

TFRW WASHINGTON DC TRIP

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ROAD TRIP! And did we EVER have a ROAD TRIP! Carolyn Hodges and Jan Ott are to be congratulated for their superb planning of a trip packed with history, information, lobbying and FUN!

80+ TFRW members and several spouses began their tour on April 21st (those who came in early) at the National Cathedral. All who toured it were truly awe inspired by the experience of being in that magnificent building. Later we all met at the Westin Hotel in downtown Washington D.C. , loaded into 2 busses and off we went to Mount Vernon to tour the compound, see the history and have a lovely reception at the historic Mount Vernon Inn.

Speaking of busses, we are convinced that one of our bus drivers was actually Michael Moore (a staunch Democrat who talked like Moore and teased us the entire time!)

Our next three days were packed with the following: morning briefing by the American Enterprise Institute, night tour of the Capitol with our own tour guide, Congressman Louie Gohmert, dinner hosted by Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison and Sen. John Cornyn, briefings by fourteen of our Texas Congressmen, tour of the White House (featuring Barney and Mrs. Beazley), briefings by Cabinet Secretary and Deputy Secretaries, reception hosted by Congressmen Mike Conaway, John Culberson and Kevin Brady, a tour of the Supreme Court, WHEW!

And on top of that, we had wonderful breakfasts and luncheons in interesting venues with fascinating speakers.

We did have one accident – a terrible fall taken by Carolyn Barkley of Austin Republican Women. What a trooper, though! She broke her wrist in two places, her rib and her nose, had surgery in Washington, but she managed to keep good spirits and, of course, had Republican Women around her to help.

I cannot begin to express what a truly marvelous experience it was to be with this traveling troop of the Texas Federation of Republican Women. We experienced great camaraderie and it is a trip I will always remember.

Also – if you went with us, don't forget to count campaign activity hours you spent lobbying your Senators and U.S. Representatives, as well as the political briefings! (No, sleeping time doesn't count!)

My advice to you is – do NOT miss this opportunity the next time it is offered! You will have access to SO many places and fascinating people that you might not otherwise have. And you will have the experience of a lifetime!

Thanks, Carolyn and Jan, for this extraordinary opportunity!