

## A Historical Vacation

*by Natalie Lawson*

As an empty nester, I decided to go to Washington, D.C. on my long awaited vacation. My sister, Helen, was on a company trip and offered to let us to stay with her; "us" being my friend Linda from work and myself.

I really wanted to see the Smithsonian Museum built in 1852. The historic foundation is one of the landmarks of Washington, D.C. and its composite of mid-Victorian architecture with modern additions is a must for sightseers. It was named after James Smithson, an Englishman who never visited the United States. His body was buried in Genoa in 1904, but later brought to Washington D.C. and now rests in a small chapel in the main entrance of the Smithsonian building.

I was excited to be there, but after about thirty minutes my friend says, "I came all this way to see a bunch of plates?" I believe she was a little anxious to see the more well-known sites. So we left and took a tour around D.C. I felt privileged to see the Vietnam and space flight Challenger Memorials. Then we went to pay our respects at the John F. Kennedy and Robert Kennedy grave sites. And foremost, the Lincoln Memorial and the Washington Monument.

Very interesting for me was when I realized my sister's room happened to be across the lane from the Watergate Hotel.

I'm sure there was a lot more to see, but I would need at least a month. I still wanted to see more of the Smithsonian Museum, but I would have to wait a few more years.