

An abbreviated version of this Report was presented to Excelsior Lodge #1
2 August 2016

Here's a little historical fact:

- The United Nations Educational Pilgrimage (UNP) was established in 1949, shortly after the United Nations (UN) was created. It is a 67-year-old story of which I felt honored and humbled to be a part. It is an educational yet enjoyable and fun event for any Youth who is able to experience this opportunity.
- The United Nations, which this entire trip is based upon, included personalized tours, Group pictures on the stairwell in the foyer of the UN building, and UN speakers who touched on:
 - the UN Agenda, which includes a set of 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to end poverty, fight inequality and injustice, and tackle climate change by 2030

The speeches each delegate presented were based on this UN Agenda. The Youth were so Akamai! I was impressed with their demeanor, knowledge, and all around terrific presentations----
THEY WERE AWESOME!!!

If that weren't enough, while in New York City, we:

- Went to the top of The Empire State Building
- Watched A Broadway Play (Phantom of the Opera)
- Visited The 911 Memorial, and
- Took a ferry ride to visit the Liberty & Ellis Islands

After New York City, we visited even more places such as. Gettysburg, Arlington, the Pentagon, the US Capitol, the Iwo Jima Memorial, The Canadian Parliament, Corning Glass Museum (you know...Corning Ware?).

I mean WOW! We essentially ended our tour with visits to the Smithsonian Museums in DC.

Personally, I would need at least one day per museum...I managed to visit about 5 – some I just went in and out of because our time was limited.

- The trip was maddening! From the time your feet hit the ground...you are moving...literally! We must have walked 20 miles total, yet I have no weight loss to prove that! Auwe!
- We rode hundreds of miles going in and out of numerous states and Canada. The adults, well at least I barely survived on an average of 3-1/2 to 4 hours of sleep each night. Yet the excitement of the trip kept us all going, and going, and going, just like that Pink Energizer Bunny!

From Benjamin Franklin's printing presses and the Liberty Bell in Philadelphia to New York City's very, exciting, at times eclectic atmosphere, we visited extraordinary, historical, magnificent, yet humbling places.

So...if any of you has a child or grandchild who fits the description that would qualify him or her to take this opportunity...allow that child to take it !

In FLT

Sister Juana Tabali-Weir