

NEWS

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Children make their mark at the National Mall at their 2021 World Children's Festival

WASHINGTON DC, August 10, 2021 – The 6th *World Children's Festival* (WCF) opened at noon on July 30th at the National Mall with the U.S. Army Joint Color Guard and Anupriya Roy of the Levine School of Music singing the U.S. National Anthem a cappella. Eleven-year-old Evie Felten of North Carolina followed, with Joseph Haydn's "Serenade" on flute.

The three-day WCF at the National Mall opened with *Health & Environment Day*, followed by *Creativity & Imagination Day*, and ended with *Peace & Leadership Day*. On August 2nd, the WCF Awards Banquet took place at the Omni-Shoreham Hotel

Five-time Olympian and sports artist, Liston Bochette, came from Fort Myers, Florida, to address the children. He brought greetings from H.S. H. Prince Albert II of Monaco, who was attending the Olympic Games in Tokyo. "For those who know and enjoy both art and sport," the Prince wrote in his letter, "I would like to ask each and every one to pursue their talents with the passion and determination of an Olympian, never give up, always seek excellence and nurture your creativity throughout your lives." Dr. T. J. Rosandich, President of the United States Sports Academy in Daphne, Alabama, stated that he applauded ICAF's "determination to organize and deliver the WCF in the face of such uncertainty surrounding COVID."

"We thank the children and their parents and teachers for making the 2021WCF a most memorable event," stated WCF producer Dr. Ashfaq Ishaq. "I thank all the delegates, especially those who have come from far away, be it California, Oregon, or Nigeria. I thank ICAF's team for their hard work and devotion. Also, the George Washington University School of Medicine's students spearheading our COVID mitigation plan. We are most grateful to the Japanese company, Kuretake, for their generous donation of top-quality art supplies and to Random House Penguin for donating 10,000 copies of Dalai Lama's book for children titled *The Seed of Compassion*. I thank the National Park Service and the National Park Police for their support."

A unique educational event staged and emceed by the children, the WCF celebrates creativity, diversity, and unity. ICAF's research shows that the WCF provides children a transformative experience that changes perspectives and lives.