

**Tuesday, March 15<sup>th</sup>**

**Washington, D.C.**

### **KARL XIII**

The Tuesday, March 15th KARL XIII session started off at the Hyatt Place hotel in Washington DC. We walked to the Noma Metro station and traveled to Union station via the Metro: upon arrival, we walked to the visitor center of the Capitol. Upon gaining access in the Capitol Visitor Center our group tour began with a short video explaining the structure and development of the United States government. It was fascinating as to hard work and determination to build and rebuild during conflicts to show our pursuit of freedom. The tour guide then proceeded to give us a walking tour of the Capitol. Much of the Capitol is under major construction and is covered up with scaffolding and tarps. The tour guide was very thorough of the rich history of the construction and on many of the statues. The tour was crowded with many other school groups which made it difficult to hear with the tour's microphone and headsets. After the tour, we were free to tour around the Capitol at will. I and a few others went over to the Library of Congress and toured the Jefferson Library. I heard of other groups going to the National Archives as well as viewing the library with us. Upon exiting of the visitor center we proceeded to the Russell Senate office building to meet with Senator Pat Roberts. Senator Roberts was kind enough to spend 45 minutes talking to our class about his hard work and pursuit of GMO labeling action that he was going present later that day (was later defeated). Lunch was then provided via buffet in the Dirksen basement. While waiting for Senator Jerry Moran; one of his staffers sat at my table where he discussed his agricultural background and the hard work that the staffers perform. Much to my surprise; staffers often are "overworked and underpaid" and there are very high turnover rates among employees and average age is mainly in the 20's. Senator Jerry Moran then slipped in from his busy schedule and gave a very delightful speech about his family and background. He spoke of the importance of the KARL program and the pursuit of our leadership skills that we are gaining. Senator Moran spoke of how well that himself and Senator Roberts work together in their agricultural roles. (Roberts is the Chairman of the Senate Agricultural Committee; Moran is Chairman of the Senate Subcommittee on agriculture, rural development, and the food and drug administration. I was very impressed with his comments on wanting to take the "politics out of politics" and his pursuit to maintain the voice of the people and do what is best for his constituents. The next scheduled appointment was with Tim Huelskamp at 3 pm. This appointment was delayed until 4 pm. During our wait, some of us ran over to the Capitol and sat in on the House of Representatives and a few others made it over to the Senate session as well. We watched 3 of the Representatives debate and then ended up calling for a vote. This in turn led to more scheduling conflicts with Representatives Huelskamp and Jenkins. We proceeded back to Huelskamp office and met with his staffer. He conducted and explained his roll with Huelskamp as his "boss" and what he has been working on. It was stated that Huelskamp has been working with great diligence and if re-elected will gain a seat back on the agricultural committee. Since the vote was called, both Representatives Huelskamp and Jenkins

were only able to meet for a couple minutes with their respective constituents. Since the group was split up from meeting their respective representatives: we all rendezvous back at the hotel at 5:30 to take the Metro back to Old Ebbitt's Grill. At Old Ebbitt's Grill we convened with the RLND Class VII and congregated with them for a couple of hours. We met many farmers, loan officers, and even legislators (organically farms as well). Their group was much like our group and they were given the opportunity to travel to Vietnam/Thailand in 2017. The group then departed for executive session. Respectfully submitted; Chris Boyd