



**By Carolyn Lee**

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“The journey of 1,000 miles” takes but a single step to begin.

That was the motto for eight Chase County Schools high school students who recently completed a trip to Washington, D.C. and Valley Forge, Pa.

The trip was sponsored by the Chase County Chapter of Freedoms Foundation at Valley Forge (FFVF). Between April 22-28 the students toured many historical sites in Washington, D.C. and spent several days learning about U.S. history and patriotism at the FFVF national campus at Valley Forge.

The students presented a program Tuesday night at Lied Imperial Public Library for the public. Justin German said visiting D.C. made him appreciate growing up in Imperial.

“No one made eye contact. It was an unfriendly atmosphere there. We have a growing, nurturing community here,” he said.

Suzy Kasselmann noted that there isn’t a lot of diversity in a small town, so meeting students from all over the country at FFVF was interesting.

Anna Bauerle agreed, noting that although the youth were all from different places, they had many similarities.

She also enjoyed the Library of Congress in D.C., as it houses so many books, as well as George Gershwin’s piano.

Sam Haarberg said he learned more about the political process and how politicians listen to their constituents.

Brian Bell said his favorite part of the trip was Arlington National Cemetery. “It was a weird feeling. You were amazed and saddened at the same time. I have an appreciation for all the fallen soldiers,” he said.

Other students participating were Mason Holmes, Michael May and Bridget Langin. Sponsors were Mark and Renae Bottom.