

Nixon Library
written by Rahmi Wardhani

Hi, I'm Rahmi Wardhani, an AFS-YES-er who got a placement in California. So, I'm going to share one of my experiences in that place. This time I'm going to share about the Nixon Library & Museum.

On December 6, I had a trip to Nixon Library in Yorba Linda. I went there together with my AFS-err friend, Afif (Indonesia), and Farida (Tajikistan), and also our AFS coordinator, Ms. Graciela (our YES coordinator). We went there, with purpose to learn more about U.S History, especially about the President. Nixon Library is a library which built as a memorial to President Richard Nixon.

President Nixon was the 37th President in the United States of America. He was elected in 1969 and also, the only president who resigned from office. He was the president who ended Vietnam War. He was the first president who went to China. Another interesting thing that I saw is an astronaut spacesuit. You might remember Neil Armstrong; he became the first man who landed on the Moon. It was in 1969, the first year of Nixon's career as a President.

When I arrived, I could see a beautiful Park, its part of the library. I felt really excited; I couldn't wait to see what's inside. I also had time to take picture near the beautiful water fountain in front of the library. I could see the U.S flag was waving along side with the California flag.

When I entered the Library, I saw a big circle drawn on the floor. It was the "Seal of the President". Straight forward from entrance door, I saw the receptionist. On the right of the entrance, there was a bunch of photos that were taken in the museum. Around from the receptionist, there was a souvenir shop, after I passed the shop; I saw a big black wall. It was about the Founders of Nixon's Library. Then, there was also a replica of Nixon's childhood house. Later, I started the journey to discover further.

I saw a TV hung up on the wall, so I could watch the scene when President Nixon was being inaugurated as President of U.S. Then, I saw bunch of articles about him as a childhood and pictures when he was a high school student. After enjoying the scene and reading the articles, I saw Nixon's office while he was a president. There were also his photos with his family and also his letter to his friend that he wrote a day before he passed away. I went around the corner and I saw his cassettes with a tape recorder that he used in his office. It recorded all conversations in his office, including the Watergate Scandal.

This was just the beginning. I went through and I walked into a room that has Nixon's Car in the middle of the room. It was an old limousine, really antique. There was a small room near the antique car that was full of gifts from people that supported Nixon. It said that it was just a small part of his collection that he got.

I entered the next room; I saw pictures of Nixon's wife and his daughters. The picture was when his daughter, Tricia, got married. It was really nice. His picture with his wife was also nice. From that room, I went to next room, and it was all about Nixon's Family. I could see his photos with his big family while they were on holiday. It was really lovely. I went to the other corner and I saw lots of Mrs. Nixon's articles and photos when she was an ambassador to other countries. Mrs. Nixon was a great First Lady. She had visited about 80 countries. I went to another corner of the room and saw a model of Nixon's Living Room. After I passed that, I saw space stuff, like a spacesuit, and photos of Nixon with astronauts in a small room. There was also a moonstone, and the telephone that Nixon used to talk with Apollo XI astronauts on the moon.

The next room was all about his journey while he was in China and Soviet Union. I also saw some stuff from an American Soldier in Vietnam, I saw a huge wall that had graffiti from the Berlin Wall, and there was a statue of Nixon shaking hands with the President of China. I went into the next room, and I saw lot of human statues. I met a man who is a docent from the Nixon Library. I and my friends asked a lot of things about US History. We also took a photo together.

The last corner that I walked through was about Nixon's story when he was running in the 1960 Presidential Campaign, and his journey to become a President of U.S. At the end we saw a corner which showed Pat and Richard Nixon's photos and videos and other memorabilia.

One of the interesting things that I learned is when Richard Nixon was campaigning. He was running on the Presidential Election ticket in 1960 as Vice President towards his journey of becoming a U.S. President. On the way out of the Library, I went to the Garden. Unfortunately, I couldn't enter it, because it already closed, so I just saw it from outside the gate. I also saw his huge helicopter.

After that, I went home with satisfied feeling. I have studied more about U.S History. I can't wait to see more places in United States, especially historical place like Nixon Library.