

MetEd Retirees Mystery Trip – September 12, 2024

The mystery trip remains one of the most popular trips run by the Retiree Association. A full bus of 52 passengers departed, trying to guess where our driver was taking us. This trip included two destinations in the morning, followed by lunch and another two destinations in the afternoon.

The primary location this year was Harrisburg, PA. The first destination was the Pennsylvania State Capitol in downtown Harrisburg. It is a must-see for all Pennsylvania residents, a true architectural and artistic treasure. The guided tour started in the Rotunda, which was covered by over 400 Moravian mosaic floor tiles depicting PA German folk art. We proceeded to the second floor, where the Senate Chamber, the House Chamber, and the Supreme Court is located. The fifty state Senators sit in their assigned desk, the original desks from the 1906 opening, made of rare Belize mahogany. Looking down at the Senate chamber, it is filled with significant artisanship and artifacts. The original paintings, green marble walls, gold floor light standards, and stained-glass windows form an impressive sight. The House chamber, containing 203 members' desks, also contained magnificent art, murals, stained-glass windows, and 6 huge two-to-four-ton crystal chandeliers. The highlight of the Supreme Court chamber was the elaborate stained-glass dome in the center of the room.

At the end of the guided tour, a special guest spoke to us and answered questions: Senator from Berks County Judy Schwank. She heard we were touring and took time to meet with us. Several of the group finished with a self-guided tour of the Capitol. An interesting display in the House Archives wing was a collection of photos and news items from the TMI nuclear accident occurring in March, 1979.

Our second stop was close-by: The State Museum of PA - 300 North Street. This self-guided tour detailed much of the history and involvement Pennsylvania had with the Native Americans, the Civil War, industry, civil rights, and many other significant events on the three floors of displays.

Lunch was provided at Dukes Bar and Grille overlooking the Susquehanna River. The delicious buffet included sliced ham and turkey along with all the trimmings.

After lunch we headed to another museum - The National Civil War Museum, in Reservoir Park in Harrisburg. The self-guided tour of the museum displayed how the country became divided, went through all the battlefields and hardship by both sides and then reunited under Abraham Lincoln to again become the United States of America.

The final stop was, yes you guessed it, an ice cream parlor. A sandwich shop called Stuff'D Steaks and Hoagies on West Chocolate Ave. in Hershey served us a two-scoop dish of delicious Hershey Ice Cream.

Associated Websites:

Pennsylvania Capitol: <http://www.pacapitol.com>

Sate Museum of Pennsylvania: <https://statemuseumpa.org>

National Civil War Museum: <https://www.nationalcivilwarmuseum.org>

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