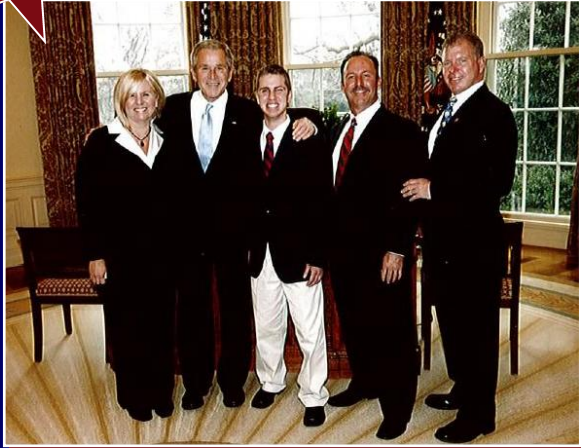


Glenn's Wish to Meet the President

Written by: Glenn Stepp



Our trip to Washington D.C. was one that I will not soon forget. We had the opportunity to do so many different things, that I can't even list everything. Some of the highlights of the week include meeting the president, of course, visiting Goddard Space Center, and seeing the countless historical sites around the city.

Meeting the president was the greatest part of the trip as you can imagine. When we arrived in the oval office, President Bush welcomed me and made me feel at ease. Even though he is the one of the most powerful men in the world, he calmed all of the nerves that I was

feeling. He began the conversation by telling me how he begins his day and some of his philosophies. Then we went over to his desk where we had a photo shoot. After the shoot he signed a baseball for me and gave me a tie clip with the Presidential seal. He then asked if I had any questions for him and I had a few prepared. After I had asked my questions we said goodbye and we were off on to another adventure.

Visiting Goddard Space Center was another amazing experience for my family and me. We had the privilege of seeing the space shuttle take off from the mission control there. The night sky lit up when the shuttle lifted off in the darkness of night. It was like the sun was rising even though it was two-thirty in the morning! Later that day we were able to take a tour of the facility and see some of the many instruments that will be taken to space in the future. Also, we met the crew that is going to repair the Hubble Space Telescope that is projected to go up in late August. This was such an awesome day and I learned so much.

During our week stay, we saw many other sites such as the Capitol Building, Lincoln Memorial, Washington Monument, the National Archives, and various Smithsonian museums. At the Capitol we took a tour of the building and a few days later we sat in while Congress was in session. Seeing the Lincoln Memorial and the Washington Monument was so incredible after anticipating seeing them for many years. When visiting the National Archives I had the opportunity to see The Declaration of Independence and the Constitution of the United States. Being in the presence of such powerful documents was indescribable. Also, we toured some of the Smithsonian museums. We visited the Air and Space Museum and the Museum of Natural history. Because of the size of these museums we only had time for an overview. This leaves something for me to do on my next trip to the D.C. area.

Our vacation was so exciting and a fun learning experience for me. Seeing all of the historical sites makes me want to learn more about our amazing country that we live in. These have been just a few of the highlights of my unforgettable trip. I want to thank New Hope for Kids, UCF, and Congressman Feeney for the awesome experience that my family and I had.