

## Ex-Democrat at Trump Rally

by Lisa Middlecamp-Lowder, PhD

I had the great fortune to attend the Trump Rally in Grand Rapids on March 28 with my nephew Seth. I must say that, the night before, I experienced some anxiety at the thought of being in line starting around 1 pm, knowing the doors didn't open until 4, and the event wasn't scheduled to start until 7. What if it rained? Would we freeze? Was it really worth it?

There was no reason for anxiety...the crowd of people waiting patiently to see our Commander in Chief was literally the kindest and friendliest large group I have ever had the opportunity to be a part of. People talked, joked, laughed and shared with each other. I wouldn't call them groupies, I would call them patriots. I saw no one being rude, except for the protestors who "whipped the bird" and slewed comments that were not worthy of repeating. Time flew by. And the weather was incredible for March, a gift to us all.

Within an hour of getting in line, it started moving. Slowly but surely. The entire time, more and more people walked past us to get in line. Smiles. Waves. American flags and red, white and blue attire.

From what I understand, the Trump team opened the doors early out of consideration for the mile plus long line zigzagging through downtown Grand Rapids.



Once inside, the atmosphere was electric. The patriotism and pride of the attendees made my heart swell. When the national anthem was sung, EVERYONE stood up, hats were removed, hands were over hearts, veterans saluted and the respect for our country was palpable.

Then Donald Jr. took the stage, the crowd was elated. We listened and responded in support when moved to do so. After a few other speakers, there was still over a half an hour before the main event, so I decided to walk around. I talked to Van Andel employees, attendees and police officers. Everyone I encountered was friendly and respectful. I continued to feel such gratitude for the event, and to be with such an amazing crowd.

At 6:55, I didn't see an empty seat in the house. The floor was filled, too. The real news reported 15,000+ inside (I concur) and 10,000+ outside watching the jumbo tron.

Finally, right on time, it was the event for which we all had gathered together...When our beloved President was introduced and Lee Greenwood's "Proud to be an American" came on the loud speaker. President Trump came out, everyone stood and cheered and he waved to WE, the PEOPLE and slowly walked to the podium while the patriotic music played. SO many people were taping him on their cameras. A chance to have personal footage of The People's President.

In typical Trump fashion, he spoke from the heart. No scripts for this non-politician. He called out the news media as fake, which most of them are. He spoke of the advances this country has made since his administration took office. He encouraged unity to continue to make America great and respected in the world community, like we used to be and are becoming again. When he finished and walked back the way he had entered, we all stood and clapped. Proud to be an American.

What an honor. What a blast. What a memory.

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