

Travel Guide



WASHINGTON, DC

Where is Brandy

Plus Size Travel • Solo Travel • Pet-Friendly Travel

Girls Trips • Cruising • Road Trippin'

GIRLS TRIP TRAVEL GUIDE

Places visited with friends that make fun memories, great photo opportunities, and/or other treats.

[Arlington National Cemetery](#)

[National Cathedral](#)

[Ben's Chili Bowl](#)

[Shakespeare Library](#)

[Capitol Building](#)

[Supreme Court](#)

[MLK Memorial](#)

[Tortilla Cafe](#)

[Evening Monuments Tour](#)

[Washington Monument](#)

[FDR Memorial](#)

[Water Taxi](#)

[Gadsby's Tavern](#)

[White House](#)

[Library of Congress](#)

[World War II Memorial](#)

[Lincoln Memorial](#)

PLUS SIZE TRAVEL GUIDE

Places where physical accessibility was addressed and/or accepted.

[Ben's Chili Bowl](#)

[Vietnam Veterans
Memorial](#)

[Evening Monuments Tour](#)

[Washington Monument](#)

[Gadsby's Tavern](#)

[Water Taxi](#)

[Jefferson Memorial](#)

[White House](#)

[Library of Congress](#)

[Lincoln Memorial](#)

[Supreme Court](#)

[Tortilla Cafe](#)

SOLO TRAVEL GUIDE

Places I visited alone that I felt safe and would recommend to others.

[Arlington National Cemetery](#)

[National Museum of the American Indian](#)

[Evening Monuments Tour](#)

[Supreme Court](#)

[Gadsby's Tavern](#)

[Tortilla Cafe](#)

[Jefferson Memorial](#)

[Washington Monument](#)

[Library of Congress](#)

[Water Taxi](#)

[Lincoln Memorial](#)

[White House](#)

[MLK Memorial](#)

ROAD TRIPPIIN' TRAVEL GUIDE

Places I visited while on a road trip that had easy & affordable parking access.

[Arlington National Cemetery](#)

[Gadsby's Tavern](#)

[Lincoln Memorial](#)

[Vietnam Veterans Memorial](#)

[Washington Monument](#)

[World War II Memorial](#)

Ronald Reagan International Airport

There are many different ways to get to DC but my favorite is through Reagan Airport because of this huge American flag that hangs in the airport. I love turning the corner from the gates and knowing I'm in the capital city of the USA!



What's going DOWN

in

DOC

THE

MONUMENTS

Monument Facts

1. The national monuments are run by the National Park Service. There will be rangers around to answer questions and watch patrons who are visiting.
2. Visiting the monuments is free, as are most of the Smithsonian Museums.
3. The monuments are open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week as they're outdoor and don't require an entrance in any fashion.
4. Be prepared for weather. In the summer months you'll need water as it gets hot. Rain and cold weather can also be problematic in other times of the year.
5. At least 1 or more monuments are going to be under construction during your visit. These take lots of restoration and upkeep. Be flexible! Check the National Park Service website for the specific monuments you want to visit for updated information.

Evening Monument Tour

\$60

During my visit in Summer 2019, one of my colleagues at the conference I was attending suggested an evening monument tour. At first I was sceptical because, who wants to go see outdoor structures in the dark? However, I really enjoyed the time with the group and getting a unique view of the monuments either at sunset or after dark. It was also a great alternative to seeing some of the most famous spots without the 100+ degree hit. We rode around in this comfy van, and the walking was minimal, but still a medium amount. We were still sweating and downing (included) water like crazy, but we didn't get sunburnt so there's a win!



Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial

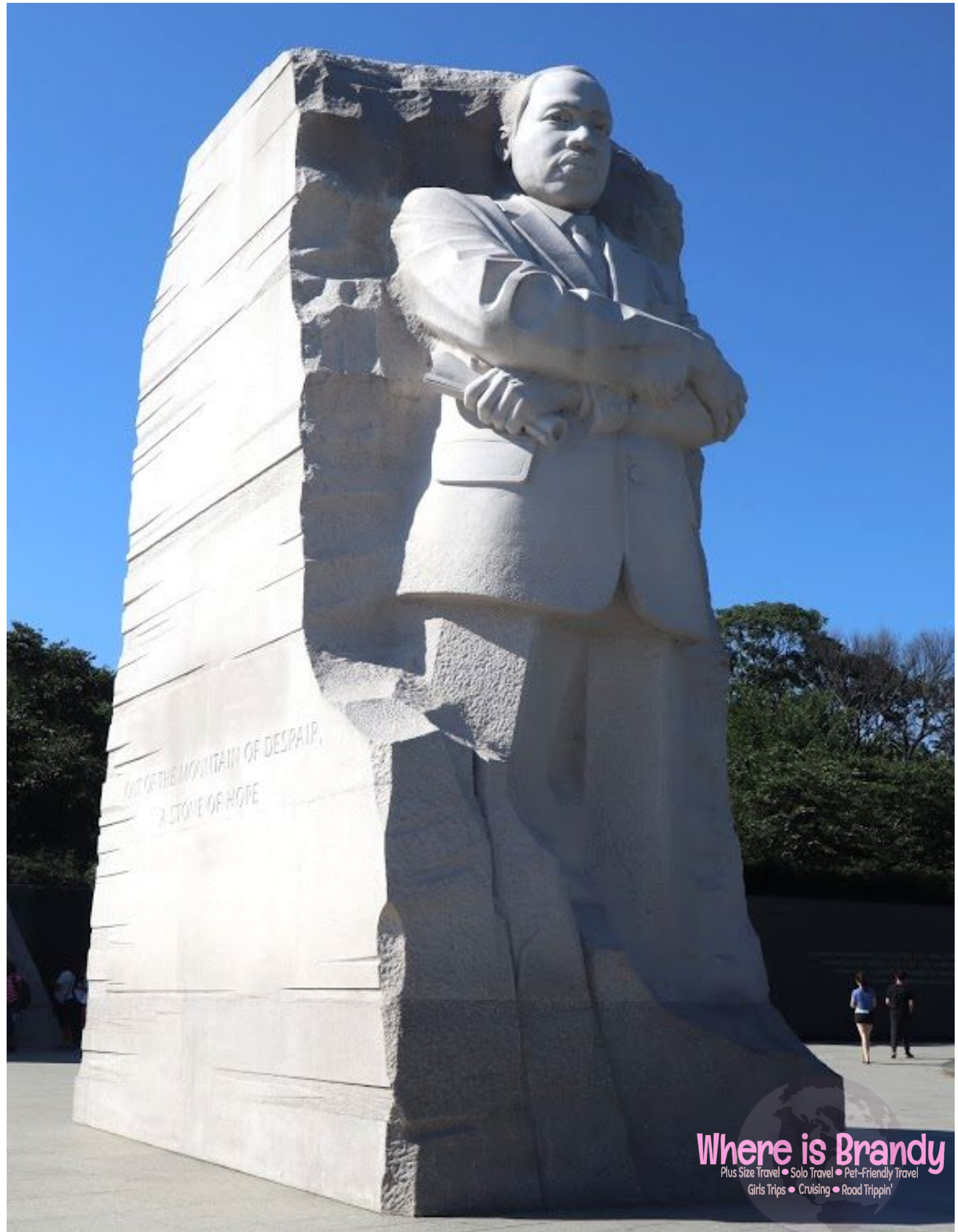
During the evening monument tour, I got my first experience seeing the MLK Memorial. It was super busy but well worth the wait time to get a clear picture.

The downside was that being on a tour with a group of people, the host usually gives you a short amount of time to explore the monument. Here, I found I needed much more than the allotted time and made a plan to come back in the daylight.



Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial

I really enjoyed my second trip (in two days) visiting the MLK Memorial. The night offers a certain ambience but the daylight helps you see the vast expanse of the memorial set against Dr. King's powerful words set into the stones behind him. There's also a gift shop across the street from the entrance that has lots of historical items and additional resources for influential African American contributions to the country.



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Tip: Bring water during the summer!



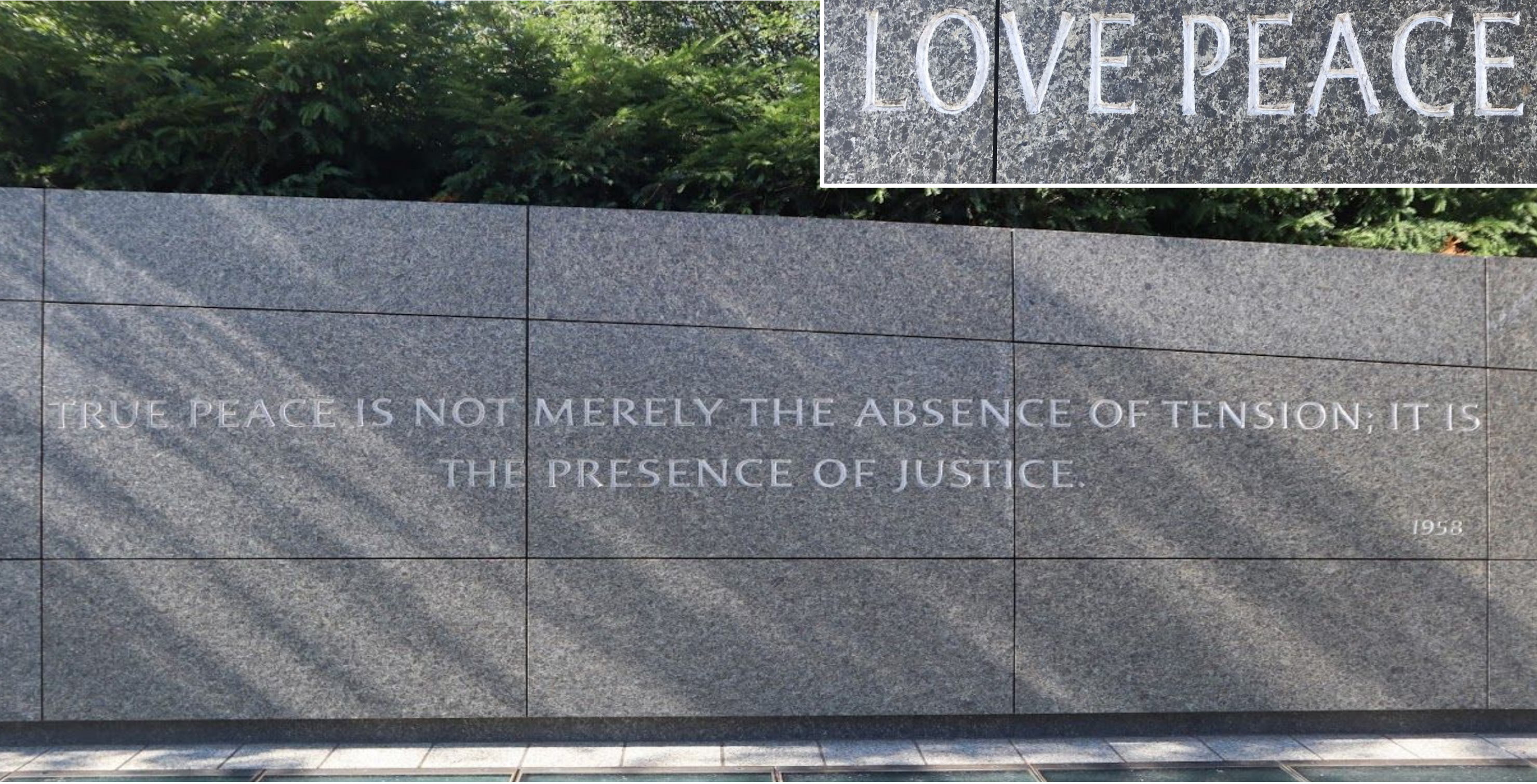
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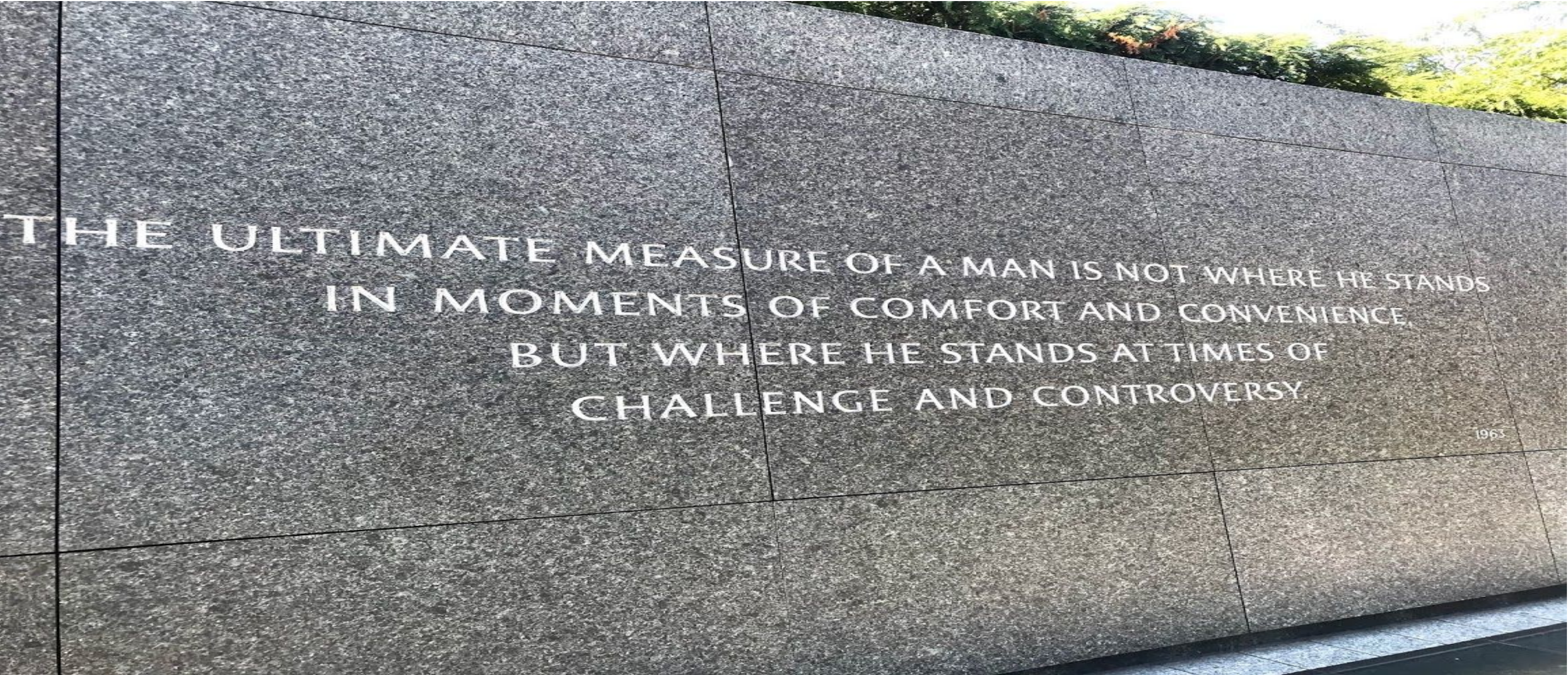


LOVE PEACE



TRUE PEACE IS NOT MERELY THE ABSENCE OF TENSION; IT IS
THE PRESENCE OF JUSTICE.

1958



THE ULTIMATE MEASURE OF A MAN IS NOT WHERE HE STANDS
IN MOMENTS OF COMFORT AND CONVENIENCE,
BUT WHERE HE STANDS AT TIMES OF
CHALLENGE AND CONTROVERSY.

1963

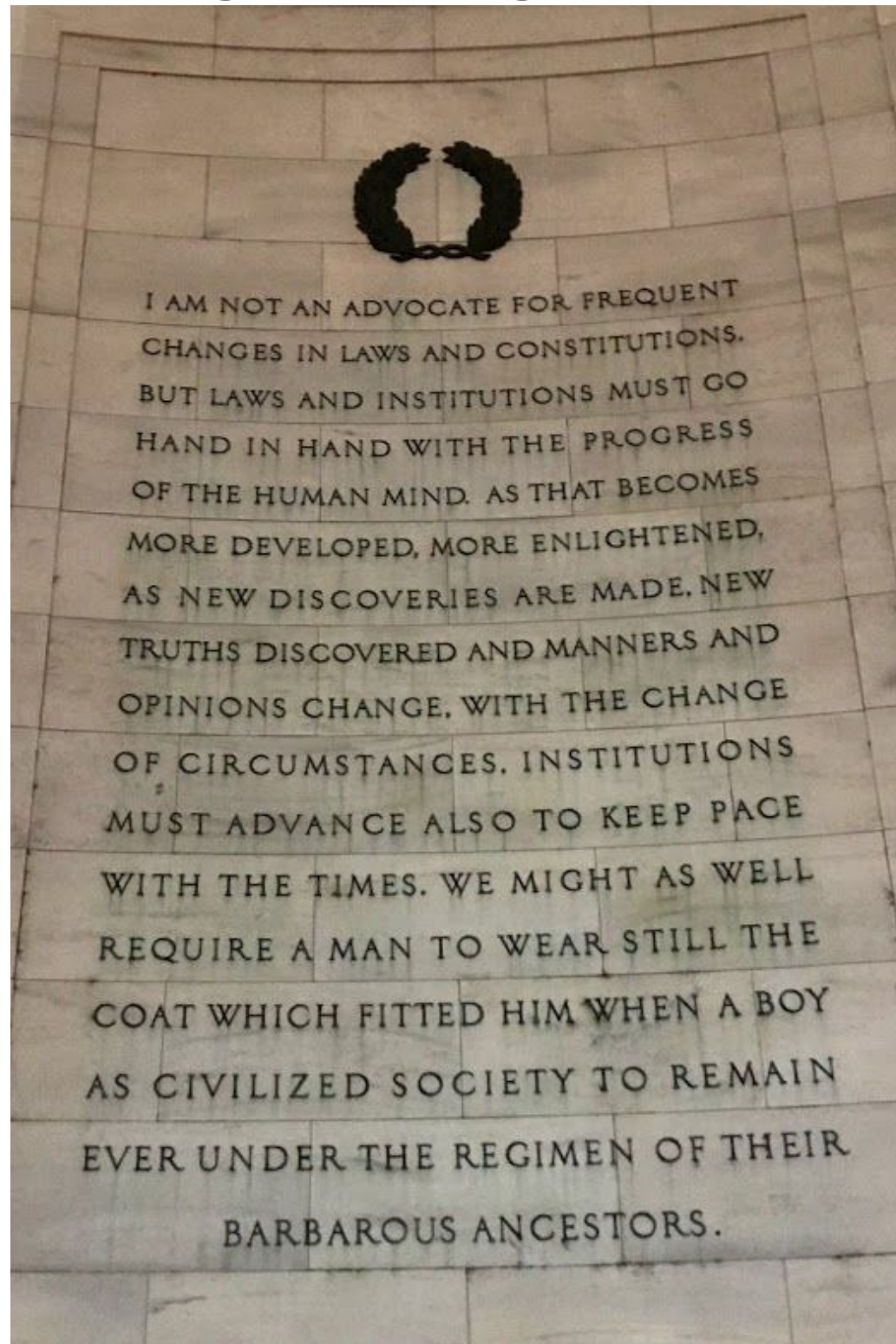


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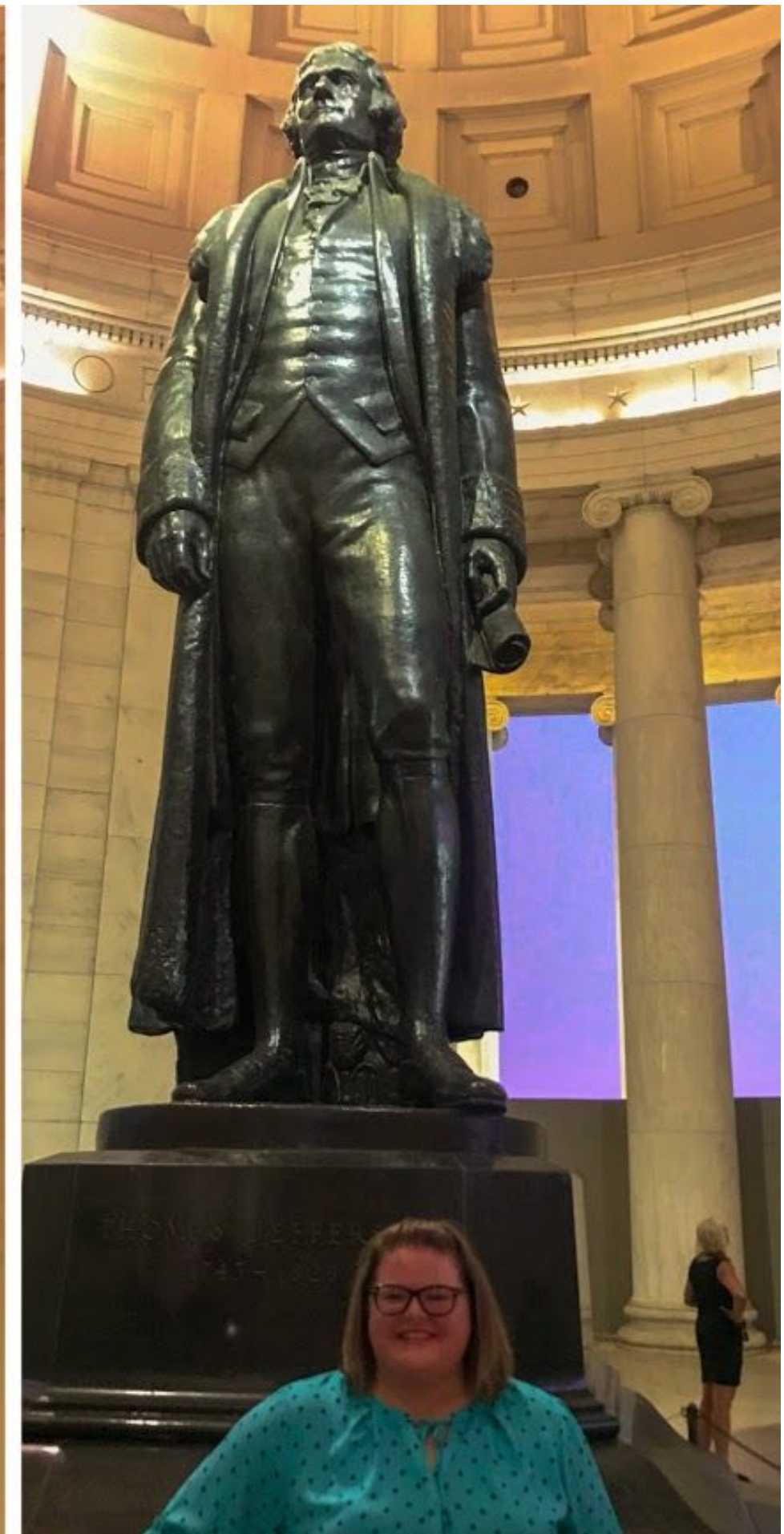
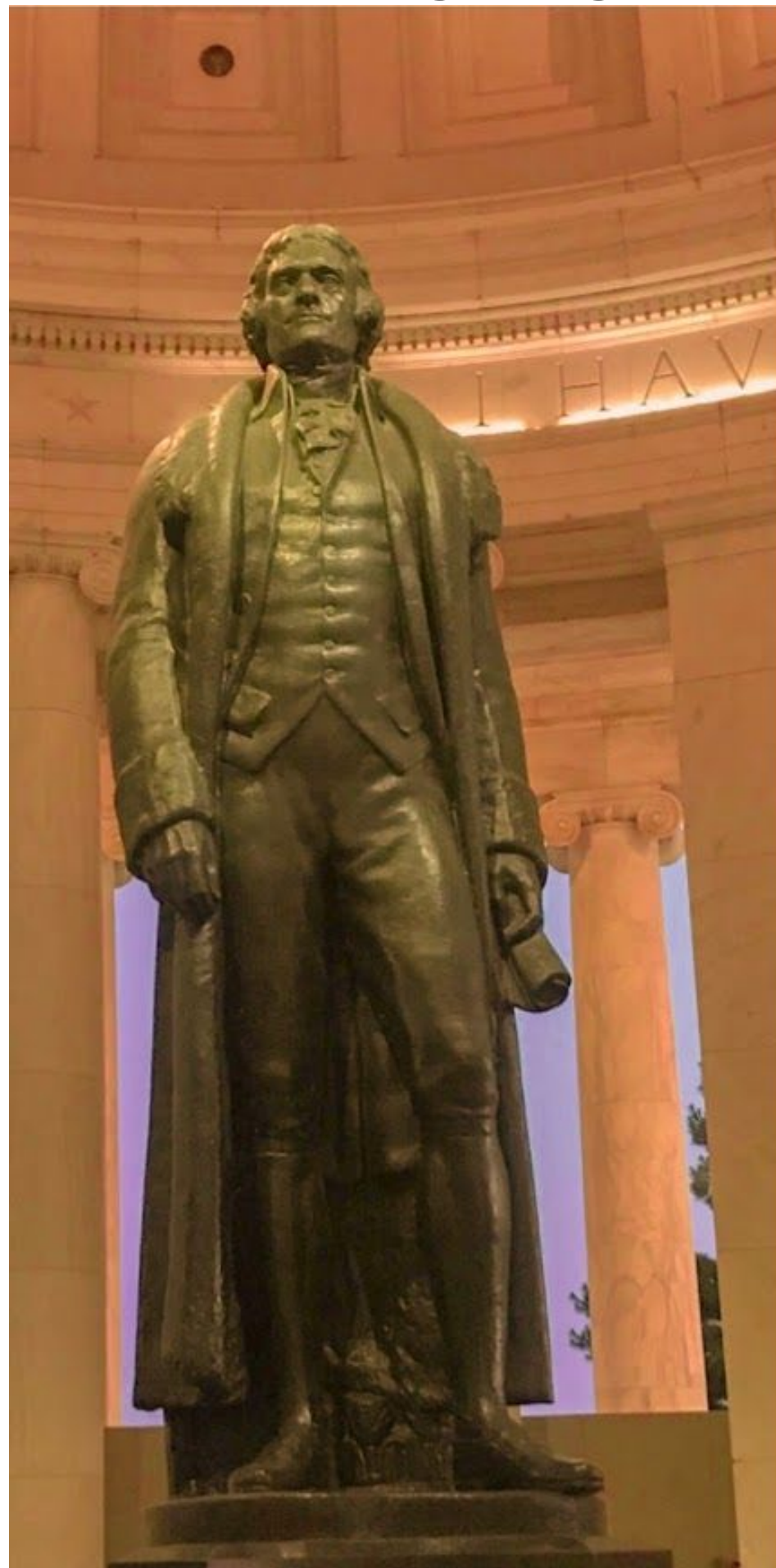
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Jefferson Memorial

The Jefferson Memorial is a very iconic stop in Washington, DC with its large dome situated on the Potomac River. It's easily accessible with some stairs to climb, but not nearly as many as Lincoln's. If wanting a picture of the dome & the river, though, it would be quite a walk. During the middle of the summer it can be a nice spot to get out of the sun as it's covered & quite a bit cooler. It's a very popular attraction so pictures can be difficult up close, but worth the wait. Beware at night, the bright spotlights can make it difficult to get a good picture on your phone.



Some of his best writings are on the walls around him, including the parts of the Declaration of Independence.



Jefferson Memorial on the Potomac at Dusk



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Korean War Veterans Memorial



Walking along the Korean War Memorial is a really unique and powerful experience. The 19 different statues represent the four branches of the US military and make you feel like you're in formation almost. It's location next to the emotional Vietnam Veterans Memorial adds to the experience.

I enjoy this memorial much more in the daylight. During the evening, the lights aren't as bright so it's hard to see the details. For a novice photographer, like myself, it can also be difficult to grab photos in the evening.

Lincoln Memorial

The Lincoln Memorial is a very powerful experience. The structure is massive and the walls on the left and right contain the Gettysburg Address and his second inaugural address.

TAKE TIME TO READ THEM!

The memorial is also the setting of where Martin Luther King gave his *I Have a Dream* speech. There is a stone placed on the exact spot this happened, so make sure to find it on the steps.

The view is beautiful FROM the Memorial and OF the Memorial so make sure to bring your camera and your walking shoes for all the steps!



Sunset Visit Lighting



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The memorial looks good in ANY light!

I Have a Dream - MLK Historical Plaque

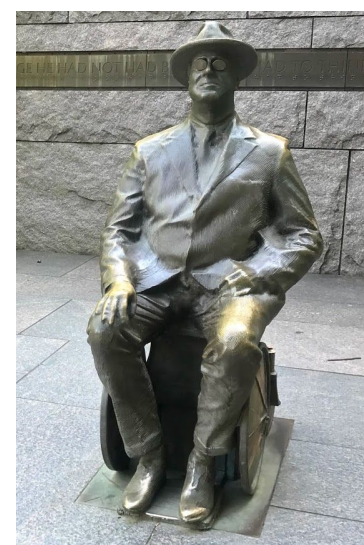
I HAVE A DREAM
MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.
THE MARCH ON WASHINGTON
FOR JOBS AND FREEDOM
AUGUST 28, 1963

While at the Lincoln Memorial, be sure to find the “*I Have a Dream*” plaque on the steps leading up to the memorial. It was at this exact spot that Dr. Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr. gave his infamous speech. It also offers great views of the reflection pond and the Washington Memorial. Though it’s a busy spot, find a step out of the way, bring your journal, coffee, headphones and sit IN the history, listen to the speech on YouTube...and then click over to the Forrest Gump scene, “GINNY!” for a laugh.



Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial

While at the MLK Memorial I saw on my map that the FDR Memorial was a short walk around the water. The water features were not working, but saw them when I was younger and they're a nice addition to the ambience. Franklin Roosevelt led America through the Great Depression and also into World War II. He is also famous for having served four consecutive terms as President, the longest in American history, before the 22nd Amendment was passed limiting the office to two terms.



Historical Note: During FDR's leadership, many Japanese citizens were stripped of their rights and properties, then sent to internment camps after the attack at Pearl Harbor. This is not displayed on any historical plaques here, that I saw, but in an effort to diversify my travels, I did read information regarding this part of American history. I think it's a relevant note to include for diverse views of history during his presidency.

Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial



President Roosevelt isn't the only person who remains a notable person in modern history books. His wife, Eleanor Roosevelt, was the first US delegate to the United Nations. She also fought for women's' rights (especially in the workplace), rights of African American and Asian American citizens, and rights for World War II refugees.

Vietnam Veterans Memorial

The Vietnam Veterans Memorial is one of the most somber places in Washington, D.C., a rival to the Arlington National Cemetery. In black stone are etched the names of 58,318 Americans who gave their lives during the Vietnam War beginning in 1965 and lasting until 1975. I've been both in the daylight and in the dark and it's equally moving. In the evening, it's a bit harder to see as the only lights are on the ground, illuminating the path. It's also very difficult to grab a photo without a night lens.



Vietnam Veterans Memorial



The Vietnam Veterans Memorial is a short distance from the Lincoln Memorial, so make sure to combine those two locations.

The Korean War Veterans Memorial is along the same path. Grab a map online or use your phone while you're in the vicinity so you don't miss anything!

TIP: During the summer months, make sure to bring plenty of water and sunscreen to protect against the hot sun.



Washington Monument

The Washington Monument is easily the most infamous symbol dominating the DC sky. Though I've never been to the top, you currently have the opportunity to do so! By clicking the link in the title, you'll be directed to the National Parks Service to get your pass, but make sure to do so ***90 days in advance***

If you're road-tripping, there's also lots of parking around the monument - I've always found a spot.





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White House

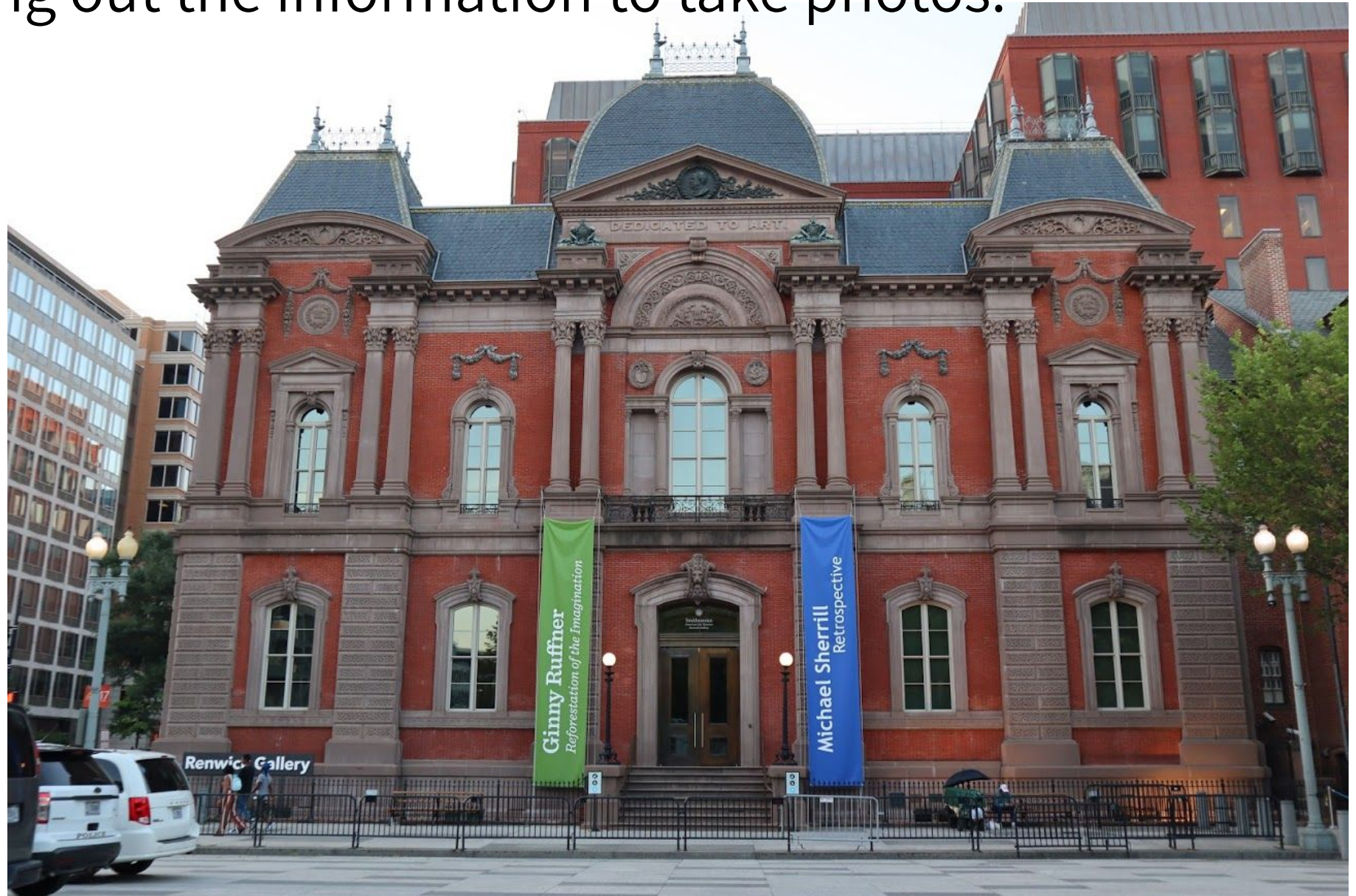
I've visited the White House twice in my life - once when I was 17, before 9/11, during the George W. H. Bush Administration and could stand right at the gates, and again at 35 during the evening monument tour during the Trump Administration. Two very different times! This most recent visit was during the summer, so it was definitely busier but what caught me off guard was how LOUD it was. There were tons of protesters, very politically passionate posters (some with harsh wording). When we visited around 6PM it was PACKED. It took a long time to get in front of the barricades to get a picture. Nothing like the easy photos I got when 17 years old. It's still really interesting to visit, though. There are lots of historical statues around, so it's to your advantage to be on a walking tour so you don't miss anything meaningful. But seeing the actual White House in person is an experience not to miss. It was smaller than I thought it would be from the street.



Around the White House - Across the Street

When taking a walking tour, the guides will point out many of the historical statues and beautiful buildings around the White House. I was captivated by the architecture so I ended up tuning out the information to take photos.

Below: Statue of General La Fayette and his Compatriots across from the White House;
Right: Smithsonian Renwick Gallery;
Bottom Corner: Government Buildings (Congress and Vice President offices)



World War II Memorial



The World War II Memorial is beautifully located between views of the Lincoln Memorial and the Washington Monument. The water from the fountains is very relaxing. It also has all 50 states represented, so all Americans can find their own home. I also appreciated their tribute to the Merchant Marines, where my grandpa served.



Make sure to find your own state around the memorial. It makes a great scavenger hunt!







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The WWII Memorial is extremely beautiful at night too.

World War II Memorial

Along the walls while walking up to the water, there are lots of panels depicting scene after scene from the war. I only did the Pacific Front Panels, but wish I had explored the Atlantic as well. If you click on the title of this slide, you'll go to a really nice description of the entire memorial design, including each panel.



World War II Memorial

From the WWII Memorial, you can get a great photo of the Washington Monument!



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World War II Memorial



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What's going DOWN

in

DOC

THE

SMITHSONIAN

MUSEUMS

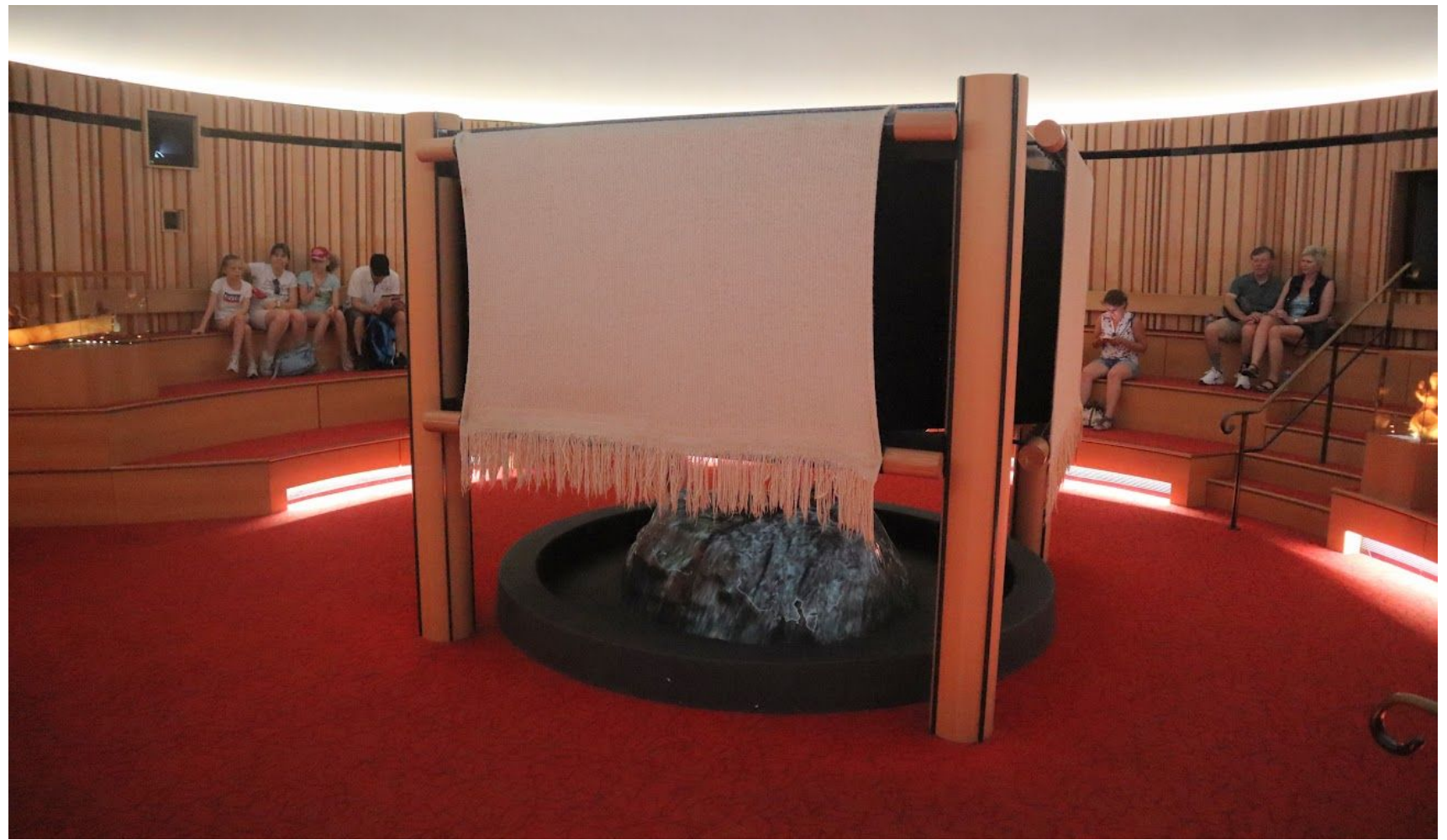
National Museum of the American Indian

Some say you can't truly know yourself until you know where you come from. When I last visited DC, I really wanted to dig into this land's beginning. What I found was so much more meaningful. I learned about some amazing indigenous cultures and the deceit & sadness in which the US government treated the native people of this land. It's a very powerful experience and I recommend that it's for ages 12+ as the exhibits aren't made for young children.



Inside the MAI

Upon entering the museum, I headed upstairs to the 4th floor with a plan to work myself down to the cafeteria and gift shop. Luckily, the 4th floor holds the theater that offers a good introduction to the museum. It's told on the cloths in the middle of the room. It replays often, so it's easy to get a good spot.



Inside the MAI

The bottom rotunda of the museum has a great collection of native water transports and an amazing totem pole. A great welcome!



Inside the MAI

***Great nations, like great men,
should keep their word.***

U.S. Supreme Court Justice
Hugo Black, 1960

The quotes, the objects displayed, and the way the exhibits show the two viewpoints were extremely powerful.

LEADERSHIP

Contrasting political systems gave Native Peoples and colonists different assumptions about who had authority to negotiate a treaty.

VIEWPOINT NATIVE NATIONS

Native Nations were all self-governing. But systems varied in form and in the way leaders rose to power. Some systems had hereditary titles and roles. Others were merit-based or led by councils. There were many kinds of leaders with overlapping powers.

Most Indian Nations were federations of self-governing villages or bands. This decentralized, non-coercive system gave individuals more independence than the average European enjoyed.

At first, the need to present a united face to colonial leaders enhanced the authority of sachems and chiefs. Later, non-Indians undermined those powers.

VIEWPOINT EUROPEAN NATIONS

Europeans had hierarchical societies in which superiors compelled subordinates to obey. Even democratic governments gave elected officials authority to make decisions for all.

When colonists encountered tribal governments, they were frustrated that no one person could speak for all citizens of a given nation. Colonial leaders wrote disapprovingly about Indians' lack of subordination. Other political thinkers were inspired.

The centralized organization of the colonies gave them the appearance of unity in negotiations with Indian Nations. In fact, they could not prevent their own citizens from trespassing on Indian lands.







Eating at the MAI

The museum offers up many options in their cafeteria-style restaurant that represent many different regions of the Americas. It's still very Americanized though, with tacos and burgers, etc.



I tried my very first buffalo (meat) burger and it was really tasty, but it was covered in cheese, bacon, fresh avocado, and veggies. For the meal, including drinks, I paid about \$30 though. At least it equals out the \$0 entrance fee and goes back to the museum's budget.

What's going DOWN

in




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THINGS TO DO

Arlington National Cemetery

Though a somber site, it's difficult to find a more patriotic spot for Americans than Arlington National Cemetery. The precision of the headstones and the enormity in number is incredibly moving. Here you can see grave sites dating from the Revolutionary War all the way to current ceremonies with *Taps* playing in the distance. I've been twice - once while in high school while laying a school wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier and again as an adult, during a solo trip. Both times were special, powerful, and left me considering the price of our culture and country's freedoms.





**WELCOME TO
ARLINGTON NATIONAL
CEMETERY
OUR NATION'S MOST
SACRED SHRINE**

**PLEASE
CONDUCT YOURSELVES
WITH DIGNITY AND RESPECT
AT ALL TIMES**

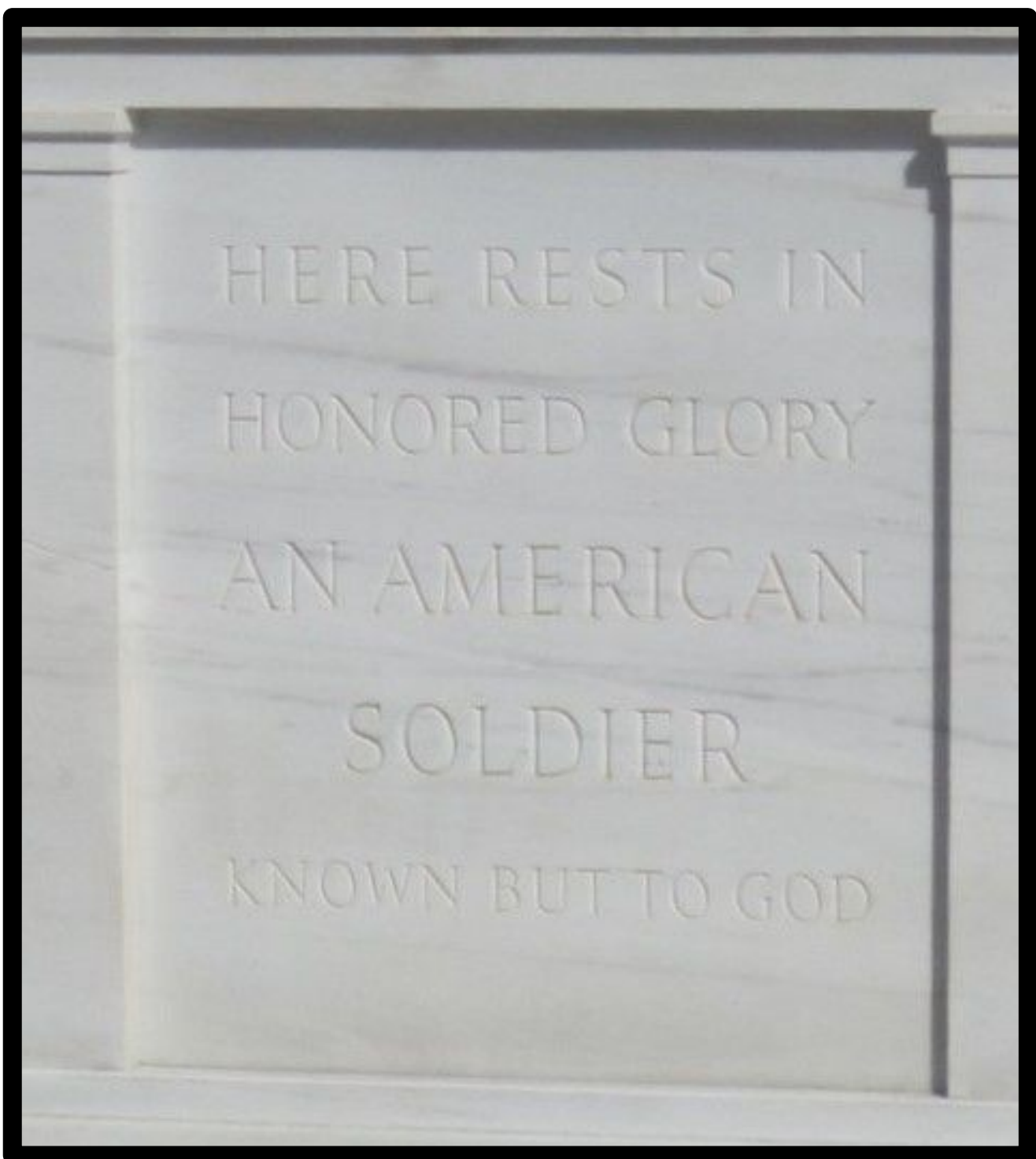
**PLEASE REMEMBER
THESE ARE HALLOWED GROUNDS**

Tomb of the Unknown Soldier

Visiting this part of the National Cemetery is extremely emotional, especially during the Changing of the Guard. Be sure to look at the schedule in advance so that you can attend. Get there early due to limited viewing at busy times.



It is okay to take photos but other than camera clicks, there shouldn't be any talking and phones should be silenced.

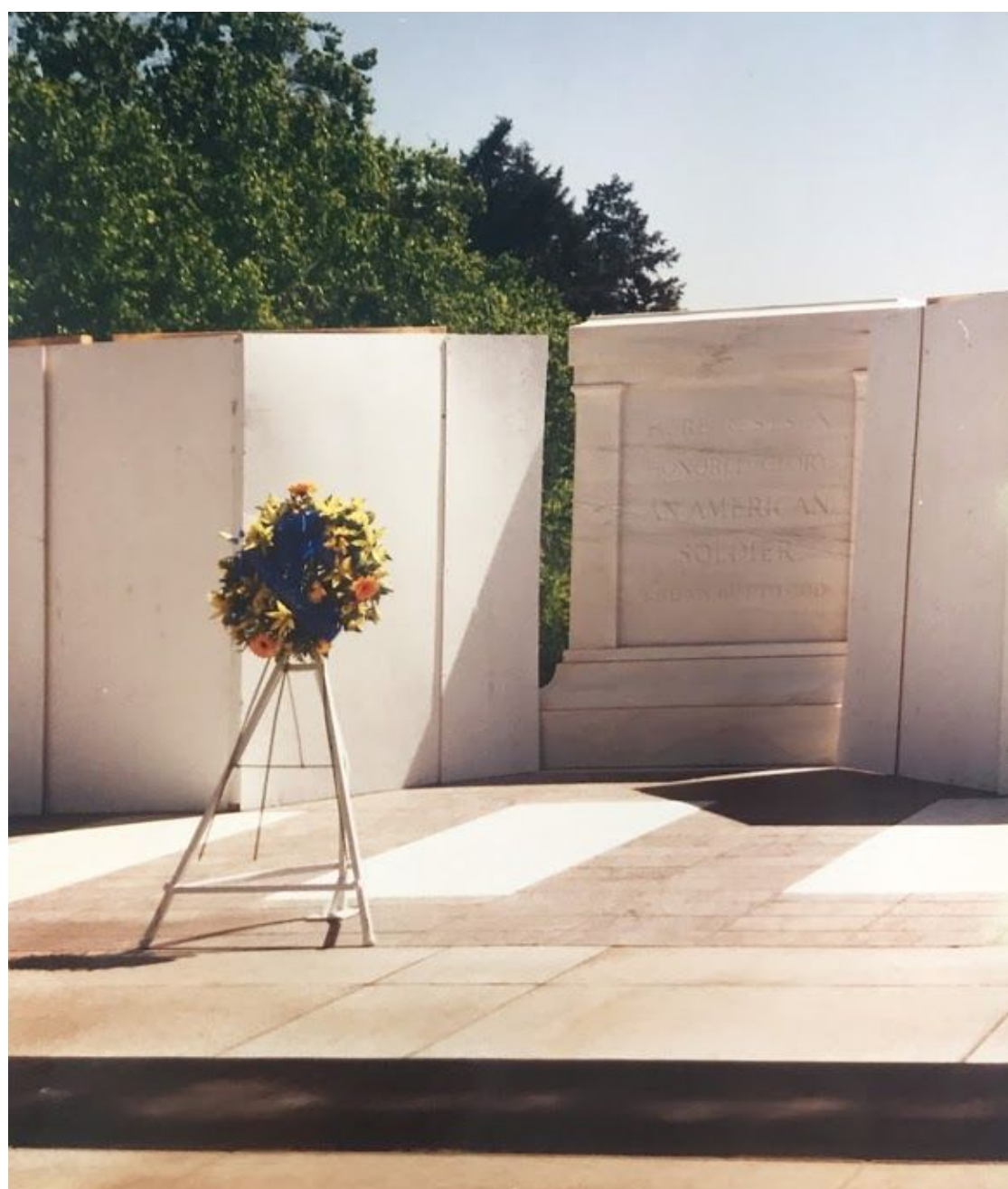


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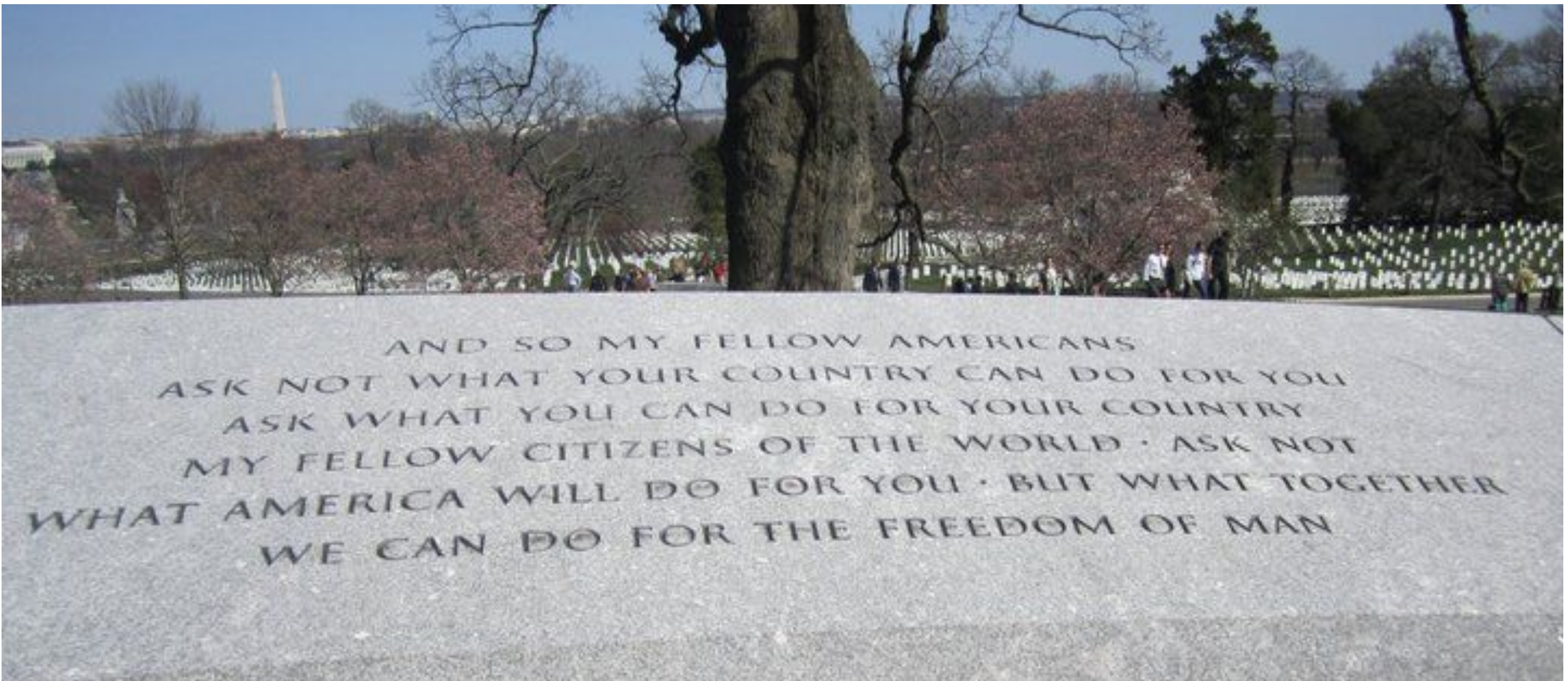
Opportunities for Wreath Laying Ceremony

Arlington National Cemetery allows groups to lay a personal wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, like our choir did here. I've linked the information and form to the title of the page. It was a very special moment for our high school group.



President John F. Kennedy's Grave

John Fitzgerald Kennedy, his wife Jacqueline Onassis, “Jackie O,” and two infants are buried in the cemetery as well. Among the site is a beautiful lookout with etchings of some of his most famous words. Also, notice the Cape Cod granite stones along with the fescue and clover planted in the crevices to resemble a Massachusetts field.





Visiting when
the cherry
blossoms are
blooming
is extra special!



The Capitol Building

Another iconic place to visit when in Washington, DC! However, visiting the Capitol Building takes a bit more planning. Be sure to visit the site linked to the title to do your homework and book your tour online. The lines for getting a tour without the plan were extremely long. Also, beware you'll have to dispose of your water and soda bottles before entering! They have a great cafeteria, so you could plan to visit mid-day & save some time eating here.



Photo Opportunities w/ the Capitol Building



If you're traveling with a big group, there are some really great areas to get some photos. My favorite is on the steps of the Capitol Building area with that beautiful background. Great memories to take home!

Inside the Capitol Building

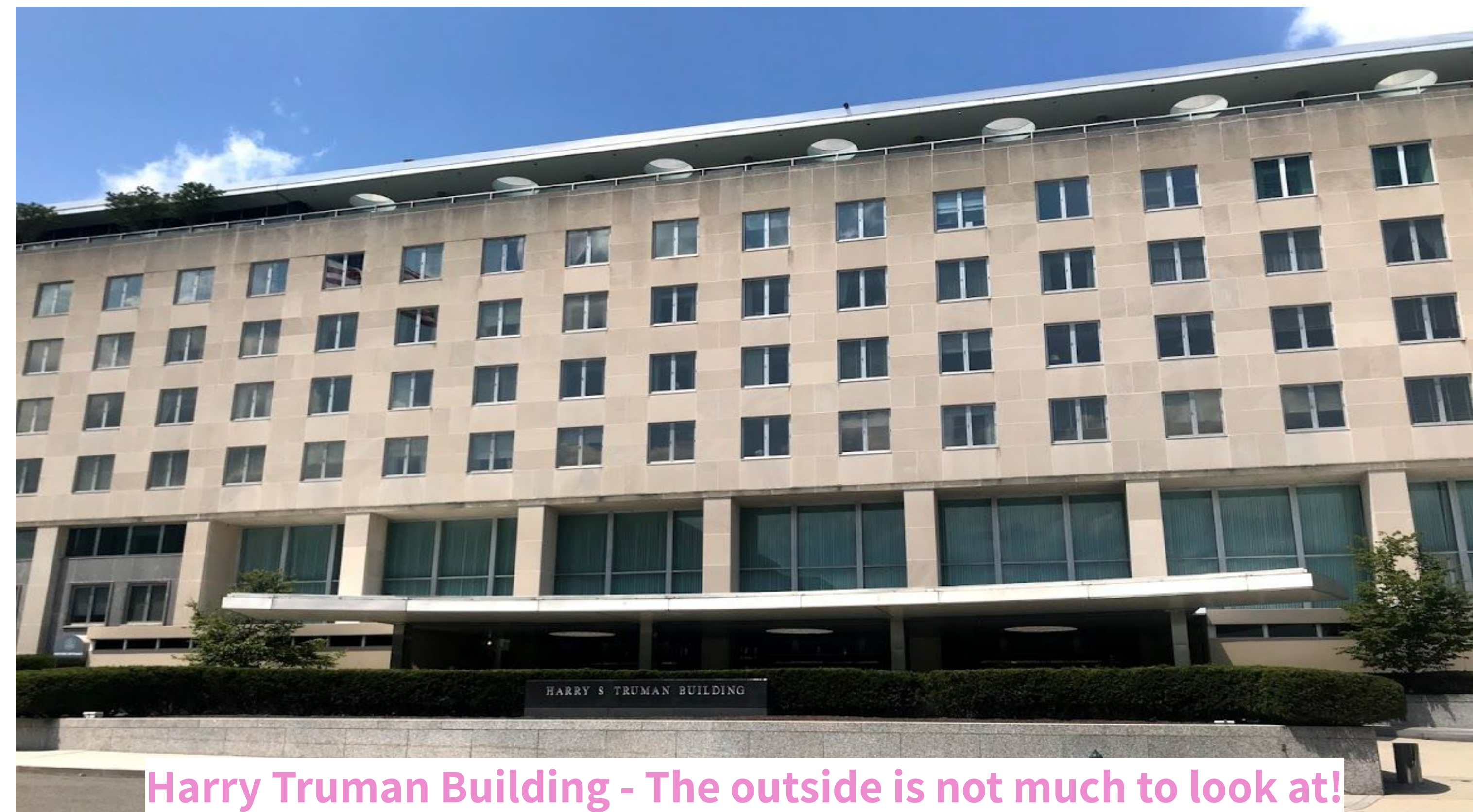


Inside the Capitol Building plaza are historical figures of importance like **Helen Keller, Sacajawea, Frederick Douglass**, and native chiefs.



Department of State

If you're going to be traveling with a large group, especially educators, I suggest getting in touch with the State Department's Outreach program. They spend a lot of time and effort collecting important artifacts that are showcased in the Diplomatic Reception Rooms. With enough time and planning, you can have the opportunity to tour these areas. I thoroughly enjoyed the tour, seeing where foreign dignitaries meet with a focus of building international connections. It's a great resource for teachers and students to think through the complexities of inviting other countries for a visit.



Harry Truman Building - The outside is not much to look at!

Department of State



Treaty of Paris creating the USA (above)
Thomas Jefferson's desk(below)

Folger Shakespeare Library

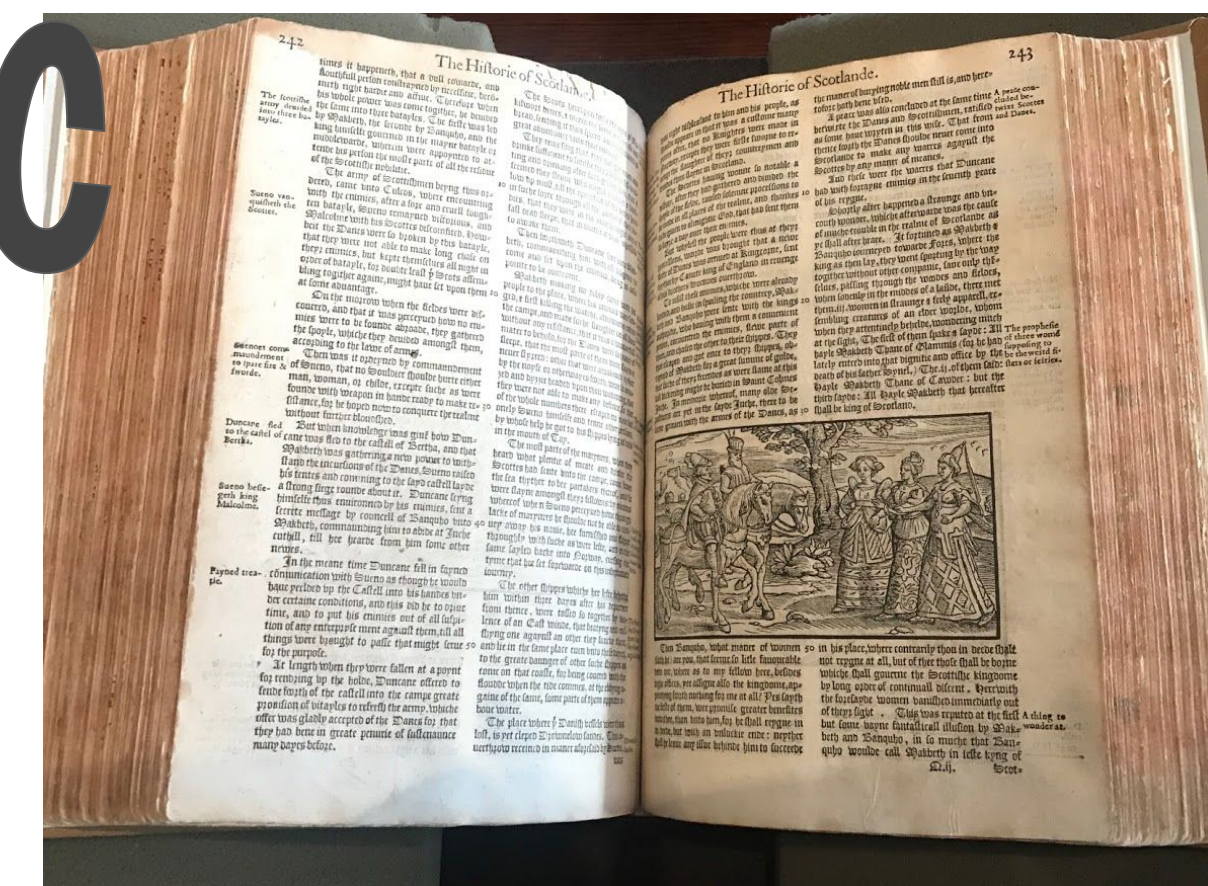
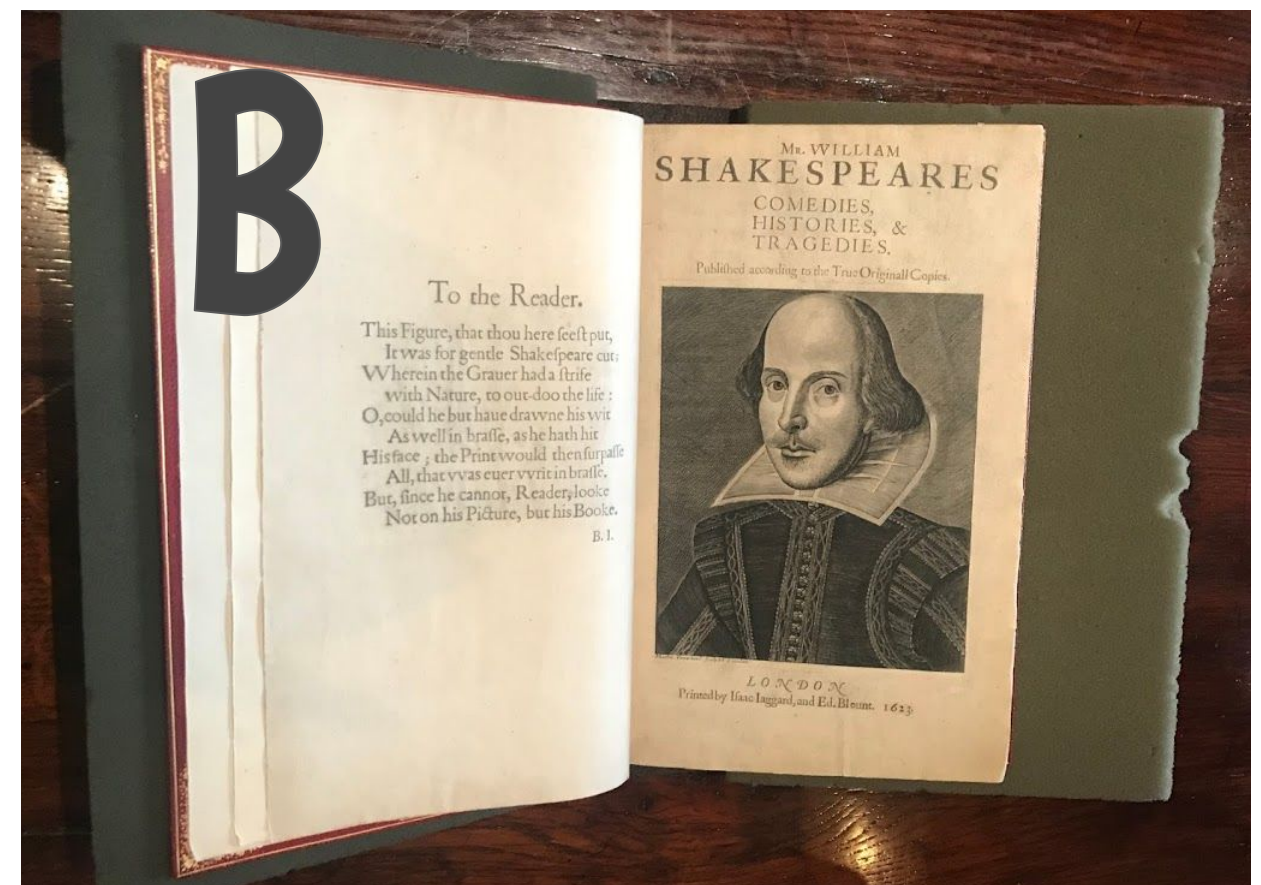
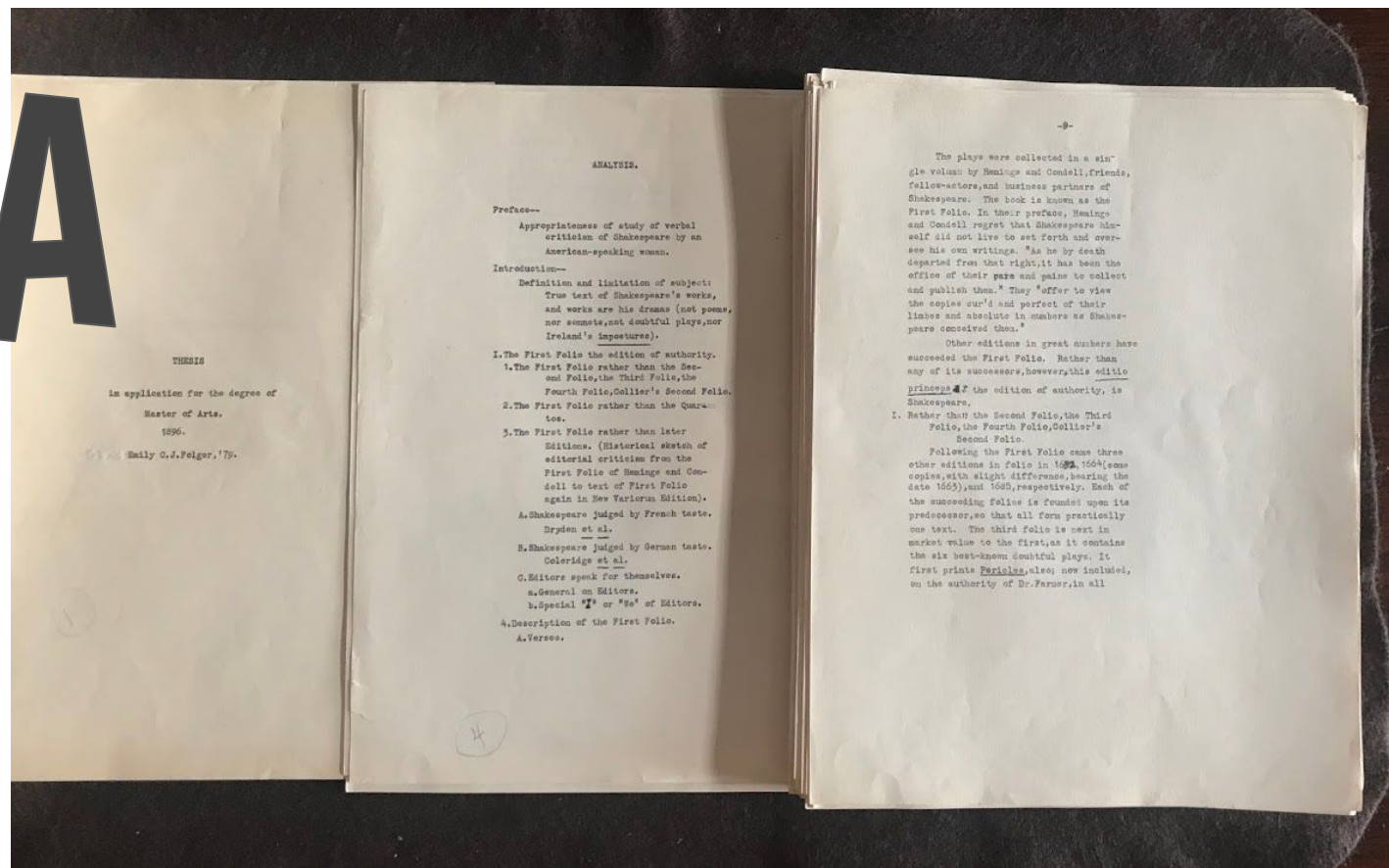
I was invited to visit the Folger Shakespeare Library as the location of a literacy advocacy group reception and dinner. We had a nice reception in The Great Hall and did an improv performance of *Hamlet* organized by the library. Then, we had a lovely dinner inside the library itself. The people at the library have an inspiring passion to bring Shakespeare to the world.



Folger Shakespeare Library's Collection

During the reception we were able to see a few exciting pieces of their private collection.

- A) Emily Folger's original draft for her masters thesis on Shakespeare.
- B) The first folio of Shakespeare's work.
- C) Book said to inspire the three witches characters in MacBeth.
- D) Advertisement for American showing of Othello with famous African American actor, Aldridge.





ENGLAND'S GENIUS FILLED ALL MEASURE
OF HEART AND SOUL OF STRENGTH AND PLEASURE
GAVE TO THE MIND ITS EMPEROR
AND LIFE WAS LARGER THAN BEFORE
NOR SEVENTY CENTURIES COULD HIT
ORBIT AND SWAY OF SHAKESPEARE'S WIT.
THE MEN WHO LIVED WITH HIM BECAME
POETS FOR THE AIR WAS FAME

RALPH WALDO EMERSON

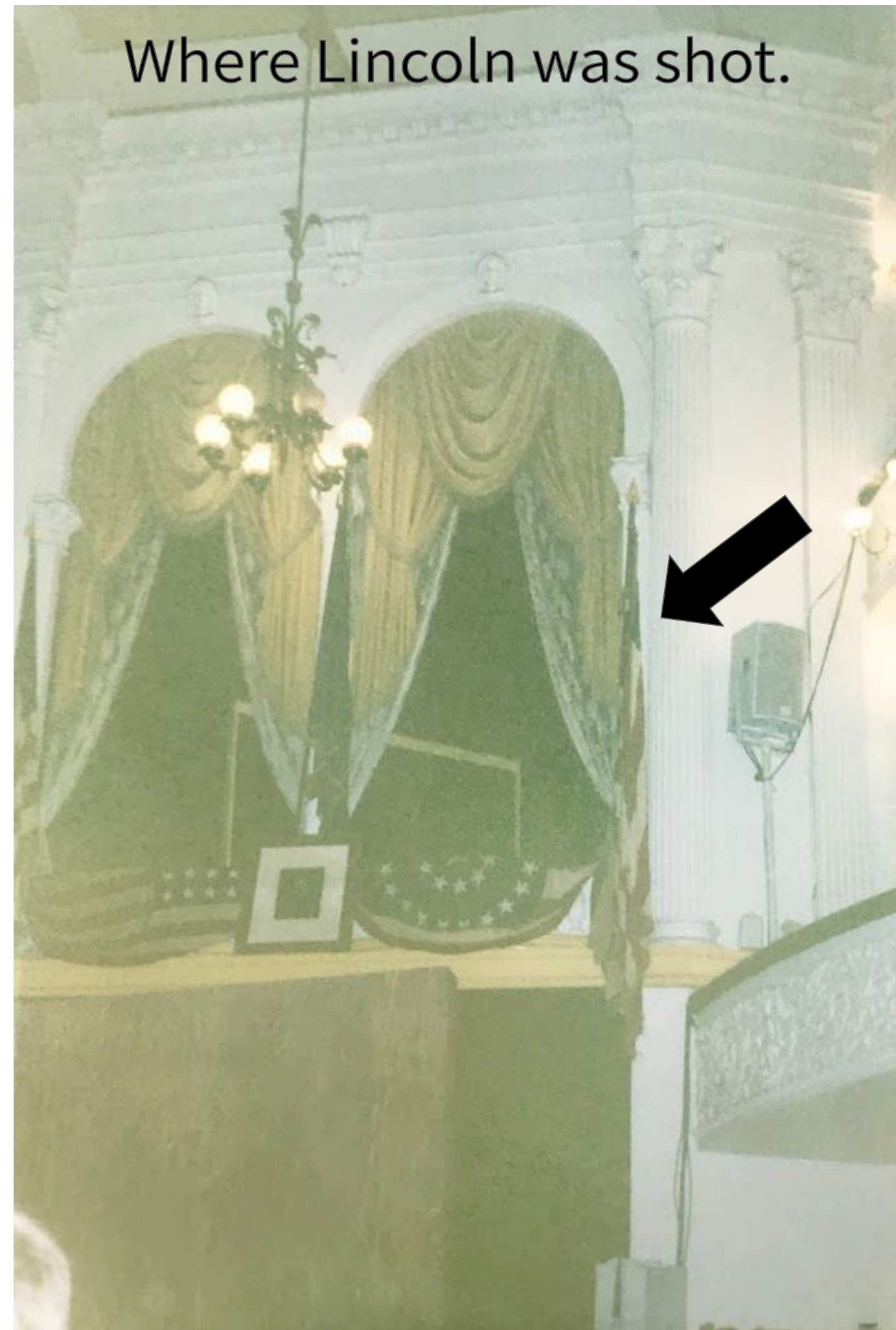
Folger SHAKESPEARE
LIBRARY

Ford's Theatre

Abraham Lincoln is arguably one of the most famous US Presidents in history. He was known for his emancipation of slavery, honesty, family tragedies, and his assassination in Ford's Theatre. Today you can go to the theatre where he was shot, though he later died in the White House. There's tons to do here; can't wait to go back for a more grown-up visit!



Note: These photos were taken in 2001 on a disposable camera by a 17-year-old me. My apologies for the unprofessional manner but I felt it necessary to document here until I can return with my newer camera and skills.



Library of Congress

I have been a voracious reader since before I learned how to read. So exploring the Library of Congress was absolutely amazing. Some of the best contributors of literary works are honored and displayed here beautifully. The free tour is not to be missed along with the various exhibits!



Library of Congress - The Great Hall

Once you walk into the building, you'll enter the Great Hall. It was quite loud in here as families and groups are all assembling and sharing their opinions. My eyes were drawn up to the amazing ceilings but I didn't truly understand how much thought went into this until I went to the ground floor and took the free docent-led tour. You learn so much about this amazing building!



Library of Congress - The Great Hall



Library of Congress - Ceiling



Library of Congress - Reading Room

The Reading Room is considered one of the world's most beautiful libraries. You can only view it from behind glass when you're visiting the Grand Hall. There's limited viewing as well so expect to wait a minute, and to be ushered past after a few minutes and pictures. You can always get back in line! If you'd like to go into the reading room, make sure you apply for a library card before your visit by going to their website. The free tour of the LOC includes lots of information including the sculptures, design, etc. so be sure to attend to better understand the thoughtfulness and importance of each piece of this beautiful creation.





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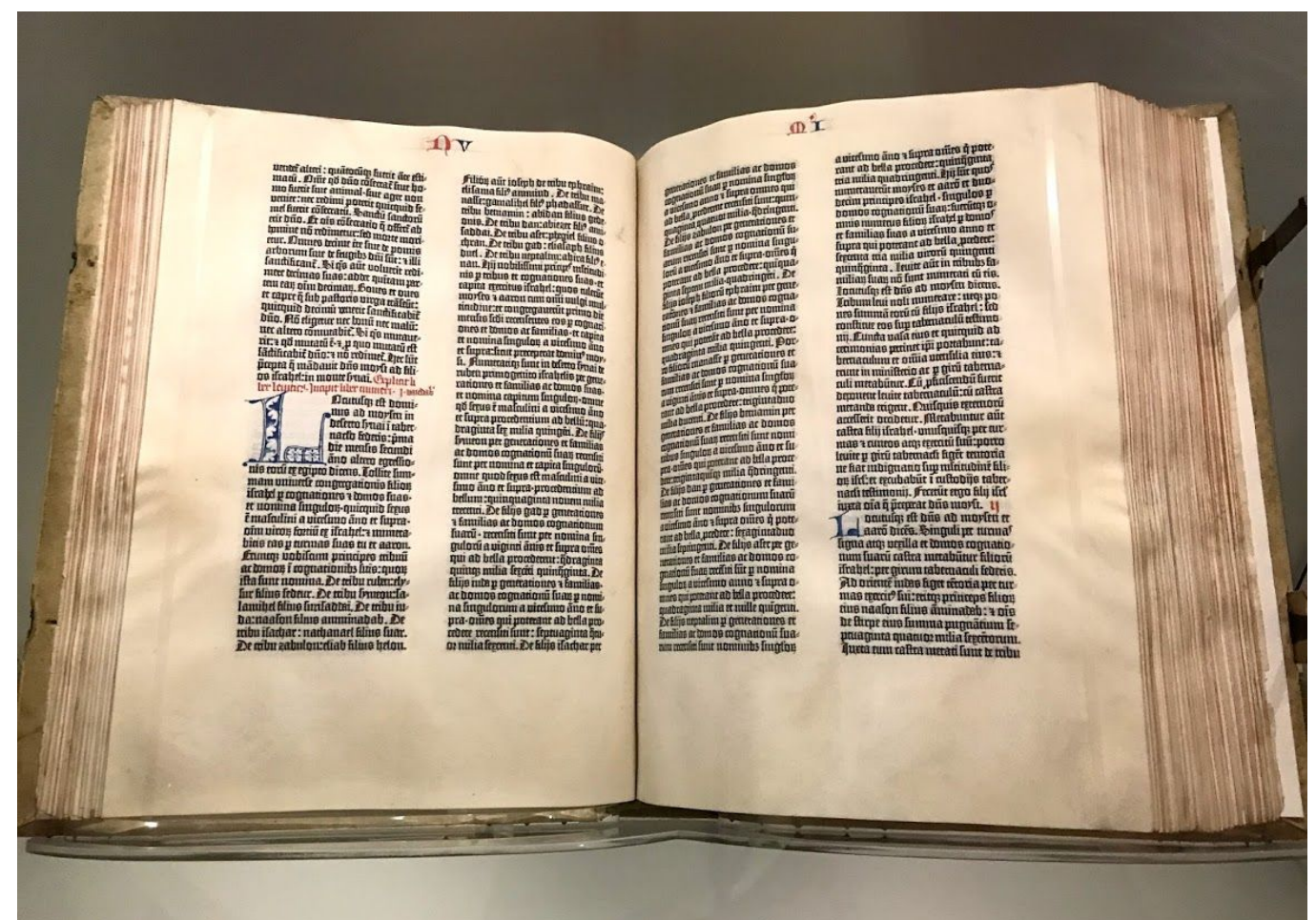


Library of Congress - Exhibits

Thomas Jefferson is well known for his extensive love of books, and a vast collection from all sorts of genres. At the Library of Congress, they have recreated his collection with some of his books, some recreations, and copies of titles they've collected elsewhere.

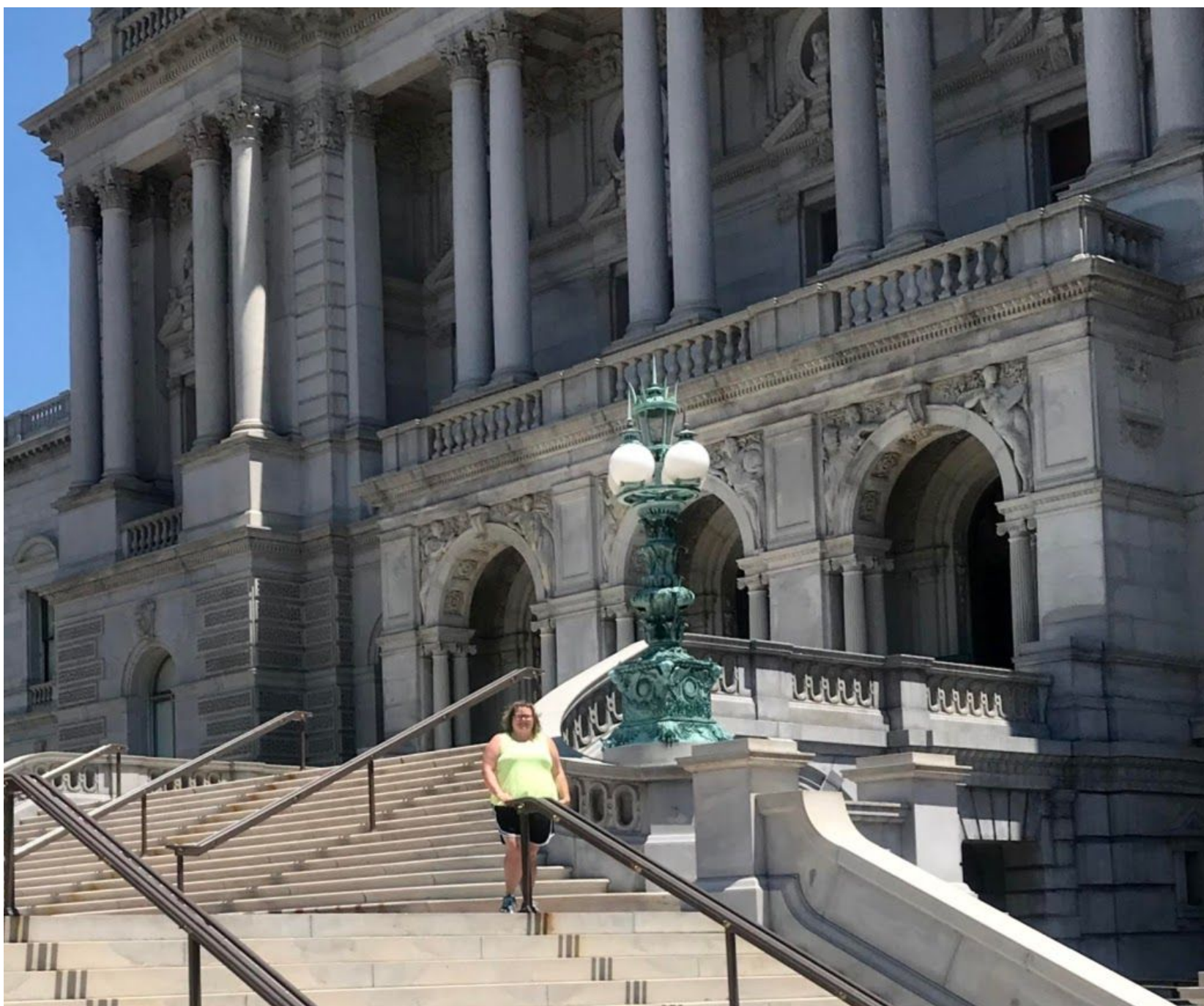


The Gutenberg Bible was made ca 1455 by printing with moveable metal types revolutionizing the way books & communication itself were made more accessible.



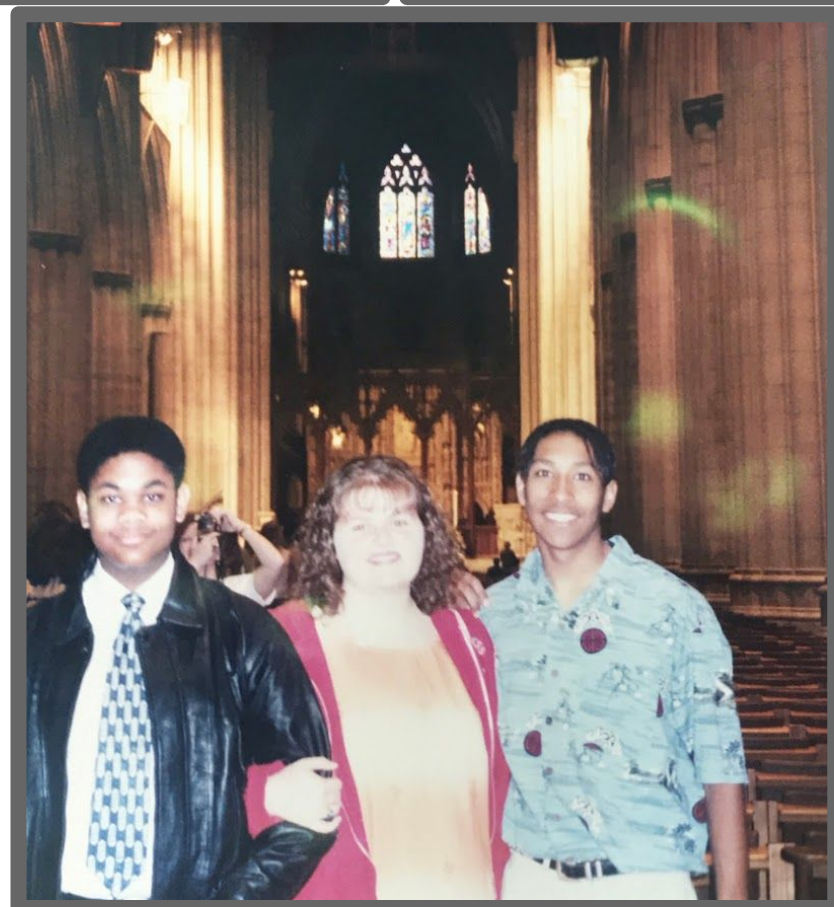
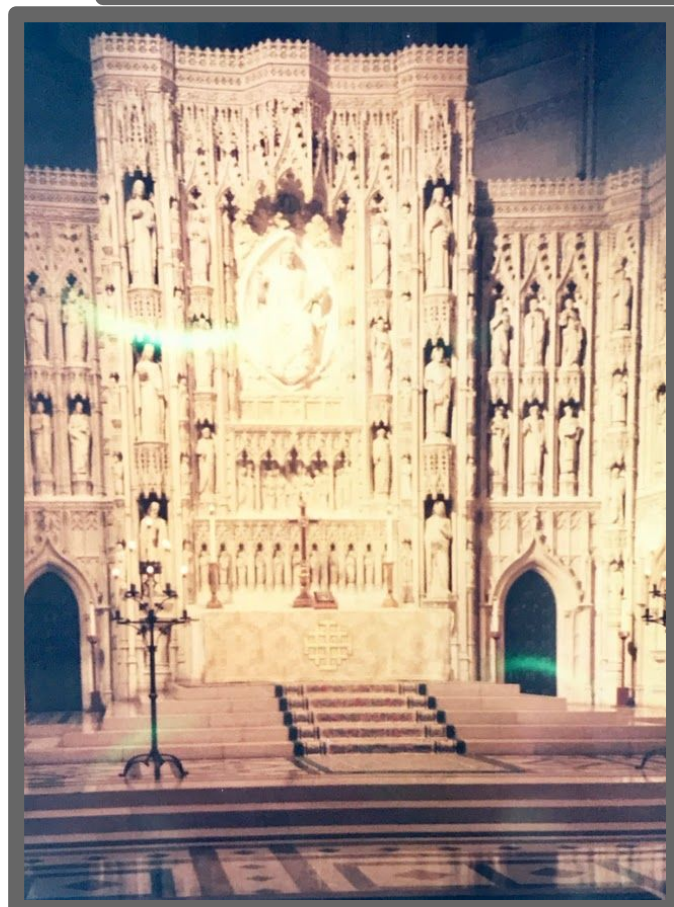
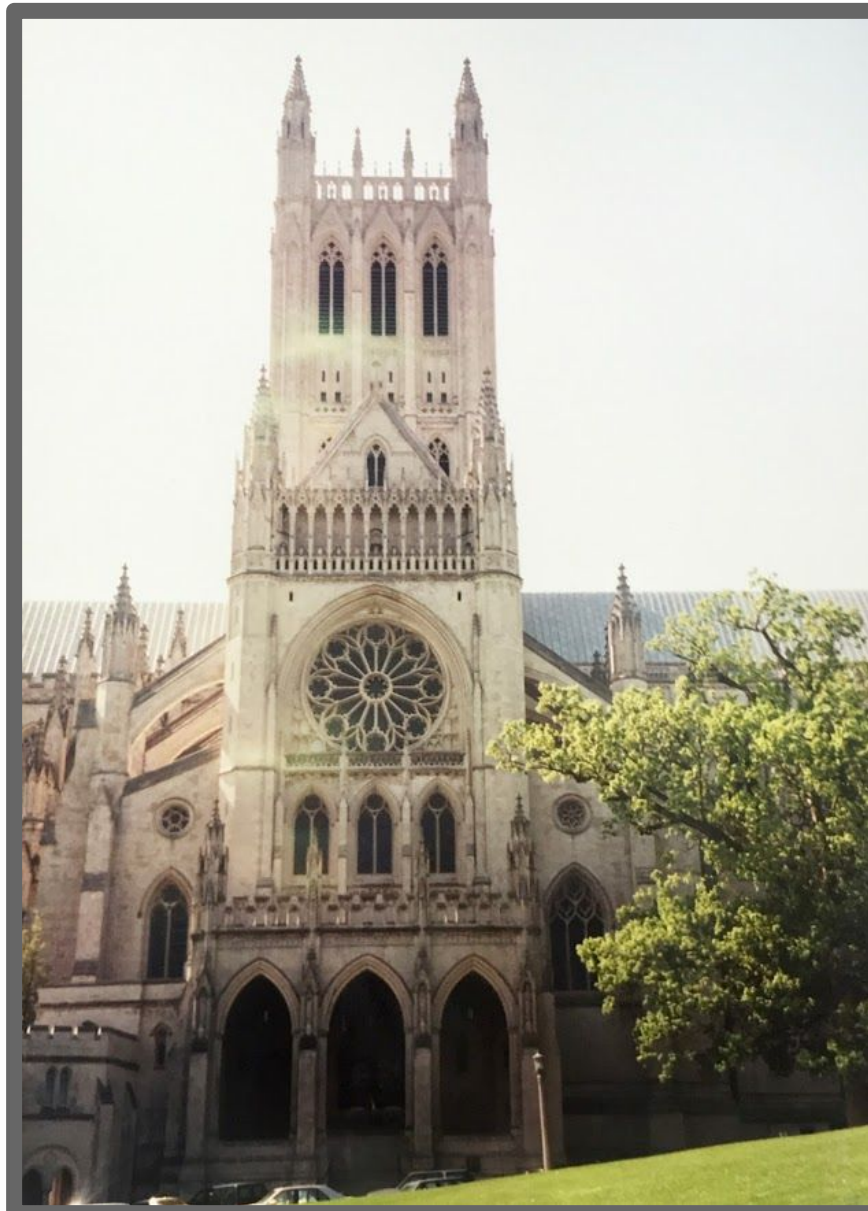
Library of Congress - Outside

Make sure to take a second and explore the outside of the Library of Congress building and King Neptune's sculpture fountains with sea nymphs. It's also a nice place to get a good group photo (or solo too, like me!).



The National Cathedral

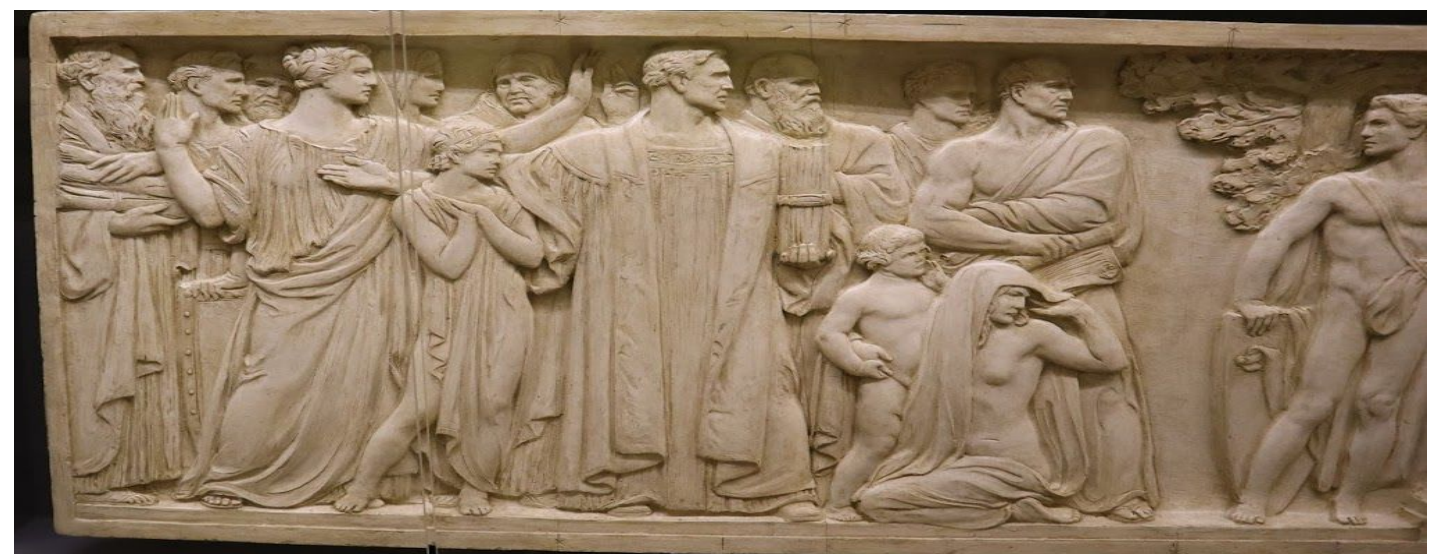
While in DC on my 1st trip in 2001, with my high school choir group, we visited the National Cathedral. It's a beautiful structure and is worth the trip to explore both the beauty inside and out. It's currently the 6th largest cathedral in the world, so comfortable shoes are a must, but also consider dressing appropriately for a place of worship. [Photos from disposable camera.]

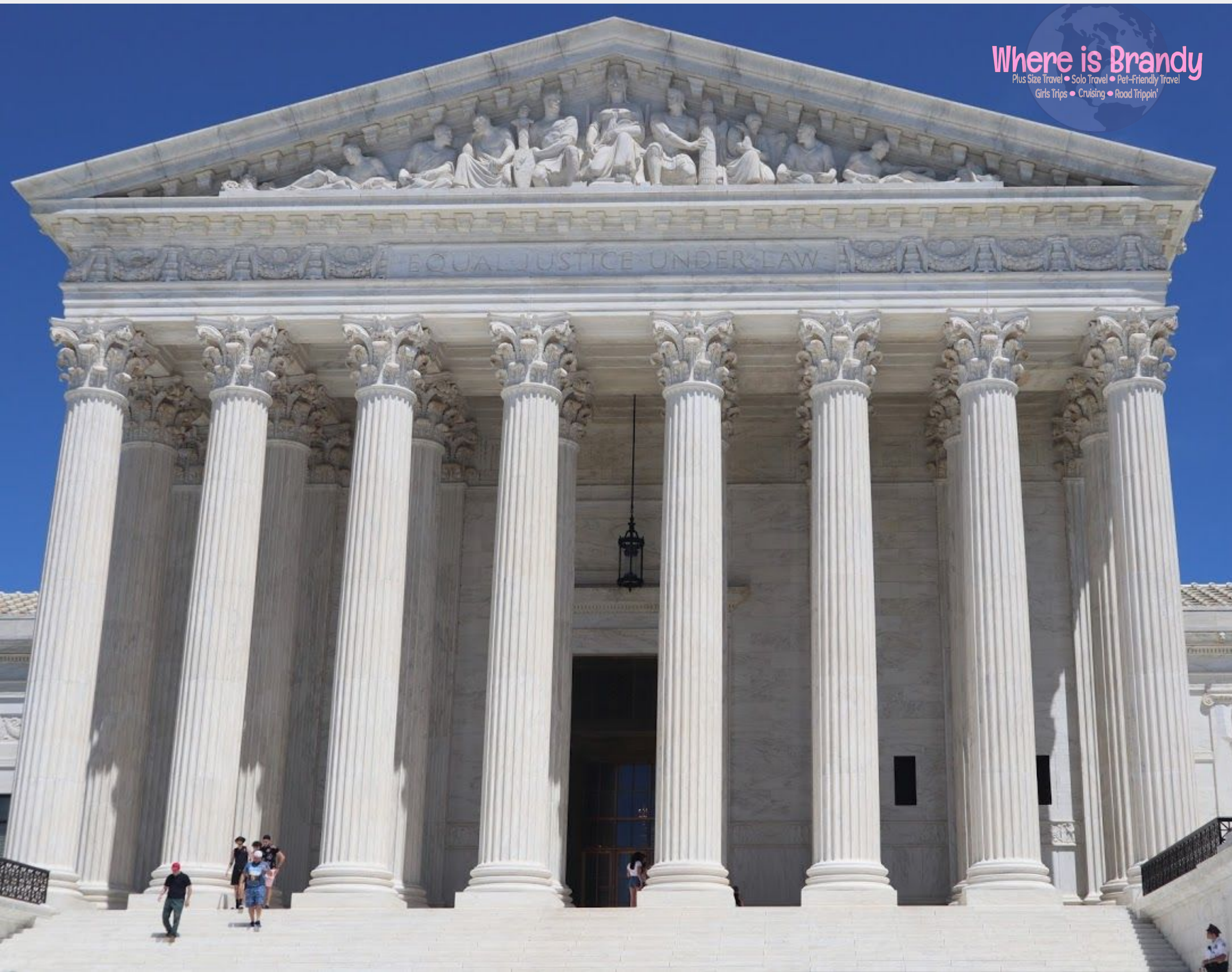


The Supreme Court

With Supreme Court justices like Ruth Bader Ginsburg making law look cool these days, it's no surprise this building gets more attention than in previous years. (Check out the gift shop to see all the modern takes on RBG.) This has to be one of the most prestigious tours I took while in DC in 2019. Be sure to take a tour led by a docent in the actual Supreme Court. It's really neat but sadly no photographs are allowed inside.

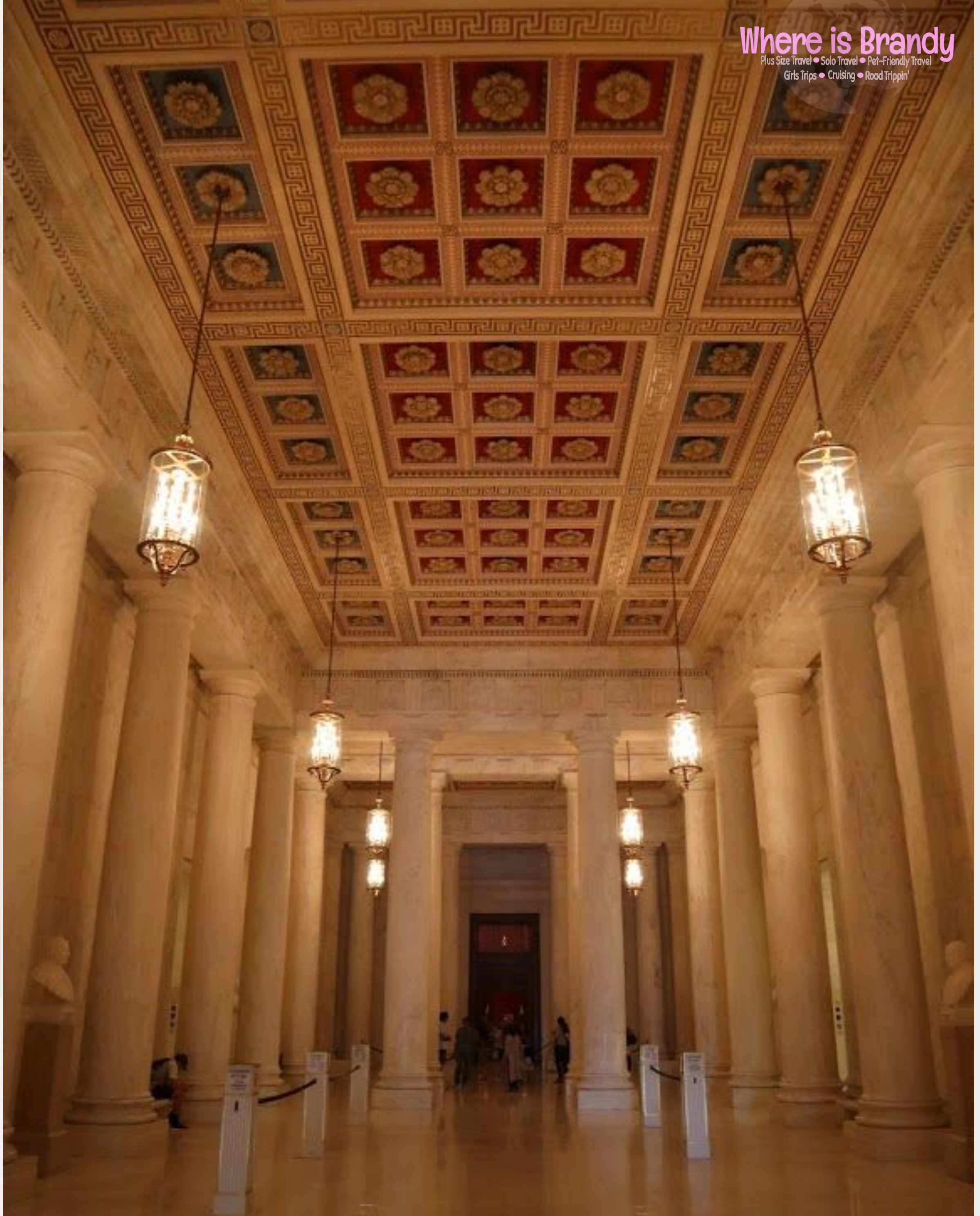






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The Supreme Court is at the end of this hallway.

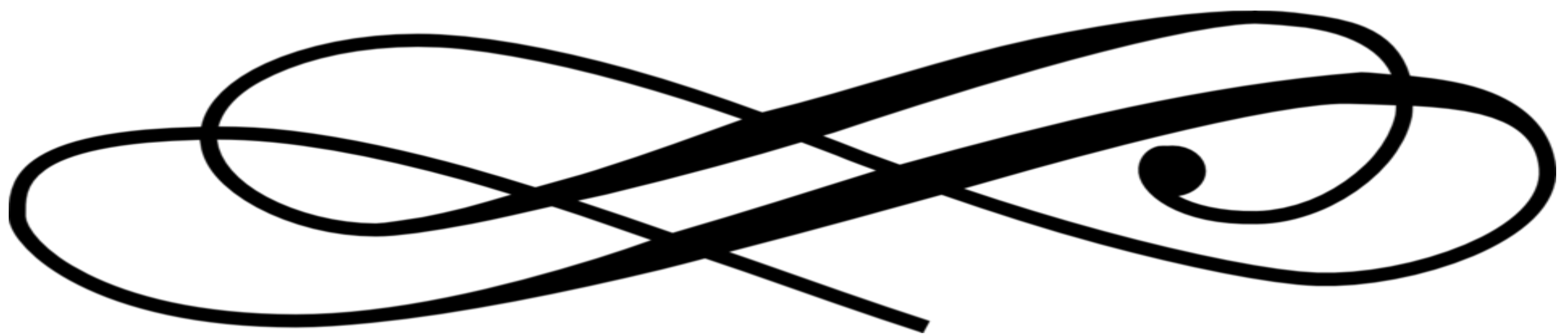
Water Taxi

A colleague suggested we take the water taxi over to Alexandria for dinner one night. For \$12, we got 1-way tickets that included about a 30-minute ride on the Potomac River. I love the water so it was fun to sit back and relax on the lower back deck and feel the wind in my hair. Alexandria has a fun harbor, as does the DC side. A great day trip! Check it out later in the guide!



RANDOM

WASHINGTON, D.C.



In a city like DC, with history on every corner, there are tons of interesting things you'll see. Here's a collection of some of the random beauties I've captured on my camera during my latest trips.

51 Louisiana Avenue - Acacia Building, 1935



While walking from my hotel to the Capitol Building, I came upon these griffins, or winged lions, at this large, white building. They were so well maintained, I had to snap a photo. I've since learned it's the closest privately-owned building to the Capitol.



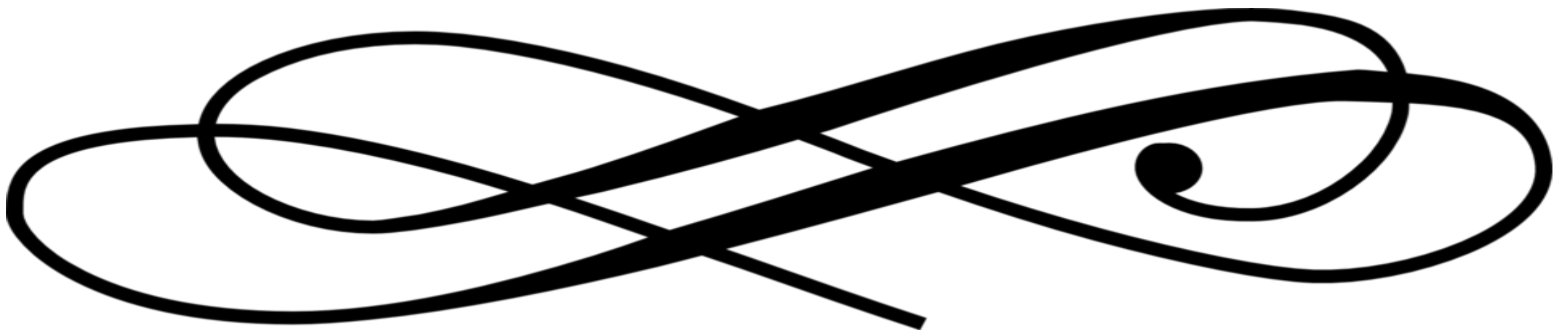
Federal Home Loan Bank Board Building



The Federal Home Loan Bank Board Building was also on my walk from the hotel to the Capitol Building. I loved the design! In fact, it's on the US National Register of Historic Places. It was built in 1869 but was acquired by the US government in 1934, giving it the current name in 1937, as the New Deal established the board that supported home ownership.

FOOD OF

WASHINGTON, D.C.



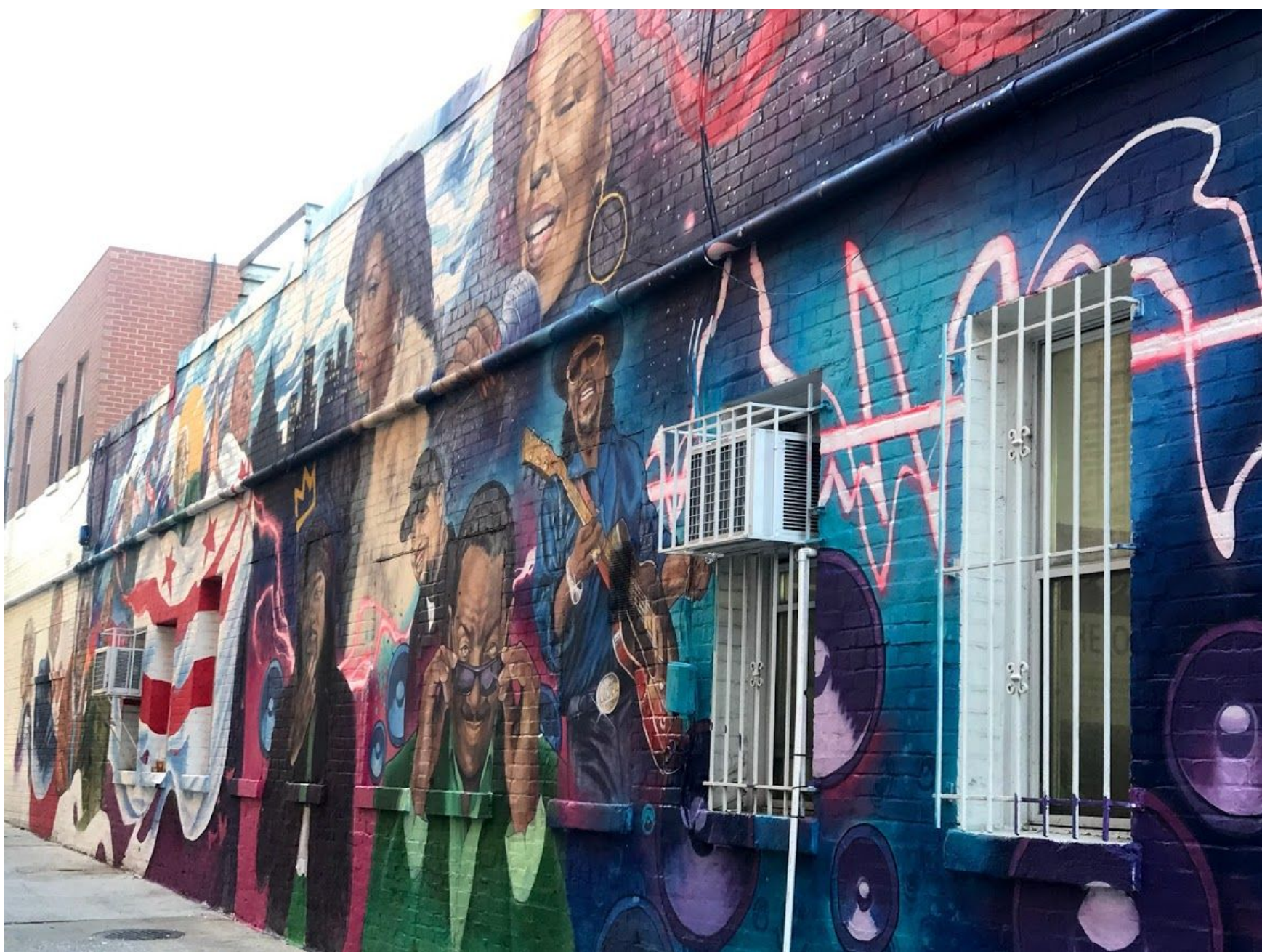
Ben's Chili Bowl



Ben's Chili Bowl is an icon in itself. The history mirrors DC, the Civil Rights Movement and is a staple with its chili and hot dogs. Both times I've visited were ridiculously busy. There's not much parking, so rideshare might be easiest. Be prepared to stand in line (30 minutes for us) and bring cash to make things easier for you. While waiting, though, take in all of the community that exists here and the history it encompasses. If you're with another traveler, take turns getting good pictures of the mural outside the building, a tribute to accomplished African Americans. **Tip:** Try the cheese fries!



Ben's Chili Bowl Mural



Tortilla Cafe



One of Guy Fieri's recommendations on Driners, Drive-Ins, and Drives years ago was Tortilla Cafe. It was my first stop after dropping my luggage at the hotel. The pupusa was GREAT as was the tamale. Great prices too! The service was top notch and the atmosphere was really cute. A great stop for lunch.



Gadsby's Tavern

*To get to Alexandria from DC, consider taking an afternoon or sunset water taxi, or grab an Uber!



This historical restaurant in the middle of old town Alexandria is famed to be a stop for George Washington and other notable politicians. The dark atmosphere and staff in period clothing creates a fun night where you feel transported back in time, without compromising on taste.





I enjoyed the food both times I dined here, years apart. I really like their salmon and the crab cakes were great. They also allowed substitutions for the sides which I appreciated. The wine list was nice, too. Overall a unique, fun experience.

When you sit down at your table, you will notice the details in the place settings that add an additional layer to the ambiance. The candlelit tables in the evenings really make you feel like George Washington could walk right around the corner.

I've been here twice now and both times the service timing was lacking, but the friendliness was lovely.

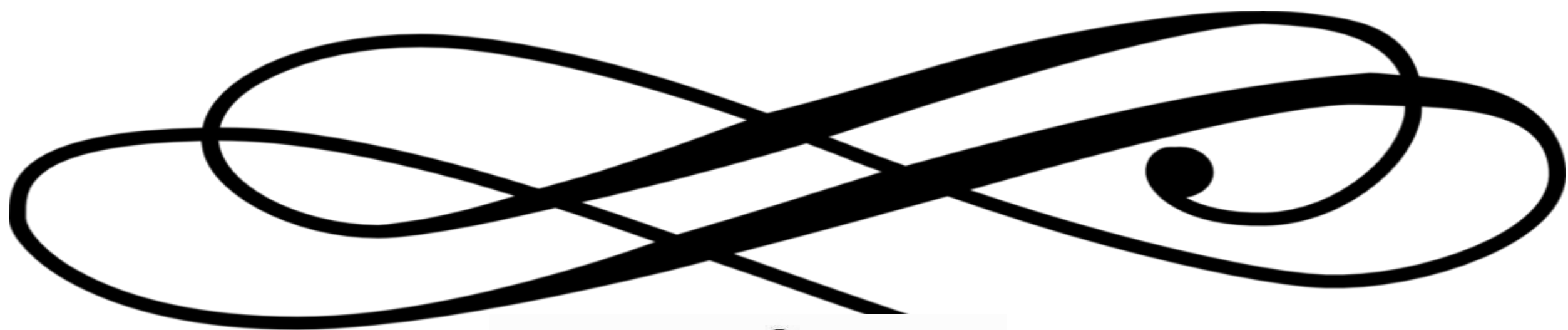


If road trippin' there's lots of street parking available.

WASHINGTON, D.C.

FOR

BOOK LOVERS



Folger Shakespeare Library

I was invited to visit the Folger Shakespeare Library as the location of a literacy advocacy group reception and dinner. We had a nice reception in The Great Hall and did an improv performance of *Hamlet* organized by the library. Then, we had a lovely dinner inside the library itself. The people at the library have an inspiring passion to bring Shakespeare to the world.





ENGLAND'S GENIUS FILLED ALL MEASURE
OF HEART AND SOUL OF STRENGTH AND PLEASURE
GAVE TO THE MIND ITS EMPEROR,
AND LIFE WAS LARGER THAN BEFORE.
NOR SEVENTY CENTURIES COULD HIT
ORBIT AND SYM OF SHAKESPEARE'S WIT.
THE MEN WHO LIVED WITH HIM BECAME
POETS FOR THE AIR, WAS FAME

RALPH WALDO EMERSON

Folger SHAKESPEARE
LIBRARY

Library of Congress

I have been a voracious reader since before I learned how to read. So exploring the Library of Congress was absolutely amazing. Some of the best contributors of literary works are honored and displayed here beautifully. The free tour is not to be missed along with the various exhibits!



Library of Congress - The Great Hall

Once you walk into the building, you'll enter the Great Hall. It was quite loud in here as families and groups are all assembling and sharing their opinions. My eyes were drawn up to the amazing ceilings but I didn't truly understand how much thought went into this until I went to the ground floor and took the free docent-led tour. You learn so much about this amazing building!



Library of Congress - The Great Hall



Library of Congress - Ceiling



Library of Congress - Reading Room

The Reading Room is considered one of the world's most beautiful libraries. You can only view it from behind glass when you're visiting the Grand Hall. There's limited viewing as well so expect to wait a minute, and to be ushered past after a few minutes and pictures. You can always get back in line! If you'd like to go into the reading room, make sure you apply for a library card before your visit by going to their website. The free tour of the LOC includes lots of information including the sculptures, design, etc. so be sure to attend to better understand the thoughtfulness and importance of each piece of this beautiful creation.





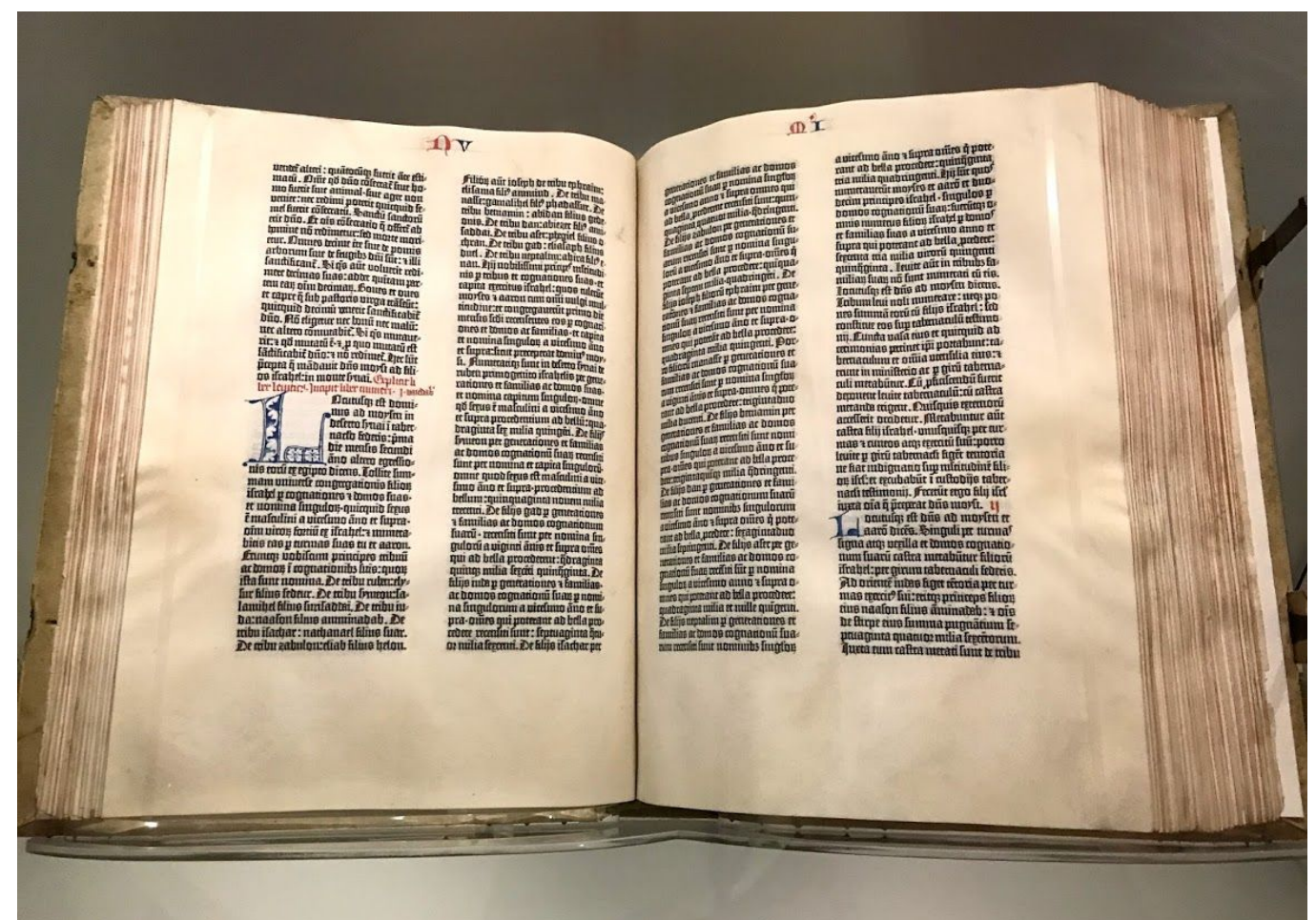


Library of Congress - Exhibits

Thomas Jefferson is well known for his extensive love of books, and a vast collection from all sorts of genres. At the Library of Congress, they have recreated his collection with some of his books, some recreations, and copies of titles they've collected elsewhere.

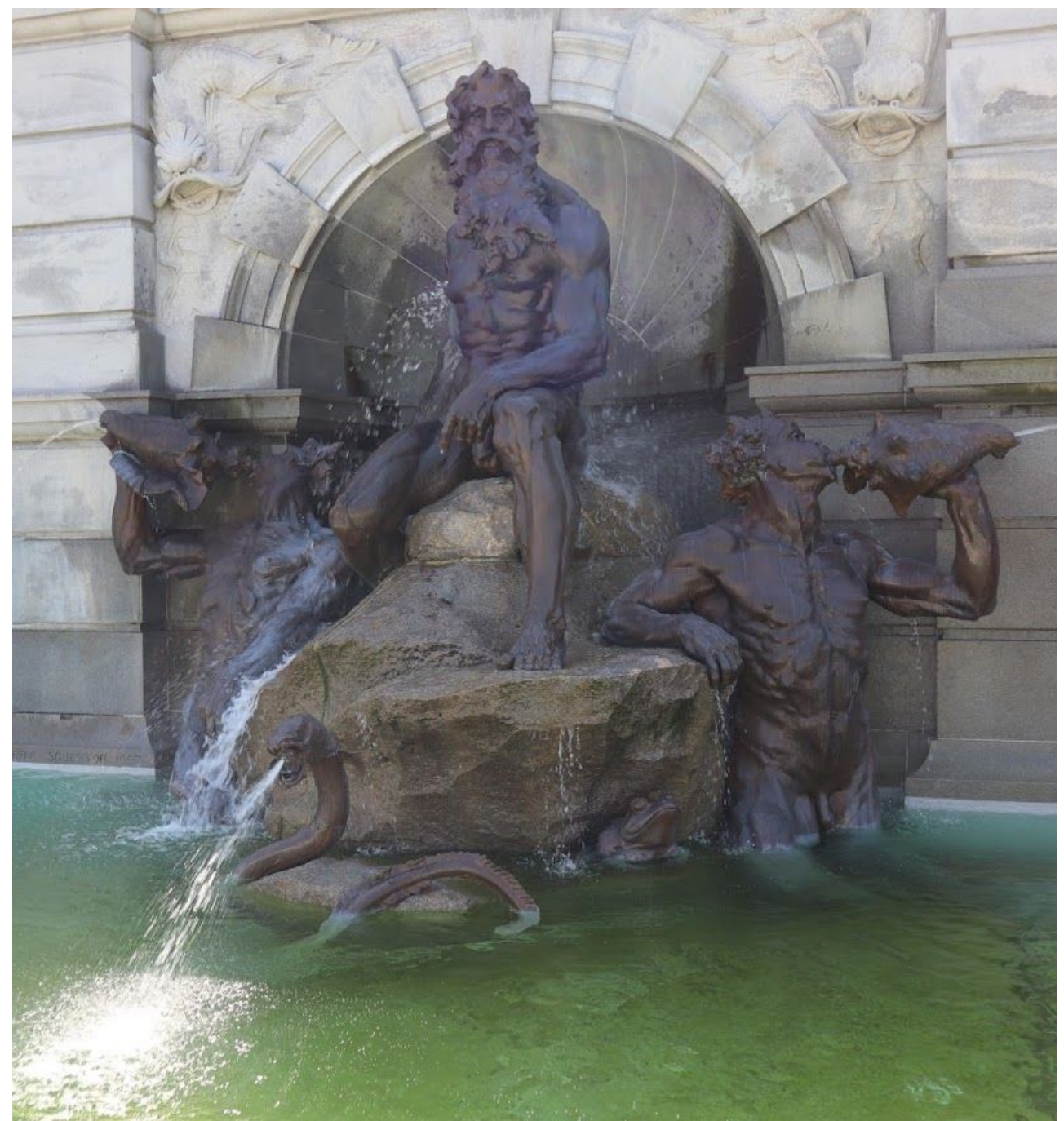
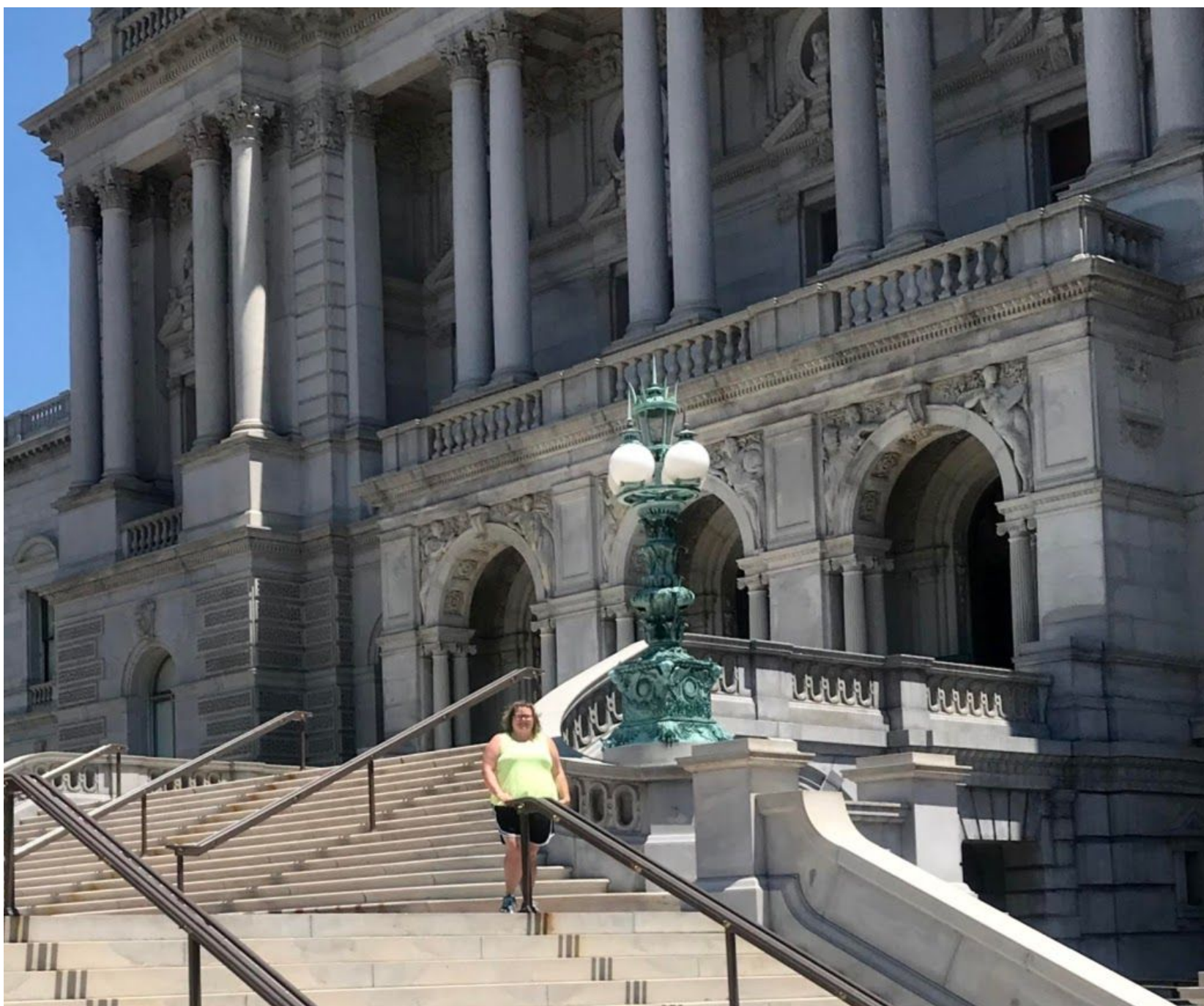


The Gutenberg Bible was made ca 1455 by printing with moveable metal types revolutionizing the way books & communication itself were made more accessible.



Library of Congress - Outside

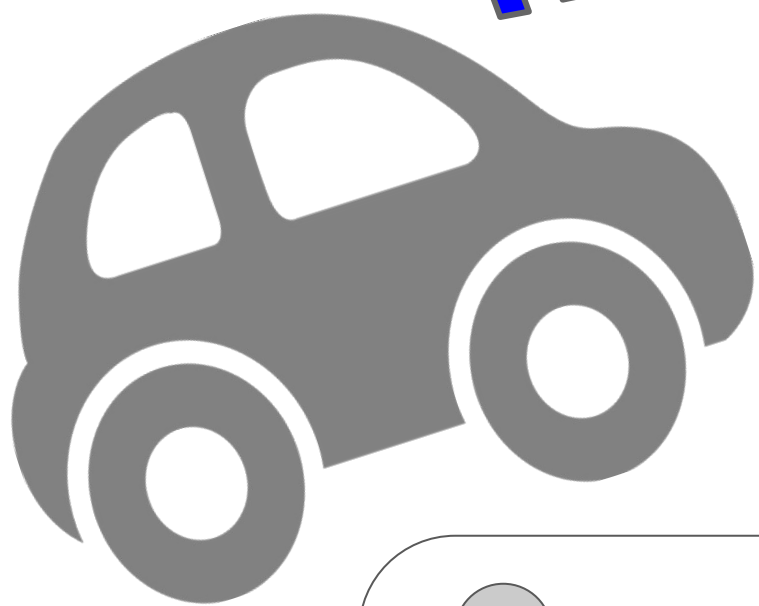
Make sure to take a second and explore the outside of the Library of Congress building and King Neptune's sculpture fountains with sea nymphs. It's also a nice place to get a good group photo (or solo too, like me!).



DAY TRIPS

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About the Author

Brandy Alexander is an educator in the Houston area. Her passions include reading, training teachers across the country, going to dog parks with her rescue pup Ellie, and exploring this beautiful world.

Where is Brandy began as a blog in 2009 when Brandy traveled across the country to New England, from Texas, on her own adventure. Her posts were merely to prove to her family that she was still alive. Now, she loves chronicling her journeys to help others maximize their own experiences when traveling, regardless of their circumstances!





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Thanks for reading!

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