

Lupe Perales
Week Four- Proud to Be an American

Wow! I was extremely blessed this year to spend the Fourth of July in Washington D.C. I attended the parade that took place on Constitution Avenue. It amazed me to see how many people attended the parade. When we finally found a spot to settle ourselves and observe the parade, we realized that we did not bring water with still at least two to three more hours. When the parade began, we were so mesmerized that we completely forgot about the water situation. The parade started with motorcycles hyping up the crowds. People clapped when the Armed Forces went by to express their pride to be in the U.S. That moment, I wanted to cry. All of the men and women who were walking in the parade served my country and I too felt proud to be an American. Not only did I feel proud to be an American, but it made me appreciate the people that fight for our country a lot more. American has provided me multiple opportunities to succeed, and for that I am truly thankful.



A few of the many amazing things in the parade!

After a long morning at the parade, the interns and I decided to return back to our dorms and prepare for the best night in Washington D.C. which consisted of dinner with all of the interns who are now my friends, my D.C. family. We decided to go out to dinner to a place called, Plan B Grill House where I had some delicious buffalo shrimp. Sadly, I was so hungry I forgot to take a picture of my dinner. We tried to finish our dinner as fast as possible so that we could go to the National Mall and enjoy the night with fireworks. It took us a while to find a good spot to sit because we could not stop taking picture of the Capitol which provided an incredible view. After some minutes, the fireworks began. When the fireworks ended, everyone walked

towards the metro stations that were nearby. My friends and I got lucky because we found a hidden metro station that was completely empty. We got on the first metro that arrived and then caught up to the chaos at the other metro stations that were packed with hundreds of people. People were literally pushing each other to get on metro. It was crazy! There were police officers everywhere trying to control and calm down the crowds. My Fourth of July in Washington D.C., will be one to always remember.



I was truly blessed to have spent my Fourth of July in D.C.

As I have mentioned in previous journals, Fridays we attend programming with the Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute (CHCI). This Friday we received the opportunity to attend and familiarize ourselves with the mission of Organization of American States (OAS). Their mission is to bring all 35 independent states of the Americas to reach a goal of promoting peaceful relation in the Americas. The building that the Organization is housed in, is beautiful. We were allowed to take pictures sitting on the official chairs of the Ambassador that represented our ethnic nationality. I appreciate having Organizations like OAS who work hard to protect four main pillars: Promotion of democracy, human rights, approach to security, and development and prosperity.



Such an incredible place! Not just the beauty of it, but the mission they hold.

My friends and I ended the weekend at Barnes & Nobles and Dave & Busters. At Barnes & Nobles I bought two Bibles. I bought myself one and another for a friend. I forgot mine at home and every day I encounter myself needing God's presence. I was extremely happy because I found one that I loved. When we finished shopping, we walked to the restaurant Dave & Busters. There, we had some fantastic dinner. I ordered a huge dinner with the intention to take home leftovers. I had buffalo wings and ribs which were delicious. Their fries were the best I have had so far in Washington D.C. I am positive that I will come back again before I return to Pullman, Michigan.



I would not exchange these nights for anything! Interns, Friends, Family!