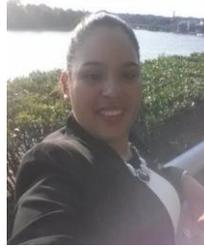


Samantha Rivera
Journal entry
June 21



Today is one of the many days I will not forget. Throughout my life I have taken trips to different zoos to see the variety of animals they had.



I figured visiting the National ZOO would be an awesome thing to do, and what a great adventure it would be. What made it even better is that some of my friends had never visited a zoo. That surprised me, so I made it my mission to



make sure they saw everything there was to see at the zoo, and make sure it was a wonderful experience. The best part of that day was the excited look on one of my friend's face as she saw the different animals. At one point, she was the only adult up close to



the viewing glass surrounded by children.



Monday I saw the talented High School Performing Art Scholars at the Kennedy Performing Art Center. They showcased their talents from singing to tap dancing. Their performances made it clear why they were chosen. If



asked what my favorite part of the show was, I would say the whole show had me on the edge of my seat. We sat in center of the balcony and it was an amazing view. I felt like



I was in a castle and I did not want to leave. On the balcony at the Kennedy

Center; I had a perfect view of the Potomac River. It was a beautiful place, and I hope I can attend other performances.



Wednesday was the highlight of my week. It was picture day with Congressman Hinojosa. Before, we took our pictures on the Hill. I saw the representatives coming out of their last session of the day. I was so distracted watching them leave that I forgot to take pictures with my phone. At least I was able to talk to a few congressmen who were still outside taking pictures with their interns. My photo with Rep. Hinojosa is a great memory that I will have for the rest of my life. There are not too many people who have had their picture taken with their representative and I hope to share the experience back home in the Rio Grande Valley.

Friday was a great day to just clear my mind from a long week of meetings and briefings. I took a stroll and enjoyed the monuments at night.

