

# Coolidge Club #21

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## News from the Notch

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### The Coolidges in South Dakota

On July 9, 2014 Mayor Sam Kooiker of Rapid City, South Dakota [dedicated a plaque at Rapid City High School](#) to commemorate President Coolidge's use of the school as his "Summer White House" during his famous vacation in the Black Hills in the summer of 1927. "It's important as time goes on for the children that walk into this building for class [to] know what happened on this spot," the mayor said. With this gesture Mayor Kooiker reminded the people of South Dakota of the great affection President and Mrs. Coolidge had for their home state and the special place it held in their hearts.

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[South Dakotans worked assiduously](#) to persuade President Coolidge to visit the Black Hills in the summer of 1927. Coolidge desperately wanted to get away from Washington, D.C. for the summer (the humidity exacerbated his bronchial problems). They arrived in South Dakota on June 13th and initially planned to stay for three weeks. Once they got there, they loved it so much they decided to stay for three months!

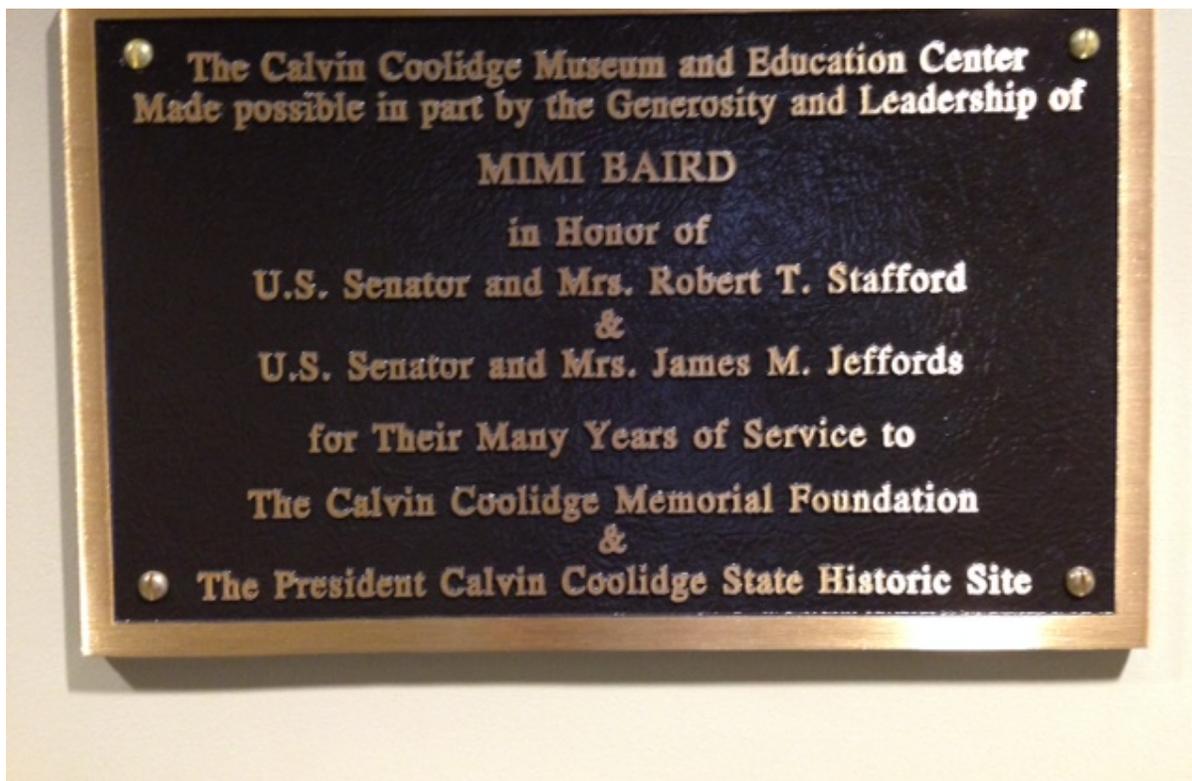
The Coolidges integrated well into the local community. While staying in the Game Lodge at Custer State Park, they worshiped with a local congregation and mixed with the residents in an informal manner. Grace would work on her knitting out on the lodge's front porch while the president went fishing in a pond that had been supplied with huge fish from a local hatchery, courtesy of local boosters. The locals also presented the Coolidges with a horse, a large-brimmed western hat, and boots. Coolidge wore both the hat and the boots while in the Dakotas.

Coolidge didn't participate in many public engagements during that summer, but he was persuaded to head up to the [Mount Rushmore site for its dedication](#). On that day, August 10, 1927, Coolidge delivered a speech where he said "We have come here to dedicate a cornerstone laid by the hand of the Almighty. ...The union of these four presidents carved on the face of the everlasting Black Hills of South Dakota...will be distinctly American in its conception, in its magnitude, in its meaning. ...No one can look upon it without realizing it is a picture of hope fulfilled."

On August 17, 1927 Coolidge was made an honorary member of South Dakota's Standing Rock Sioux Tribe, taking the name "[Chief Leading Eagle](#)." The Native Americans were grateful that Coolidge signed the Indian Citizenship Act in 1924 which granted full citizenship to all indigenous persons born within the United States. [When asked about](#) this gesture, Sioux Chieftain (and Chief Sitting Bull descendant) Chauncey Yellow Robe said "...the first people of the Hills...open their hearts with most sincere and hearty welcome of President Coolidge to the land of the Dakotas."

Be sure to take a look at some of the hyperlinks included above. They include newsreel footage of President Coolidge with the Sioux Tribe, as well as a television news report done when the Rapid City mayor dedicated the Coolidge plaque at the Rapid City High School!





## In Memoriam: U.S. Senator James M. Jeffords

The Calvin Coolidge Presidential Foundation would like to thank the late Senator James M. Jeffords of Vermont for his many years of steadfast dedication to the mission of this organization and his support for the President Calvin Coolidge State Historic Site. A strong contingent of Coolidge Foundation representatives were present at his funeral this morning in Rutland, Vermont, including Executive Director Matt Denhart, Program Associate Rushad Thomas, Trustees Leslie Keefe and former Vermont Gov. Jim Douglas, Trustee Emeritus Art Crowley, and National Advisory Board member State Sen. Alice Nitka.

Rest in Peace, Sen. Jeffords!

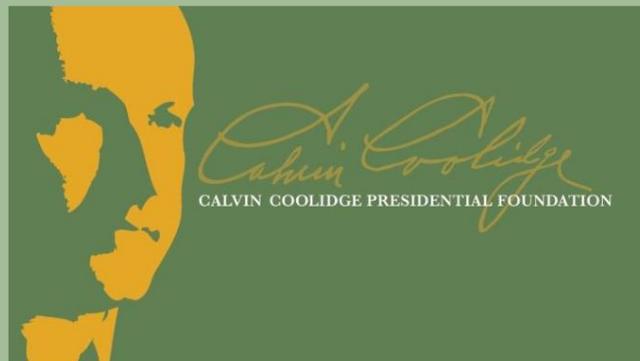




## Coolidge Foundation Visits New Hampshire Institute of Politics

Earlier this week Chairman Amity Shlaes, Executive Director Matt Denhart, and Program Associate Rushad Thomas had the pleasure of meeting with New Hampshire Institute of Politics Executive Director [Neil Levesque](#). We hope to partner with the Institute in the future on a number of events. Please be on the look out for further information. In the meantime, please check out the Institute's [website](#), [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [YouTube Channel](#), and [Flickr](#)!

**PLEASE SAVE THE DATE**



**THE SECOND ANNUAL NEW YORK DINNER**

**THE COOLIDGE PRIZE FOR JOURNALISM**

FEATURING

**A DEBATE ON INCOME INEQUALITY**

**SENATOR PHIL GRAMM**  
AUTHOR OF GRAMM-RUDMAN-HOLLINGS ACT

AND

**CHRYSTIA FREELAND, MP**  
AUTHOR OF "PLUTOCRATS"

WITH REMARKS BY

**LAWRENCE KUDLOW**

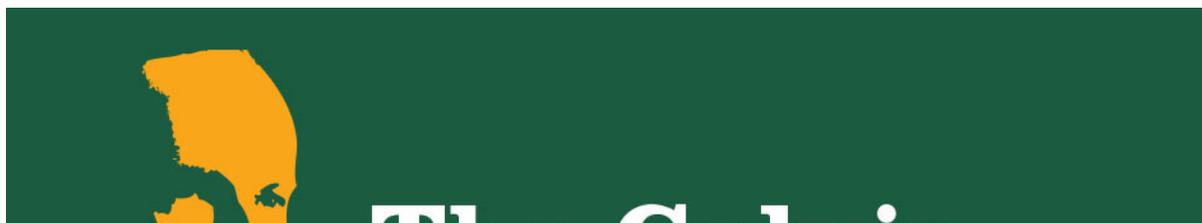
NOVEMBER 6, 2014  
NEW YORK CITY

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT ALEXANDRA PREATE  
212.588.9148 OR APREATE@CAPITALHQ.COM

Since debate is our major program, this year's dinner will feature a debate on income inequality between former **U.S. Senator Phil Gramm** and **Chrystia Freeland, Canadian MP**. [Gramm](#), a trained economist, was a longtime U.S. Senator from Texas and the author of much financial legislation. Freeland represents Toronto in the Canadian Parliament and is the author of the major book *Plutocrats: The Rise of the New Global Super Rich and the Fall of Everyone Else*. Freeland gave a [TED talk](#) on inequality, and it has received well over a million views. **Larry Kudlow** has agreed to help moderate. At the dinner we will again award the \$20,000 **Coolidge Prize for Journalism** and the \$1,500 **Calvin Prize for Vermont Youth**. This year we will also award a runner-up Calvin Prize. Be on the lookout for more dinner information soon, but for now **SAVE THE DATE!**

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## Calvin Prize for Vermont Youth





The Coolidge Foundation has established the **Calvin Prize for Vermont Youth**, a writing prize named after President Coolidge and Calvin, Jr. Writers aged 19 years and younger currently living in the state of Vermont are eligible to compete for the **first-place prize of \$1,500 and the runner-up prize of \$500**.

This year's Calvin Prize, the second annual, asks Vermont students to think about what factors will influence their decision to remain in Vermont or move elsewhere when the time comes. Furthermore, students are instructed to use Coolidge's *Autobiography* and other sources to address the issues they face and compare and contrast their own situation and decision-making process with that faced by Calvin Coolidge in his years as a Vermont youth. Learn more about the 2014 Calvin Prize by [clicking on this link](#).



## Calendar Reminders

Here's a list of date reminders for your calendar:

- **September 26: Deadline for Submissions to our Calvin Prize for Vermont**

**Youth.**

- **November 6: Second Annual New York Dinner.** Metropolitan Club, New York City. *Tickets Required* (info coming soon).
- **November 12: Budget Conference.** Capitol Hill, Washington, D.C.



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