

On the 16th of May in Philadelphia, hundreds of EF fellows, friends, and guests from over 40 countries were gathered at the National Constitution Center to celebrate the service of Chairman, General Colin L. Powell, USA (Retired) for his dedication to the country, the people, and most importantly the Eisenhower community. With full excitement and gratitude, I arrived at the dinner and were greeted by many



familiar faces, Chair James W. Hovey, President George De Lama, and Vice Chairman Christine Tood Whitman. On the giant wall of facing the entrance, EF's logo was projected and signified a sense of pride as well as unification. To us all, the night would be memorable since it was not only a farewell dinner, but also the start of a new journey. A group of students from the Philadelphia School for Creative and Performing Arts showed up on the stairs and performed for us before the dinner. Their solemn gestures spoke for their gratitude for the Chairman, General Colin L. Powell's service to the

state as well as these students' true faith in the future of the world. In their touching and powerful singing, we were invited to begin the celebration dinner upstairs.

Honor to sit with students from the Philadelphia public school, I had opportunities to discuss with those who have created a mural to honor the service of General Powell with the City of Philadelphia. Their creativity, optimism, and instructive ideas regarding the future of our world allowed me to see lights and courage in these young, future generations. One of the boys talked to me that he enjoyed working on this special piece of work because it offered him a sense of purpose, I was so excited to see the unraveling of their dedication and works.



Soon, speakers were introduced and most surprisingly, Vice President Joe Biden was welcomed to the Stage. Vice President Biden, who was as charming and humors as seen on the internet, discussed his young experience, service during his early year, and appreciation to General Powell. Later on, a video message from Barack Obama, former Presidents George W. Bush, former National Security Adviser General Brent Scowcroft, Condoleezza Rice, and former Secretaries of State Madeline Albright was present. Many called General Powell as a role model, the best friend, or the most instructive advisor. Each one of them expressed their gratitude to



the service and contribution of General Powell, and the honor to meet, work with, and to be encouraged by him. Former Bermuda Premier John Swan then spoke about his experience in sustainable development and public service. Former Governor Christine Todd Whitman and Secretary Gates then came up to speak about their experience of working with General Powell, and how General Powell has inspired and commit himself to his responsibility.

Meanwhile, delightful and tasty dishes were served. Fellows from the 2016 Africa Program presented General Powell a glass sculpture, which was carved a map of Africa, to express their admiration and thanks to General Powell's contribution to the minority and to the international peace.

Finally, the students on my table left to prepare getting on the stage for the digital presentation of the mural. Led by Eisenhower Fellow Jane Golden and artist Ernel Martinez, every student was nervous but thrilled to shake hands with General Powell, an ultimate leader and national hero. General Powell promised to visit the mural at the Olney Charter High School in Northeast Philadelphia.



On the next day, Secretary Gates, who has officially become the next chairman of the EF, held a conference to discuss some of the most relevant issues related to the development of American politics, international policy and environmental crisis. He later presented various awards to the 2018 Global Program.

For us all, Secretary Gates will lead to a new start of leadership but a continuation of support, friendship and dedication. We look forward to EF's new chapter.

