

UNITED STATES SENATE YOUTH PROGRAM

FORTY-NINTH ANNUAL WASHINGTON WEEK
MARCH 5-12, 2011



“AS LONG AS THE REASON OF MAN CONTINUES
FALLIBLE, AND HE IS AT LIBERTY TO EXERCISE IT,
DIFFERENT OPINIONS WILL BE FORMED.”

—JAMES MADISON

2011 UNITED STATES SENATE YOUTH PROGRAM SENATE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

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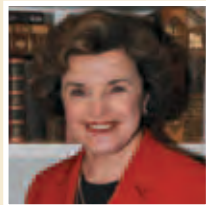


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BEN NELSON
of Nebraska



SENATOR
JOHN CORNYN
of Texas

ADVISORY COMMITTEE



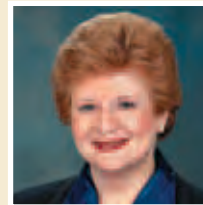
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UNITED STATES SENATE ★ RESOLUTION 324

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 States 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 education system for dependents in overseas areas.

DEAR DELEGATES,

On behalf of everyone at The Hearst Foundations I send our most sincere congratulations to the student delegates of the United States Senate Youth Program class of 2011. You were an especially warm and inclusive group, and you never lost your sense of optimism even as the threat of government shutdown loomed right up until the eve of the program.



Once begun, your week was replete with fantastic speakers who enjoyed the spark and intelligence of your questions. It was a pleasure to experience your intellectual curiosity and to see how admirably you represented your states, your communities and your families.

As America actively moves forward in facing a spectrum of long-range challenges both at home and abroad, we feel that it is critically important to support young people who are committed to careers in public service. The Hearst Foundations are honored to provide the opportunity for this unique and enduring partnership of the United States Senate, State Departments of Education, exceptional educators and outstanding students. Now more than 5,000 strong, USSYP alumni include Senator Susan Collins of Maine, the first delegate elected to the Senate; Congressman Cory Gardner of Colorado, the first delegate elected to the U.S. House of Representatives; 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, congressional staff and many other accomplished individuals. We salute all of you.

We also deeply appreciate the commitment of our 49th annual program Co-Chairs, Senator Ben Nelson of Nebraska and Senator John Cornyn of Texas, and we thank the many distinguished speakers who generously gave of their time. Washington Week could not take place without the continued endorsement of the Senate Committee on Rules and Administration and their excellent staff support. The U.S. Senate and USSYP also thank the staff of the Council of Chief State Schools Officers and all the state-level scholarship 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 communities.

—WILLIAM RANDOLPH HEARST III



UNITED STATE SENATE YOUTH PROGRAM

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 49th 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 the people who lead it. As the students develop a deeper commitment to public service they also form an intellectual and emotional bond with their peers from across the nation.

Administered and completely funded by The Hearst Foundations, 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 to apply by their teachers, principals and guidance counselors and are ultimately selected by their State Departments of Education. Each delegate is also awarded a \$5,000 college scholarship, with certificates often personally presented by their U.S. Senators, and is encouraged to continue to pursue coursework in history, government and public affairs.



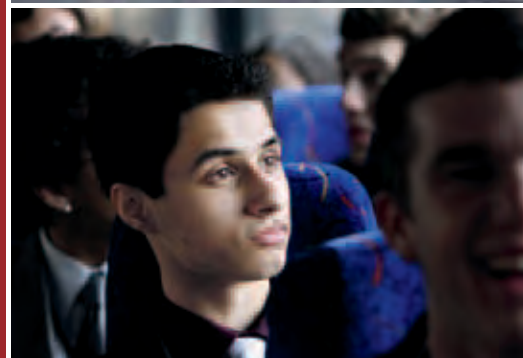
WELCOME TO WASHINGTON USSYP ALUMNI SHARE INSIGHT AND EXPERIENCE

Bags packed and filled with excitement, delegates travel from every part of the country to be met at the local airports and train station and brought to the historic Mayflower Hotel in downtown Washington, D.C. Anticipation mounts as students meet for the first time and are welcomed by their Military Mentors, USSYP alumni and staff. USSYP alumni have distinguished themselves in the fields of government, education, law, healthcare, engineering, information technology, non-profit, business and journalism, and are on hand at mentoring tables to network with the incoming students and answer questions about education and careers.

On the evening of arrival day the students are formally introduced to their Military Mentors, seventeen carefully 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) has forged and maintained ties with thousands of program alumni. In addition to on-going activities throughout the year, alumni gather during Washington Week for the association's annual dinner and board meeting.



[bottom] United States Senate Youth Alumni Association President David Zavadsky (WI – 1990)



USSYP CO-CHAIR
SENATOR BEN NELSON
of Nebraska

SENATOR BEN NELSON OF NEBRASKA, the Democratic Co-Chair of the 49th annual Washington Week, provided keynote remarks and took numerous questions from the delegates at the program’s opening night dinner. Following the ceremonial and patriotic displays of the Joint Armed Forces Color Guard and the Old Guard Fife and Drum Corps, Senator Nelson took to the podium with a tone of warmth and humor. Crediting his success in politics to tenacity, optimism and hard work, he told the students how his personal interest in public office was sparked at the age of 17 when he was shocked to have won a mock election for Governor of Nebraska. Embarrassed to have been caught without a prepared acceptance speech, he vowed that “next time I run, I will run to win,” which came to pass many years later when he indeed was elected Governor, serving two terms prior to winning his Senate seat. He encouraged the students to take the risk of running for office, regardless of the odds, by recounting his first gubernatorial race when he set out with less than one percent name recognition. “My friends said ‘this could be embarrassing for you,’” he remarked, “but I realized I would be a loser if I didn’t try. Whether it’s in athletics, academics or whatever you do, the only way you win is when you put yourself on the line and take the risk of failing.”



“WE HAVE SOMETHING SPECIAL HERE AND WE ARE ONE GENERATION AWAY FROM LOSING IT IF PEOPLE LOSE THEIR INTEREST.”

—SENATOR BEN NELSON OF NEBRASKA

As a member of the Senate Appropriations Committee, the students then asked Senator Nelson several questions on the impending budget vote where he stressed the crucial need for bipartisan consensus based on pragmatism and facts. He quoted former Nebraska Senator Ed Zorinsky, who said, “The problem in Washington is that there are too many Republican Senators and too many Democratic Senators and not enough United States Senators.” Encouraging the delegates to focus on building consensus through service he added, “Being part of the civilian government is part of the American experience – whether it’s an elected position, a staff position or an appointed position – do something that is structurally important to keeping our democracy going.”

*[right] Senator Nelson with Nebraska delegates Jack Anderson and Nicholas Pease
[left] The Old Guard Fife and Drum Corps performs at the opening dinner*

A photograph of Senator John Cornyn, an older man with white hair, wearing a dark pinstriped suit, a white shirt, and a patterned orange tie. He is speaking into a microphone, looking slightly to his right. The background is a red and gold patterned curtain.

USSYP CO-CHAIR
SENATOR JOHN CORNYN
of Texas

REPUBLICAN CO-CHAIR DISCUSSES KEY NATIONAL ISSUES AND PARTY LEADERSHIP IN ERA OF CHANGE AND CHALLENGE

SENATOR JOHN CORNYN OF TEXAS, a member of the powerful Senate Agriculture, Budget, Finance and Judiciary Committees, engaged in a personal and far-ranging discussion with the students, beginning with the circuitous route to public service he experienced in his younger days. After declaring a pre-med major and then switching to journalism he ended up selling real estate during a time of recession and 20 percent interest rates. "I have to tell you, the hard experiences you have in life are usually a great impetus and incentive to try something else, so I went to law school and it put me on a path that I pursued ever since," he said. Having served for thirteen years as a judge on the Texas Supreme Court, he took a risk in running for State Attorney General bolstered by "confidence and the desire to try something a little different." His background prompted questions on the judicial nomination process, to which Senator Cornyn commented that with the advent of television "in many ways it has become more of a kabuki, ritualized dance," but he also reminded the delegates that "many Presidents have tried to appoint people



to the Supreme Court who they presumed would have the same philosophy they did ... only to find out that once appointed they go their own way." As Chairman of the National Republican Senatorial Campaign Committee, Senator Cornyn spoke to the issues of partisanship and the advent of the Tea Party movement in Washington. "I think ultimately the American people prefer divided government because they realize if one party or the other does not need to persuade or enlist support from the opposing party then the country will be driven to the extreme." Underscoring the need for bipartisanship he described the enormity of the national debt, "It boggles my mind – if you can really comprehend how much money that is, but the only way we are going to solve these problems is for the parties to hold hands and do it together." Senator Cornyn's optimistic philosophy also came through with this encouragement to the students: "Regardless of your age, I firmly believe that if you understand that your opportunities are really endless, and if you follow your passion, and particularly if you follow your passion to serve others, life can be fulfilling indeed and there is no limit to what you can accomplish."

[right] Senator Cornyn with Texas delegates Robert DeWitt, DoDEA, Joyce Kim and Braydon Jones



STAR ALUMNI DELIGHT AND INSPIRE

The USSYP class of 2011 was truly privy to a milestone event when U.S. Congressman Cory Gardner, the first USSYP alumnus to be elected to the U.S. House of Representatives, addressed the group at lunch in the elegant Kennedy Caucus Room. Newly elected in the 2010 mid-term races, Congressman Gardner (Colorado R-4th) vividly recalled many memories of his own Washington Week experience in 1993 – from receiving the letter notifying him that he had been selected, to meeting then First Lady Hillary Clinton, to the incredible dessert he was served at the State Department luncheon. “I firmly believe that the week that I was here with the USSYP is the reason that I got interested in public service, the reason that I decided that this is something that truly is a way to make a difference in people’s lives and the reason that I was able to come back,” he said. “This week, think about the opportunity you

have in your lifetime to make history, to be part of something special, because this country needs you. We have relied on generations of the past for so much of what we have been given, and we are relying on you to continue the greatest country on the face of the earth.” In the midst of taking many delegate questions on a variety of subjects from how he would rein in the federal deficit to the differences in House and Senate procedures – in walked Senator Susan Collins of Maine in a surprise appearance to congratulate and meet the Congressman for the first time. Senator Collins, the first USSYP delegate to become a Senator, delighted the audience with her own stories of Washington Week 1971 and with the recognition of the many similarities she shares with Rep. Gardner, including those of passion for service and dedication to country.



USSYP alumni Senator Collins and Congressman Gardner; (below) Congressman Gardner with Colorado delegates Billy Gurr and Jenna Sandoval

“YOU ARE NOT HERE JUST TO GATHER . . . YOU ARE OUR CRITICAL PARTNERS IN BEING ABLE TO REACH OUT TO THE REST OF THE WORLD. SEE YOURSELF AS PART OF THE SOLUTION.” —UNDER SECRETARY FOR DEMOCRACY AND GLOBAL AFFAIRS MARIA OTERO

The U.S. Senate Youth Program’s annual visit to the resplendent Benjamin Franklin State Dining room at the Department of State featured keynote speaker Under Secretary for Democracy and Global Affairs Maria Otero. The highest ranking Hispanic official at the State Department and first Latino Under Secretary in its history, Ms. Otero commended the delegates for their early interest in public service and “realization of the enormous satisfaction that we receive when we set ourselves to do things for others.” Her previous position was as CEO of ACCION International where she developed innovative ways of providing microfinancing to poor people around the globe who wanted to start small businesses. “We took traditional banking concepts and turned them on their heads,” she said. “Poor people could not only use capital, they needed dignity and empowerment so that they could run their

own business – and this concept was really revolutionary in the world I was working in at the time.” “You see,” she added, “just being able to break through some of the ideas that exist is also one of the challenges that you have as you engage and look at the future you have before you.” Reviewing her current wide-ranging portfolio, Under Secretary Otero described her work promoting democracy and human rights, working with refugee populations and countering human trafficking. Highlighting the connectedness of the world today, Ms. Otero told the delegates, “Through exchange programs, social media and other means of communication, you can become very important articulators of the values that our country upholds and be informal diplomats in our relationships with other countries around the world.”



Under Secretary of State for Democracy and Global Affairs Maria Otero



Associate Justice Thomas with Georgia delegates Seung Kwan Baek and Matthew Munsey

DISCIPLINE, HONESTY AND HUMILITY – DRIVING FORCES BEHIND AN IMPROBABLE RISE TO LEADERSHIP

“When I first graduated from law school I could barely afford a pair of shoes, and if someone had told me then I would be a future leader, I wouldn’t have believed them,” began Associate Justice of the Supreme Court Clarence Thomas, in his 2011 appearance before the U.S. Senate Youth Program. Honoring the student delegates with more than an hour of his time, the Justice described his early childhood in completely segregated rural Georgia under the influence of a beloved mentor, his grandfather. He told the students of his original calling to enter the priesthood, “I treasure the days I spent in the Seminary which taught me discipline, honesty and humility.” Reading was also key to his path toward self-knowledge and success, he said, citing the many challenges he faced in leaving Savannah for the larger world. “You see injustices, things that are very upsetting – good literature helps you to digest some of these things and teaches you how to

endure.” Citing Ayn Rand, Ralph Ellison and Richard Wright as important literary influences, he was also inspired by reading biographies of saints and other heroes. During the meeting the Justice took a myriad of questions giving the students a chance to see numerous sides of his warm, humorous and very candid personality. “Everyone makes mistakes and we must be willing to correct ourselves. Doing this job is a humbling process,” he said. Justice Thomas noted a burgeoning lack of civility in an increasingly instantaneous media age, making the students burst into laughter as he cautioned, “don’t YouTube me!” Asked about the process involved in hearing a case, he described the Court as “truly a place of civility” adding, “the thing I love about my colleagues is that even as they are processing things differently, they are applying the law, interpreting the statute, giving just consideration, always trying to get it right.”

LEGAL SCHOLARSHIP AND THE LIVING CONSTITUTION DISTINGUISHED ALUMNUS ENLIGHTENS AND EDUCATES

Former Chief Judge of the Tenth Circuit Court of Appeals and current President of Oklahoma City University, Robert H. Henry kicked off Washington Week 2011 by holding up a copy of the Constitution and ranking it “One of the best Constitutions that has ever run this country.” The highly distinguished USSYP alumnus (OK – 1971) cited the Articles of Confederation and the Declaration of Independence as other examples of American constitutions, but identified the Constitution of 1789 as “a powerful brief written to the rest of the world asking for help, pleading for justice, saying what things were not being done here that had to be done here for people to live in freedom and liberty.” The beauty of our Constitution, he said, framed by James Madison, is that “it is so short; it states the general parameters and leaves specific details for other

places.” Touching on issues such as right of privacy, natural law, justice versus legal rulings, Judge Henry opined that the “greatest contribution of American law to the world of ideas is perhaps the idea of due process ... that you get to have notice, you get to have a hearing, you get to confront your accusers, you get to have counsel.” In conclusion, the former legislator, Attorney General of Oklahoma, law school dean and editorial writer for the Oklahoma Gazette agreed with Madison that even though laws are “written carefully with deliberation, we still have to talk about it, we still have to have discussions and adjudications.” As said by often quoted legal scholar Roscoe Pound (Harvard Law School Dean 1916–1939), “The law must be stable yet it cannot stand still.”



[top right] Former Chief Judge Henry with Oklahoma delegates Scot Conner, Jr. and Alessandro Calderoni

SENIOR SENATE OFFICERS OFFER PRIMER ON SENATE HISTORY AND PROCEDURES

The Senate's most senior administrative officers, Secretary of the Senate Nancy Erickson and Chief Parliamentarian Alan Frumin, met with the student delegates in the historic Kennedy Caucus Room to conduct an in-depth session on Senate procedures and history and also to tell the delegates the personal stories which led them to serve in these vaunted positions. Secretary Erickson, reiterating a theme for the week, described the very small town of her South Dakota upbringing and how coming to D.C. on a trip in her teens was her first time on an airplane. "It's a reminder that no matter where you grow up, large or small, there are opportunities waiting for you," she said, "It's just taking that first step, taking that risk, so I admire all of you for being here with this wonderful program." Secretary Erickson recalled the deeply personal fear and anxiety she experienced living through the September 11 and anthrax attacks on the Capitol. Describing her front-row seat to decision making during a stressful time for our country, she said the experiences imbued her with "new lessons

about the importance of commitment, public service, and gratitude for our national values." Chief Parliamentarian Alan Frumin, who rarely gives speeches other than to the USSYP, began his discussion on the importance of understanding that the Senate is a body where the majority cannot rule by compulsion. "When you have an institution whose rules and procedures enable obstruction, you have an institution whose culture requires compromise," he explained, defining the role of the Senate in legislative process. Mr. Frumin also encouraged the students to consider working in the Senate in the future and relayed his continuing zeal for his job after 34 years working for the Senate. "It is incredible to sit and listen to the brilliant men and women who have been elected by their constituents, and who have very different approaches to the nation's problems," he said. "You know they are dedicated and patriotic, and although seldom do they all see eye to eye, watching how they work and watching how they hammer out their differences is a fascinating thing."



[above right] Secretary of the Senate Erickson with South Dakota delegates Jacob Naasz and Samuel Dunkle; [above middle] Chief Parliamentarian Frumin with Maryland delegates Kevin Saucedo-Broach and Samantha Foggan



LESSER KNOWN CONTRIBUTIONS OF FRAMER AND FOUNDING FATHER JAMES MADISON BROUGHT TO LIFE BY ASSOCIATE HISTORIAN OF THE SENATE

Associate Senate Historian Betty Koed delved into a fascinating discussion of Founding Father James Madison, focusing on the lesser-known but absolutely key role he played not just in helping to write the Constitution, but in supplying the legislative and political strategy behind getting it ratified. Ms. Koed pointed out that Madison was reluctant to accept credit as author of the Constitution, saying “it ought to be regarded as the work of many heads and many hands.” His modesty belied his central role, she said, “It was Madison, after all, who proposed one of the first plans, the Virginia Plan. It was Madison who took those copious and careful notes on every day of the Convention in Philadelphia. And it was Madison with about three dozen other Framers who signed the Constitution on September 17, 1787. For most Americans, that’s where the story ends.” In reality, the renowned historian explained, this is the point where Madison’s political work would just begin. The key to much of his success was compromise, she said, “A word today that has gotten a bad name – that somehow when you compromise you are giving up your principles.” The first ten amendments to the Constitution, or the Bill of Rights, was one such compromise supported by Madison in return for Virginia’s approval of the Constitution. During a lively question and answer period, the students asked Ms. Koed to name her favorite source for

historical information. “There’s nothing like letters. If I could give you one piece of advice, I’d say to all of you, please write letters,” Ms. Koed said. Noting how deeply Madison looked at issues and changed his mind on many things as the years went by, she lamented the loss of letter writing in the digital age, “It gives you the sort of private thoughts and comments from people that you can’t get from any other source, and I think they are absolutely vital.”



Associate Senate Historian Betty Koed with District of Columbia delegates Kevin Jackson, Jr. and Thomas D'Arcy Williams



INSPIRING WORDS FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

The students waited impatiently in the East Room, gazing nervously down the famous red carpet that leads to the Oval Office. Finally, their anticipation erupted into gasps as President Obama strode in to meet them with a warm greeting. "There have been a lot of changes throughout the world, as well as in this country, where we have faced a lot of difficulties in the past couple of years," the President began. "But what always keeps me optimistic is meeting young people like you who are engaged, involved, curious and excited about the future." Asked what he liked best about his job, the President joked that he "has a pretty cool plane ...," but he noted seriously that what keeps him getting up in the morning is "knowing that something you have done has had a positive impact on someone's life."







PASSIONATE REMARKS BY CIA DIRECTOR PANETTA AND A GLIMPSE INTO THE SECRET SERVICE

On a dark and rainy early morning, the student delegates left the District of Columbia for a chance to see a place that is not open to the public – the headquarters of the Central Intelligence Agency in Langley, Virginia. Gathering in the unusual spherical auditorium known as “The Bubble,” the students were given a comprehensive briefing on the CIA’s structure and an overview on the relationship of the agency with Congress. The two and a half hour panel discussion was punctuated by the appearance of CIA Director Leon Panetta, a former Congressman, White House Chief of Staff and Director of the Office of Management and Budget, who spoke

passionately to the students about his life in public service. He highlighted the profound importance of the CIA and the entire intelligence community in safeguarding the country and in helping to guide our foreign policy. “Remember this,” the son of immigrants told the students, “We cannot take America’s greatness for granted. We must fight every day to preserve the characteristics that make this great nation exceptional.” Clearly moved by his patriotism and integrity, the students then had the opportunity to ask many questions of the panelists and to learn more about this often unspoken and unseen path of service to the nation.



Secretary Chu with Missouri delegates Patricia Okonta and Michael Hoosier

NOBEL PRIZE WINNING SCIENTIST AND CABINET SECRETARY ADVOCATES INVESTMENT IN ALTERNATIVE ENERGY RESEARCH

Embodying the confluence of science and service, Dr. Steven Chu, Secretary of the U.S. Department of Energy, began his remarks to the students by describing the career steps that led to his winning the Nobel Prize for Physics (1997) and to becoming a national leader in energy policy. Having been formed in a culture where “being a professor is the highest position you can ever aspire to,” he broadened his horizons beyond teaching at Stanford and the University of California when he accepted the position of Director of the Department of Energy’s Lawrence Berkeley National Lab, where he led the effort to pursue alternative and renewable energy technologies. As Secretary of Energy, Dr. Chu’s focus has been on defining ways of monitoring global climate change and on ensuring America’s dominance in a global race to produce cleaner forms of energy. “I watch countries like China especially, and Japan, Korea and Western Europe – they know that we will

need cleaner forms of energy, and there’s a race going on for which country and companies will develop those things,” he said. Clearly articulating the challenges in producing affordable sources of non-fossil based fuels, Secretary Chu cited solar or ‘photovoltaic’ energy cells and improved electric vehicle batteries as two energy sources primed for American research and ingenuity. “When Sputnik was launched Eisenhower did not advocate a military response,” he noted, “He said we should strengthen the scientific and engineering infrastructure in the United States, and that’s where the real response should be. Imagine, a five-star general was saying that.” “What we’re now trying to do to is put America in the position to win big,” he said, “We are the most innovative country in the world, we have the best research universities in the world and we have a national lab system that is unparalleled in the world. If we set ourselves firmly in that direction, we can do it.”



“IN A CHANGING, GLOBALLY COMPETITIVE KNOWLEDGE-BASED ECONOMY JOBS ARE GOING TO FLOW TO THE COUNTRIES DOING A GREAT JOB EDUCATING THEIR PEOPLE.”

—U.S. SECRETARY OF EDUCATION ARNE DUNCAN

Even though he had been called to a briefing with the President earlier in the day at his allotted USSYP speaking time, U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan made a special late-day trip to the Mayflower Hotel to be sure that he addressed the USSYP class of 2011. Delivering sobering and galvanizing remarks to the delegates, he defined the critical moment we face as a nation regarding education policy. “This is the Civil Rights issue of our generation,” he



said, framing the fight for educational improvement by listing several deeply troubling facts. The U.S., he said, has a 25% school dropout rate, equating to roughly one million students leaving schools for the streets each year; a stagnating college graduation rate, ranking the U.S. ninth in the world for citizens graduating from college (America was first in this category only one generation ago); and less than 25% of high school graduates today are qualified to join the military, either due to poor grades, a criminal record or due to obesity. The lack of educational opportunity and quality, he said, relates directly to our global economic competitiveness and national security. “We have to educate our way to a better economy,” he purported. Secretary Duncan laid out the “cradle to career” continuum of targeted investments he has proposed that make

up what he described as a “very, very strong reform agenda.” Citing increased support for early childhood education, K-12 reforms and greatly increased financial aid for college including increases in Pell Grant funding, Secretary Duncan also described an innovative education finance option that he is working on called the “Income Based Repayment” plan. “If you do ten years of public service, ten years of teaching, or ten years of working in a non-profit such as a health-care or legal-aid clinic, all of your debt, all of your loans will be forgiven, will be erased. So we’ve really tried to remove the financial impediment at the back end to bring great talent into this field.” The students were riveted by the Secretary’s remarks, and when he called for questions, nearly every hand instantaneously shot into the air.

[above right] Secretary Duncan with Illinois delegates William Fernandez and James Konsky

PROMOTE COMPETITION AND PROTECT THE PUBLIC INTEREST: COMMISSIONER MEREDITH ATWELL BAKER DESCRIBES LIFE AT THE FCC

Appointed by President Barack Obama in June 2009 as one of the five Commissioners of the Federal Communication Commission, Meredith Atwell Baker gave the delegates a broad overview of the FCC and the exciting media landscape it is charged by Congress to oversee. She began by telling of her own remarkable background, beginning as a young student at Washington and Lee University where, matriculating just one year after the school ceased being all-male, she evidenced her early political skills by spearheading various initiatives for women on campus. Her career in Washington, D.C. quickly turned toward technology policy where she developed expertise in the areas of federal spectrum management, telecommunications research and engineering, and overseeing the management of the Internet's domain name and

numbering systems. As FCC Commissioner, Ms. Baker is a strong advocate for statutory reform of the Communications Act of 1934 which created the FCC and she is also deeply involved in the agency-wide initiative to provide broadband access to all Americans. The delegates were clearly adept in the subject area, and Commissioner Baker fielded many questions ranging from the FCC's role in the NBC-Comcast merger to First Amendment rights and net neutrality. Reflecting on her own life and her guiding principles, Commissioner Baker said, "You never know what life is going to give to you – just be fundamentally kind to everyone." And rather than be partisan, "be true to yourself and make the best policies and best decisions that you think you can."



Commissioner Baker with Virginia delegates Alexandra Lichtenstein and Logan Ferrell



Deputy Secretary of Defense Lynn; [above right] Major General Anderson; [below right] Assistant Secretary Wilson

SUPPORT FOR MILITARY FAMILIES, BUDGET AND READINESS ADDRESSED AT HIGH-LEVEL PENTAGON BRIEFINGS

The annual USSYP visit to the Pentagon began with a warm welcome from Assistant Secretary of Defense for Public Affairs Douglas Wilson who spoke to the delegates about new community-based initiatives he developed to support families of the military deployed, including the “Me and a Friend” project. Meeting in the formal Pentagon Auditorium, Mr. Wilson then

introduced the delegates to Deputy Secretary of Defense William J. Lynn III, the second in command at the agency, who gave the students an overview of his position as the “Chief Operating Officer” of the Department of Defense. Responsible for all management, budget and acquisition issues, Deputy Secretary Lynn described the scale of his portfolio. “If the Pentagon were a nation it would be in the top 25 in the world,” he said, reminding the students that “we are a nation at war – since 9/11 we have been in Afghanistan and Iraq for longer than we were in World War I and World War II combined.” Defining several key issues he is dealing with at present, Mr. Lynn cited cyber security and space policy strategy as two he is focused on, the latter requiring a multilateral approach to solving the problem of dangerous

debris in outer space. After taking numerous questions the students were then given a comprehensive briefing on the state of American armed forces military readiness by Major General Joseph Anderson, Director of Operations, Readiness and Mobilization. Likening his Power Point presentation to those he often takes to Capitol Hill, Major General Anderson provided the delegates with a broad overview of American military operations around the globe, including peacekeeping and humanitarian missions. Speaking on the day of the 2011 Japanese earthquake and tsunami, the awareness of American military involvement in disaster relief took on critical meaning. Major General Anderson took many in-depth questions from the student delegates who then were given a customized tour of the headquarters.



ANNUAL USSYP AMBASSADOR DINNER

The U.S. Senate Youth Program welcomed His Excellency Ambassador Namik Tan of the Republic of Turkey as keynote speaker for the USSYP annual Ambassador dinner. Addressing the delegates after a Turkish-inspired dinner in the beautiful Grand Ballroom of the Mayflower hotel, Ambassador Tan gave the students a snapshot of modern Turkey in addition to an eloquent invitation to visit his country. "When you come to Turkey you will find world class museums, snow-capped mountains with some of the best ski runs in the world, ancient ruins that tell the story of humankind, unique cuisine, crystal clear seas for swimming or diving, sultans' palaces that will overcome you with their grandeur, artwork to impress you, culture to inspire you, history to astound you, and people to delight you," he said. Noting Turkey's unique geographical position in the world – the nexus of

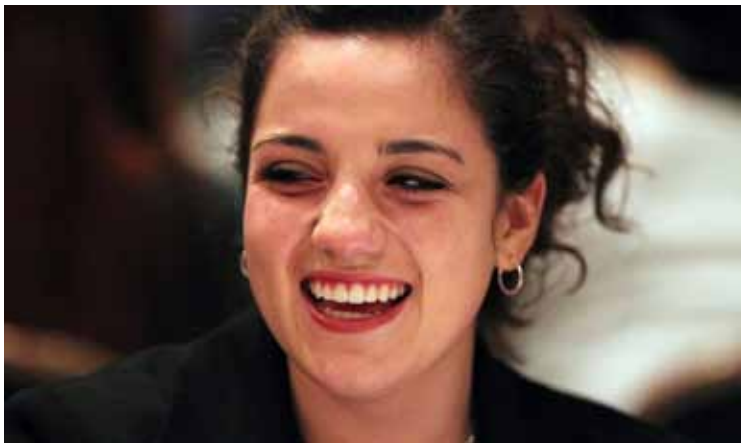
Asia, Europe and Africa – Ambassador Tan described Turkey as "a beacon of stability, peace, and democracy ... we take pride in being a source of inspiration for many beyond our borders," he said, adding, "as a secular democracy with a predominantly Muslim population, a free market economy and the only country that has a history in both Europe and Middle East, Turkey can and does reach out to different identities in different worlds." Ambassador Tan applauded the close bilateral relationship Turkey and the U.S. have shared since the Korean War and expressed his hope that it would deepen and diversify with greater trade and business relations. He cautioned that the U.S. should not let the impact of 9/11 change its unique character of being "the only country on the face of the earth where once you step in, you do not feel like you are a foreigner. It's a great, great asset and you shouldn't

compromise it." The Ambassador took a range of questions from the students who avidly sought his thoughts on recent political developments in North Africa and the Middle East, among other topics, providing the students with a fascinating insight into global diplomacy and foreign policy.



*Ambassador Tan with Arizona delegates
Amy Umaretiya and Jose Garcia*





C-SPAN CHIEF BRIAN LAMB HOLDS TOWN HALL MEETING DURING WASHINGTON WEEK 2011

“We put our cameras at events that most Americans would never see – giving our citizens and people from other countries a chance to watch how this nation operates,” began Brian Lamb as he gave the students a quick expose on why he founded the C-SPAN networks. “Our objective is to stay objective – no editing, no editorializing – we let the American people decide for themselves.” Mr. Lamb gave the students an energetic example of a participatory C-SPAN-style roundtable eliciting thoughts, comments and emotions about what they had seen and learned so far. The media visionary asked the students to contemplate the incredible changes in

communications and technology that have taken place in the past decade, urging them to think about the impact of new media on their lives, careers and education. He also counseled them to read the Federalist Papers as part of their inculcation to Washington life and government and reminded them that, although they had experienced a “week of a lifetime,” to show humility upon returning to their hometowns so that others will be more apt to listen and learn from their experiences.

CURATOR OF THE NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART EXPLORES CONNECTIONS AMONG ART, HISTORY AND THE IMPORTANCE OF PHILANTHROPY IN AMERICAN SOCIETY

Mary Levkoff, the Curator of Sculptures and Decorative Arts for the National Gallery of Art, gave the delegates an idea of why the great American philanthropist Andrew Mellon decided to invest his own vast fortune in the creation of a world-class American museum of art in the nation's capital. "It was born out of a sense of embarrassment," Ms. Levkoff said, "I'll just be very blunt. It came about through the idea of Andrew Mellon, Secretary of the Treasury during the 1920's, who noticed that when representatives of foreign countries were coming to Washington to discuss reparations after the First World War, that there was no great art museum to show them." To remedy that, Mr. Mellon dedicated his personal

fortune and political prowess to build a museum that would put Washington on a par with the great European capitals. He enlisted the support of the federal government through a joint resolution of Congress and the placement of key officers – the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, the Secretaries of State and Treasury, and others – who would serve as trustees and ensure the future of this great gift to the nation. Ms. Levkoff took many questions about the museum and the nature of art in general just prior to the group's docent-led tour of the National Gallery of Art and its many masterpieces.



Mary Levkoff with Florida delegates Erica Turret and Stephano Cavallaro



[above left] Fra Angelico and Filippo Lippi, "The Adoration of the Magi," c. 1445

[below left] Leonardo da Vinci, "Ginevra de' Benci," c. 1474

A WEALTH OF FOR-PROFIT EXPERIENCE INFORMS ESSENTIAL NON-PROFIT WORK

"Are you a rhino or a cow?" asked David McMurtry, Senior Vice President of Strategy and Innovation for Habitat for Humanity. With that provocative question based on the book *Rhinoceros Success* by Scott Alexander, Mr. McMurtry began his remarks as the speaker representing the non-profit sector for 2011. To be fulfilled in any career and in life, he challenged the delegates to live like rhinos – take charge, be focused and unafraid – and not resemble the more passive cow. Having worked as a successful Silicon Valley executive for over 20 years prior to joining Habitat for Humanity, Mr. McMurtry proposed that the skills and training needed for success in the profit and non-profit worlds are very similar. He offered these three 'keys': aim high on the learning curve; seek disruption and value creation; and love what you do and make it big. Describing the Habitat for Humanity mission as one of building

not only houses but communities, he cited critical statistics underscoring the link between safe, affordable housing and dramatic improvement in educational attainment and health indicators. "Habitat for Humanity has built over 400,000 houses in our history, serving 2 million people around the globe. In a couple of years we will be serving 100,000 families annually and mobilizing over a million volunteers to be part of that housing, education, and health fruition," he said. "We are in 80-plus countries around the world, so for those of you, like me, who are first-generation Americans and wonder how you could give back to your parents' homeland, Habitat is the way to do it."



*Dave McMurtry with Louisiana delegates
Joshua Tarr and Madison Ashley*



THE OUTSTANDING 2011 MILITARY MENTORS TEAM

[back row] Lieutenant Commander Christopher Bonner, USCG; Ensign Miguel Green, USN; Lieutenant Jonathan Shumate, USCG; Captain Ryan Thresher, USMC; Captain Rocky Liesman, USAF; Captain John Brownell, USANG; Lieutenant Commander Michael Files, USN; First Lieutenant Calvin Young, USARNG

[front row] Second Lieutenant Benjamin Coffman, USAF; First Lieutenant LaTondra Sapp, USA; Captain Michael LeMay, USA; Second Lieutenant Kaitlin Johnson, USAF; Captain Dina Poma-Barnes, USMC; Deputy Secretary of Defense William Lynn III; Lieutenant Kishia Mills, USCG; Captain Constance Quinlan, USA; Captain Ruth Segres, USAF; Major Benjamin Grass, USMC





HONORS FROM THEIR SENATORS



SENATE RECEPTION ATTENDEES

UNITED STATES SENATE YOUTH PROGRAM 2011



More than 65 Senators came to honor and congratulate the 2011 student delegates and personally present them with their \$5,000 college scholarship certificate at the Forty-Ninth Annual USSYP Senate Reception.



ALABAMA

Senator Richard C. Shelby with William Pruett and John Clark



ALABAMA

Senator Jeff Sessions with William Pruett and John Clark



ALASKA

Senator Lisa Murkowski with Ariel Zlatkovski and Alexandra Sedor



ALASKA

Senator Mark Begich with Alexandra Sedor and Ariel Zlatkovski



ARKANSAS

Senator Mark Pryor with Victoria Maloch and Colby Qualls



ARKANSAS

Senator John Boozman with Victoria Maloch and Colby Qualls



COLORADO

Senator Mark Udall with Billy Gurr and Jenna Sandoval



COLORADO

Senator Michael F. Bennet with Billy Gurr and Jenna Sandoval



CONNECTICUT

Senator Joseph I. Lieberman with Hasher Nisar and Steven Lee



CONNECTICUT

Senator Richard Blumenthal with Steven Lee and Hasher Nisar



DELAWARE

Senator Thomas R. Carper with Molly Cain and Jacob Sackett-Sanders



DELAWARE

Senator Christopher Coons with Molly Cain and Jacob Sackett-Sanders



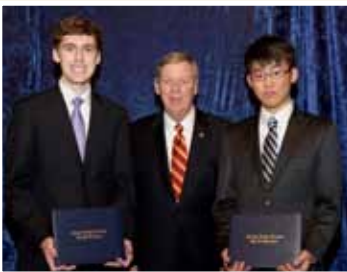
FLORIDA

Senator Marco Rubio with Erica Turret and Stefano Cavallaro



GEORGIA

Senator Saxby Chambliss with Seung Kwan Baek and Matthew Munsey



GEORGIA

Senator Johnny Isakson with Matthew Munsey and Seung Kwan Baek



HAWAII

Senator Daniel K. Inouye with Kevin Hirata and Andi Ushijima



HAWAII

Senator Daniel K. Akaka with Andi Ushijima and Kevin Hirata



IDAHO

Senator James E. Risch with Soren Schmidt and Ian McLaughlin



ILLINOIS

Senator Mark Kirk with William Fernandez and James Kinsky



INDIANA

Senator Richard G. Lugar with James Hitchcock and Florence Chen



INDIANA

Senator Daniel Coats with James Hitchcock and Florence Chen



IOWA

Senator Charles Grassley with Khayree Fitten and Riley Kilburg



KANSAS

Senator Jerry Moran with Yuqi Hou and Chase Blasi



KENTUCKY

Senator Rand Paul with Andrew Lawson and Corey Eldridge



LOUISIANA

Senator Mary L. Landrieu with Joshua Tarr and Madison Ashley



LOUISIANA

Senator David Vitter with Joshua Tarr and Madison Ashley



MAINE

Senator Olympia J. Snowe with Krysta Moulton and David Bibeau



MARYLAND

Senator Benjamin Cardin with Samantha Foggan and Kevin Saucedo-Broach



MASSACHUSETTS

Senator John F. Kerry with Robert Locke, III and Elise LeCrone



MASSACHUSETTS

Senator Scott Brown with Robert Locke, III and Elise LeCrone



MINNESOTA

Senator Amy Klobuchar with Lili Peng and Jordan Rasmuson



MISSISSIPPI

Senator Thad Cochran with Romeris Pettiford and Andrew Petersen



MISSISSIPPI

Senator Roger Wicker with Romeris Pettiford and Andrew Petersen



MISSOURI

Senator Claire McCaskill and Senator Roy Blunt with Michael Hoosier and Patricia Okonta



MONTANA

Senator Max Baucus with Eamon Ormseth and Krista Bailey



MONTANA

Senator Jon Tester with Krista Bailey and Eamon Ormseth



NEBRASKA

Senator Ben Nelson with Jack Anderson and Nicholas Pease and Kevin Jackson, Jr. of D.C.



NEW HAMPSHIRE

Senator Jeanne Shaheen with Megan MacInnes and Patrick Church



NEW HAMPSHIRE

Senator Kelly Ayotte with Megan MacInnes and Patrick Church



NEW JERSEY

Senator Frank Lautenberg with Ishaan Desai and Rachel Brown



NEW JERSEY

Senator Robert Menendez with Ishaan Desai and Rachel Brown



NEW MEXICO

Senator Jeff Bingaman with Kyra Ellis-Moore and Keanna Cohen



NEW MEXICO

Senator Tom Udall with Kyra Ellis-Moore and Keanna Cohen



NORTH CAROLINA

Senator Richard Burr with Neel Mandavilli and Adam Caldwell



NORTH CAROLINA

Senator Kay Hagan with Adam Caldwell and Neel Mandavilli



NORTH DAKOTA

Senator John Hoeven with Robert Lauf, Jr. and Cory Pletan



OHIO

Senator Rob Portman with Aaron Burnside and Vivian Wang



OKLAHOMA

Senator Tom Coburn with Alessandro Calderoni and Scot Conner, Jr.



OREGON

Senator Ron Wyden with Emily Brixey and Elizabeth Leslie



OREGON

Senator Jeff Merkley with Elizabeth Leslie and Emily Brixey



PENNSYLVANIA

Senator Robert P. Casey, Jr. with Stephanie Warner and Timothy Sensenig



PENNSYLVANIA

Senator Patrick Toomey with Timothy Sensenig and Stephanie Warner



RHODE ISLAND

Senator Jack Reed with Dylan Schaffer and Sarah Margulies



RHODE ISLAND

Senator Sheldon Whitehouse with Dylan Schaffer and Sarah Margulies



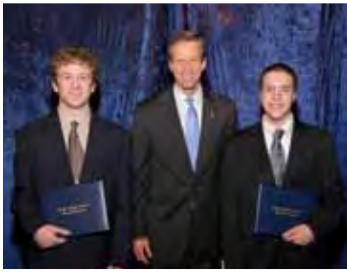
SOUTH CAROLINA

Senator Jim DeMint with Carrie Tian and Jeffrey Lollis



SOUTH DAKOTA

Senator Tim Johnson with Samuel Dunkle and Jacob Naasz



SOUTH DAKOTA

Senator John Thune with
Jacob Naasz and
Samuel Dunkle



TENNESSEE

Senator Lamar Alexander with
Charles Uffelman and
William McPherson



TENNESSEE

Senator Bob Corker with
Charles Uffelman and
William McPherson



UTAH

Senator Orrin G. Hatch with
Christian Bennett and
Edward Bodily



UTAH

Senator Mike Lee with
Christian Bennett and
Edward Bodily



VERMONT

Senator Bernard Sanders with
Katherine Meyer and
Samuel Epstein



VIRGINIA

Senator Jim Webb with
Alexandra Lichtenstein and
Logan Ferrell



WEST VIRGINIA

Senator Joe Manchin with
Eva Guidarini and
Colin Frosch



WISCONSIN

Senator Ronald Johnson with
Justin Jagodinsky and
Samantha DeRidder



WYOMING

Senator Michael B. Enzi with
Mallory Carr, Dylan Crouse and
Ryan McDonnell (DODEA)



WYOMING

Senator John Barrasso with
Dylan Crouse,
Mallory Carr, and
Ryan McDonnell, DoDEA



DISTINGUISHED EDUCATORS JOIN DELEGATES FOR WASHINGTON WEEK

The President of the National Association of Secondary School Principals and selection administrators from the states of the USSYP Senate Co-Chairs and other state partners are invited to join the delegates each year for Washington Week. The program thanks our partners in education for all that they do to support the student selection process.



Jana Frieler
President
National Association of
Secondary School Principals



Larry Starr
Director
Social Science Education
Nebraska Department
of Education



Paula McCoach
Charter Education and
Student Leadership Specialist
Maryland State Department
of Education

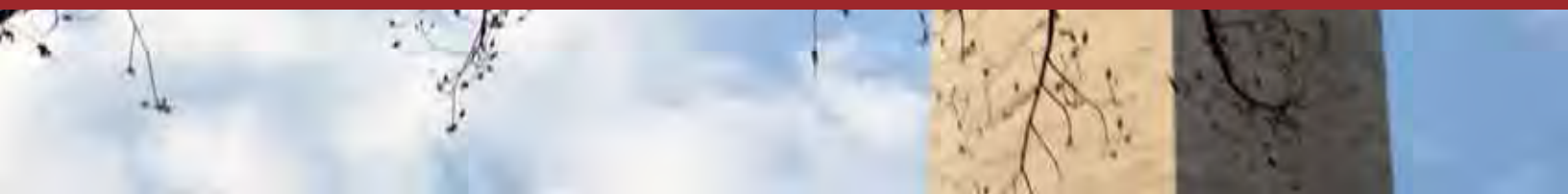
SPOKESPERSONS FOR THE “HERO GENERATION” BID FAREWELL TO WASHINGTON WEEK 2011

Washington Week tradition gives two student delegates, who have been selected by their peers, an opportunity to provide farewell remarks for the group. Delegate Megan MacInnes of New Hampshire and delegate Scot Conner, Jr. of Oklahoma entertained the group with a musical duet and a salute to their “hero generation” – a generation born during an era of relative peace and prosperity that spends its rising adult years during a decisive era of secular upheaval. The evening also included the deeply meaningful flag folding ceremony by the Military Mentors and the pageantry of the Presentation of Colors by the Joint Armed Forces Color Guard and the United States Air Force Band Brass Quintet.

*[top] Delegates Scot Conner, Jr. (OK) and Megan MacInnes (NH) deliver farewell remarks
[bottom left] George Irish, Eastern Director of The Hearst Foundations*



IN THEIR OWN WORDS



I would not trade my week in Washington for anything. Prior to this experience I was extremely conflicted about what I wanted to do with the rest of my life. Of course I had a love for politics and government, but I also loved math and science. I did not think there was a way to merge the two together, and therein lay my problem. After Washington Week, however, I realized that it is possible for every single person to make a difference in our country. I do not have to pick between the two because there is a need for people of all sorts of educational backgrounds in public service. That epiphany reflects the single most important lesson I took away from Washington Week – we as American citizens ought to utilize our talents in order to best serve our country, no matter what they may be. This sentiment was exemplified by every Military Mentor, Senator, and public official I had the honor of meeting, and they left me with the inspiration to follow in their footsteps.

—AMY UMARETIYA, AZ – 2011

I have always had a deep interest in foreign affairs and national security. While listening to Under Secretary of State for Democracy and Global Affairs Maria Otero explain to us how the international role of the United States promotes democracy and a range of other issues from fighting human trafficking to combating terrorism, it inspired me to want to join the effort in creating dialogue with students across the world – the long term solution to world peace.

—CHASE BLASI, KS – 2011

As a kid who moved to Pakistan in 2000 and came back to the States about two years ago, I never expected to be selected for an honor such as representing Connecticut in Washington, D.C., but as Senator Ben Nelson said, “If you don’t try, you’ll always be a loser.” When I came back to United States in 2008, Senator Obama was running for President. When he won on November 4th, I was sitting in my living room waiting for him to give his victory speech. At the end of his speech, I said, “I wish I could meet Obama someday.” The day I found out about my selection for the United States Senate Youth Program, I had tears in my eyes because for me it was a dream come true. I had the chance to meet President Obama. The second I saw him walk out of the elevator, walking towards us, I could not believe it. I whispered, “Is that seriously President Obama? Are you serious?” I could not believe it. When he finished his remarks, he said he would only take two questions and when he called on me, I said to myself, “YES!” I learned many lessons from Washington Week but the most important thing I learned was that nothing is impossible. If you put your mind to something, if you’re motivated, if you’re determined, then you will definitely reach your goal. The stories of my fellow USSYP members, Military Mentors, and the leaders I met have inspired me to believe in myself. Washington Week will stay with me for the rest of my life.

—HASHER NISAR, CT – 2011

I heard Congressman Cory Gardner, one of my heroes in the class of 84 freshman Republicans, tell me that, “You are not here to be a part of history. You are here to make history.” Coming from a member of the USSYP alumni family, there can be no doubt of the ramifications of being a USSYP delegate.

—KHAYREE FITTEN, IA – 2011

One day in February I casually logged onto Facebook, forgetting that the day earlier I had finally been tracked down and asked to join ‘USSYP 2011.’ So, naturally, the 50 notifications I had astounded me. As I browsed the group’s page further, I was astonished by the breadth of knowledge and level of activity displayed by my fellow delegates. I felt like a kid in a candy shop; except this candy shop was filled with political debate and candid discussion. Fortunately, this moment of amazement at USSYP was only the first of many.

—EAMON ORMSETH, MT – 2011

The event I enjoyed the most was the annual USSYP Senate Reception. Both my senators Richard Shelby and Jeff Sessions visited with me and John Clark. We had extensive conversations about our week and what our future plans are. Senators Shelby and Sessions motivated us to continue to pursue our dreams and help to improve our state everyday. I left the Kennedy Caucus Room knowing my Senators were serving our state with honesty, integrity, and Alabama values. While meeting famous politicians and well-known public servants was a remarkable experience, I found that the friendships formed with other delegates was particularly fulfilling. My small group at USSYP was composed of young men from across the country, from the islands of Hawaii to the hills of Alabama. However, we shared a common appreciation for public service and a love of country that no border could divide.

—WILLIAM PRUETT, AL – 2011

An overarching theme of Washington Week was the coupling of education with fun. An incredible speaker series featuring Justice Clarence Thomas, numerous Senators, the Secretaries of Education and Energy as well as President Obama himself, all gave incredible insight into the lives of Washington’s top policy makers and politicians. I was especially impressed by the candor of the four departmental heads of the CIA who spoke with an honesty that belied their job description. To my delight, learning at USSYP was truly experiential – walking through the halls of the State Department, the Capitol and yes, the White House, gave a great perspective on life in D.C.

—MADISON ASHLEY, LA – 2011

My favorite speaker during Washington Week was Turkey’s Ambassador to the United States Namik Tan. It was fascinating to hear from the representative of one of the United States’ most important allies in the Middle East. Ambassador Tan provided interesting insight into the Arab world’s perception of the United States, and he also provided thought-provoking advice on how the United States could better interact with this crucial part of the world.

—CORY PLETAN, ND – 2011

As amazing as everyone was, I could not live with myself if I did not mention how extraordinary meeting Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas was. His candor and humor caught me completely unaware as well as his willingness and eagerness to answer our questions. Given that he granted more time to us, a group of high school students, than the Supreme Court does in its trial hearings, spoke volumes on the emphasis he places in our future. As a future public servant myself, I look up greatly to those who selflessly serve our country, and doubt at times whether I will be able to fill their shoes. His closing remarks put my soul to flight as he mentioned that when the time comes for him to hand the reigns over to us, he knows he will be in good hands. He also said that "Everything you're doing is preparing you for something." Although I do not know what that something is just quite yet, I know that I will look back and see that Washington Week was a huge step for me.

—ROBERT DEWITT, DoDEA – 2011

"A death of a man evokes grief but a death of a patriot evokes reverence." These were the last words from my journal entry on the visit to the Arlington cemetery during Washington Week. Like many other people, I used to ask myself, "What do I live for? What is the purpose of my life? And if I do find it, would I be willing to give away my life for this value?" I left the cemetery with reverence for all the soldiers, not only for fighting for our rights and freedom but for the fact that they found a value that was much more important than even their own lives. Looking back at this wonderful week in the capital, I think the above quote sums up all that the United States Senate Youth Program has taught me. I learned about the importance of public service and what it means to dedicate my life for the nation.

—IKTAE PARK, CA – 2011



It would be hard to say my favorite speaker was anyone but President Obama. Along with all of the other delegates, I patiently awaited the President's arrival in the East Room of the White House. Not only were we in a room that is not open to the public, but we were also waiting to be addressed by the President of the United States. It is hard to describe what I was feeling at the time, but when the President walked into the room, my face lit up and the room broke out in applause. He spoke to us about the country's future and how it is our duty to participate in some form of public service in our future. When asked how he imagined the nation in 20 years, he responded, "I am very confident that our problems regarding education, the economy, war, and more, will be reduced due to the young men and women in this room." It was so great to hear the President say something personal about a group that I was a part of. He said that it's young adults like us who make him have a positive outlook on the future. It is always great to see the President make an address on television, but it was truly something different when I saw it in person. Along with the other politicians I heard that week, he made me realize that America's public figures are really just regular people like you and me who set their mind to something and accomplished their goals.

—STEVEN LEE, CT – 2011

We were able to see an actual DaVinci and exhibits that most of us only are able to read about. However great these were though, they pale in comparison to the Senate Reception. I was able to actually talk with both of my Senators on policy issues that concern my state one on one. This was a rare opportunity. I learned what their jobs were like and what they were doing about problems in our country that I am personally interested in.

—MALLORY CARR, WY – 2011

I must admit it was rather nice to be around youth that actually wanted to discuss policy and national issues instead of the newest episode of Jersey Shore. Something that truly surprised me though was the civility of discussions. I don't think any important issue wasn't extensively debated during the trip, yet no one ever raised their voices. Everyone was able to respect opposing views and actually embrace the differences. This means a lot from a group of students that truly represented the diversity of the United States. All walks of life and thought were part of this magnificent program. I've mentioned all of this because my favorite part of the program ultimately was networking with the leaders of tomorrow. Plus, it's cool to be able to say you know at least two people from every state.

—COLBY QUALLS, AR – 2011

From the space between the Saturday I left and the Saturday I returned, I emerge with a sketch of my life rough and unrefined. As Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas stated, "I have spent my life preparing..." As leaders we all have successes and failures along the way but, ironically, the times of weakness enable the person to become stronger. The smooth ride is comforting, but the bumpy ride gives opportunities to improve our imperfections and lead others in a more powerful way. Why is this week so special? Washington Week is a place that breathes life into ideas. Washington Week is a place of rich cultural diversity. Washington Week is a place where open minds inspire self-discovery. Is it any wonder that the program's purpose is to help transform individuals into the thinkers, dreamers, and leaders of tomorrow? That's it. Washington Week's sole purpose is helping young leaders discover theirs.

—BRAYDON JONES, TX – 2011

The United States Senate Youth Program's Washington Week changed my life. Never before have I been so sure of what I need to do with my life – help others. From Washington Week, I picked four “steps” as keys to success: take risks; defend principles; make a difference; and be kind. To have gained the insight, to have experienced the tip of the iceberg of the power machine that is Washington D.C., and to have established the connections with one hundred and three other young adults from across this country was a priceless opportunity. The knowledge gained has whetted my appetite for more.

—RILEY KILBURG, IA – 2011

I will never forget the amazing people that I met through this experience and I cannot wait to see what they end up doing in their careers. I am always reminded of Ralph Waldo Emerson's poem, “Success,” about what we can do to change our world. “...To leave the world a bit better, whether by a healthy child, a garden patch or a redeemed social condition; To know even one life has breathed easier because you have lived. This is to have succeeded.” I truly believe that the people who go through this program do their very best to succeed this way and change the world in a positive way.

—WILLIAM FERNANDEZ, IL – 2011

As the final day arrived and we visited Arlington National Cemetery, I couldn't help but think of the necessity of visiting Senator Kennedy's gravesite with my fellow Massachusetts delegate to pay tribute to the man who served my state and our country for nearly half a century. Little did I know, almost the entire USSYP group decided to follow suit. I believe that is the kind of cohesion that made us such a remarkable group and will translate into the cooperation necessary as we enter various government positions. The Kennedy family gravesites provide my favorite view of the Washington skyline. It was there, on that blustery Friday morning, that I realized the magnitude of my experience and the amount of work that is left to do; finishing the work that people like Senator Kennedy started.

—ROBERT LOCKE III, MA – 2011

Besides all that we learned and saw, one of the greatest aspects of the trip was spending time with such a wonderful peer group. Back at home, people think I'm rather strange for being so interested in politics and being more excited for a presidential debate than a football game. However, I did not feel out of place with all the other delegates, even though we came from completely different regions all over the country. Most of these people had similar aspirations and a similar sense of responsibility relating to both school and involvement in our individual communities. While it was true that we all shared a wide variety of different ideologies, we were able to set our opinions aside and simply enjoy each other's company while having a lot of fun. Perhaps it would be a good idea for all members of Congress to have a bipartisan dance party every now and then.

—KRISTA BAILEY, MT – 2011



Every conversation I had over the course of Washington Week added to my general bank of knowledge. Each person I met had a different and informed perspective on the world. And all of the good-byes that were exchanged on March 12, 2011 were heart-wrenching. We may never spend another week together in the glorious Mayflower Hotel, but there will be many USSYP reunions in the future. One day I fully expect to turn to C-SPAN to witness two of the USSYP members of my class, battling it out on Capitol Hill. And I will laugh to myself, and realize that The Hearst Foundations' mission for our USSYP class was complete.

—SARAH MARGULIES, RI – 2011

This trip had many first experiences. March 5th was the first time I had ever flown. Flying was not anything monumental, but where I was flying to was. The plane descended from the clouds and we curved around the Potomac. Pure grandeur unfolded. The view that began Washington Week was the beginning of the most formative experience of my life. I will fly to Washington D.C. and always be reminded of my first flight. And after this week, I know I'll be back; I know that D.C. is where I want to be.

—WILLIAM MCPHERSON, TN – 2011

My trip to Washington D.C. gave me a much clearer picture of what I want to pursue in the future, and provided invaluable perspectives on many national issues. I now judge much less quickly, and take all sides of an argument into account before I formulate an opinion. My peers at USSYP taught me that. The speakers inspired me to become involved in public service in one way or another, and I now appreciate the efforts of all those in our government who are trying to make our country a better place. USSYP taught me about my country, my government, and myself.

—KATHERINE MEYER, VT – 2011





DELEGATES TOURED HISTORIC SITES IN THE NATION'S CAPITAL





This elevator
is reserved for
**SENATORS
ONLY**
at all times





CANDID PHOTOS FROM WASHINGTON WEEK 2011





OFFICIAL SENATOR AND STUDENT DELEGATE ROSTER

UNITED STATES SENATE YOUTH PROGRAM 2011

ALABAMA



Senator
Richard C. Shelby



Senator
Jeff Sessions



John Clark
Bayside Academy



William Pruett
Holly Pond High School

ALASKA



Senator
Lisa Murkowski



Senator
Mark Begich



Alexandra Sedor
Dimond High School



Ariel Zlatkovski
Eagle River High School

ARIZONA



Senator
John McCain



Senator
Jon Kyl



Jose Garcia
West Phoenix
High School



Amy Umaretiya
Chandler High School

ARKANSAS



Senator
Mark L. Pryor



Senator
John Boozman



Victoria Maloch
Emerson High School



Colby Qualls
Buffalo Island Central
High School

CALIFORNIA



Senator
Dianne Feinstein



Senator
Barbara Boxer



Austin Hagwood
Quincy High School



Iktae Park
Mira Costa High School

COLORADO



Senator
Mark Udall



Senator
Michael F. Bennet



Billy Gurr
Moffat County
High School



Jenna Sandoval
Brighton High School

CONNECTICUT



Senator
Joseph I. Lieberman



Senator
Richard Blumenthal



Steven Lee
Westhill High School



Hasher Nisar
Cheshire High School

DELAWARE



Senator
Thomas R. Carper



Senator
Christopher Coons



Molly Cain
Seaford Senior
High School



Jacob Sackett-Sanders
Cab Calloway
School of the Arts

DISTRICT OF
COLUMBIA



Congresswoman
Eleanor Holmes Norton



Kevin Jackson, Jr.
McKinley Technology
Senior High School



Thomas Williams
Woodrow Wilson
Senior High School

FLORIDA



Senator
Bill Nelson



Senator
Marco Rubio



Stefano Cavallaro
Venice High School



Erica Turret
Marjory Stoneman
Douglas High School

GEORGIA



Senator
Saxby Chambliss



Senator
Johnny Isakson



Seung Kwan Baek
Mill Creek High School

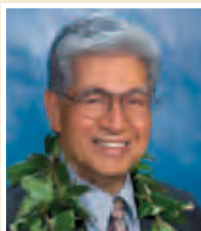


Matthew Munsey
Savannah Arts Academy

HAWAII



Senator
Daniel K. Inouye



Senator
Daniel K. Akaka



Kevin Hirata
Henry J. Kaiser
High School



Andi Ushijima
Hilo High School

IDAHO



Senator
Michael Crapo



Senator
James E. Risch



Ian McLaughlin
Madison High School



Soren Schmidt
Madison High School

ILLINOIS



Senator
Richard J. Durbin



Senator
Mark Kirk



William Fernandez
University Laboratory
High School



James Konsky
Triad High School

INDIANA



Senator
Richard G. Lugar



Senator
Daniel Coats



Florence Chen
Penn High School



James Hitchcock
Signature School

IOWA



Senator
Charles Grassley



Senator
Tom Harkin



Khayree Fitten
Mount Pleasant
Community High School



Riley Kilburg
Marquette Catholic

KANSAS



Senator
Pat Roberts



Senator
Jerry Moran



Chase Blasi
Andale High School



Yuqi Hou
Shawnee Mission West
High School

KENTUCKY



Senator
Mitch McConnell



Senator
Rand Paul



Corey Eldridge
Middlesboro
High School



Andrew Lawson
Trinity High School

LOUISIANA



Senator
Mary L. Landrieu



Senator
David Vitter



Madison Ashley
Academy of the
Sacred Heart



Joshua Tarr
Patrick F. Taylor Science
and Technology
Academy

MAINE



Senator
Olympia J. Snowe



Senator
Susan M. Collins



David Bibeau
Scarborough
High School



Krysta Moulton
Madison Area
High School

MARYLAND



Senator
Barbara A. Mikulski



Senator
Benjamin Cardin



Samantha Foggan
Old Mill High School



Kevin Saucedo-Broach
Charles Herbert Flowers
High School

MASSACHUSETTS



Senator
John F. Kerry



Senator
Scott Brown



Elise LeCrone
Hopkinton High School



Robert Locke, III
Worcester Academy

MICHIGAN



Senator
Carl Levin



Senator
Debbie Stabenow



Blake LaFuente
Milan High School



Priyanka Menon
Skyline High School

MINNESOTA



Senator
Amy Klobuchar



Senator
Al Franken



Lili Peng
Minnetonka High School



Jordan Rasmusson
Fergus Falls
Secondary Kennedy

MISSISSIPPI



Senator
Thad Cochran



Senator
Roger Wicker



Andrew Petersen
Presbyterian
Christian School



Romeris Pettiford
Coahoma Agricultural
High School

MISSOURI



Senator
Claire McCaskill



Senator
Roy Blunt



Michael Hoosier
Warrenton High School



Patricia Okonta
Liberty High School

MONTANA



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Max Baucus



Senator
Jon Tester



Krista Bailey
Billings West
High School



Eamon Ormseth
Charles M. Russell
High School

NEBRASKA



Senator
Ben Nelson



Senator
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Jack Anderson
Kearney High School



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Ashland-Greenwood
High School

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Senator
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Senator
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Senator
Robert Menendez



Rachel Brown
Watchung Hills Regional
High School



Ishaan Desai
Hunterdon Central
Regional High School

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Senator
Jeff Bingaman



Senator
Tom Udall



Keanna Cohen
Los Alamos High School



Kyra Ellis-Moore
Albuquerque High

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Senator
Charles E. Schumer



Senator
Kirsten Gillibrand



Ji Won Choi
Hunter College Campus
High School



Benjamin Weiss
Long Beach
Senior High School

NORTH
CAROLINA



Senator
Richard Burr



Senator
Kay Hagan



Adam Caldwell
Hobpton High School



Neel Mandavilli
Southeast Raleigh
Magnet High School

NORTH
DAKOTA



Senator
Kent Conrad



Senator
John Hoeven



Robert Lauf, III
May-Port CG
Middle-High School



Cory Pletan
Dickinson High School

OHIO



Senator
Sherrod Brown



Senator
Rob Portman



Aaron Burnside
Liberty Union
High School



Vivian Wang
Dublin Jerome
High School

OKLAHOMA



Senator
James M. Inhofe



Senator
Tom Coburn



Alessandro Calderoni
Hilldale High School



Scot Conner, Jr.
Casady School

OREGON



Senator
Ron Wyden



Senator
Jeff Merkley



Emily Brixey
Winston Churchill
High School



Elizabeth Leslie
Silverton High School

PENNSYLVANIA



Senator
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Senator
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Cocalico Senior
High School



Stephanie Warner
Mercyhurst
Preparatory School

RHODE
ISLAND



Senator
Jack Reed



Senator
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Sarah Margulies
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Mount Saint Charles
Academy

SOUTH
CAROLINA



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Senator
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Jeffrey Lollis
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Carrie Tian
Southside High School

SOUTH
DAKOTA



Senator
Tim Johnson



Senator
John Thune



Samuel Dunkle
Brookings High School



Jacob Naasz
Winner High School

TENNESSEE



Senator
Lamar Alexander



Senator
Bob Corker



William McPherson
Ooltewah High School



Charles Uffelmann
Houston County
High School

TEXAS



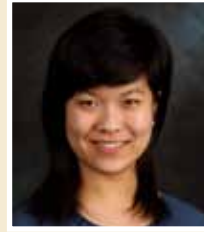
Senator
Kay Bailey Hutchison



Senator
John Cornyn



Braydon Jones
Texas High School



Joyce Kim
Allen High School



Robert DeWitt
Aviano Middle
High School, Italy, DoDEA

UTAH



Senator
Orrin G. Hatch



Senator
Mike Lee



Christian Bennett
East High School



Edward Bodily
Timpanogos High School

VERMONT



Senator
Patrick J. Leahy



Senator
Bernard Sanders



Samuel Epstein
Champlain Valley Union
High School

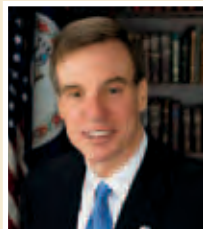


Katherine Meyer
Champlain Valley Union
High School

VIRGINIA



Senator
Jim Webb



Senator
Mark Warner



Logan Ferrell
Maggie L. Walker
Governor's School



Alexandra Lichtenstein
Princess Anne
High School

WASHINGTON



Senator
Patty Murray



Senator
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Cheyenne East
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Dylan Crouse
Riverside High School



Ryan McDonnell
Lakenheath High School
England, DoDEA

A FAMILY, A FOUNDATION, A LEGACY

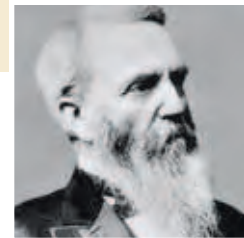
For 49 years, the United States Senate Youth Program has brought thousands of America's brightest young students to Washington, returning them home with insight into their heritage and scholarships to further their education. Each year the students leave with lasting impressions of their week including new friendships forged in shared experiences which 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. A true example 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 built the family fortune, eventually becoming a U.S. Senator for California. At the time of his death in 1891 he had served four of his six-year term. His wife, pioneering philanthropist Phoebe Apperson Hearst distinguished herself as one of America's most accomplished women, dedicating herself to educational and children's causes. She co-founded the National Parent Teachers Association in 1897, and when 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 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 serve 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, begun in 1960, to encourage excellence in journalism and journalism education at accredited undergraduate schools of journalism.



George Hearst



Phoebe A. Hearst



William R. Hearst



George R. Hearst, Sr.



Randolph A. Hearst

For more information about The Hearst Foundations please access: www.hearstfdn.org



United States Senate
Youth Program

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