairs is cause for despair," he explained, "The fact is that the U.S. government was designed to be a difficult, cumbersome, slow, frustrating system. If you had wanted an efficient system, you would never have created the U.S. Senate. The authors of the Constitution did not want an excess of democracy. They didn't want a fast system. They built in all of these trip wires." Even when the president, the Senate and the

House are all ruled by the same party, it is still difficult to enact a new law. As a seasoned USSYP keynote speaker, Dr. Ritchie was ready for questions. The topic of Senator Joseph McCarthy was raised and Dr. Ritchie shared his experiences, and the historical impact of releasing transcripts from the closed hearings fifty years after they occurred. At that time, in a twist of fate, Senator Susan Collins, a political descendant of Senator Margaret Chase Smith of Maine who publicly denounced Senator McCarthy, was the chair of the Permanent Senate Subcommittee on Investigations and she authorized the release of the closed records. The release garnered global press attention as McCarthyism, synonymous with unethical political witch hunting, was finally treated with openness and transparency, revealing the courage of many of the victims of that era. Questioned about the low popularity ratings of Congress today, delegates learned that this is not a new phenomenon. Back in 1925, Dr. Ritchie said, famed Speaker of the House Nicholas Longworth expounded "Congress is unpopular, but I don't take it personally. It didn't become unpopular when I was first elected. It was unpopular when Henry Clay was a member of Congress. Congress will always be unpopular." Dr. Don Ritchie, with his deep reservoir of historic knowledge, will always be popular as a USSYP keynote speaker. He reminded the delegates that USSYP students seem to be getting elected to the Senate guite a bit these days, maybe he will see one of them soon in a freshman Senator orientation.

Senate Historian Don Ritchie with Washington delegates Monica Garcia and Nicholas Fiorillo



YOU CAN'T MAKE A DIFFERENCE IF YOU DON'T HAVE THE DATA: NASA Leaders Define Missions in Space that Help Us Understand Life on Earth



[above] NASA Astronaut Butch Wilmore aboard the International Space Station [below] Dr. Michelle Thaller, Assistant Director for Science, Communication and Higher Education, NASA

The Washington Week visit to NASA Headquarters has proven to be a highlight each year the USSYP has been privileged to attend. Front and center are two extraordinary leaders in the world of science: Major General Charles F. Bolden, Jr., NASA Administrator, astronaut, Marine, fighter pilot, and an incredibly sage and sensitive advisor to young leaders. Next to him stands Dr. Michelle Thaller, who is a History Channel and Science Channel ultra-expert on the universe and its origins and pathways; she is also an incredibly enthusiastic speaker and visionary role model for any future scientists in the audience. This year there was even a personalized video greeting to several of the delegates from the International Space Station. "Are we alone?" was one of the first gueries thrown out in conversation with both experts. Dr. Thaller's enthusiasm for the ice geysers newly discovered on Enceladus, the frozen water surface of Europa or the liquid methane lakes on Titan could not be contained – life could be flourishing on all three at this very moment. Administrator Bolden mentioned the 600 exoplanets found by the Kepler telescope that are within the zone most likely to be habitable for life. "Michelle comes to work every day trying to get more data, so she can understand planet A, planet B, planet C – because she knows that if she makes

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some discovery on Io or Europa or Saturn, it's going to answer a question that we had about Earth," the Administrator said. "We truly are in a space age now," he added, as he asked delegates to think about younger siblings, 14 years or younger. Every second of their lives there have been human beings working and living on the International Space Station. He stressed that our nation's excellence in business and focus on STEM curriculum will ensure that we continue to lead in this regard. Private industry will work hand-in-hand with NASA's mission, he said, and the best and brightest minds are needed to ensure success. Was Mr. Bolden's discussion entirely out of this world - focused completely on far-flung realms? No, he could not have connected more closely with the lives of 2015's delegates as they begin a big transition in life. His encouraging closing words likely found their way into many USSYP journals. With his charismatic voice, he offered, "Life is tough. Things are not going to go well for you all the time, but the fact that they are not going to go well ALL the time means you have set some bars that are pretty high for yourselves, and that is what is most important. As you get ready to go to college, don't take the easy courses. Don't choose the easy majors. Study hard and work hard and don't ever be afraid of failure. Find out

whatever it is that makes you passionate - and follow it."

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NASA Administrator Charles Bolden, Jr. with South Carolina delegates Curtis Leonard and Trevor Owens

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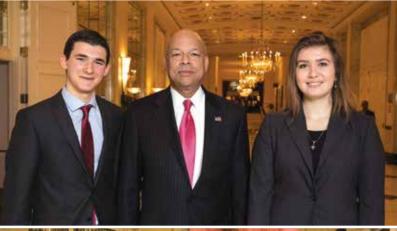
REFLECTION AND INSPIRATION FROM THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF

As the delegates waited in the gilded East Room of the Executive Mansion, tension mounted. Would the President be able to spend meaningful time with a group of 104 teenagers? As breaths turned to gasps, the answer quickly became clear. Striding down the red carpeted walkway from the West Wing, President Obama warmly greeted the 2015 USSYP class. He put the group immediately at ease with a few jokes about sending the students up to the Hill to help him out with the "real" Senate. As he spoke about advice for their futures, he counseled the delegates, "Don't worry so much about who you want to be – think more about what you want to do." Relating his experience as a father of a daughter of the same age, the President also reminded the group to try new things, even if those efforts put them out of their comfort zone. "You learn more from failure than from success," he guided, noting that it is important that they "slow down and enjoy being young." The President took several questions from the students, becoming philosophical about our era of burgeoning digital technology and global communications, "We are faced with critical choices. We can utilize these tools to come together as a global community where we celebrate our likenesses and our humanity, or, these same technologies can be used to increase divisiveness, conflict and ethnic strife." He urged the delegates to continue on their paths to public service, acknowledging that their leadership and achievements already mark them as those charged to face these questions and steer our nation to a brighter future.











SECRETARY OF HOMELAND SECURITY JEH JOHNSON

The Secretary of Homeland Security, flanked by Secret Service (a division of government that also reports to him) moved nimbly around the Mayflower Grand Ballroom engaging and testing the students in a challenging but humor-filled Socratic seminar. He grilled the students about the line of succession to the president and whether they knew who the Secret Service protects, while revealing that the Secret Service was begun as a law enforcement agency by President Abraham Lincoln, who, tragically, was assassinated. Delegates who volunteered correct answers (or at least tried hard to provide them) were given the military service Challenge Coin of the Department of Homeland Security, straight from Secretary Johnson's pocket. Secretary Johnson interwove the arc of his own career, which has exemplified the revolving door of talent in and out of the private sector and public service. He ascended to partner in a major New York City law firm while taking "time off" for intensive public service stints as General Counsel of the Department of the Air Force and then General Counsel of the Department of Defense, before being tapped by President Obama to become the nation's fourth secretary of Homeland Security. "My view is that homeland security, national security, has to be a balance between basic physical security and preserving our values," he told the delegates, "And the Patriot Act should be an attempt to strike that balance in our national security and in our intelligence community." The Secretary confessed to the delegates that based on his academic performance in high school, he did not think he would have gualified for the USSYP. He told the students that he didn't become truly motivated until his sophomore year in college at Morehouse College when "I stepped off a MARTA bus in Atlanta and I walked into Jimmy Carter's campaign headquarters and volunteered. That was my first exposure to politics and public service, and it was truly inspirational. In closing he said, "So life is full of improbable things. All of you in this room all have bright futures; you can have a successful career in the private sector, and you can have a successful career in public service. I think I'm a testament to that, and it's the public service that will, throughout your entire life, mean the most to you, in terms of the things you're able to do and the difference you're able to make."

Secretary Jeh Johnson with New York delegates Justin Shapiro and Ioana Solomon



SENATORS SUSAN COLLINS AND CORY GARDNER Two Star Alumni Truly Embody the Mission and Values of USSYP

What an inspiration for the 2015 delegates to see two USSYP alumni, side by side, serving in the United States Senate. Both Senator Susan Collins (ME - 1971), the first alumnus elected to the U.S. Senate, and Senator Cory Gardner (CO - 1993), the second alumnus elected to the U.S. Senate and the first elected to the U.S. House of Representatives, credited their Washington Week experiences for sparking their passion for public service. During her visit to Washington as a delegate in 1971, Senator Collins was inspired by the integrity and courage of her home state Senator Margaret Chase Smith, the first woman elected to both houses of Congress and the first woman to be elected to the Senate in her own right. Senator Smith was the author of the "Declaration of Conscience" speech denouncing the tactics of McCarthyism that she delivered on the Senate floor less than a year after gaining her seat. In this speech, considered by many to be one of the most important in American history, she said McCarthyism had "debased" the Senate to "the level of a forum of hate and character assassination" and she defended every American's "right to criticize, to hold unpopular beliefs, to protest ... the right of independent thought." Senator Collins shared with the delegates how honored she is to have Senator Smith's desk on the Senate floor, and said that she left Washington Week 1971, after spending a day with Senator Smith, believing that she could accomplish anything. Senator Gardner reflected upon the profound impact of meeting then-Senator John Kerry during Washington Week 1993, and then, in March 2015, sitting as a freshman senator on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee while Secretary of State Kerry testified before him. When Senator

Gardner was asked what he believed was the one moment that propelled him into public service. he answered. "You are here: this is it." He smiled as he surveyed the eager group of delegates seated before him and said that he "anticipates that within your group holds the next generation of House members, Senate members, Cabinet members, vice presidents and, yes, presidents." The delegates were praised for their willingness to build bridges, to listen to each other and find common ground. Senator Collins said, "If ever there were a time that I think the country needs to come together and act in a less divisive, polarized way, it is now. We need to remember the lessons you are learning this week. We may have different philosophies, we come from different parts of the country, but we are all united in trying to do what is best for this country." Senator Gardner echoed the need to coalesce in a bipartisan way. If you reach an impasse with someone, he said, ask yourself if, "It is a pillar problem, or a paint problem?" He advises standing firm on your principles (the pillars) but being flexible on the details (the paint). Attributing some of the polarization in the political process to a general decline in civility brought about by the ability to say whatever one pleases in an anonymous fashion online, Senator Collins offered the 2015 delegates a challenge: "Each of you has the responsibility to help elevate the civility and the respect with which we treat each other - in your schools, in your communities and in our country – and that will help elevate the respect and civility in Washington as well."



LEADING CIVIL RIGHTS LAWYERS AT THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT DISCUSS PROGRESS AND PURPOSE 50 YEARS LATER

Following the lecture by USSYP alumnus former Chief Judge Robert Henry on the 50th anniversary of the Civil Rights Act and the role of the judicial branch, the delegates were escorted through the halls of the U.S. Department of Justice to be met by one of the nation's leading civil rights experts in the executive branch, Principal Deputy Assistant Attorney General and head of the Civil Rights Division Vanita Gupta. Ms. Gupta had spent the previous day with President Barack Obama, the First Family and thousands of other Americans at the foot of the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma, Alabama, to honor the sacrifice and bravery of the men and women who bled on that very pavement 50 years ago. In her speech, Ms. Gupta emphasized that although much progress has been made, there is still intensive work to be done. Ms. Gupta has spent her career working to ensure further progress, first as a civil rights attorney with the NAACP and then with the ACLU before being selected to serve at the Department of Justice where she passionately defends "the values of equal opportunity and equal justice under the law for all people." Her focus as the head of the Civil Rights Division has been several-fold since beginning her tenure in October 2014, including advancing constitutional policing and other criminal justice reforms, ensuring that individuals with disabilities are afforded an opportunity to live in integrated community settings, protecting the rights of LGBTI individuals, and combating discrimination in lending and voting. The Civil Rights Division is often called the "conscience of the federal government," she said, and delegates understood

after Ms. Gupta's remarks that her efforts give real meaning to the promise of "equal opportunity." Becky L. Monroe, Senior Counselor in the Civil Rights Division, was able to share details of her role in the Civil Rights Division and opened the floor to questions. As can be expected in an audience of USSYP delegates, a sea of hands rose, and she addressed complex issues of race relations in Ferguson, Missouri, Voter ID laws and the death penalty, among others. Ms. Monroe called upon the delegates to also remember that the country had just marked the 60th anniversary of the landmark Brown v. Board of Education decision, and that the struggle for equality in education is at the core of protecting civil rights and guaranteeing equal opportunity for all people. In response to a question about hate crimes, she asked us all to reflect upon President Obama's recent words as he met with the families of Matthew Shepard and James Byrd: "We must continue to stand together against intolerance and hate wherever they occur, and respond decisively when they lead to violence. Ours is a country built on the notion that all people are created equal. It's up to us to make that ideal real, in our words and deeds as well as in our laws."

[above right] Head of the Civil Rights Division Vanita Gupta with District of Columbia delegates Nathaniel Green and Mariah Stewart [below right] Senior Counsel to Ms. Gupta, Becky L. Monroe

THE WORLD BANK A Passion for Health and Humanity World Bank President Jim Yong Kim

Two themes seemed prevalent among the 2015 Washington Week speakers when divulging their personal stories of achieving such lofty public service careers: 1. In addition to hard work, serendipity and chance play a part in the arc of a career, and 2. Be open and willing to be flexible in your plans so that you can seize the opportunities that chance provides. World Bank President Dr. Jim Yong Kim spoke self-effacingly about his work prior to his current position, terming his career a "series of lucky accidents." A MacArthur "Genius" Fellowship recipient, named one of America's "25 Best Leaders" by U.S. News & World Report, and selected as one of TIME magazine's "100 Most Influential People in the World", Dr. Kim served previously as the president of Dartmouth College, and prior to that post was a director of the World Health Organization and a professor and department chair at Harvard Medical School and the Harvard School of Public Health. Both a physician and an anthropologist, Dr. Kim has dedicated himself to international development and specifically to ending poverty and poverty-related illness on a global level for more than two decades. His passion led him to found his own nonprofit organization following his medical school training, designed to treat and eradicate HIV/AIDS and tuberculosis in developing nations. "At the World Bank we have two clear goals," he told the delegates, "One is to end extreme poverty in the world; the other is to boost shared prosperity." Extreme poverty is defined as people living on less than \$1.25 a day, he explained. "Unfortunately, there are still 1 billion people in the world who live on less than \$1.25 a day. It's very, very difficult and it's the

kind of poverty that if you've ever seen it, you never forget." Dr. Kim referenced a recent Oxfam study highlighting the enormous disparity in global wealth, "This study shows that the 80 richest people in the world control as much wealth as the bottom 50 percent of the people on the planet," he said. "Our second goal is to try to tackle that inequality. We don't have any problem with people getting wealthy because of their work, but we do think that economic growth should benefit everybody." Investing in and building roads and bridges, and water, educational and health care systems forms the basis of much of the work done by the World Bank, which employs approximately 2,000 PhDs, most of them economists. Answering a guestion about what conditions lead to extreme poverty, Dr. Kim pointed to the need for such experts to grapple with the myriad nuances of global development. "Every single country is different. In China, the rise in the GDP, the gross domestic product per capita, led to the lifting of many, many people out of poverty. The term is the growth elasticity of poverty - showing how growth impacts the rate of poverty going up and down. Unfortunately, in Africa, the growth elasticity of poverty has not been very high - the economics have grown, but the number of people living in poverty has stayed pretty much the same." The delegates were incredibly fortunate to participate in a lengthy Q and A session with Dr. Kim, who discussed his personal views on leading such a large organization. "I believe the mark of a great organization is that we are able to take criticism; we look at our own work, we do the research, and then if we get better information we are able to change our minds."



The World Bank Group President Dr. Jim Yong Kim

Additional World Bank speaker Mr. Jay Heimbach, Special Representative External and Corporate Relations, with Ohio delegates Jacob Dretzka and Elijah Lutz



DEPARTMENT OF STATE Cyber Security at Forefront in Age of Digital Diplomacy and Communication

The formal luncheon in the Benjamin Franklin State Dining Room of the United States Department of State is always remembered as one of the most beautiful and enriching events of Washington Week. Delegates, guided by docents with encyclopedic knowledge, saw history up close as they toured the Diplomatic Reception Rooms. Thomas Jefferson's desk, a silver serving set made by Paul Revere and drawings from the 1871 Geological Expedition to Yellowstone are among countless other irreplaceable pieces of art and decorative arts that represent the American story. As one of our hosts, Assistant Secretary of State for Public Affairs Douglas Frantz, said, "In these rooms, we are surrounded by the legacy of wisdom that created our democracy, the form of government that continues to be the envy of the world. These rooms are living history." The luncheon's keynote speaker, Christopher Painter, serves as the Department of State Coordinator for Cyber Issues. Mr. Painter expounded upon the risks and opportunities faced by our nation as technology evolves and we become more globally interconnected. Pulling from recent headlines, Mr. Painter examined the economic consequences

State Department Coordinator for Cyber Issues Mr. Christopher Painter



posed by state-sponsored hacking, as had become apparent with the publication of Sony Pictures' internal communications and work products. Such revelations galvanized the need to enhance laws across national boundaries to address cybercrime. Mr. Painter relayed the story of the damaging "I Love You" virus, which was traced to an individual in the Philippines. There were no laws at that time barring the creation of computer viruses; there was no way he could be prosecuted. The proliferation of internet availability and accessibility also offers important opportunities for diplomacy and free speech. One effort he mentioned specifically was the Alliance for Affordable Internet, a coalition of private sector, public sector, and civil society organizations that have come together to advance the shared aim of affordable access to both mobile and fixed-line internet in developing countries. Keeping the internet free and open within our borders is also critical, and Mr. Painter cited the Administration and the Department of State's support for net neutrality. Mr. Painter generously answered more than a dozen questions from his eager audience. In response to a query about Anonymous and other 'hacktivist' groups who cause disruption to make a political point, he stated that there should always be a right to protest, and to freedom of expression, but within the boundaries of the law. Additionally while respecting freedom of speech, the State Department also addresses the proliferation of recruitment messages by extremist groups in two ways. If the message is aimed at inciting violence, he said, legal remedies can be sought. But as Mr. Painter points out, "Often the way to deal with distasteful speech is by more speech, by countering the message with a more positive one that's aimed at the same communities."

[above right] Assistant Secretary of State for Public Affairs Douglas Frantz



DEPUTY SECRETARY OF DEFENSE ROBERT O. WORK Dedicated to Leadership and Service

Each year the Senate Youth delegates make a visit to the Pentagon to get an inside view of the iconic national headquarters of our Department of Defense. Following lunch and a brief tour, the delegates make their way to the Pentagon auditorium to listen to the highest-level DoD officials speak about their roles within the agency, their personal career paths, and answer questions about current issues, operations and policies. Deputy Secretary of Defense Robert O. Work, the second highest-ranking official at DoD, described himself as the "COO of the Defense Department, with the Secretary being the CEO in charge of the strategic vision." "Our business is pretty simple," he said, "We organize, we train, and we equip our armed forces so that they are ready for war. But we operate these forces forward throughout the world to preserve the peace." Deputy Secretary Work, a highly decorated 27-year veteran of the U.S. Marines, received his commission as a second lieutenant in the Marine Corps in August of 1974. He has held a wide range of command and management positions including serving as the Under Secretary of the Navy from 2009 – 2013, in addition to several prestigious academic and strategic positions at universities and within the private sector. Deputy Secretary Work spoke specifically about the use of the American military for peacekeeping and humanitarian missions. "One of the things that is so attractive about our system of government is that even if our enemies are hit by a major national

disaster and they ask for help, we'll help. So although our forces are designed for war fighting we have a lot of capabilities that allow us to do many things to build partnerships and help enforce peace and we do it all the time." When asked about how the events of 9/11 affected him personally, he was frank. "Well, I had just gotten out of the Marine Corps in 2001, after 27 years, and the attack occurred in September, while I was working in a high-end consulting firm. And the first thing we all did – a lot of colonels like me who had just gotten out – was to call up and say, 'Hey, should we come back in?' It had an enormous effect on me. And that's why later, when I was asked to be the Under Secretary of the Navy I said, 'Yes, I will do so' and then when asked to be the Deputy Secretary of Defense, I said yes. This is a very momentous time in our history. So if you have the chance to serve, you should take the opportunity, in my view."

Deputy Secretary Robert O. Work with DODEA delegates Thomas Harwood and David Neaverth

The Outstanding 2015 MILITARY MENTOR TEAM

Competitively selected military officers designated by the Office of the Secretary of Defense were led by Senior Military Officer Major Velma Gay, USAF and Assistant Senior Military Officer Lieutenant Eric Driggs, USCGR. The 2015 USSYP Military Mentors are pictured here with Deputy Secretary of Defense Robert O. Work.



[Front row] left to right: Major Velma Gay, USAF; Lieutenant Commander Ayessa Toler, USN; 1st Lieutenant Aili Miettinen, USA; 1st Lieutenant Kathryn Hedgecock, USA; Lieutenant Kyra Dykeman, USCG; Captain Anne Armstrong, USMC; Major Kelcey Shaw, USA; Lieutenant Colonel Ariel Batungbacal, USAF; Lieutenant Eric Driggs, USCGR

[Back row] left to right: Captain Andrew MacDougall, USMC; Lieutenant Commander Juan Posada, USCG; Lieutenant Junior Grade Luke D'Lima, USCG; Lieutenant Danilo Mendoza, Jr. USN; Deputy Secretary of Defense Robert O. Work; Captain Kurt Mabis, USAF; Captain Deed Ziegler, USMC; 1st Lieutenant Jace Yarbrough, USAF; Major Erik Smith, USMC



AMBASSADOR BJÖRN LYRVALL The USSYP Ambassador Luncheon: A Window on Life and History from the Land of the Midnight Sun

The affable and understated Swedish ambassador to the United States guickly built a strong rapport with his audience at the annual USSYP Ambassador Luncheon. Björn Lyrvall of Sweden began by reminiscing about the high school exchange program that brought him to New Wilmington, Pennsylvania many years ago. "It was a great American experience, with homecoming and the prom, with evenings driving around with my friends in a four wheel drive Chevy truck in beautiful Amish country, and playing the Star Spangled Banner in the high school band." Thus began a lifelong affection for the United States for the ambassador who relayed some history between Sweden and the U.S. starting with his nation as one of the first to recognize the post-Revolutionary War United States. Benjamin Franklin and his Swedish diplomatic counterpart Gustaf Philip Cruetz signed a Treaty of Amity and Commerce in 1783 that still stands in effect. Other strong factors in the U.S. – Sweden relationship include a large wave of Swedish immigration during the late 1800s and early 1900s when approximately one fourth of the Swedish population immigrated to the United States due to poverty, resulting in a large number of Americans with Swedish ancestry today. As Ambassador Lyrvall noted, most people in Sweden, including himself, have someone in the family who emigrated to the U.S. As a nation, Sweden holds the core values of openness and transparency, and shares with America the identity of "being a place and a refuge for people fleeing persecution and oppression." He provided evidence of his nation's achievements, as a global leader in the arts, technology, diplomacy and commerce. Citing Volvo and Ikea as more obvious examples, he also pointed out that Spotify, Skype, Candy Crush Saga and MineCraft are all originally Swedish applications, and that Sweden was rated as having the second highest standard

of living in the world, based on the most recent Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development survey. The students also learned that Sweden is the third-largest exporter of pop music after the United States and the United Kingdom, and that music and technological innovations may stem from the long, dark Nordic winters fostering lots of creativity. Ambassador Lyrvall also discussed progressive Swedish policy initiatives, relaying the facts that Sweden has cut greenhouse emissions by 20% since 1990 while still growing its economy by 60%, and that Sweden is making strides in breaking the glass ceiling for women, with 50% of the Cabinet, 45% of Parliament, and 38% of its ambassadors being female. One of the largest donors of foreign aid in the world, at slightly more than one percent of its Gross Domestic Product, the ambassador noted the philosophy that fuels this aid is more than altruism, "This is not only beneficial from a guality of life perspective for those in developing nations," he said, "Poverty feeds instability; it feeds conflict." Ambassador Lyrvall knew to expect many guestions from such a global-minded audience and he graciously gave of his time to share his thoughts on Swedish educational policies and subsidized college education, diplomatic relations with North Korea, compulsory military service and the political tensions in the Ukraine. His parting words of inspiration reminded the delegates of the centuries-old friendship between Sweden and America, "We need to stand united, and we need the United States to keep leading the global efforts of the free world. We need it today and we need it tomorrow, when you might be the leaders of this great country."

Ambassador Björn Lyrvall with Pennsylvania delegates Catherine Zhang and Nathan Bonham

JOURNALIST MAJOR GARRETT CBS News Chief White House Correspondent Gives Full Report and Great Advice

Missouri delegates were given the opportunity to welcome one of their home state stars at Wednesday morning's breakfast at The Mayflower Hotel. CBS News Chief White House Correspondent Major Garrett, a graduate of the University of Missouri's School of Journalism, showed a deep understanding of print and broadcast news coverage and an equally incisive understanding of the lives of high school students about to enter college. He offered the ambitious delegates a balanced perspective on their looming college admissions decisions, "Take this moment with a calmer heart," the father of three similarly aged children intoned, "It will all work out and you will find your niche in the college you choose." He continued with encouragement and valuable life lessons using his own career as illustration. At their age, he reminisced, he had his life plan all worked out. He buckled down and graduated with a double major in journalism and political science in record time. He had "checked all the right boxes" and thought he was set. Then came the 67 rejection letters from newspapers across the United States. He was the only one in his journalism class to graduate without a job. Setbacks like this "are upsetting. They jar you, but they are not fatal. You can rebound. You can bounce back." Finally an offer came from the Amarillo Globe-News for \$250 a week to be the crime reporter. Major Garrett jumped at it. He knew he wanted to end up in Washington, D.C., and set a goal to be on his way after one year in Amarillo. It took two years, but he was learning to be flexible and stressed that important lesson for delegates, "If I had obsessed after Year One that I wasn't out of Amarillo, I would have been distracted from the one thing that actually got me out:

doing my job well." As everyone in the room knew, he embarked from that point on a journalistic career that has included posts at U.S. News and World Report, The Washington Times, CNN, Fox News, and now CBS. Summing up a typical day as a high-profile reporter proved difficult; one of the things he loves about his work is that "there is no such thing as a typical day." "You have to be ready for anything," he said, adding that every White House reporter should have at the tip of his or her tongue five relevant questions they would ask the president if he suddenly announced a press conference. He credits the trajectory of his career with two key principles: the first is, be willing to adapt. "If you think about yourself as one thing and one thing only, you're limiting yourself. Always be willing to adapt. Always be willing to change. Always be willing to look slightly over the horizon at what you think may be coming at you." Secondly, he said, a big pitfall of the electronic age is speed creating inaccuracy. "As you gather information, make sure you are making all efforts to verify it. First and wrong is utterly useless." Several USSYP delegates aspiring to journalism were quick to lead the Q and A session. Rosie McCormack of Montana, who we may see reporting from the White House lawn one day, asked about the core skills needed for aspiring young reporters. "The ability to use a telephone!" Mr. Garrett said. "So many young journalists I encounter now either just email people or they just theorize concepts about a story and then write a take. In my job, I try to call people all the time, because talking to somebody on the telephone, or talking to them in person, is a much better way of reading them and getting a sense of what they're really talking about, and especially helpful, obtaining information that isn't always written down."

Major Garrett with Missouri delegates Cameron Leahy and Saniya Ablatt



BRIAN LAMB OF C-SPAN A Nationally Televised Roundtable Discussion Featuring America's Future Leaders

Delegates awoke Friday morning of Washington Week to find the Grand Ballroom of The Mayflower Hotel transformed into a C-SPAN television studio. Brian Lamb, the esteemed founder of the cable public affairs network, was on hand, microphone at the ready, to film a one hour C-SPAN Q & A program for national viewing. Delegates were perhaps a bit nervous under the television lights, but were soon weighing in on memorable style, many follow-up questions and quick humor ensured that the hour was filled with thought-provoking dialogue. As he circulated among the tables of poised and articulate students, we learned that NASA Administrator Charles Bolden's confidence in the American ability to innovate, Senator Manchin's integrity, compassion and empathy, and Senator Collin's exhortation, "You have no right to complain if you sit on the sidelines" resonated with USSYP delegates. The ubiquitous Senate Youth leather-bound notebooks received national media attention as well, as delegates held up pages of quotations that had been inscribed during an event-packed week. "We probably won't learn to love each other, but we can learn to follow the law," excerpted from Judge Robert Henry; "Remember to be humble and have a strong work ethic," advice from Secretary of the Senate Julie Adams; and several pages of notes re-telling heartfelt advice from President Barack Obama. Exploring the topic of media preferences with delegates,

C-SPAN viewers learned that these outstanding young people are both intellectual and eclectic in their tastes. Twitter, the BBC, the Economist and the New York Times were all referenced as favorite news sources, with some preferring print media over electronic. Of the 24-hour news cycle, "We're just getting exhausted by that," commented Virginia delegate Caleb Visser, whose sentiment was echoed by many others, "We don't want to see the arguments." Delegates were offered a chance to publically thank their role models and mentors, and shared poignant stories of parents' dedication, inspiring AP History and Civics teachers, a cherished sister and many others. New Mexico delegate Deanna Gutierrez possibly summed up the feelings of many of her peers by exclaiming, "I'd just really like to thank and acknowledge all the teachers I have ever had." "Knowledge is power," she said, and the wisdom shared by so many hard-working parents, mentors and teachers certainly has played a role in the lives of each and every USSYP delegate. The C-SPAN Q & A with the 2015 delegates can be viewed in its entirety at: www.ussenateyouth.org under media.

[below] Brian Lamb with Indiana delegates Daniel Green and Katherine Hitchcock





DISTINGUISHED EDUCATORS JOINED DELEGATES FOR THE 53RD 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.

2015 DELEGATE SPEECHES An Evening to Say Farewell

Washington Week tradition provides the students the opportunity to elect two members of the group, one male, one female, to offer farewell remarks. Delegates Muna Mohamed and Vishal Narayanaswamy inspired and entertained their fellow delegates with emotional, thought-provoking and humorous speeches. The Farewell Dinner brought solemn closure to the week with a moving flag folding ceremony conducted by the 2015 Military Mentors, the Presentation of the Colors by the Joint Armed Forces Color Guard and a rousing performance by The United States Marine Corps Brass Quintet.







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. KEISHA FORD-JENRETTE

Program Manager, Georgia Department of Education

DR. ELISABETH EGETEMEYR

(Serving as alternate for West Virginia selection administrator Robert Wiseman)

Program Research Specialist, New York State Education Department

[above left] Delegate Vishal Narayanaswamy of Wisconsin

[above right] Delegate Muna Mohamed of Maine







HONORS FROM THEIR SENATORS



SENATE RECEPTION ATTENDEES UNITED STATES SENATE YOUTH PROGRAM 2015

Eighty senators participated in the Washington Week 2015, either at speaking events or by attending the 53rd annual USSYP Senate Reception where they congratulated their student delegates and presented them with their \$5,000 college scholarship certificates.



ALABAMA

Senator Richard C. Shelby with Jordan Cozby and Matthew Tindal



Senator Lisa Murkowski with Grant Ackerman and Christian Escalante







ARIZONA

Senator Jeff Flake with Austin Fairbanks and Grant Laufer





ALABAMA

Senator Jeff Sessions with Jordan Cozby and Matthew Tindal

ALASKA

Senator Daniel Sullivan with Grant Ackerman and Christian Escalante



Senator John Boozman with Katherine Sanders and Ashton Yarbrough

COLORADO

Senator Michael F. Bennet with Brandon Lee and Serene Singh



ARKANSAS

Senator Tom Cotton with Katherine Sanders and Ashton Yarbrough









COLORADO

Senator Cory Gardner with Serene Singh and Brandon Lee

CONNECTICUT

DELAWARE

Paige Morrison

GEORGIA

Senator David Perdue with

Kylon Harris and Jacob Pierce

Senator Christopher A. Coons with Mara Tazartus and

Senator Christopher Murphy with

Charles Sosnick and Veronica Ma











HAWAII

Senator Brian Schatz with Christopher Kim and Aina Katsikas





CONNECTICUT

Senator Richard Blumenthal with Charles Sosnick and Veronica Ma

DELAWARE

Senator Thomas R. Carper with Mara Tazartus and Paige Morrison

GEORGIA

Senator Johnny Isakson with Jacob Pierce and Kylon Harris

HAWAII

Senator Mazie K. Hirono with Christopher Kim and Aina Katsikas

IDAHO

Senator James E. Risch with Amanda Solomon and Caitlin Lackey

INDIANA

Senator Daniel Coats with Daniel Green and Katherine Hitchcock



ILLINOIS

Senator Mark Kirk with Emily Johansson and Devyn Rigsby













KANSAS

Senator Joe Donnelly with Daniel Green and Katherine Hitchcock











MAINE

Senator Angus S. King, Jr. with Muna Mohamed and Andrew Sandweiss





MARYLAND

Senator Benjamin L. Cardin with Richard Yarrow and Matthew Keating



IOWA

Senators Charles Grassley and Joni Ernst with Jack Hostager and Joshua Hughes

KANSAS

Senator Jerry Moran with Stefan Petrovic and Britt Leake

LOUISIANA

Senator David Vitter with Abhishek Shah and Beverly Brown

MAINE

Senator Susan M. Collins with Muna Mohamed and Andrew Sandweiss

MARYLAND

Senator Barbara A. Mikulski with Matthew Keating and **Richard Yarrow**

MASSACHUSETTS

Senator Elizabeth Warren with William DiGravio and Jenna Wong



MASSACHUSETTS

Senator Edward J. Markey with William DiGravio and Jenna Wong









MINNESOTA

Senator Amy Klobuchar with Jordan Anderson and Hongyi Jiang

MISSISSIPPI

Senator Thad Cochran with Sidney Albritton and Robert Pickering

MISSOURI

Senator Claire McCaskill with Cameron Leahy and Saniya Ablatt







MONTANA

Senator Jon Tester with Ian Descamps and Rosemarie McCormack





MICHIGAN

Senator Gary Peters with Talha Mirza and Samuel Bork

MINNESOTA

Senator Al Franken with Jordan Anderson and Hongyi Jiang

MISSISSIPPI

Senator Roger F. Wicker with Robert Pickering and Sidney Albritton

MISSOURI

Senator Roy Blunt with Saniya Ablatt and Cameron Leahy

MONTANA

Senator Steve Daines with Rosemarie McCormack and lan Descamps

NEBRASKA

Senator Ben Sasse with Elsa Knight and Kristen Tomjack



NEBRASKA

Senator Deb Fischer with Elsa Knight and Kristen Tomjack





NEVADA

Senator Dean Heller with Evan Gong and Greer Sullivan

NEW HAMPSHIRE

Senator Kelly Ayotte with

Jessie Osgood and

NEW JERSEY

Maria Mendoza and

Gabriel Voorhis-Allen

NEW MEXICO

Deanna Gutierrez and

Jonathan Salazar

Senator Martin Heinrich with

Senator Cory Booker with

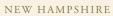
Devin McMahon











Senator Jeanne Shaheen with Devin McMahon and Jessie Osgood

NEW JERSEY

Senator Robert Menendez with Maria Mendoza and Gabriel Voorhis-Allen

NEW MEXICO

Senator Tom Udall with Deanna Gutierrez and Jonathan Salazar

NEW YORK

Senator Charles E. Schumer with Justin Shapiro and Ioana Solomon



NORTH CAROLINA

Senator Richard Burr with Victor Agbafe and Christine McDow





NORTH DAKOTA

Senator John Hoeven with Casondra Rutschke and Andie Chandler



NORTH CAROLINA

Senator Thom Tillis with Victor Agbafe and Christine McDow

NORTH DAKOTA

Senator Heidi Heitkamp with Andie Chandler and Casondra Rutschke

OHIO Senator Rob Portman with Elijah Lutz and Jacob Dretzka

OKLAHOMA

Senator James Lankford with Mohamed Aly and John Teague

PENNSYLVANIA

Senator Robert P. Casey, Jr. with Nathan Bonham and Catherine Zhang

SOUTH CAROLINA

Senator Tim Scott with Trevor Owens and Curtis Leonard

Senator Michael Rounds with Gerald Fraas and Patrick Binder

OKLAHOMA

Senator James M. Inhofe with Mohamed Aly and John Teague

OREGON

Senator Jeff Merkley with Carter Kruse and Reid Rubsam

PENNSYLVANIA

Senator Patrick J. Toomey with Nathan Bonham and Catherine Zhang

RHODE ISLAND

Senator Sheldon Whitehouse with Chase Boni and Benjamin Chiacchia

SOUTH DAKOTA

Senator John Thune with Gerald Fraas and Patrick Binder

TENNESSEE

Senator Lamar Alexander with Dallas McCash and Ian Seal

SOUTH DAKOTA

























UTAH

Senator Mike Lee with

Wesley Johnson and Anna Bryner

Senator Shelley Moore Capito with Gene Bailey III and Yihang Liu











WISCONSIN

Senator Tammy Baldwin with Vishal Narayanaswamy and Mara Matovich

WYOMING

Senator John Barrasso with Elizabeth Winnop and Eben Cowger



TEXAS

Senator John Cornyn with Vance Vaughan, Jocelyn Hernandez-Vazquez and Thomas Harwood

VERMONT

Senator Patrick J. Leahy with Isabelle Moody and Tanmatra Bhanti

WEST VIRGINIA

Senator Joe Manchin III with Gene Bailey III and Yihang Liu

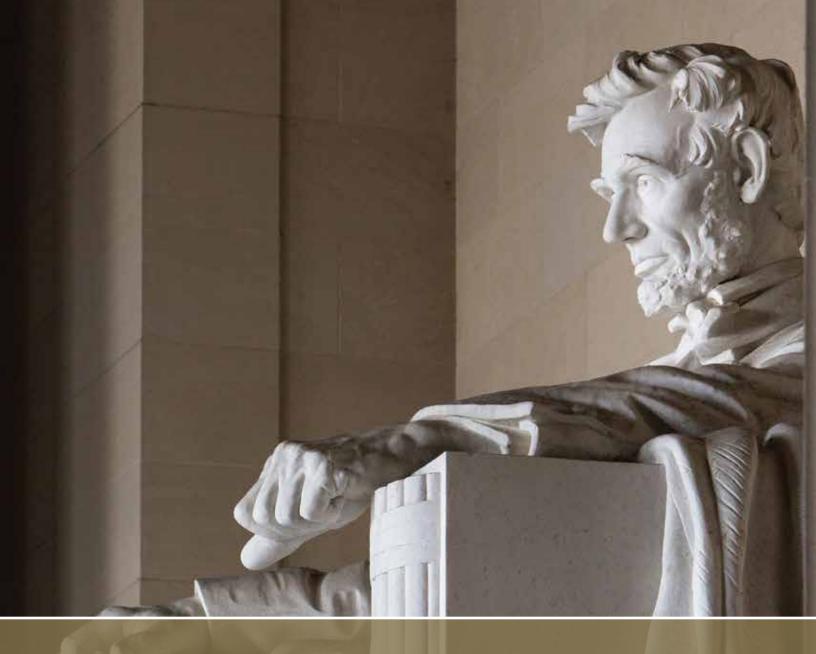
WISCONSIN

Senator Ron Johnson with Vishal Narayanaswamy and Mara Matovich

WYOMING

Senator Michael B. Enzi with Eben Cowger and Elizabeth Winnop





IN THEIR OWN WORDS







My underlying motivation has been strengthened. I witnessed not only the power of words but also the discovery of my own passions in public policy. It awakened my senses, crystallized my mind, and, perhaps most importantly, humbled me in an arena where egos can be as large as the problems we attempt to solve through our discourse. I am no longer just another high school student with a malleable and cloudy mind. I am a delegate, a problem solver, and, most importantly, a leader.

JOCELYN HERNANDEZ-VAZQUEZ, TX - 2015

I came into the USSYP Week arrogantly thinking I knew my fair share about politics, policy and the art of rhetoric. Over the course of the week, I became struck by the massive wealth of knowledge and passion emanating from my peers, Military Mentors, and speakers. By the end of the week I was incredibly humbled and ready for a future of true public service. I came to think like the other side, I learned to come out of my "partisan" corner; I learned to seek compromise while also standing firm in my values; and maybe most importantly, I learned to truly listen to others. I came away with a revitalized faith in the potential of our American political system and was imbued with a new degree respect and admiration for fundamental democratic principles, our men and women in uniform, and the venerable institution that is the United States Senate.

STEFAN PETROVIC, KS - 2015

The physical and emotional aspects of Washington Week 2015 put an imprint on my heart and opened up numerous doors and opportunities I couldn't even fathom before. The numerous upstanding officials I met, including the president, gave such inspiring words to call forth the future of America to action, and inspire us all to "Dream Big" in the words of my very own senator, Senator Tim Scott.

TREVOR OWENS, SC - 2015

My favorite event during the week was the Senate reception in the Kennedy Caucus Room. First, the location is overwhelming. Some of the most important hearings in the history of our Republic, showing the resiliency of our Democracy, from the McCarthy hearings to the Watergate hearings, were held in that room. Second, we got to meet our senators. Despite the persona politicians have on CNN or Fox News, they are still human. I was truly surprised at how genuine each senator was, how much they cared about the future of our democracy, and how open they were to our questions.

HONGYI (DAVID) JIANG, MN - 2015

I would be remiss if I didn't mention the fantastic advice and friendship offered by our Military Mentors. Whether it was talking about the day's events with my Mentor, or discussing philosophy and college decisions with the others, they always offered a friendly smile or an astute piece of advice, and I am so grateful I got to have them as role models.

GRANT LAUFER, AZ - 2015

The most powerful takeaway on the meaning of serving one's country, however, came from my interaction with the USSYP Military Mentors. I had never considered the military as an option for me, a petite girl with little interest in fighter jets or automatic weapons. But my Mentors caused me to reevaluate this notion. I admired their discipline, dedication, courage, and sacrifice. I was amazed at the various career paths that led each of them to join the Armed Services. Few served in active combat, yet each brought a particular talent or skill—language proficiency, marksmanship, business administration, law, medicine—without which a successful mission would be impossible. To me, these servicemen and servicewomen exemplify commitment and loyalty, and they have inspired me to view service in terms of living out American values not only in my community or in government but also in areas of conflict and need around the world.

DEVYN RIGSBY, IL - 2015



We are taught through textbook, class seminars and often long lectures. But the United States Senate Youth Program empowered and educated America's future leaders in a way no textbook or lecture ever could; it taught through exposure.

JONATHAN SALAZAR, NM - 2015

The main theme that I came away with from my week in Washington, D.C. was that we need to care. For us to improve life for the less fortunate, we must care. We must care about the future, we must care about the world around us, and most importantly, we must care about others. This message is one that has truly struck home with me, and it has fueled my passion for public service more than any other experience that I have ever had.

ZACHARY SCHROEPFER, FL - 2015

I remember watching an interview with President Obama shortly after I got home from Washington Week. He talked about his vision for American youth and the biggest issues facing our country. It was closely reminiscent of what he told us in the East Room of the White House. That moment cemented not only the magnitude of the privilege bestowed upon me, but the beauty of this country. That a 17-year-old kid can enter the White House and hear the leader of the free world speak is truly an incredible thing.

CHARLES SOSNICK, CT - 2015

When President Obama said "Don't worry about what you want to be but what you want to do" it completely changed my perspective. It was then that I realized that it's not the position you hold that makes you a leader but rather what you accomplish as a leader. This to me means that we must aspire to make change in our communities on the issues that concern us instead of aspiring to a prestigious position or career. I have learned that we, as the youth, are the future of America and if we wish to make change we must get passionate about the things that interest us. Overall, meeting President Obama was my absolute favorite moment. I was standing in the front row, approximately three feet away from him. Whatever your opinion of the president he is still the commander in chief of our country and having him standing in front of you overwhelms you with his presence. It brings a rush of excitement knowing he is a real person just like you and me. His words inspire me and I will forever remember his advice.

MONICA GARCIA, WA - 2015

Senator Johnny Isakson told us, "We're from different parties, but we're Americans first," while Senator Cory Gardner, quoting his fellow USSYP alumnus Governor Chris Christie, reminded us that "It's hard to hate up close." The resounding message that we delegates received was that there is indeed hope for our generation, contingent on the fact that we work together in spite of our differences.

KATHERINE HITCHCOCK, IN - 2015

The speakers were more than amazing, the tours and sights were far better than I could've imagined, and the friendships I was building only grew stronger and stronger. While some may say that the highlight of their week was meeting the president of the United States in the White House, mine was meeting and sitting three feet away from Justice Stephen Breyer at the Supreme Court. Hearing him talk about his job and his background only strengthens my desire to go into the field of law and hopefully serve on the Supreme Court like he does.

ELIJAH LUTZ, OH - 2015

From entering this program with no real interest in one day seeking office, I was inspired by the speakers and those around me to consider becoming a part of the political system. It was eye-opening. I was no longer so focused on engineering but instead I realized that public service is an honor and one of the best ways to serve those around you. As Senator Joe Manchin said, "Public service is not self service." I learned it's not a goal to be attained but an honor to be bestowed.

BENJAMIN BELTRAN, CA - 2015

I will always remember the electric silence in the room when Senator Joe Manchin told us, "Nobody cares how much you know until they know how much you care." Our government may be politically polarized, but ignoring our role in government or criticizing everything it does will not make the issues go away. What I learned in Washington was not just insider secrets from government VIPs but was advice that applies to all areas of life: open your mind and place the best interest of your fellow men at heart.

ROSEMARIE MCCORMACK, MT - 2015





Seeing the Senate Secretary Julie Adams and Parliamentarian Elizabeth McDonough asserted to me the importance of non-elected officials in the government. Behind the scenes and away from the public eye, they painstakingly work to ensure the functioning of the government. They affirmed my desire to serve the people and introduced the idea of pursuing public service. Public service is not "self service," Senator Manchin commented, and as servants of the people, we must do everything in our ability to fight for them.

YIHANG (GENNA) LIU, WV - 2015

Dr. Michelle Thaller, a NASA astronomer and likely one of the world's smartest people, gave us information about the U.S. space program, including details about reaching Pluto this summer, and Charles Bolden, Jr. provided information ranging from the NASA budget to Scott Kelly's March 26th lift off. I have been anticipating Scott Kelly's year-long mission and this unique experiment in which the changes to his body in space will be compared to his twin brother Mark's body on Earth. This project will help us make advances in long term space travel, leading to future travel to Mars. Hearing Charles Bolden talk about this project less than two weeks before it began was something I will remember forever.

BEVERLY BROWN, LA - 2015

Administrator Bolden, one of my favorite speakers of the week, showed us how to regain Americans' trust in government: by simply telling what the government is doing. He stated that technologically, we are the leaders of the world. He went on to explain the NASA's mission to Mars, its outreach on climate change and its commitment to STEM education. As Administrator Bolden went through this list of tasks NASA was completing, I was enthralled. To know that our government was funding this important research gave me an undeniable pride in our nation. The talk given at the agency's headquarters was one of the most compelling of Washington Week and it too connected back to trust in government.

ANDREW SANDWEISS, ME - 2015

As someone interested in pursuing a career in international affairs, our Tuesday itinerary was one of dreams. Visiting the State Department headquarters in Foggy Bottom, touring the Diplomatic Reception Rooms, and having lunch with a staffer from the Bureau of European Affairs, solidified my desire to dedicate my life to public service for the betterment of my country and the world through diplomacy.

MATTHEW KEATING, MD - 2015

The extraordinary youth involved with this program were some of the most inspiring people I could have ever asked to surround myself with. The delegates came from all walks of life, bringing their own opinions during the week, and as we shared our different backgrounds, viewpoints, and stories with each other, we grew closer as a family and as individuals. Too often, I hear my peers talk negatively of the future, and it's true, we still have many problems to solve, but a cynical mindset that we can't change what is happening is the very same obstacle that hinders change.

CATHERINE ZHANG, PA - 2015

Through your investment in me, I am walking away with a broader perspective of the world around me and a sincere passion for serving others. Washington Week has given me the courage to perceive the world beyond my comfort zone. I know that I am empowered and capable of making a difference in the world, and I am not afraid to challenge myself to do so.

CHRISTOPHER KIM, HI - 2015

After this program, I know that I can make a difference. I now know the true meaning of USSYP: Uniting, Strengthening, and Spotlighting Youth Power.

ABHISHEK SHAH, LA - 2015





DELEGATES TOURED HISTORIC SITES IN THE NATION'S CAPITAL





CANDID PHOTOS FROM WASHINGTON WEEK 2015









OFFICIAL SENATOR AND STUDENT DELEGATE ROSTER UNITED STATES SENATE YOUTH PROGRAM 2015





Senator Richard C. Shelby



Senator Jeff Sessions



Jordan Cozby Bob Jones High School



Matthew Tindal Oak Mountain High School



Senator Lisa Murkowski



Senator Daniel Sullivan



Grant Ackerman West Valley High School



Christian Escalante Unalaska City High School







Senator Jeff Flake



Desert Mountain High School



Grant Laufer Mountain View High School



ARKANSAS



John Boozman



Senator Tom Cotton



Katherine Sanders Batesville High School



Ashton Yarbrough Gravette High School

CALIFORNIA



Senator Dianne Feinstein



Senator Barbara Boxer



Benjamin Beltran Nevada Union High School



Dahkota Brown Argonaut High School

COLORADO



Senator Michael F. Bennet



Senator Cory Gardner



Brandon Lee ThunderRidge High School



Serene Singh Rampart High School

CONNECTICUT

DELAWARE



Senator Richard Blumenthal



Senator Christopher Murphy



Veronica Ma New Canaan High School



Charles Sosnick New Canaan High School



Senator Thomas R. Carper



Senator Christopher A. Coons



Paige Morrison Newark High School



Mara Tazartus The Charter School of Wilmington

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA



Representative Eleanor Holmes Norton



Nathaniel Green KIPP DC College Preparatory



Mariah Stewart Duke Ellington School of the Arts





Senator Bill Nelson



Senator Marco Rubio



Morgaan Jessell A. W. Dreyfoos School of the Arts



Zachary Schroepfer Lawton Chiles High School

GEORGIA



Senator Johnny Isakson



Senator David Perdue



Kylon Harris Americus-Sumter County High School



Jacob Pierce Druid Hills High School



IDAHO



Senator Mazie K. Hirono



Senator Brian Schatz



Aina Katsikas Sacred Hearts Academy



Christopher Kim Maui High School



Senator Michael Crapo



Senator James E. Risch



Caitlin Lackey Pocatello High School



Amanda Solomon Kimberly High School



ILLINOIS



Richard J. Durbin



Senator Mark Kirk



Emily Johansson Belleville Township High School West



Devyn Rigsby Northside College Preparatory High School

INDIANA



Senator Daniel Coats



Senator Joe Donnelly



Daniel Green Munster High School



Katherine Hitchcock Signature School





Senator Charles Grassley



Senator Joni Ernst



Jack Hostager Hempstead High School



Joshua Hughes Interstate 35 High School





Senator Pat Roberts



Senator Jerry Moran



Britt Leake Wichita High School East



Stefan Petrovic Lawrence High School





Senator Mitch McConnell



Senator Rand Paul



Cyrus Dutton IV Martha Layne Collins High School



Samuel Miller Kentucky Country Day

LOUISIANA



David Vitter



Senator Bill Cassidy



Beverly Brown St. Scholastica Academy



Abhishek Shah Airline High School



Senator Susan M. Collins



Senator Angus S. King, Jr.



Muna Mohamed Lewiston High School



Andrew Sandweiss Bangor High School

MARYLAND

MICHIGAN



Senator Barbara A. Mikulski



Senator Benjamin L. Cardin



Matthew Keating Atholton High School



Richard Yarrow Richard Montgomery High School



Senator Elizabeth Warren



Senator Edward J. Markey



William DiGravio Plymouth North High School



Jenna Wong Concord Carlisle



Senator Debbie Stabenow



Senator Gary Peters



Samuel Bork Midland High School



Talha Mirza Washtenaw International High School



MINNESOTA



Senator Amy Klobuchar



Senator Al Franken

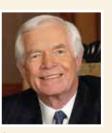


Jordan Anderson Rochester Century High School



Hongyi Jiang Rochester Century High School

MISSISSIPPI



Senator Thad Cochran



Senator Roger F. Wicker



Sidney Albritton Picayune Memorial High School



Robert Pickering Laurel Christian High School

MISSOURI



Senator Claire McCaskill



Senator Roy Blunt



Saniya Ablatt Joplin High School



Cameron Leahy Fort Zumwalt South High School



Senator Jon Tester



Senator Steve Daines



lan Descamps Loyola Sacred Heart High School



Rosemarie McCormack Loyola Sacred Heart High School



Senator Deb Fischer



Senator Ben Sasse



Elsa Knight Harvard High School



Kristen Tomjack Wahoo High School



NEVADA



Harry Reid



Senator Dean Heller



Evan Gong Nevada Virtual Academy



Greer Sullivan Galena High School

NEW HAMPSHIRE



Senator Jeanne Shaheen



Senator Kelly Ayotte



Devin McMahon Pinkerton Academy



Jessie Osgood John Stark Regional High School

NEW JERSEY



Senator Robert Menendez



Senator Cory Booker



Maria Mendoza Bergen County Academies



Gabriel Voorhis-Allen Ridgewood High School

NEW MEXICO



Senator Tom Udall



Senator Martin Heinrich



Deanna Gutierrez Los Alamos High School



Jonathan Salazar Atrisco Heritage Academy High School



Senator Charles E. Schumer



Senator Kirsten E. Gillibrand



Justin Shapiro Kennedy High School



Ioana Solomon Stuyvesant High School



NORTH CAROLINA



Richard Burr



Senator Thom Tillis



Victor Agbafe Cape Fear Academy



Christine McDow North Carolina School of Science and Mathematics

NORTH DAKOTA



Senator John Hoeven



Senator Heidi Heitkamp



Andie Chandler Red River High School



Casondra Rutschke Zeeland Public School

оню



Senator Sherrod Brown



Senator Rob Portman



Jacob Dretzka Galion High School



Elijah Lutz St. Joseph High School

OKLAHOMA



Senator James M. Inhofe



Senator James Lankford



Mohamed Aly Booker T. Washington High School



John Teague Mount St. Mary Catholic High School



Senator Ron Wyden



Senator Jeff Merkley



Carter Kruse Tigard High School



Reid Rubsam Parkrose High School

PENNSYLVANIA



Senator Robert P. Casey, Jr.



Senator Patrick J. Toomey



Nathan Bonham Cowanesque Valley . High School



Catherine Zhang North Allegheny Senior High School



Senator Jack Reed



Senator Sheldon Whitehouse



Chase Boni Cumberland High School



Benjamin Chiacchia Lincoln Senior High School

SOUTH CAROLINA



Senator Lindsey Graham



Senator Tim Scott



Curtis Leonard Scholars Academy



Trevor Owens Colleton County High School

SOUTH DAKOTA

TENNESSEE



Senator John Thune



Senator Michael Rounds



Patrick Binder Yankton High School



Gerald Fraas West Central High School



Senator Lamar Alexander



Senator Bob Corker



Dallas McCash Morristown Hamblen High School West



Ian Seal Centennial High School



TEXAS

UTAH



John Cornyn



Senator Ted Cruz

Senator

Mike Lee



Thomas Harwood Patch High School, Germany DODEA



Jocelyn Hernandez-Vazquez STEM Academy at Robert E. Lee High School



Vance Vaughan Ridge Point High School



Senator Orrin G. Hatch





Anna Bryner Carbon High School



Wesley Johnson Weber High School

VERMONT



Senator Patrick J. Leahy



Senator Bernard Sanders



Tanmatra Bhanti Brattleboro Union High School



Isabelle Moody Mount Abraham Union High School





Senator Mark R. Warner



Senator Tim Kaine



David Cohn Charlottesville High School Jamestown High School



Caleb Visser



Senator Patty Murray



Senator Maria Cantwell



Nicholas Fiorillo Mountlake Terrace High School



Monica Garcia Delta High School



David Neaverth Seoul American High School, Korea DODEA

WEST VIRGINIA



Joe Manchin III



Senator Shelley Moore Capito



Gene Bailey III George Washington High School



Yihang Liu Cabell Midland High School

WISCONSIN



Senator Ron Johnson



Senator Tammy Baldwin



Mara Matovich Franklin High School



Vishal Narayanaswamy James Madison Memorial High School





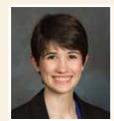
Senator Michael B. Enzi



Senator John Barrasso



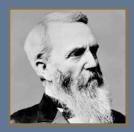
Eben Cowger Upton High School



Elizabeth Winnop Sheridan High School



A FAMILY, A FOUNDATION, A LEGACY



GEORGE HEARST



PHOEBE A. HEARST



WILLIAM R. HEARST



GEORGE R. HEARST, SR.



RANDOLPH A. HEARST

For 53 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."

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 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.

The United States Senate Youth Program was envisioned by William Randolph Hearst's sons, George R. Hearst and Randolph A. Hearst, who worked with the Senate Leadership of the day – Senators Kuchel, Mansfield, Dirksen and Humphrey – to establish and authorize the program in 1962. Since inception, the Senate Majority and Minority Leaders and the Vice President of the United States have served as the program's Honorary Co-Chairs; two Senators, one of each party, serve as annual Co-Chairs and an eight-Senator bipartisan panel serves as the annual Advisory Committee. 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.

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.

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



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