

Samantha Rivera
Journal entry

Today was my roommate's birthday and what better way to spend it by visiting all the historic monuments that she has been wanting to experience since she was little girl. First, we took her out to lunch to a burger joint, as she stepped outside to take a call. We called over the waiter and asked him



if he could sing her a song with some of the staff. The look on her face was priceless. After lunch, as we were walking down block towards the Washington Monument it occurred to me how huge it was in person versus in pictures. Our next stop was breathtaking, you



could only imagine finding something so grand in the movies; it was the World War II Memorial. The World War II Memorial displayed several waterfalls and a tower in the middle; which were surrounded by pillars that were engraved of each of the 50 states. The highlight of that day was the Lincoln Memorial. Seeing Honest Abe was an amazing experience, I even had to pinch myself just to make sure I was not dreaming. Reading the history on the wall, took me back into time during the Civil War, Emancipation Proclamation and Gettysburg Address. Our great nation has faced many trials and tribulation from The Great Depression, World Wars, and Operation Iraq Freedom and seeing how the USA comes together in the time of need makes me proud to say I am an American.





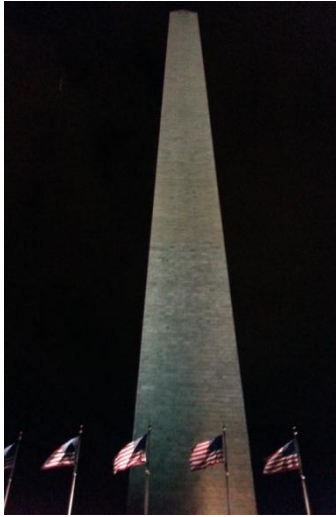
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Monday, first day of work on the hill, so many things going through my head for example: what time I am schedule

to be there, what kind of projects am I going to do, is the staff nice and so many other thoughts that gave me a headache before I even started working. I arrived about an hour early before the doors of the main building opened and when they did I still had to wait in the hall for another hour because the office did not open up till 8:30 and the staff was not suppose to get there till 9.



On the bright side of being early, I was able to talk to other staff members and learn the do's and don'ts that the congressman expects in his office before he arrives which is wonderful to learn on the first day. Who would of thought that there is so much to do around the office in very little time? It takes the whole staff working together to run the office even inters whether they know it or not there help play a major role in the office.



Day two of work and I hit ground running in the office asking everyone for work no matter what it was and they gave it to me. I attended a briefing going over several agendas and even details about giving tours to people who asked for them. The most exciting activity that I did that day was making

a trip to the Flag Office. I asked the person in charge of the department what they did with the flags that are flown over the capital and inquired how may I retrieve a flag. He stated all I have to do is order it and he will take care of the rest.



Today Congressman Hinojosa had an important meeting with the Ambassador of El Salvador and the Embassy Representatives from Guatemala, Honduras and Mexico on the topic of unaccompanied minors. Given the opportunity to sit in at that meeting alongside with the ambassador and the embassy representatives was like a dream and listening to them discuss about their different situations and what could be done to help stop the problem of unaccompanied minors.

The highlight of my week had to be on Thursday, our group was heading towards the Martin Luther King Memorial where a movie about immigration was being shown. As we were



walking a man stopped me and asked if I could take a picture of the most important day of his life. At first I did not understand what he meant until he got down on one knee in front of this woman, and pulled out a ring as he popped the question. The women started to cry and the man just looked at her and asked, “Is that a yes “? As she regained herself and said YES! The couple thanked me for being a part of this special moment and that these pictures



were defiantly going in the slideshow which they would show during the reception. I was pretty excited I was able to capture their special moment.



From the first week of work, I have experienced variety of adventures from visiting iconic monuments, debriefing with the Ambassador of El Salvador and the Embassy’s Representatives of Guatemala, Honduras and Mexico all the way to capturing a picture for the start of a new chapter in a couples live towards love and happiness.