

Gustavo Flores  
Week 7

It seems like just yesterday that I first stepped foot in the Congressional Office, now I am only one week away from the cessation of my internship in Washington DC. With this in mind, I have enacted to attend exciting and eye-opening activities in and out of office. While at the office, I have helped our Legislative Correspondent articulate various letters on different topics relevant to the constituents who write in to the office. I feel good contributing to the team in various forms rather than by simply answering phone calls. Attending briefing is one of my favorite things to do at work. I get to expand my knowledge on a variety of diverse topics I find interesting, such as immigration, education, and issues relating penitentiaries. However, the most exciting is when I come across Members of Congress.

Nine hours of work each day with only a 30-minute break can be very demanding, but it always astonish me how much work gets completed day in and day out. Now that I have experience, I feel more appreciative of the attempts to pass legislation, even more so when a piece of legislation that does not get passed because I understand how hard it really is to get things done around here. You need a comprehensive body to be on the same page and work accordingly or else it is very likely that no change will be made. On this same note, there is so much work that gets done behind the scene by staffers that may never get recognized for their work. I find it interesting that these are the people actually doing the most difficult jobs on the Hill and yet they all seem so passionate about what they do. I really look forward to coming back to Capitol Hill in the near future to advocate for issues relevant to farmworkers and immigrant students who don't have the opportunity to continue their education after completing high school.

Also, the city itself is very vibrant which makes me want to come back and keep exploring. On Tuesday, right after work, I hopped on the Metro and made my way towards the U.S. Marine Corps Memorial. A weekly ceremony is held at the memorial in honor of the Marines who have made the ultimate sacrifice for our country and those who are currently fighting in the frontlines to preserve our freedom and protect us from any harm. The ceremony was an hour-long tribute with music by the United States Drum and Bugle Corps and precision drill by the Marine Corps Silent Drill Platoon. I gazed in amazement as they conducted their drills with the memorial, the Washington Monument, and the U.S. Capitol Building in the far background. This is by far my favorite memorial in DC.

Washington DC's geographical location is so convenient. You have Virginia, Maryland, Pennsylvania, and Delaware all within driving distance. You can even ride the Metro far enough and you'll find yourself in another state. Most of the CAMP interns I had never been to DC, needless to say the East Coast at all. With that in mind we decided to take advantage and take a trip to New York City. We could have planned things with time in advance but we never really did, until Friday morning before we had our weekly CHCI programming. Miguel and I decided we would try our luck and just wing the whole trip so we got online and bought our bus tickets as well as a hotel reservation. By 7pm we were on our four-hour bus drive to New York.

The real fun began the following day once Aileen and Annabella met up with us. We had breakfast and right after that we made our way to the 9/11 memorial. It was truly a fascinating experience being in such a huge city with so much diversity. We made our

best attempt to visit all the famous attractions such as Central Park, The Brooklyn Bridge, The One World Trade Center, Wall St, Broadway, Time Square and the State of Liberty. Now I am able to say I have done all of that without having to go based of what I see on movies or on TV. All in all, my favorite place was The One World Trade Center, also known as the Freedom Tower. We got to see the entire city from inside the building standing 1,776 ft. in altitude. The view was incredibly amazing, to the west I had a clear view of New Jersey and to east I had a clear site of the entire New York City.

After a productive week at work and an adventurous weekend in New York City, I was ready to call it a night and head back to DC. As we left the city, I gained a sense of accomplishment because it is never until after I have done a certain act that I fully get to comprehend how fortunate I am for being able to undertake all that I have experienced.





