



## My Trip to the National African American Museum of History and Culture.

Essay by Ryan Johnson

The opportunity and experience of going to the African American Museum of History and Culture was wonderful. The architecture was very unique and beautiful, it was a real eye catcher. Another thing unique about the museum is the elevator. Right outside the elevator it had crucial dates that were important not only to blacks but all of America.

One important date that I didn't know about was in the 1400's is when slavery was introduced to the world. It started with enslaving war captives then after discovering and imperializing Africans, other people thought they could use them for free labor and to also sell them for profit. Transporting, enslaving, and selling Africans is what created the Transatlantic Slave trade which involved Europe, Spain, France, and Africa. From the 1400's to when slavery ended 1.3 million slaves were shipped to Europe and if they were sold today Europe would've made 5.5 billion dollars from it. In my opinion, I believe black children were affected the most because their body wasn't always physically ready for the long hours of work plus slavery was for life unless you can buy yourself out of it. This experience has made me really think about why

### SCHEDULED EVENTS

FEBRUARY 18, 2017  
HBCU Festival  
8 am – 3 pm

Alfred Street Baptist Church is hosting its 15th Annual HBCU Festival at TC Williams High School in Alexandria, VA.



TUTORING  
COLLEGE PREP

Saturdays 9-11am  
Mondays 6:30-8:30pm

### SAVE THE DATE

 JULY 26-29, 2017  
Summer Classic

8181 Professional Place, Suite 210  
Landover, MD 20785  
301.429.8807

[www.the13thman.org](http://www.the13thman.org)



back then, and even now, why do we treat each other like this? Why do we hate each other? Because of our skin color? Because of where we're from?

It's crazy how some people think. Personally back then if people treated each other with kindness think about how different life would be today, or maybe it would be the same today we don't know.

Also recently police brutality seems to have become more common in the news. Sometimes unarmed black men and women are getting seriously injured just because they're black or maybe because they think of all the stereotypes about us and expect every person of our race to do the same thing.

Slavery and police brutality have had a hard impact on many races on many occasions. Abraham Lincoln imposed the Emancipation Proclamation and helped free all black slaves in the United States. Another occasion was Martin Luther King Jr. when he acted out peaceful protests in order to receive civil rights for all blacks.



One famous protest was the March on Washington.

Hundreds of people were severely injured and even beaten to death that day and it was broadcasted nationwide for all the nation to see.

All the hard work, pain, sweat, and tears have granted us our civil rights and look at us now: famous black musicians, singers, and even the president of the United States. Going to this museum was one of the best decisions I have made so far. I learned a lot about my culture, where we're from, and how we are the people we say we are today.

"Great things can come from even the poorest of places." This quote has been proven right and is continued to be proven correct even now as I write this essay.

*Thank you Mr. Kelly for taking me to the African American museum because I really enjoyed it and was taught some new things that I never knew about until now. It will be a day I will never forget." –Ryan Johnson*

# The 13th Man takes on the Museum!

On January 8, 2017 The 13th Man took over 20 boys on a trip to visit the National Museum of African American History and Culture in Washington, DC. We embarked on this trip in hopes that not only would we educate these young men on their history and culture, but also that they would leave with a new outlook on what it means to be an African American.

Ryan's essay was one of the many testimonials that we received after the trip. It's amazing to see how impactful that experience was for him and many of the other boys. We can't wait to take another trip to the museum in the future so that the other boys can get the opportunity to have that same experience. Check out a few of the other testimonials that we received below:

*"I was surprised how much I enjoyed the museum. My favorite parts were the music and seeing Emmitt Till's casket. I have heard about him but actually seeing what he was buried in makes me think [of] the Black Lives Matter movement and how long this has all been going on." –Rainin Jackson*

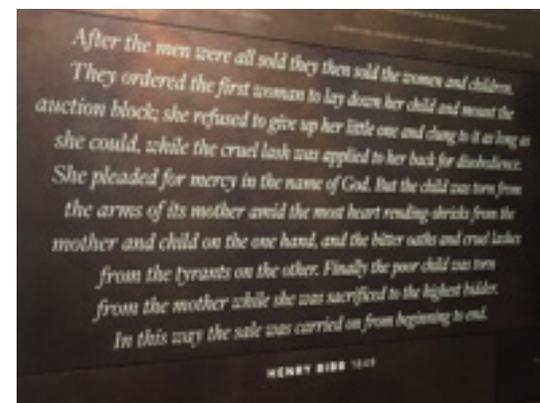


*" Thank you Mr. Kelly for allowing me to experience the African American History Museum. It was wonderful to experience it again. My favorite part of the trip was the culture exhibit. Specifically, the music portion of it. Although my time there was minimal, I was still able to absorb some knowledge of African American music. I enjoyed learning about a few of the bands that my mom constantly praises such as Parliament Funkadelic, and I was truly impressed with not only how far music has come since then, but also how incredibly personal and relatable that music was. I now have a new found respect for my parents' music and would be more willing to indulge in it. Thanks again for the valuable experience." – Austin Rucker*

*"Today, what I learned about is to not take things for granted. I realized that people have died for me to sit in these seats. Men and women and children have been tortured and treated wrong for me to eat the food I have today! To even be treated equally. So now I am forever grateful that I know this information. Thanks, Mr. Davon" – Donovan Parchment*

*"I had a great experience at the African American History Museum. I learned about my ancestors, our culture, and our influence today. It was a very good day and I would love to go back. Also, it was an excellent experience and an emotional one as well."- Alex Rucker*

*"My experience today was great. I learned a lot more stuff that I knew and I was able to see the truth behind black men and women. I feel like this museum is great to learn from because it gives a lot of feedback on what happened and what was going on in that time period. To me what caught my attention was when they had all the "white only" and the "colored only" signs. I feel like there are a lot more things to learn about at this museum that can't be learned on your first time here. To me this was a great experience."—Jaiden Fisher*





### 13th Man Holiday Party

We held our first annual holiday party at Treetops Atrium in Landover, MD on December 2, 2016. The holiday party was a chance for both the parents and the young men to mingle and get together for the holiday season. We were able to kick off our coat drive and also award a few of our members certificates and prizes for academic improvement and program participation.

*Kristopher Tynes-Math Award, Elijah Smith-Reading Award, Alexander Rucker-Student MVP Award, Aaron Downs-Program Participation, Ayod Shuford-Program Participation*



### Dave & Buster's

Dave & Buster's has become a great place for The 13th Men to go to hang out and enjoy each other's company. We've found that not only do the boys get to enjoy themselves with the games and activities, but the mentors enjoy themselves as well. The theme for this particular outing was "Reuniting and Reacquainting Friendship". We all met at Dave & Buster's in Capitol Heights for our monthly group outing on December 11, 2016. Needless to say everyone enjoyed themselves.



### Hidden Figures Movie Outing

On Saturday, January 28, 2017, the 13th Men along with Raipay, Inc., a non-profit for young women, went to view the movie Hidden Figures at the Magic Johnson Theater in Largo, MD. Hidden Figures is an amazing movie that displays the hardships of three African American women in the workforce in the 1960s'. From breaking through gender and racial barriers, to proving themselves in the workplace, these women worked to become the key components in one of the biggest events in history. We chose to go see this movie because we wanted the young men to leave knowing that even when things are difficult and even when the odds are against them, as long as they continue to give 100 percent and believe in themselves, they can do anything.



Congratulations are in order for Cameron Sweeney on his 6th Annual coat drive for the homeless. Since 2010, Cameron has successfully run a coat drive that helps provide new and gently used coats for the homeless. He has been able to provide hundreds of coats each year and has proven to be a tremendous blessing to those homeless individuals in the Washington, DC area.

### The 13th Man, Charlotte NC Launch!

The 13th Man is proud to announce that this April, we will be launching a new chapter of The 13th Man in Charlotte, NC.

Over the past two years, we've seen how impactful the organization has been for all of the young men here in Maryland, so it would only be right for us to continue our efforts and expand to Charlotte, NC.



We'd like to give a special birthday shout out to all of the 13th Men who will be celebrating a birthday in the coming months.

- Dimitri Downs, Jan. 18
- Aarick Johnson, Jan. 28
- Daniel Cotten, Feb. 17

"Happy Birthday Fellas!" - Mr. Kelly

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