

GFWC MO 9TH DISTRICT SOPHOMORE PILGRIMAGE
APRIL 8 & 9, 2014

On the 80th year of the General Federation of Women's Clubs Sophomore Pilgrimage, 29 students and six chaperones traveled on a bus to Jefferson City on April 8. Four more students and a chaperone from the Marble Hill area traveled by car and joined our group in Jefferson City. Taylor Warner from Ste. Genevieve High School and Matthew Skaggs from Valle High School were sponsored for the trip by the Woman's Club of Ste. Genevieve. Ruby O'Driscoll, 9th District Sophomore Pilgrimage Co-Chairman, and Judy Gustafson, Woman's Club of Ste. Genevieve members, helped chaperone the trip as well as Anita Jo Brogden, Gwen Thompson, Connie Gooch and Sherry Hourt from the GFWC Adelpian Civic Club in Kennett. Diane Miller, also Sophomore Pilgrimage Co-Chairman, was unable to go on the trip.

On the way, the students toured the Churchill Museum and Church in Fulton and the State Patrol Museum in Jefferson City. At the State Patrol Museum, the group was shown a very graphic film on traffic accidents called "Gone Too Soon."

The state representatives and senators covering the Southeast area of Missouri sponsored a pizza party in a hearing room at the Capitol on Monday evening which was arranged by Rep. Paul Fitzwater's office. Signed certificates were presented to all the students and the legislators conversed with each student. Our local legislators included Rep. Kevin Engler, Senator Gary Romaines, Rep. Kent Hampton and Rep. Shelley Kenney and others. The House of Representatives was called into session and the students got to sit in the gallery and watch as votes were counted on a House Bill. Representative Kevin Engler was very helpful in also getting the group into the Senate auditorium that was not in session. Rep. Engler also showed the students his 75 pound dog, Layla, who had been resting on the sofa in his office at the Capitol. He said "There was no law against having a dog in the Capitol building."

On Tuesday, April 8, the students and chaperones went to the Capitol where they began tours that were arranged and guided by GFWC of MO Jefferson City clubs. The students saw the Lewis and Clark Memorial Garden, toured the Governor's Mansion and the Supreme Court Library and Courtroom where they participated in a mock trial. An extensive tour of the Capitol building followed with a visit to the Senate Lounge which depicted the history of Missouri via wonderful wall murals that were handpainted by Thomas Hart Benton.

The event ended with the 80th GFWC Sophomore Pilgrimage luncheon held at the First United Methodist Church where inspiring speeches were heard from: Jason Kander, Secretary of State; Tom Schweich, State Auditor; Mary Russell, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court; Chris Pieper, Senior Legal & Policy Advisor to the Governor and Joe Dandurand, Deputy Attorney General.

"I am proud to say that the students were very well behaved and set a wonderful example for our area," said Judy Gustafson.