



A Capitol Time

Angus junior gets opportunity of a lifetime.

by Ali Luety, Angus Communications

Visiting Washington, D.C. is a highly anticipated trip for many middle school students across the country. Only a select few get the opportunity to visit Arlington National Cemetery and even less get to lay a wreath on the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

Laying the wreath

Adin Kilpatrick is in 8th grade. He's been a member of the American Angus Association since he was five and spends his summers at his grandpa's Angus operation in Wales, Wis. A typical farm kid, Adin can be found helping with chores and taking responsibility for the cattle. But recently, he had the opportunity to do something pretty special; he traveled to Washington, D.C. for a school trip and was one of four kids

selected to lay a wreath on the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at Arlington National Cemetery.

His grandfather, Dave Kilpatrick, a long-time Angus breeder, helped chaperone the trip.

"It was very emotional to watch my grandson lay the wreath," Dave says. "I saw it two years ago when I was there for the honor flight and it really stands for patriotism, especially in this world we're living in today. It's pretty special."

Laying flowers at a memorial site is a ritual occurring around the world. According to the Arlington National Cemetery's website: "The floral tributes at funerals bespeak both the beauty and the brevity of life and evoke memories of other days."

The elaborate ritual to change the guards at the Tomb of the Unknown

Soldier takes about an hour and happens exactly on each hour.

Adin described the ceremony, saying "We walked on the steps, and I put my hand over my heart. The soldiers at the bottom of the stairs take the wreath. They put it on the wreath holder. Then they say some words and play taps." The experience is one that he nor his grandpa will ever forget.

"There wasn't a dry eye in the house and it sure made for a proud grandfather," Dave says.

A tour of D.C.

Arlington Cemetery was one stop of many on Adin and Dave's whirlwind tour of D.C.

The first day in the nation's capital took the two to the Washington Monument, the World War II

Adin Kilpatrick (front left) was one of four students selected to lay a wreath on the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at Arlington National Cemetery on a recent school trip to Washington, D.C.

Memorial, Museum of the Bible and the Holocaust Museum, to name a few. On day two, they headed to the U.S. Supreme Court. “We got a lecture about how it functions. Unfortunately we got a lady that was very monotone, so most of the people in the room fell asleep,” Adin explains laughing.

On the itinerary for day three was a visit to Arlington Cemetery, where Adin laid the wreath on the Tomb of the Unknown soldier. In addition, Adin visited his great-great-grandparents’ grave. Dave looked up the grave location beforehand and the two walked right to their gravestones.

Day four was the last of the trip and also Adin’s favorite. “I loved Williamsburg, Va., the best out of everything else. We got to go in to the courthouse and see where Congress met. We also got to see the court where they judged people,” Adin says. “We went to see a bunch of the different shops. The blacksmiths, the carpenters, they make everything for themselves.”

Angus ties run deep

Dave and his wife, Christi, own Premier



Long-time Wisconsin Angus breeder Dave Kilpatrick (right) helped chaperone his grandson Adin’s (left) school trip to Washington, D.C.

Angus in Wisconsin. Adin’s mother, Kelly Kilpatrick Winiger, was also an active member of the National Junior Angus Association (NJAA) and showed at local fairs. Kelly, Dave and Christi all made sure Adin helped on the farm from a very young age.

“He helps me a lot by bringing round bales to me, he can spear round bales, change buckets, and a lot of Saturdays he cleans the barnyard,” Dave says. “He helps me sort cattle as well, so he’s a



Young Angus cattleman Adin Kilpatrick says he wants to always have Angus cows.

very valuable member of the team.”

Adin lives a short 20-minute drive away and there’s hardly a weekend he misses. One step into the Kilpatricks’ household in Wales, Wis., showcases the family values time together. Family photos, many with Angus cattle, fill the walls.

Christi says, “It’s nice that he can come do a lot of things for his grandpa that I would worry about him doing now. It takes a lot of stress off him.”

The hard work he puts in on the farm earned him three cows of his own. That teaches him responsibility and exposes him to life’s hardships at an early age, Dave says.

“He knows how to scrape manure and brings round bales out, as long as he doesn’t hit a two-by-four on the rafters we’re ok,” Dave laughs. The

family comments that Dave has broken more two-by-fours than Adin.

One thing’s for sure; Angus ties run deep for Adin. There’s no doubt he wants to remain in the Angus business.

“I always want to have Angus cows,” Adin says. “I really like the animals.” 