

## Red, White, and Blue

I am shocked to know that four weeks have now gone by in this internship and that we are half way done. Time sure does fly when you are having fun. This last week was nothing but fun. To start off, we had a three day weekend from Friday to Sunday. This gave us CAMP interns, time to plan and get on the same page as to what we wanted to do during this extended weekend. Although the weekend drained me, it was one that will be unforgettable.

To start the week we only worked from Monday to Thursday, and did not have seminar class on Friday. From Monday to Thursday, I opened up the office and was working in the front desk all week. I got the first-hand experience of greeting guests that came through the door; I answered most of the phone calls, and also had a couple more duties that needed to be completed for the congressman before I left home. It is different than working in the back of the office since in the back you don't answer as many phone calls and don't greet many visitors.

This short week was much more relaxed and much less stressful. This was due to the house being out of session; which just means that there are no votes or hearings going on. Without all the voting and hearings the Legislative Assistants gets more time to catch up on their work and as for the congressman, he now has the time to visit the district office and do work from there. What caught my attention about being out of session was that people now have the opportunity to dress more casual, for example, wear jeans. Even though the office and the House sound a bit lazy when they are not in session, I can promise you that there is still so much work being completed.



Friday was the beginning of our adventurous weekend. A few of us CAMP interns decided to go to the Six Flags Theme park in Upper Marlboro, Maryland. Getting to Six Flags took us about an hour. I was happy to see that we did not have any trouble getting to the park, which makes me feel comfortable knowing that we can get from point A to point B using the metro train and metro bus. The weather around Washington D.C. is obviously not the best. It is always humid, hot, and raining. But by some miracle on Friday the weather was perfect. We were at Six Flags from about noon till 10. I honestly felt like a little kid again, whether I was taking pictures with Looney Toons characters Taz and Porky Pig, or just having the thrill, jolt through my body as I was sitting in front to just about every roller coaster in the park. I wish all of us CAMP interns would have gone, but only four of us decided to take the journey. What made this experience fun was that we all got on the same rides and sat right next to each other. Gustavo and I took pride in sitting at the front of every rollercoaster. Our favorite rollercoaster, and I speak



for everyone, was the Superman rollercoaster “Ride of Steel” which travels at 73 mph, has a drop of 208 feet, an elevation of 20.5 stories and last two and a half minutes. This ride alone was worth the amount I used on the ticket. At the end of the day, we watched the firework display that was set up by the Six Flags Theme park. It was a great little show with a good grand finale.



Speaking of fireworks I am lucky to have been in our nation’s capital for the fourth of July. I did not do much, but I did watch a part of the parade and the firework display. I have to say the firework display was by far the best I have ever seen. I was so shocked of the amount of fireworks being lit, I did not have the time or conscious mind to take any pictures or videos of the display. I was so entertained I could not lose focus of what was going on. Whoever set up the display did a great job in choosing creative firework I have never seen before. There were fireworks with hearts and smiley faces, but then there were fireworks that sounded like a war was going on. Another great piece to this excitement was that we had the best seats in DC. We sat at the top of the stairs at the Lincoln Memorial having the Washington Monument and reflecting pool right in front of us. The fireworks were popped at the reflecting pool, so everything seemed so close. All in all, the show was amazing and I hope to re-experience this someday.