

School Board President Report

Mike Riemer

April 16, 2018

JMS Trip to Washington D.C.

On March 26 and 27 I accompanied the JMS 8th grade to Washington DC as a chaperone. We toured the following museums. The kids had a great time and were incredibly well behaved. The students were working on a project for class that they had to do research on with pictures and give a presentation in the history classes with Mr. Smith and Mr. Cappucci. The following museums and monuments were visited by the students on this trip.

Newseum: Dedicated to the First Amendment Freedoms of (Speech, Press, Petition, Assembly, and Religion) the following are the noteworthy items of interest.

- “Louder than Words” - Influence of Rock & Roll on Politics
- Civil Rights
- 9/11 Gallery with antenna mast from the World Trade Center
- Part of the Berlin Wall & Guard Tower
- Inside the FBI, high profile crimes
- Pulitzer Prize Photographs Gallery
- Copies of Today’s Front Pages from Newspapers

American History Museum:

- Hooray for Politics
- American on the Move
- American Stories
- American Presidency
- The First Ladies
- Price of Freedom: Americas at War
- Star-Spangled Banner
- Through the African lens

Washington Monument:

- World’s tallest stone structure and obelisk
- Made of marble, granite and bluestone gneiss
- Construction began in 1848 but halted from 1854-1877 due to lack of funds and the Civil War

- Approx. 150 ft. up, a difference in shading of the marble is visible due to the halt in construction and at the top there is an aluminum apex.

WWII Memorial:

- Honors the 16 million who served in the U.S. Armed Forces and 400,000 + who died.
 - 56 pillars representing 48 U.S. States & 8 territories
 - Arches are for the Atlantic & Pacific Theaters
- Freedom Wall with 4,048 gold stars each representing 100 Americans who died

Vietnam Memorial:

- Three Servicemen Memorial: European American, African American, & Hispanic American
- Vietnam Women's Memorial: Dedicated to the women who served in the Vietnam War, most were nurses.
- Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall: 58,307 names, including 8 women, who are KIA & MIA from 1959 – 1975. A diamond means they are KIA and a cross means MIA; the reflective property of the wall is to bring the past and present together.

Lincoln Memorial:

- Dedicated in 1922
- Martin Luther King's "I have a Dream" speech 1963
- 36 columns represents the 36 States in the Union at the time of Lincoln's death
- Second Inaugural Address & Gettysburg Address

Korean Memorial:

- Mural Wall: images representing land, sea, and air troops
- 19 stainless steel lifelike statues: represents a squad on patrol: 14 Army , 3 Marine Corps, 1 Navy Corpsman, 1 Air Force Forward Air Observer
- United Nations Wall: represent the 22 U.N. countries who contributed troops or medical support

Capitol Building:

- Completed in 1800
- Senate in North Wing and House of Representatives in South Wing
- Presidents are laid in state for viewing in the Rotunda
- Expansion in 1850 had slaves work on the facility

Jefferson Memorial:

- Opened in 1943
- Statue added in 1947
- Jefferson looking at the White House

Conclusion: Arlington National Cemetery:

- Established during the Civil War when taken from the estate of Robert E. Lee's wife, (great –granddaughter of Martha Washington)
- Divided into 70 section
- Who can be Buried here- active duty military, Purple Heart or Medal of Honor, POW, former military member who held public office.
- The Tomb of the Unknown Soldier is guarded 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, and in any weather by Tomb Guard sentinels. Sentinels, all volunteers, are considered to be the best of the elite 3rd U.S. Infantry Regiment
- Tomb of the Unknown Soldier has been guarded since 1937
- On average there are 27-30 funerals daily

Extra Mile Award: Andrew Turton:

I am pleased to announce our Extra Mile Award winner tonight, High School Head Custodian, Andrew Turton. Mr. Turton was nominated by Mrs. Julie Maselko. I will read an excerpt from her nomination:

"I have known Andrew since my oldest daughter started kindergarten at Foster 12 years ago. I got to know Andrew, or Mr. Andrew, as the kids and parents knew him and still do to this day, quite well during my time at Foster as PTA President and Chair of the Playground Committee. While at Foster, Andrew was well known for greeting a crying child at the front door of the school after hours when they would return, distraught, to retrieve a book or homework assignment they forgot. By the time he took them to their classroom/locker and counseled them along the way, they left with a smile on their face. He was also known for giving special, behind the scenes tours, to some "special" students who earned that as a reward for good behavior. Despite his large, intimidating stature, he was and still is, a favorite with the students because he has a heart that's just as large.

As our luck would have it, when my younger girls left Foster for Mellon, Andrew was promoted to head custodian at Mellon and moved on right along with us. I was once again PTA President and just like at Foster, Andrew was quick to help us with any request, even some of my more outrageous ones, and most times already had things done before we even asked because he was always so up to date and in tune with the needs of the school and students.

As luck would have it again, Andrew moved up the head custodian position at the high school a few months before my older daughter started her freshman year. Are you sensing a pattern here? As I'm sure you can guess he quickly became a student and staff favorite at the high school. I tend to be around frequently and 9 times out of 10 I see Andrew...Andrew working...Andrew watching "his kids", as he refers to his Foster kids he's seen grow from kindergarten into young men and women, play in numerous sporting events... Andrew watching "his kids" on stage in concerts, plays, and musicals. It was at one of these sporting events last fall that I got to learn about another reason why Andrew is so great. A parent of a student with physical limitations came up to Andrew and me while we were talking at a football game and asked if he was Mr. Turton. She wanted to thank him for what he had done for her son. Apparently some concessions needed to be made for her son to navigate the school better and through her son, she had heard that Andrew went above and beyond what was required. Although she was a little teary eyed, I wasn't surprised because I see all of the time the things that Andrew does that are above and beyond."

Andrew, will you please come up to receive a certificate of appreciation from the School Board for a well-deserved recognition. It is people like you that make our schools a special place for our students and staff.

Pete DiNardo: Mt. Lebanon Community Service Award

Congratulations to High School Social Studies teacher Mr. Peter DiNardo on his selection as the 2018 recipient of the Mt. Lebanon Community Service Award. He was selected by a committee of evaluators from the Mt. Lebanon Community Relations Board. The award honors people who: make a significant contribution to the community in a volunteer capacity; participate in humanitarian activities that make a difference in the well-being of others; have exceptional ethical qualities and strive to improve and preserve the community, and are inspirational role models for the Mt. Lebanon Community. Mr. DiNardo was nominated by High School Principal Brian McFeeley.

Mr. DiNardo will be presented with the award at the Volunteer Appreciation Dinner on April 18, at 6 p.m. at the Mt. Lebanon Public Safety Center. I'd like to ask Mr. DiNardo to come up to accept a certificate of appreciation from the School Board.

This concludes my Board Presidents Report.