

March for Our Lives

By Madison Ramsey
Staff Writer

Washington, D.C. — On March 24, tens of thousands of marchers descended on Pennsylvania Ave for the March for Our Lives, a demonstration organized as a response in part because of the Parkland school shooting.

The organizers of the march estimated that about 800,000 people showed up for the event, while there were more than 800 other sister marches around the world.

Speakers at the event included Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School students Sarah Chadwick, Jaclyn Corin, Ryan Deitsch, Sam Fuentes, Emma Gonzalez, David Hogg, Cameron Kasky and Alex Wind. Also, Edna Chávez and Yolanda Renee King, the granddaughter of Martin Luther King Jr. spoke at the event.

All of the speakers touched on how gun violence has affected themselves and their

community, and some, like David Hogg, called lawmakers out for taking money from the NRA. At the beginning of his speech, Hogg tied a \$1.05 price tag around the microphone, explaining that it was “a reminder for you guys to know how much Marco Rubio took for every student’s life in Florida.”

He also took a strong stance against lawmakers and others who have criticized the movement and failed to enact gun reform policies. “When politicians say that your voice doesn’t matter because the NRA owns them, we say: No more,” Hogg said. “When politicians send their thoughts and prayers with no action, we say: No more.”

Edna Chávez, a 17-year-old from south Los Angeles, spoke on how her community has become desensitized to the issue due to the frequent gun violence in her community. “For decades, my community of South Los Angeles

has become accustomed to this violence,” said Chávez. “It is normal to see flowers honoring the lives of black and brown youth that have lost their lives to a bullet.”

Yolanda Reene King, the six-year-grandaughter of Martin Luther King Jr., also spoke, referring to her grandfather. “I have a dream that enough is enough,” Yolanda King said. “And that this should be a gun-free world, period.”

Emma Gonzalez, another student from Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School and the final speaker at the march, stood on stage for six minutes and twenty seconds, the exact time that the shooting lasted, before beginning her speech. “Six minutes and 20 seconds,” Gonzalez said. “In a little over six minutes, 17 of our friends were taken from us. 15 were injured. And everyone—absolutely, everyone—in the Douglas community was forever altered.”



Photo by Madison Ramsey

Protesters gather in Washington, D.C. across the street from the Trump International Hotel during Saturday’s March for Our Lives.