



Kansas Democratic delegates Etta Walker (right) of Sharon Springs and Elizabeth Bustamante (left) of Garden City listened to the speakers and waited in the delegation seating at Invesco Field on Thursday afternoon for Barack Obama's acceptance speech as the party presidential nominee. Photo by Tom Betz/The Goodland Star-News

Navy hat big hit at convention

The sun was hot the last week of August, and I decided to wear the U.S. Navy veteran hat I brought to Denver for the Democratic National Convention, and it turned out to be a great decision.

As I walked up to the security checkpoint outside the Pepsi Center on Monday morning one of the security guys said "I like the hat." I thanked him as I went inside.

Later that day as I was walking from the press tent to the Pepsi Center two men walking the same way asked about the hat and one said "Thank you for your service." I had never had anyone say that to me, and I was surprised. It felt good to hear that having served during the Vietnam War when serving was not as popular.

I was looking for a bottle of water Monday afternoon, and asked a girl at the Quest booth in the press tent if she knew where there was any water. She said only if it was being supplied, and then gave me a bottle of water. I thanked her and found out later a bottle of water cost \$3.25. By Wednesday one of the girls from the press information center had told me about a place to refill a water bottle to save some of the cost.

As I headed up to the press seating Monday evening one of the other security guys said "Go Navy."

On Tuesday when I was trying to get a floor pass I was wearing the hat, and the guy handing out the passes said he remembered me, and OK'd giving me the pass despite the fact I had left my driver's license in my car. I was thankful I did not have to go all the way back out to the parking lot for the driver's license.

On Wednesday the day was spent writing, and with the water now located I was well fixed.

Thursday morning as my wife, Ava, and I were trying to get to the Presidential Experience exhibit a man stopped to ask about the hat. He said he had retired from the Navy after 32 years, and we talked a bit about the service and where we had served. He said he had been a reserve officer who was called back to active duty for Iraq, and was promoted to rear admiral before he retired. We both had service with navy destroyers, and he served with a fleet readiness group.

Heading to Invesco on Thursday we met up with a police officer and driver of a handicapped lift-equipped bus who got us to the stadium. As we headed into the

checkpoint tent another security man said he liked my hat.

Inside Invesco when we got to the press level I had a security person complement my hat, and when I got to the press section the people who had helped at the press tent at Pepsi Center recognized me by my hat.

I left Ava and the computer in the press seating and armed with a floor pass headed out to find my sister, Lynn, and Etta Walker, the Clinton delegate from Sharon Springs.

I found my sister and as we were walking around looking at the Obama shirts and buttons I said I was looking for Etta Walker. I turned around and there Etta was talking to her daughter Catherine on the phone. I told her I would see her later on the floor and she headed off to find her seat.

After talking to Etta I was asked a question by one of the many young bloggers who were at the convention.

He asked a question because of the Navy hat, and wanted to know what my opinion was about the fact that Obama had not served in the military.

I told him it was a different time from when I served. I said more than 35 years ago we were facing a draft, and I failed to keep my college grades up and lost my school deferment.

I said after I got out of the Navy the country decided to go with a professional military and do away with the draft. Without the draft I said Obama did not face the same pressure, and I did not feel it made any difference that he did not serve.

The young man asked if I had talked to other guys who served with me, and I said I had not really talked to many about that specific issue.

Later as I walked around the floor of the stadium taking photos and talking to people I had a lady shake my hand and say "Thank you for your service." I thanked her.

Back in the elevator a guy from the opposite corner said "Go Navy."

Late that night one of the people trying to help get us back to the parking garage mentioned they liked the hat.

This was the most I have ever had people mention my Navy hat, and the first time I had ever been thanked for serving. It was a good feeling. I think in many ways the hat made me more memorable, and it was the only one that I saw in those four days. — Tom Betz

Obama speech a historical moment

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icans and Independents across this great land — enough! This moment — this election — is our chance to keep, in the 21st century, the American promise alive."

Turning to the Republican nominee John McCain, Obama praised him for his service and courage while serving in the U.S. Navy, but he said on the important issues McCain is more aligned with President George W. Bush than any kind of maverick.

"But the record's clear: John McCain has voted with George Bush ninety percent of the time," Obama said. "I don't know about you, but I'm not ready to take a 10 percent chance on change."

Obama talked about the importance of the people he has met across the country and that those are his heroes. He said the Democratic Party has a different vision of the future.

"Ours is a promise that says government cannot solve all our problems," he said, "but what it should do is that which we cannot do for ourselves — protect us from harm and provide every child a decent education; keep our water clean and our toys safe; invest in new schools and new roads and new science and technology.

"Our government should work for us, not against us. It should help us, not hurt us. It should ensure opportunity not just for those with the most money and influence, but for every American who's willing to work."

On the question of the dependence of America on imported oil, Obama pledged that under him as President he would set a goal of 10 years to have the country end the dependence on oil from the Middle East.

"Washington's been talking about our oil addiction for the last thirty years, and John McCain has been there for twenty-six of them," Obama said.

He pledged to work to expand the gas reserves and invest in clean coal technology, and find ways to safely harness nuclear power.

"I'll help our auto companies re-tool, so that the fuel-efficient cars of the future are built right here in America," he said. "And I'll invest \$150 billion over the next decade in affordable, renewable sources of energy — wind power and solar power and the next generation of biofuels."

He said he would pay for the programs by cutting corporate loopholes and reducing tax havens plus going through the federal budget and cutting out programs that do not help as America grow.

"And Democrats, we must admit fulfilling America's promise will require more than just money," he said. "It will require a renewed sense of responsibility from each of us to recover what John F. Kennedy called our 'intellectual and moral strength.'

"But we must admit that programs alone can't replace parents; that government can't turn off the television and make a child do their homework; that fathers must take more responsibility for providing the love and guidance their children need."

Turning to Iraq, Obama said he had opposed the war while pushing to send more troops to Afghanistan to search out Bin Laden.

"John McCain likes to say that he'll follow bin Laden to the Gates of Hell," Obama said, "but he won't even go to the cave where he lives.

"And today, as my call for a time frame to remove our troops from Iraq has been echoed by the

Iraqi government and even the Bush Administration, John McCain stands alone in his stubborn refusal to end a misguided war.

"As Commander-in-Chief, I will never hesitate to defend this nation, but I will only send our troops into harm's way with a clear mission and a sacred commitment to give them the equipment they need in battle and the care and benefits they deserve when they come home."

Obama said the choices in the future will be tough, and that all Americans, whether they are Democrats or Republicans, must throw out the old politics.

"America, our work will not be easy," he said. "The challenges we face require tough choices, and Democrats as well as Republicans will need to cast off the worn-out ideas and politics of the past. For part of what has been lost these past eight years can't just be measured by lost wages or bigger trade deficits. What has also been lost is our sense of common purpose — our sense of higher purpose. And that's what we have to restore."

Talking about how change happens Obama said, "You have shown what history teaches us ... the change we need doesn't come from Washington. Change comes to Washington. Change happens because the American people demand it — because they rise up and insist on new ideas and new leadership, a new politics for a new time."

At the conclusion he was joined on stage by his wife, Michelle and daughters Sasha and Malia and vice presidential nominee Joe Biden and his wife Jill.

County accepts building for economic development

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collect rent money.

County Attorney Bonnie Selby said the Red Cross lease was a good one and could be used as a model for the other leases.

The commissioners said there was money available in the county general fund to fix the roof which has problems.

Wilkins said Adams wanted to sign over the deed Friday afternoon. He and his wife were getting ready

to leave for Mexico.

The building has four tenants at the present time including Marilyn Bohl of Sew What, Cynthia Bohl of 17th Street Barbershop, Red Cross and Jim Carver with Computer Solutions.

Plans for the use of the building may include moving the economic development office to the building if the vacant area will work Wilkins said.

matters of record

District Traffic

The following fines have been paid to the Sherman County District Court. All ages are at the time of the ticket.

July 7: Cristobal C. Casasnovas, 57, Rochester, Wash., \$175 for violating motor carrier safety rules and regulations, not paying United Carrier fees.

Clinton T. Coulter, 38, Overland Park, \$175 for violating motor carrier safety rules and regulations, not paying United Carrier fees.

Thomas E. Ford, 58, Crooked River, Ore., \$175 for violating motor carrier safety rules and regulations, not paying United Carrier fees.

July 8: Joseph E. Bedford, 45, Toledo, Ohio, \$175 for violating motor carrier safety rules and regulations, not paying United Carrier fees.

Manuel A. Castillo, 50, North Las Vegas, \$175 for violating motor carrier safety rules and regulations, not paying United Carrier fees.

David L. Dills, 37, Grand Junction, Colo., \$125 for unlawful acts with vehicles, revoked registration.

July 9: Jack Brink, 59, Longmont, Colo., \$225 for violating motor carrier safety rules and regulations.

Robert S. Cooper, 42, Niceville, Fla., \$175 for violating motor carrier safety rules and regulations, not paying United Carrier fees.

July 10: Jordan E. Balsat, 21, Florissant, Mo., \$165 for improper parking.

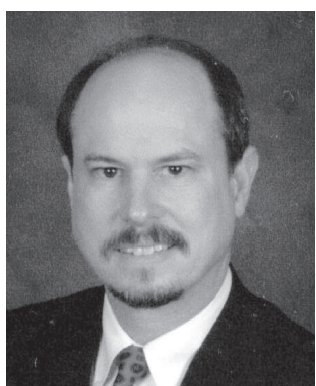
Thomas E. Bowen, 36, Murfreesboro, Tenn., \$175 for violating motor carrier safety rules and regulations, not paying United Carrier fees.



Dr. Anthony Hornick
Surgeon



Dr. Afaq Zaman Khan
Surgeon



Dr. Charles Schultz
Surgeon



Dr. Zurab Tsereteli
Surgeon

Introducing the Newest Members Of Our Surgical Team!

Welcome, Drs. Hornick and Khan

Hays Medical Center welcomes Dr. Anthony Hornick and Dr. Afaq Khan to our general surgery team, joining Dr. Charles Schultz and Dr. Zurab Tsereteli.

Anthony Hornick, MD. Dr. Hornick has previously served as a visiting surgeon for Hays Medical Center and now permanently joins the surgical medical staff. He earned his medical degree from the University of Kansas and completed his internship and residency at Maricopa Medical Center in Phoenix. He served a fellowship at St. Vincent's Hospital in Toledo. Dr. Hornick is board certified.

Afaq Zaman Khan, MD, FRCS. Dr. Khan completed his medical training in Pakistan, Scotland and Ireland. He completed his residency at Michigan State University, Grand Rapids, Michigan. This was followed by a foregut fellowship at the University of Southern California, Los Angeles, California.

Dr. Hornick and Dr. Khan are now accepting appointments for new patients. For referrals contact your primary care physician, or for more information, call 785-623-5000.



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