

## SCHOOL LIFE



Nineteen Golden Gate High School senior JROTC cadets traveled to Washington, D.C., as part of the school's second annual We Love Our Country Citizenship Visit. They spent several days touring landmarks in the nation's capital. **Golden Gate High School (2)**

### GOLDEN GATE HIGH SCHOOL JROTC STUDENTS'

# TRIP WITH PURPOSE

By Katherine Albers  
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**G**olden Gate High School senior Jonathan Artaud, 18, made his first trip out of Florida on Spring Break.

The highlight of his trip was a cemetery — Arlington National Cemetery, to be exact.

“You see what we’re all about,” he said of the time spent walking among the white tombstones and visiting the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. “You see the soldiers, the fallen comrades, the people who gave their lives for us.”

Nineteen Golden Gate High School senior JROTC cadets didn’t spend their spring break at the beach. They didn’t go skiing or travel to Europe. Instead, the students went to Washington, D.C., as part of the school’s second annual We Love Our Country Citizenship Visit. There, they spent several days touring landmarks in the nation’s capital.



Rebecca Dolce, who is attending the U.S. Naval Academy next year, looks at Vietnam Veterans Memorial.

JROTC instructor Lt. Col. Paul Garrah said he hopes the trip prepares the students for the “rights, responsibilities and privileges of being American citizens.”

“For me, it is like being a parent, watching their child open a Christmas gift,” he said. “But it is more than that. When I see them leave the Vietnam Veterans Memorial with tears in their eyes, I know they get it.”

Jonathan Wimberly, the JROTC battalion commander, said the trip was definitely humbling.

“You realize what the costs can be,” he said. “People paid the ultimate sacrifice.”

But, Jonathan admits, the trip wasn’t always serious.

“We got to go places and see a lot of things that most people don’t get the opportunity to see,” he said. “We had the opportunity to walk on

the Senate and House floors. No one from the public gets to do that.”

The trip had an educational component, as well. The students who went on the trip each had to give a presentation about one of the places the students visited.

Dan Lee Olivera, 18, did his presentation on the Korean War Veterans Memorial.

“I didn’t know anything about it,” he said. “Now I know why (the war) happened.”

Alexandra Morris, 17, said it was her first time to Washington, D.C.

“I don’t travel much, so it was cool for me,” she said. “You read books and you hear stories about these places, but to see them up close — it’s definitely better than books.”

Garrah said many of the students who went on the trip are first generation Americans or have immigrated to the United States as children.

“They don’t take this for granted,” he said.

Rebecca Dolce, who will be living near Washington, D.C.,

**Trip »Page 3B**

## CONTACTUS

■ Other school news can be found inside today. ■ Suggestions? Julio Ochoa, 263-4738 or schoolpage@naplesnews.com

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## Coffee & Community

On Tuesday, beginning at 6 p.m., attend the Daily News’ monthly Coffee & Community meeting. The gathering aims to introduce readers and non-readers to ways they can connect, interact and engage with the Naples Daily News and **naplesnews.com**. The event will be held at the Starbucks on Central Avenue at U.S. 41.

## Top hits

### Most-viewed news items

- 1 Letters to the editor:** Friday
- 2 It’s a party atmosphere:** Protesters celebrate tea party anniversary
- 3 Obama extends health-care rights to gay partners**
- 4 Brent Batten:** Naples tea party infiltrator-free
- 5 Crist vetoes** Florida teacher pay-tenure bill

### Most e-mailed stories

- 1 Rare photo shows** mother Florida panther and two kittens
- 2 Money talks:** AC/DC bassist buys Al Hoffman’s mansion
- 3 Down-low on dropouts:** 4 Collier schools among lowest performing in nation
- 4 Woman wins \$1.1M** on penny slots at Seminole Casino Immokalee
- 5 Southwest Florida Realtors** optimistic about new rules for short sales

### Most commented items

- 1 Letters to the editor:** Wednesday (246 comments)
- 2 Letters to the editor:** Thursday (210)
- 3 Letters to the editor:** Friday (139)
- 4 Tea for who?** A year into tea party movement, meet some who helped brew its success (132)
- 5 It’s a party atmosphere:** Protesters celebrate tea party anniversary (108)

## You said it

Here are some comments made on the story headlined **Tell us what you think: Which is the worst intersection?**

Pine Ridge and Airport hands down. That intersection has become a total cluster. I know I will go out of my way to avoid that area any chance I get. I use Golden Gate Pkwy to travel in and out of town as much as possible. Not only is there too much traffic traveling through there but the county allowed way too much intense commercial development in that vicinity. That corner is a prime example of VERY POOR urban planning.

— **Posted by swfl ff** at 10:13 a.m. on Friday

Immokalee & 75 is horrible! Always so much traffic & it has been under construction for the whole twelve years I have been living off Immokalee (& Airport). I would rather drive south on Livingston to Vanderbilt, then north on Oaks to get to Super Target. Yes, its that bad.

— **Posted by FL Lover** at 10:54 a.m. on Friday

Now that our Collier Government has covered the intersection with red light cameras — Pine Ridge and Airport is clearly the worst. At night it becomes a disco with strobes flashing.

— **Posted by CollierGovtWatcher** at 1:04 p.m. on Friday

RADIO AND SANTA BARBARA theres been lots of accidents and deaths on that road recently! but after that it would DEF be AIRPORT AND PINE RIDGE! Thats a mess there tooo small and too much traffic!!

— **Posted by Theoneandonlycb** at 1:20 p.m. on Friday

All the intersections between December and May gets my vote.

— **Posted by adunafraid** at 4:24 p.m. on Friday

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## Today's top videos, photo galleries



**Energy Star appliance deals**  
**VIDEO/PHOTOS:** Local stores opened to early bird shoppers Friday for the start of Florida’s Energy Star Appliance Rebate Program, which gives consumers 20 percent rebates.



**Sauce Lady spices it up**  
**PHOTOS:** The Sauce Lady, Ela Vivonetto, recreates old Italian recipes for everyone to enjoy at the family dinner table. Her homemade sauces are available at area farmer’s markets.



**Estero wins Softball Classic**  
**VIDEO:** It was a good opening day to the 14th annual Longshore Memorial Softball Classic for Estero, who beat Barron Collier, as well as Naples and Gulf Coast, who also had wins.