



THANK YOU LAFAYETTE SOCIETY!

It is the mission of The Black History Club to serve as historians in training. To engage, inform and share knowledge with our fellow students and local citizens about the substance and importance of black history, identity and empowerment. In March students of The Black History Club at Fayetteville State University had the opportunity to travel to Washington D.C.. During our visit we toured Mt. Vernon, the Martin Luther King Memorial, The National Museum of African American History and Culture, and of course Lafayette Park!

Our first tour was of Mt. Vernon, the immaculate home and equally sizable Plantation of Martha and former president and American Revolutionary War Commander in Chief George Washington. While there, we were able to navigate the perspectives of the residents and slaves who lived and worked the Plantation. We experienced their lives through reenactments of their stories and crowded the same quarters in which our ancestors were held. We memorialized their unmarked graves as well as the tombs of both Martha and George Washington.

Like true time traveling historians we made a symbolic pilgrimage from George Washington's Plantation, to the Memorial of the great Civil Rights leader and Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. On our way there we were captivated by the memorial honoring the near 40,000 Black soldiers that fought in the Civil War.

Slavery. Revolution. Civil Rights.

"I've stood by the remains of one of Nations Founding Fathers. I've witnessed the momentum of one of the greatest Civil Rights Leaders. What were once just stories in a book, have now become engraved recollections and reminders of why I chose History as my major."

-Jadaea Mills

From top to bottom:

- 1. Slave quarters at George Washington's Mt.Vernon Plantation home.*
- 2. Student, Jadaea Mills and Advisor Dr. Robert Taber memorializing the tombs of George and Martha Washington.*
- 3. Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial*



Our third day in The Nation's Capital was an immersive experience as we walked through the The National Museum of African American History and Culture. Most of us spent the entirety of the day discovering little known and forgotten histories from the pits of slavery to Reconstruction, through the Modern Civil Rights and Black Power movements to the Election of our first African American president Barak Obama and everything in between. We were exposed to hundreds of Black musicians artists, performers, and authors. For many of the students it was their first time, but even those who had visited the museum before found new wonders to trace the patterns of our history.

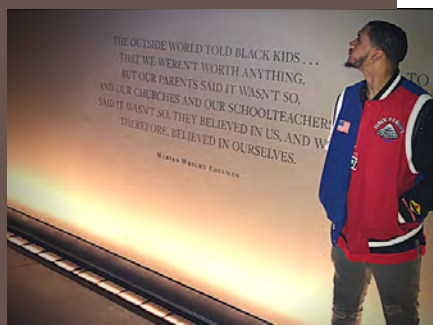


From Left to Right: Students Albert Nyamayaro, Bre'Anna Washington, Valencia Wagner, Maya Glaspie, Douglas Ballard & Malik Ford pictured at the National Museum of African American History and Culture. (NMAAHC)

Before our departure we made one more stop at Lafayette Square. There we were able to reflect on our purpose: *...to motivate members, students and local youth to study past and present Black leaders known and unknown, and understand the lasting impact of their presence in the world.*

This trip truly allowed us to open our eyes to the history that is hidden all around us, to reconnect with our past in such an impactful way and further our mission so that we may move in power and purpose! It is our goal to remain engaged pupils of history and just, active members of society. WE send our sincerest appreciation to Lafayette Society for your role in helping us achieve that goal and we look forward to working with you in the near future!

"When I first heard about this trip, it immediately caught my attention, because I wanted to travel. I'm now involved with the club more than ever before. This club has not only allowed me to get involved on campus, but it has pushed me towards the higher learning that I should be experiencing as a rising junior in college."
- Albert Nyamayaro



From Left to Right, Down:

1. Students, Albert Nyamayaro, Valencia Wagner, Maya Glaspie, Bre'Anna Washington & Malik Ford pictured at Lafayette Square.

2. Student, Malik Ford pictured in (NMAAHC) with quote:

"The outside world told black kids when I was growing up that we weren't worth anything. But our parents said it wasn't so, and our churches and our schoolteachers said it wasn't so. They believed in us, and we, therefore, believed in ourselves." - Marian Wright Edelman

3. Students, Jadaea Mills and Bria Battle strike a powerful Pose in front of The Contemplation Court in the NMAAHC.