

13th Pct Explorers go to nation's capital

In a pouring rain and the basic training hour of 6 a.m., the intrepid 13th Precinct Explorers, 13-17 year-olds with an interest in a career in law enforcement, boarded a bus to Washington D.C. to visit federal government buildings and officials.

Traveling with the Explorers were their advisors, Detective Owen Hughes and Police Officer Anthony Makowski, Arlene Harrison, President of the Gramercy Park Block Association, who according to Detective Hughes "took the idea of the Washington trip and made it a reality in a very short time."

They were also joined by Barbara Allen, a member of Congresswoman Carolyn Maloney's New York staff. As if on cue, the skies brightened as the Explorers reached the Longworth House Office Building on Capitol Hill some four hours later.

Upon arriving at Congresswoman Maloney's office, the Explorers were warmly greeted by her and invited in. Maloney commended the Explorers for their involvement with the Law Enforcement Post and their commitment to community service. Maloney explained that she began her



Explorers and local residents went to Washington for the day with police.

career by getting involved in, and working on, local problems, stressing the importance of "getting involved to make a difference."

Maloney gave the Explorers a quick lesson in all levels of government, particularly the role of Congress. Maloney emphasized that in the United States, revolutions take place at the ballot box, not the battlefield. "If you don't like what is happening, you vote for change," said Maloney. "The right to vote is something that should not be taken lightly... By voting you become involved in your community."

Maloney voiced her concerns that the 100,000 new police officers provided for in the crime bill passed by the 103rd Congress would be

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Among those on the trip were (l-r) Chirs Rohr, Det. Hughes, Stephen Huntley, PO Makowski, and Leonardo Belgiovine.



The Explorers group got together with a Washington K-9 Cop to ask questions.



Rep. Carolyn Maloney talks with the Explorers in her office in Washington.

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cut back or lost in the 104th Congress.

Maloney noted that the 50th anniversary of the United Nations was being celebrated in Washington that day. She stated that she favors continued strong US involvement with the UN, because the UN represents the ideals of democracy and peace that we in the United States hold so dear.

In response to a question from the group, the Congresswoman again encouraged the explorers to get involved in and do community work, citing Arlene Harrison, Detective Hughes, and Officer Makowski as role models, prime examples of getting involved to make a difference.

Later, the Explorers were treated to a guided tour of the Capitol by Rep. Maloney's staff aide, Geoff Gerhardt. The tour concluded by with the Explorers observing Democracy in action, watching Congress in session from the visitors' gallery of the House Chamber. The House was voting on an amendment to the revised Clean Water Act, so the group had the opportunity to see most of the members of the House come onto the floor to vote, and to identify those whom they knew.



Police Officer Tony Makowski and Det. Owen Hughes led the 13th Pct. Explorers in Washington.

During the remainder of the day, the group visited the White House, walked by the Washington Monument, stopped at the National Law Enforcement Memorial, took a quick tour of the Air and Space Museum and the FBI Building, which most Explorers felt was the highlight of the day. The FBI tour concluded with a target shooting demonstration, where it was stressed that the purpose of this demonstration is not to glamorize guns, but to show the harm they

can do.

"The day was a tremendous experience for the Explorers," said Detective Hughes, "and could not have come off without the efforts of Ms. Harrison and all the members of the Gramercy Block Association who made the trip possible." Hughes went on to thank Congresswoman Maloney and her staff in Washington and a special thanks to Barbara Allen for her time and guidance throughout the day.